

**VSS Name:** The Next Gold Rush

**VSS Boundaries:** San Francisco Bay Area Counties of San Francisco, San Rafael, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Alameda, Contra Costa.

**VST Name:** Tanya Telson

**VST Email:** MystifiedST@gmail.com

**Domain Code:** CA-051-D

**City Type:** Camarilla City

**Other Vampire Political Affiliations Active in the Domain:** Anarchs, Independent Alliance

**Sect Boundaries:** Dominant Control is held by the Camarilla in San Rafael (Marin County). Counties have some population of other sects, but no active control over cities. Known areas occupied by Sects (by County): Contra Costa is occupied by Anarchs, Alameda is was once occupied by the Sabbat but currently stands unaffiliated, Santa Clara County is held by the Independent Clans. San Francisco is not dominated by any of the surrounding sects as it was controlled by Hunters until recently.

**Theme:** Control

**Mood:** Speculation

**Setting:** BNS MES Vampire: The Masquerade

### **Chronicle Teaser**

*“Right, as the world goes, is only in question between equals in power, while the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.”*

— Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War

The Bay Area experienced a Technological Renaissance in the late 1990's, causing information to become quick, easy, and uncontrollable in distribution; piercing the layer of protection the kindred of this area established. Hunters of all walks of life started to piece together the secrets and lies. Conspiracy theorists and Religious cults formed unlikely communities as they became aware of the activities of the creatures who only met at night. Clan Tremere, having the powers to adapt and use this Tech Boom to their ends were able to stem the tide, but only for a short period of time as the population of kine continuously grew with the onslaught of more and more savvy minds leading the race in improving computers, making them rise from novelty to necessity.

As the Red Star faded in 2009, the increases of surveillance and social media technology recruited any normal person to monitor their surroundings creating an almost omniscient presence for Hunters who were able to push out all kindred from the City and County of San Francisco, each sect claiming new territories and biding their time keeping the city within their sights. Having no place to flee, a small group of Gargoyles hunker down within the rafters of Grace Cathedral, isolated from all other kindred.

After five years of collective dormancy in the kindred populous, the fanaticism of the Hunters start to fade, tempting a small group of Tower-loyal Tremere to sneak into their San Francisco Chantry to reclaim their library and artifacts. This group is not heard from until a fall night in 2015 in which a new social media app is launched with a clever layer of technomancy to watch the watchers. New Internet Privacy laws are proposed and passed blocking previously opened doors of technological access and surveillance. As the Hunters are being driven further and further underground, the housing boom and rapid rent increases also starts to drive them towards cheaper markets, eventually pricing previously dedicated hunters to take more lucrative jobs and move away from the city for economic survival.

San Francisco is no longer under the oppressive eye of a singular powerful hunting force. Although pockets of the once strong collective exist, they are on the fringes as rational thought and more kine

move in who do not remember things as they were before. Each sect of the East Bay has access to this newly cleared city. It is clear that the Camarilla will lay claim to the most dominant city of the peninsula, but will they be able to keep their gained interests outside of San Francisco? Will this shift of power mean a shift in their peaceful alliances now that hunters have become less of a threat?

**City Description:** Before the Camarilla were forced to flee San Francisco, gathers were regularly held at the top floors of 25 Van Ness Avenue and the areas of Elysia were the Legion of Honor, Symphony Hall, and Coit Tower. Now that the Camarilla has located to Marin County to the City of San Rafael, the current Elysium is the Falkirk Community Center and the Gather site is the Marin Veteran's Memorial Auditorium. Historical Spanish Churches, called Missions, are completely avoided as they are known resources for Hunters. Due to the fact that cities are built entirely around these churches, and the steady amount of tourism these iconic building supply, they are largely left alone by the kindred population. San Rafael is convenient located across the Golden Gate Bridge and within view of the famous San Francisco Skyline. It is also influenced by modern industries boasting famous movie studios and Game Development companies.



- CAMARILLA
- INDEPENDENT ALLIANCE
- ANARCH
- UNAFFILIATED

**City Timeline:**

- 1768- Las Californias is established by New Spain, encompassing the Bay Area.

- 1776- Mission San Francisco de Asis is built as a Mission and acts as a fortress for Hunters defending the missionaries from the abundant Werewolf population permeating around in this narrow peninsula.
- 1848- California is ceded as a Territory from Mexico to the United States, Gold Rush Begins bringing in a vastly mixed population of kindred.
- 1850
  - April 15: City of San Francisco incorporated.
  - October 29: San Francisco becomes part of the [new U.S. State of California](#).
- 1863- San Francisco and San Jose Railroad begins operation (Caltrain follows the same route laid by this rail line). This connects the counties of San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara giving ease of travel to those within those borders. Hunters who draw upon their Spanish Inquisitor heritage still reside in Missions San Jose and San Francisco. They gain quicker correspondence through the rail system and start to monitor the population, tagging persons of interest within their databases.
- 1944- The Prince of LA orders the savage beating of an Anarch, the faction explodes into rebellion, Camarilla loses control of San Jose and San Francisco (BNS Book pp.32). This was followed by a period of Beat Poets, drugs culture, the Hippie Movement, fringe love cults, anti-war protests, and a series of small communes throughout the Bay Area.
- 1974- San Francisco is reclaimed by the Camarilla. This brings in a period of rapid infrastructure growth with the newly made BART train system. The Transamerica building is completed, going from a controversial silhouette in the city's skyline to an iconic tourist draw.
- 1999
  - Red Star Appears, week of Nightmares transpires.
  - Y2K was a design flaw programmed into millions of computers and common programs. The collective programmers of the Bay Area were at the forefront of trying to deal with the repercussions which gave them deep access to the systems and networks being fixed. It is later revealed that a group of hunters used the unparalleled access afford to them to break into local kindred communication channels. This was the brainchild of Hunter, Belinda "Foxtrot" Edwardson.
- 2005- Known by locals as "The First Wave" Hunters gain enough numbers to take down a large number of kindred, mostly Sabbat from South San Francisco. The Camarilla Prince doubles down on the Tradition of the Masquerade.
- 2008- "The Second Wave" hits within San Francisco's borders. This time hitting the heart of the Camarilla's influence of politics and finances, Clan Ventrue is almost completely wiped out. The Nosferatu already shifting their presence due to the increased construction boom, create new Warrens outside the city limits. Realizing that there may be a leak in the communication chains of both contacts and allies, the remaining members of Camarilla decide to abandon San Francisco and settle in the East Bay mobilizing newer methods in changing their identities. This leads to a surge in the use of younger kindred as well as an increase in the ghoul population to cultivate new resources.
- 2009- **Worldwide Economic Collapse (BNS Book pp. 25)**
- 2011- The Independent Alliance is formed.
- 2012- The Chicago Blood Accord is ratified.
- 2013- "The Third Wave" strikes, this time with few kindred casualties and the accidental killing of non-vampires which places the uncomfortable eye of law enforcement on both

vigilante and known hunter groups. Clan Tremere and other practitioners of Technocracy develop a counter to the Y2K Exploit, Gargoyles within the City give up their territory in the presidio and annex themselves into Grace Cathedral.

- 2014- The counter virus to the Y2K Exploit is introduced through a small Social Media internet startup in San Rafael. A small group of Tremere go on a secret mission to reclaim items from their chantry library as well as artifacts. This group is not heard from and it is assumed they fell in the hands of hunters.
- 2015- New Internet laws are introduced at the local level. Masked as “Privacy Laws” they break up particular surveillance methods used by hunters upon kindred, weakening the hunters’ most valuable tool. The Tremere who were thought to be dead in San Francisco resurface.
- 2016- Hunter groups, unable to show evidence of any considerable threat, start to faction and weaken within their ranks as well as lose their financial support to remain in San Francisco.

#### **Storyteller Notes**

- The Camarilla is the most populous sect of the Domain, but there are small numbers of Anarchs and Independent Alliance that reside in counties outside of the City of San Rafael.
- The Independent Alliance holds the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum and the Winchester Mystery House in Santa Clara County.
- The number of Sabbat are unknown and it is assumed by the other sects that they have been completely wiped out locally by Hunters.