A stroll along Brickyard Slough with the Friends of Sausal Creek

Dennis Evanosky
Then a little further on we ascended a hill which is in a straight line with the mainland and the plain which runs toward a very thick grove of oaks and live oaks on the banks of the estuary, and is almost made into an island by two arms of the estuary. From there I mapped this grove and the two arms of the estuary, and I am inserting the map here on the back of this sheet.

April 1, 1776
Duflot de Mofras praised the industry he observed in his fellow Frenchman in today's East Bay. He singled out Sicard and Leroy in the redwoods, the men who made the first sawmill there. He might also have known about the brickmaker Rambaux (Romby) and the charcoal makers Depassier and Maitre.
1852 Peralta Homestead
1857 Map of the Bolsa de Encinal

- Larger Shell Mounds
- Estuary
- San Francisco & Alameda Railroad and Wharves
- Fruitvale Avenue
- Willow Grove
The waters from Sausal Creek flowed into a tidal creek called a slough. French brick makers set up shop nearby and used the clay in the slough to create bricks used for lining wells and building chimneys. The bricks created here were likely used to build Alameda County’s first brick home.
Arrows indicate the progress being made creating the estuary. This map was made in 1896, eight years after work began and some six years before the San Francisco Bridge Co. would complete the task.
A pair of locomotives haul away the dirt carved by one of the shovels that the San Francisco Bridge Company used to create a channel for the estuary. The channel ran from a spot just east of the Park Street Bridge to San Leandro Bay. The federal government abandoned a plan to build a dam at San Leandro Bay.
Photographer Edgar Cohen snapped this photograph on October 8, 1904. That's the scow schooner *Caroline Dixon* with a load of wood for a match factory. The Park Street Bridge was 12 years old when Cohen photographed this scene and the estuary had not yet been open to ship traffic through to San Leandro Bay.
Edgar Cohen set up his camera and photographed two men sitting on the Alameda side of a footbridge east of the High Street Bridge on September 22, 1899. This bridge provided access between the Cohen estate in Alameda and Oakland. Edgar may have snapped this photograph just before the San Francisco Bridge Company cut the estuary through to San Leandro Bay and dismantled the bridge. The first Melrose School on High Street stands as the large building in the distance. Edgar often featured clouds in his photographs.