

# SAN FRANCISCO

"THE NATION'S WESTERN CAPITAL"

(Prepared by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce  
Research Department)



Photo by R. L. Copeland, released by  
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Aerial View of Downtown San Francisco

## SITUATION

San Francisco, "City by the Golden Gate," whose City Hall is situated at 37 degrees 47 minutes north latitude and 122 degrees 25 minutes west longitude, on a hilly peninsula with altitudes ranging from sea level to 933.6 feet U. S. Base, is bounded on three sides by water. Of a total of 129 square miles, only 46.38 are land. It is among the few world cities with the distinction of having more than half of its entire area washed daily by the ocean's tidal currents.

San Francisco has within its boundaries three islands—Yerba Buena, Treasure and Alcatraz—besides the Farallon Islands group some 32 miles west, which has been included in the City and County of San Francisco since 1872.

## POPULATION

July 1, 1965 population estimate for San Francisco was 750,500.

The 1960 U. S. Census gave San Francisco a population of 740,315, representing a loss from 1950 of about 4.5%. Even though several cities in the Bay Area lost population in the decade, the losses were counteracted by sizeable gains in the newer, outlying cities of the metropolitan area. Many of the older areas in the city have become less congested, and in most dwellings the total number of occupants has dwindled. Predominating nationalities of foreign-born residents: Italian, German, Irish, Canadian, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Mexican.

## AREA, ALTITUDE, CITY FINANCES

Area—45.45 square miles (land, 46.38 including islands).

Altitude—Sea level to 933.6 feet city datum.

Assessed Valuation—\$2,261,549,439 (1963-64), all property, including \$86,309,100 veteran and welfare exemptions. Tax rate of \$8.82 per \$100 assessed valuation (1963-64) included \$0.017 levied by Rapid Transit District, but collected by City.

Bonded Debt—\$95,476,000 (June 30, 1965).

## CLIMATE

San Francisco's unique location at the northern end of a narrow peninsula which separates San Francisco Bay from the

Pacific Ocean and forms the southern shore of the Golden Gate—the only sea level entrance through the coastal Mountains into the Great Valley—causes this to be known as the air-conditioned city, with a cool, pleasant summer and a mild winter. Flowers bloom throughout the year, and warm clothing is needed in every month.

As a result of the steady sweep of air from the Pacific, there are few extremes of heat or cold. During the entire 90 years of temperature records in San Francisco, temperatures have risen to 90 degrees or higher on an average of but once a year and dropped below freezing less than once a year. As a rule, abnormally warm or cool periods last but a few days.

Pronounced wet and dry seasons are another characteristic of this climate. On the average, 84% of the total annual precipitation falls during the five-month period November to March, leaving but 16% for the remaining seven months of the year. Long-time records of the Weather Bureau reveal that the sun shines in San Francisco during 65 of every 100 possible hours.

## UTILITIES

San Francisco is the headquarters of the country's largest gas and electric operating utility, Pacific Gas & Electric Co., which serves 47 counties in northern California. Their Vallecitos Plant near Livermore was the world's first privately-financed nuclear power plant, and they have completed the country's first geothermal power plant in nearby Sonoma County. Water comes from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir through a 167-mile pipeline system, and is stored in several reservoirs in Alameda and San Mateo counties. Capacity of the municipal water department reservoirs is estimated at 275,000,000,000 gallons, with storage during 1959 (a dry year) ranging between average monthly lows of 64% to highs of 76%. San Francisco had in 1965 a total of 73.4 telephones per 100 population—one of the world's highest percentages of telephone users, and fifth-ranked in the U. S.

## GOVERNMENT

San Francisco has a consolidated City and County government, with legislative powers vested in a board of supervisors of eleven members, five and six being elected every two years for four-year terms. The Mayor, Treasurer, Assessor, City Attorney, Public Defender, District Attorney, Sheriff, and Superior and Municipal Court Judges are elected by the people and serve terms