

Pacific Coast Railroad

This section of the Bob Jones Path follows the 1873 Horse Railroad designed and built by John Harford and a small Chinese work crew. Harford brought railroading to the Central Coast after helping develop the 1869 People's Wharf. Six horses walked between the rails (with a 2'6" gauge) pulling three-car trains. In 1883 the horses were replaced by the steam-powered Pacific Coast Railroad. This railroad grade is visible in the large cut into the hill, now used for a golf course pathway, 100 feet in front of this marker. The rail crossed the creek on a trestle bridge and continued to the wharf, now the Harford Pier.

Originally a 10-mile link from San Luis Obispo to Avila Beach and Port Harford, more rails were later built heading south to Santa Maria and Los Olivos, with branches to Sisquoc and Guadalupe.

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