

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS,
MILL CREEK 3 DOMESTIC WATER TANK

HAER No. CA-2272-L

Mill Creek
Yucaipa vicinity
San Bernardino County
California

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, California 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: The Mill Creek 3 Domestic Water Tank (MC 3 Domestic Water Tank) is located approximately 168 feet east of the Mill Creek 3 Sandbox (MC 3 Sandbox) and approximately 85 feet northeast of the center of the Flume Keeper's Cottage ruins. The MC 3 Domestic Water Tank is located on USGS topographic map Forest Falls (Section 13; T. 1S., R. 1W.).

Significance: The MC 3 Domestic Water Tank provided potable water for the Flume Keeper's Cottage located approximately 85 feet northeast. The flume keeper monitored the intake and sandbox for Mill Creek 3 (MC 3), two primary components of MC 3 system. MC 3 is significant as an early example of a high-head hydroelectric system that still exists today in the United States. It was also one of the first commercial three-phase alternating current stations in California. Three-phase alternating later became the industry standard.

Description: The MC 3 Domestic Water Tank is located in a one-story structure with a rectangular plan and a poured concrete foundation. The exterior walls are also made of poured concrete. The steeply pitched gabled roof is clad with corrugated metal sheets and the interior gable ends are clad with horizontal wood boards. The section of the building just below the roofline is made up of wood framed openings with mesh screens. There are no door or window openings on this structure and there is a pipe going through the northwest elevation.

History: The MC 3 Domestic Water Tank was constructed to provide water for the primary onsite workers that were housed in the Flume Keeper's Cottage and maintained MC 3. The MC 3 system was constructed between 1899 and 1903 by the Redlands Electric Light and Power Company, later absorbed by Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles in 1901. The MC 3 system is still in operation today and is owned by Southern California Edison. Please see the Historic Context section in the general Historic American Engineering Record for the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Hydroelectric Systems (HAER No. CA-2272) for additional information.

Sources:

Fowler, Frederick Hall. *Hydroelectric Power Systems of California and Their Extensions into Oregon and Nevada, Water-Supply Paper 493*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1923.

White, David R. M. "Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Southern California Edison Company Mill Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1934) San Bernardino County, California," June 1993.

Low, George P. "The Generating, Transmission and Distribution Systems of The Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles, Cal.," *The Journal of Electricity, Power and Gas*. vol. XIII, no. 1. January, 1903.

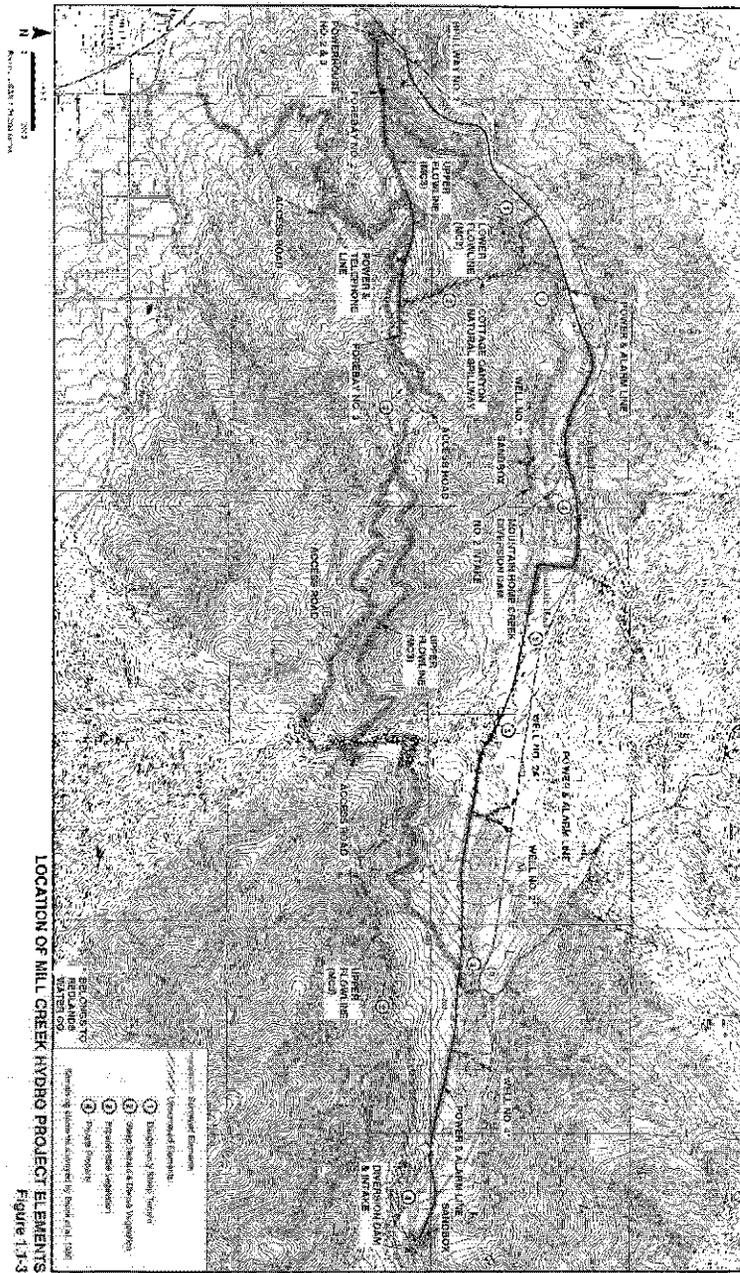
"Means Much to Redlands: Big Light and Power Deal Closed," *Los Angeles Times*. May 25, 1901, 8.

“Redlands Electric Light & Power Co., Edition Electric Co. of Los Angeles, Mill Creek Powerhouses,” *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form*, April 30, 1985, item number 7, 10.

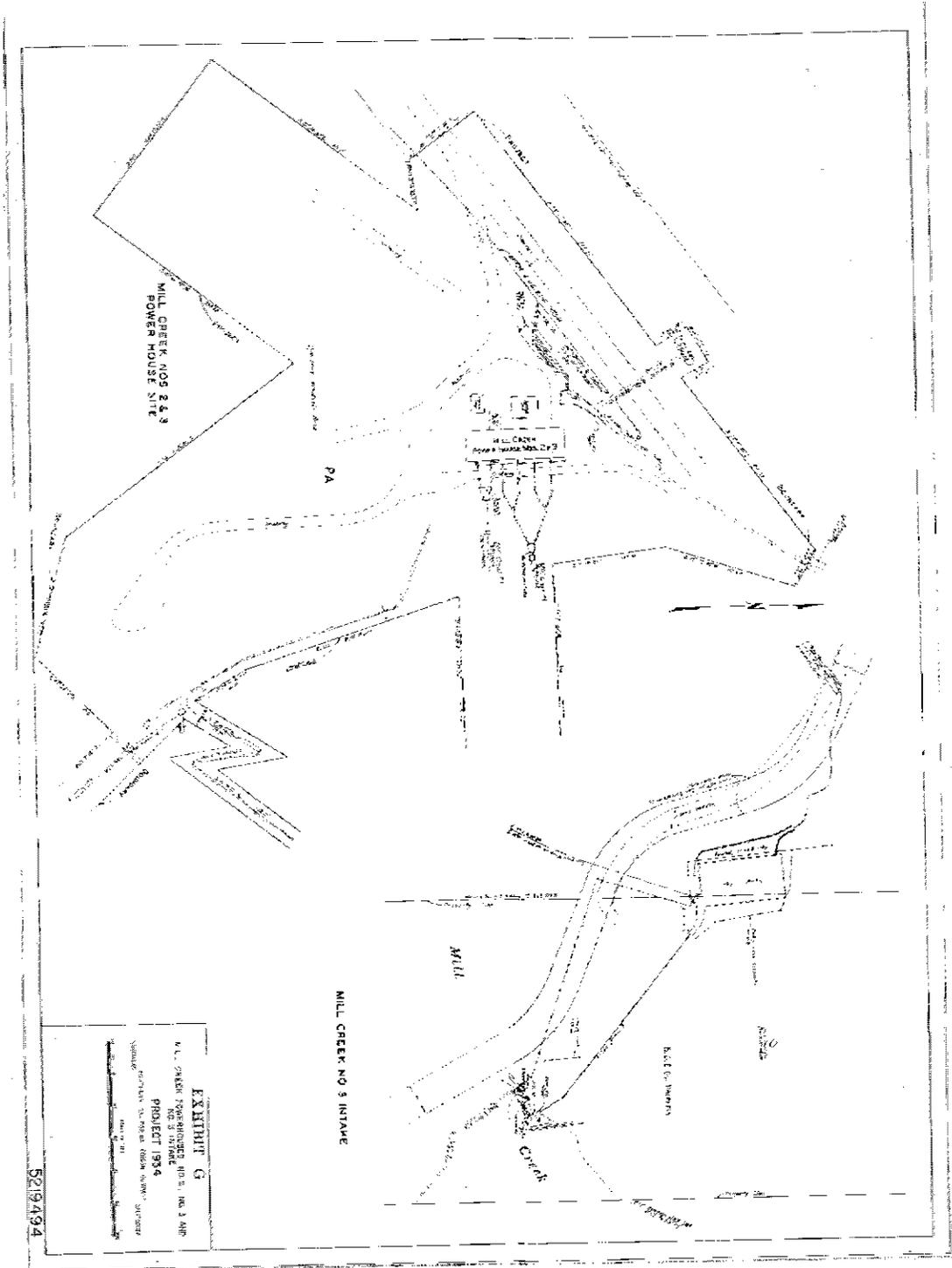
Historian: Christeen Taniguchi, Senior Architectural Historian, and Nicole Collum Galvin Preservation Associates, 1611 S. Pacific Coast Highway, #104, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, 2008-2009.

Project Information: MC 2 has not operated since 1992 when it was damaged during floods. It was not, however, decommissioned. The Southern California Edison Company, in conjunction with the San Bernardino National Forest, the agency that owns the property, proposes to formally decommission the facility. This process will include filling the sandbox and forebay with slurry, and removing the metal features. Although MC 3 is still in operation, it is also being recorded as part of this project because of the system’s close association with MC 2.

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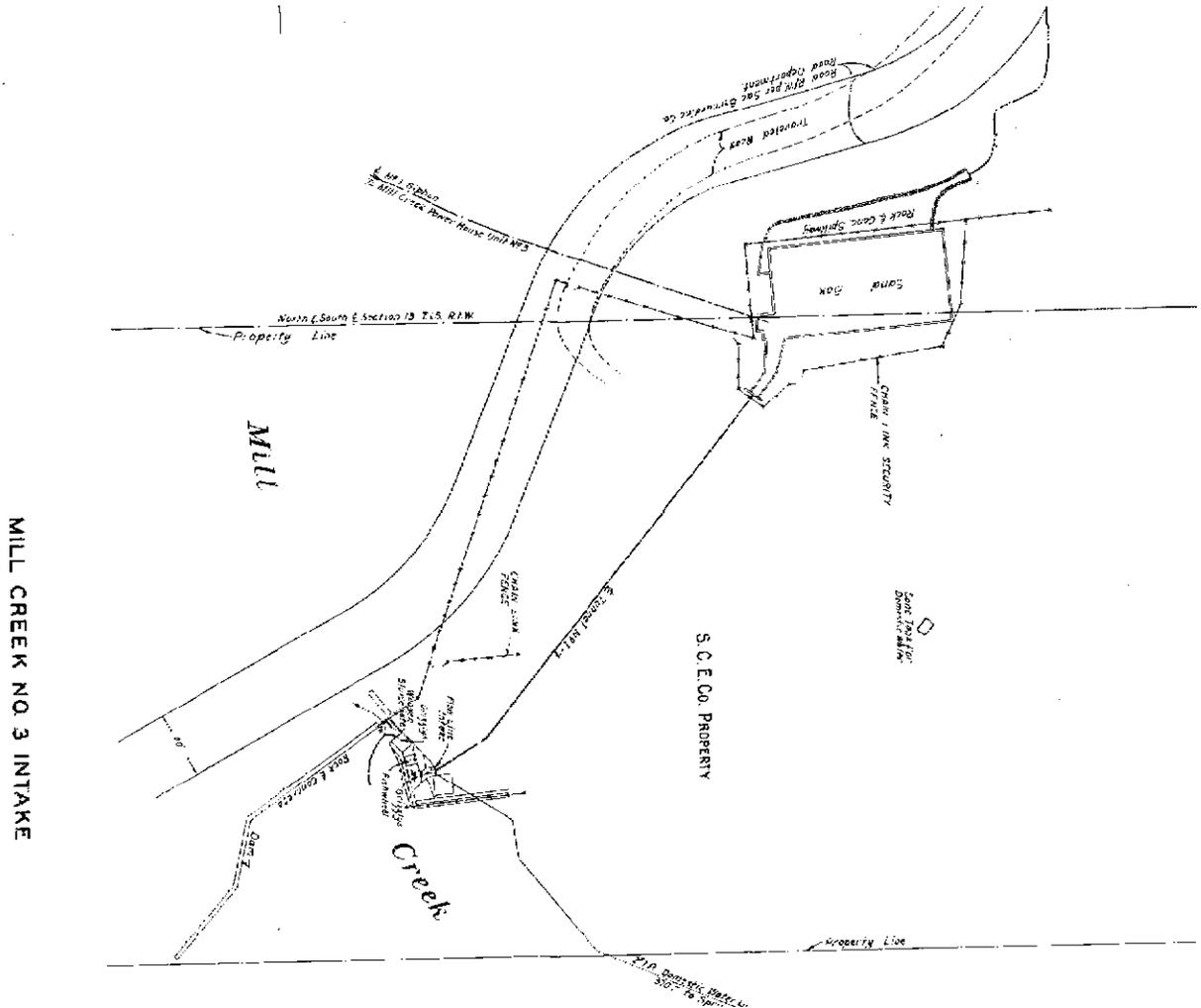


Location of Mill Creek Hydro Project Elements. (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison)



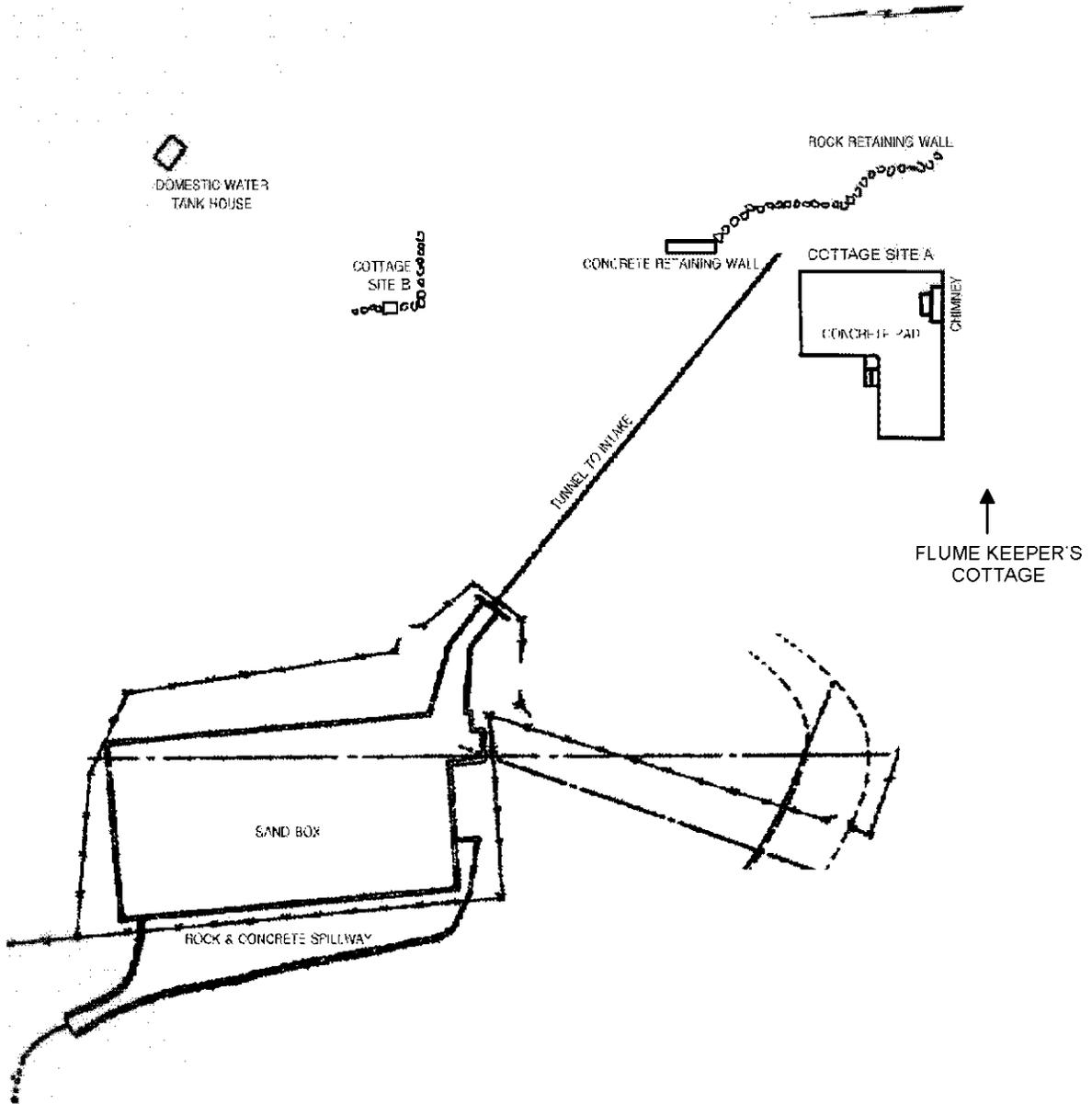
Mill Creek 2/3 Powerhouse Plot Plan and Mill Creek 3 Intake Plan, Mill Creek 3 Domestic Water Tank is located to the east of the Mill Creek 3 Sandbox. (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison).

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Detail Image of the Mill Creek 3 Intake Plan, Mill Creek 3 Domestic Water Tank is located to the east of the Mill Creek 3 Sandbox. (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison).

MILL CREEK 3 DOMESTIC WATER TANK SITE MAP



Mill Creek 3 Domestic Water Tank Site Map, the MC 3 Domestic Water Tank is located east of the Sandbox.