

DOCKETED

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
State Energy Resources
Conservation and Development Commission

In the Matter of:) Docket No. 15-AFC-01
)
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION)
OF THE PUENTE POWER PROJECT)

Exhibit No. 4018

APPROX.
LOCATION
OF PS
SITE.



Fig. 6.11. This 1947 view of the coastline around the Santa Clara River mouth shows McGrath Lake **a** to the south of the closed river mouth **b** and the Pierpont lowlands to the north, together composing the low, broad floodplain of the river at its mouth. The city of Ventura can be seen in the background. (Spence Air Photos 1947, courtesy of the Benjamin and Gladys Thomas Air Photo Archives, UCLA Department of Geography)

In addition to West Grove, substantial freshwater habitat was present in the form of freshwater McGrath Lake and the extensive, seasonally flooded wet meadow covering the Pierpont lowlands (what today is the low-lying area around the Ventura harbor; fig. 6.11). These floodplain areas would have been inundated during extreme floods by the Santa Clara River.

McGrath Lake is one of the few remaining coastal water bodies on the Oxnard Plain shoreline, though its origins are different than the mostly closed, brackish/saline tidal lagoons historically to the south (and derived from ancient river flows). Unlike these lagoons, McGrath was a freshwater lake, with hydrologic inputs derived primarily from active surface flows from the Santa Clara River and groundwater. The lake is shown on the region's T-sheet, labeled "fresh water" (Johnson 1855b; fig. 6.12). The lake as shown here was 8 acres, with 5 acres of fringing freshwater marsh. The lake occurred in a low spot between parallel ridges of sand dunes, and was also surrounded by willow thickets and seasonally inundated grassland. Cooper

Quite a number of persons were down in McGrath's bottoms last Sunday 'a blackberrying,' but the crop seemed to be very light this year...

—VENTURA FREE PRESS 1891A