

Figure 2-33
Overview of Industrial Area
Roads, Rail, Pavement, Land & Grass
DWC MAP

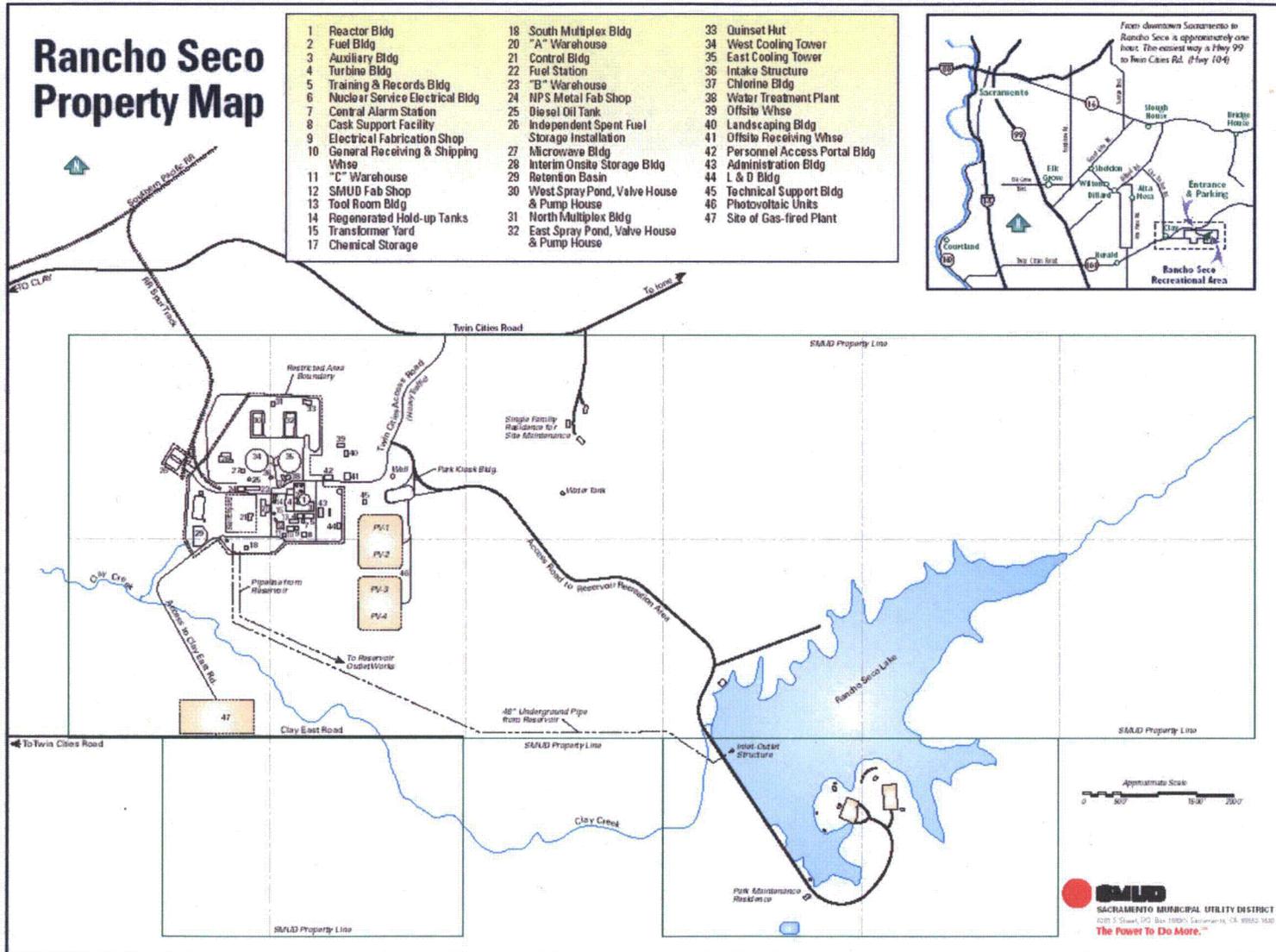
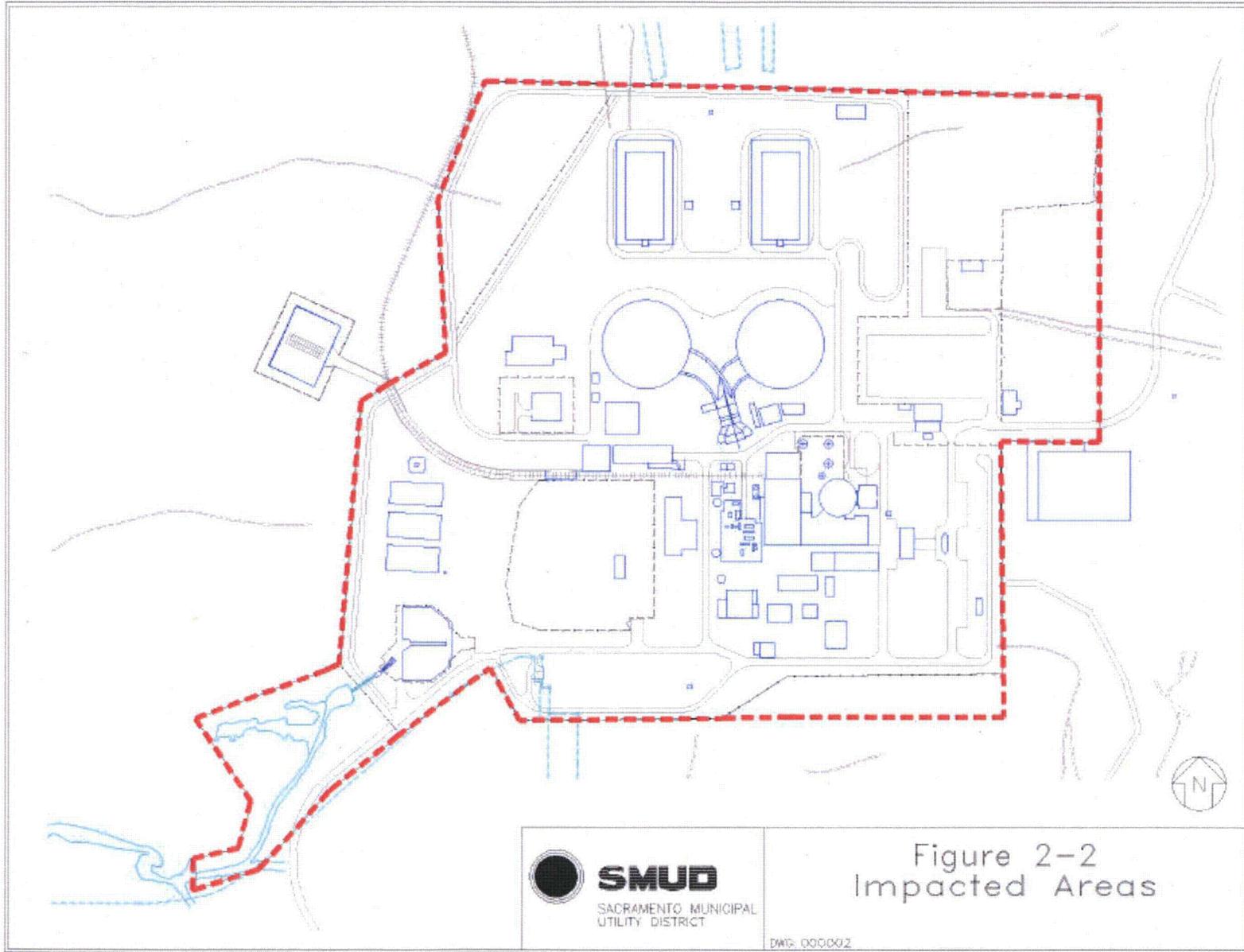


Figure 8-1
 Rancho Seco Site Map





SACRAMENTO STATE COLLEGE

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DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

March 5, 1971

Mr. Kenneth Mellor
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
P. O. Box 15838
Sacramento, California 95813

Dear Mr. Mellor:

I would like to thank you for contacting Sacramento State College and giving the Archeological Research Facility the opportunity to look over the project area of the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant for features of archeological significance. It is commendable that you had the breadth of interest to include this aspect in your inquiry into the background of the land the project encompasses.

As you may recall, we had no record of any archeological sites ever being found in your project area. I submitted that it was, however, unlikely that the area had ever actually been surveyed for prehistoric features. We agreed that it would be a good idea to make a reconnaissance of the area for possible aboriginal occupation sites.

After our tour of the project area on the 17th of February it seemed to me that the small seasonal tributary of Hadselville Creek that crosses sections 29 and 32 would have been about the only feature which might have attracted a prehistoric population of large enough size and for long enough time to have accumulated an obvious archeological deposit. We walked over the sides of that watercourse and found no ostensible evidence of prehistoric occupation sites.

The project area is part of the large interstream tract which lies between the Cosumnes and American Rivers and is drained by small streams that carry water only in the winter and spring months. In my opinion this land was of marginal use in prehistoric time, that is, the villages were mainly located on the permanent streams and rivers and these interstream tracts extending out from them were used for short foraging trips. In these areas grasses, bulbs, and

Enclosure 5

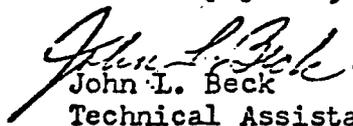
edible herbs could have been collected and game such as rabbits, antelope, and elk could have been hunted. These kinds of activities would not have left prominent evidence of prehistoric aboriginal land use.

This does not, however, mean that the area is not of archeological importance. Archeologists are now aware that in order to make useful assessments of aboriginal land use and ecology, areas such as this must be included in their investigations and even the smallest trace in the area of marginal use may tremendously outweigh in importance a large village site in another area. The areas which are peripheral to areas suitable for permanent village sites, since they were probably more or less unoccupied, may ultimately be of the utmost importance in determining prehistoric culture group boundaries, as they probably formed "no-mans-lands" between densely occupied areas which had distinct cultural identities.

I would recommend very strongly that a detailed and exhaustive survey be made of the Rancho Seco project area for archeological evidence of this nature before any further construction be undertaken there. It will, of course, be impossible to determine what might have been covered by the power plant facilities, the reservoir, and the roads which were built. For this reason any undisturbed evidence that does remain is of that much greater importance.

Thanks again for the opportunity to be of service. It is encouraging that more interest is being shown to archeological resources on both public and private lands. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,


John L. Beck
Technical Assistant