

# 6BC

## First Inhabitants: Coast Miwok

Coast Miwok settle in Petaluma Valley. They live there for nearly 1800 years before the arrival of Spanish explorers.

# 1776

## Spanish Exploration

Spaniard Captain Fernando Quiros explores the Watershed, sailing up through San Pablo Bay up the Petaluma Watershed in the attempt to reach Bodega Bay, which had been discovered a year before.

# 1805

## Spanish Soldiers Arrive

Spanish soldiers arrive in Petaluma and go as far north as Santa Rosa converting indigenous peoples for Christian missions in San Francisco and San Jose.

# 1852

## Steamboat Era

The Red Jacket is the first steamboat to dock in Petaluma, kicking off an age of steamboat trade on the Petaluma River

1858

## Petaluma Becomes City

Petaluma is officially incorporated as a chartered city.

# 1860

## Immigrant Labor Shapes the River

Chinese laborers with wheelbarrows straighten, widen, and dredge the creek in town.

# 1871

## Railroad Arrives

Regular service begins on the San Francisco and Santa Rosa line and the San Francisco and North Pacific Railroad line from the bay steamboat terminals in Marin to Santa Rosa. The line is constructed along the east side of the Petaluma River, with a station on Lakeville. The railroad secured Petaluma's position as the commercial hub of Sonoma County as products could now be shipped by both steamer and train.

# 1880

## D Street Bridge

The first bridge to cross the Petaluma River at D Street was built. It was a turn bridge, and when pulled by a tugboat or a team of horses, would pivot 90 degrees to allow river traffic to pass.



# 1918

## Egg Basket of the World

Petaluma named "Egg Basket of the World." By 1920, twenty-two million dozen eggs at an average price of 50.5 cent per dozen were shipped out of Petaluma.

# 1938

## Sewage Pollution Addressed

Sewage treatment plant at Hopper Street is built. Before the treatment plant was constructed, all sewage and industrial waste from the city was emptied into the Petaluma River, causing pollution which not only destroyed all fish life within miles of the city, but created an obnoxious odor that was a detriment to the progress and growth of the city.

# 1950

## The Last Steamboat

The Petaluman, the last steamboat in California, makes its final run on the Petaluma River, ending an era of steamboat trade.

# 1956

## HWY 101

Highway 101 construction reaches Petaluma.

# 1959

## Creek Becomes a River

US Congress officially retitled the Petaluma creek a river, so it could qualify for federal funding to maintain the necessary dredging

# 1995

## Shollenberger Park Completed

In 1975 an agreement was reached between the City of Petaluma and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to create a dredge-spoils site at the location known today as Shollenberger Park. This agreement stated that the city would establish by 1995 a permanent open-space easement, including a habitat management plan, protecting the 65 acres by the river.

# 2009

## Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility Opens

Ellis Creek Water Recycling Plant is built, which filters 5 million gallons of waste-water each day and uses polishing wetlands as a part of its cleaning process.

# 2017

## SMART Train Begins Operation in Petaluma

The \$600 million Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART) opens for public. SMART provides 70 miles of rail for commuters from Larkspur in Marin to Cloverdale. Much of the SMART rail is located along the Petaluma River and Wetlands.