**North Shore Watershed**

**Shoreline Morphology**

**Pre - 1850**  
**1869**  
**1929**

**Current Projects**

- **Tennessee Hollow Watershed Revitalization Project**  
  This restoration work includes El Polin Spring, Thompson Reach, Lower’s Lane Trail, Inspiration Point Overlook, the new Presidio Parkway, and the Tennessee Hollow Eastern Tributary. This project is led by the Presidio Trust.

- **Northeast Embarcadero Study: Fisherman’s Wharf Public Realm Plan**  
  Completed in June 2010, through an inter-agency partnership led by the Planning Department, the Fisherman’s Wharf Public Realm Plan will help revitalize the streets and public spaces of Fisherman’s Wharf.

- **Chinatown Green Alley Concept**  
  The SFUPC is working with SFPDW to explore integrating green infrastructure technologies in a Chinatown alleyway as part of the Sewer System Improvement Program. This project is currently in the planning phase.

- **El Polin Spring, 1947**  
  The Presidio’s Tennessee Hollow Watershed, stretching from El Polin Spring to Crissy Field, is currently undergoing a major habitat revitalization process. A section of the creek known as Thompson’s Reach was recently daylighted, and work is underway to establish a continuous habitat corridor connecting spring to marsh. This recently restored section of the Crissy Field Marsh already provides habitat for wildlife and plants that had not existed in the Presidio in over a century. The marsh supports at least 70 invertebrate taxa, 19 fish taxa, and numerous migrating and wintering shorebirds.

**Natural History**

Historically, the underlying soil of the North Shore Basin was primarily sand with serpentine outcroppings. The basin’s shoreline and soil composition changed when large sections of what is now the Financial District, Fisherman’s Wharf, and the Marina District were filled in with sand, bay mud, and urban debris to make new land for development.

Yerba Buena Cove, now the Financial District, was originally a mud flat at low tide. Urban rubble was gradually poured in alongside the cove’s piers and ships to create more land, which reached deeper water allowing for the creation of a deeper harbor. Because of urban HI, substantial sections of the North Shore Basin are subject to liquefaction. During the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the Marina District suffered more damage than any other City neighborhood.

**Neighborhood History**

North Beach’s proximity to the docks and Yerba Buena Cove made it a gateway for immigrants new to the fledgling San Francisco, particularly from South America, Europe, and the Australian penal colonies settled there. Later, it became known for Italian residents, who likely settled there in part due to proximity to the wharf and fishing industry.

Chinese immigrants first arrived in San Francisco in the 1840s due to the Gold Rush and work in the railroad, agriculture, and mining industries. Many settled in Portsmouth Square. By 1882, when Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act, Chinatown had grown to 15,000 people and occupied the area that remains its core today.