

Port of Stockton

What's the first thing you think of when you hear "port"? The ocean, right? Of course! Well, if you're at the Port of Stockton, you can't *see* the ocean!—You can't *smell* the ocean!—You're not even anywhere *near* the ocean!

That's because the Port of Stockton is an *inland* port, 75 nautical miles east of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. "How did that come about?" you might well be wondering. Well...

In 1846, the first cargo boat ascended the San Joaquin River. In 1848, John Doak established the first ferry service on the river, and the first freight vessel, the sloop *Maria*, visited Stockton. In 1849, Doak brought lumber from San Francisco to Stockton and began a lumber business. By the 1850s, the port had become a center of commodity shipping and the supply center for the goldfields. By the 1860s, the region saw a decline in gold production and an increase in agriculture.

The river access wasn't deep enough for large ships, though. So, the first dredging contracts for the Stockton Deepwater Channel were awarded in 1930. The new Port District officially opened in 1933.

Port management soon recognized the increasing importance of containerized cargo and upgraded dock side facilities. The ship channel was improved even more dramatically in order to accommodate large PANAMAX class ships.

The Navy's Rough and Ready Island supply depot built during WWII was phased out of use as a result of special legislation sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein in 1995. It was transferred to the port between 2000 and 2003. This area of the port is now known as the "West Complex".

You might be wondering what the draw is to Stockton...It's in the heart of California's agricultural region, and food is California's biggest export item.

Today, ships from all over the world visit the port each year.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_of_Stockton]

