



About 20,000 years ago, at the height of the last Ice Age, much of the oceans' water was stored on land as ice in huge continental glaciers (light blue). Consequently, sea level was about 120m lower than it is today, and broad expanses of the continental shelves were exposed as dry land (yellow). At that time, the Bering Land Bridge connected Eurasia and North America. In central California the beach was out beyond the Farallone Islands owing to the lower sea level, and there was no San Francisco Bay. The large glacier on the west coast of North America extended southward to Puget Sound, but its impact on the Ice Age climate of the San Francisco Bay region was minimal.