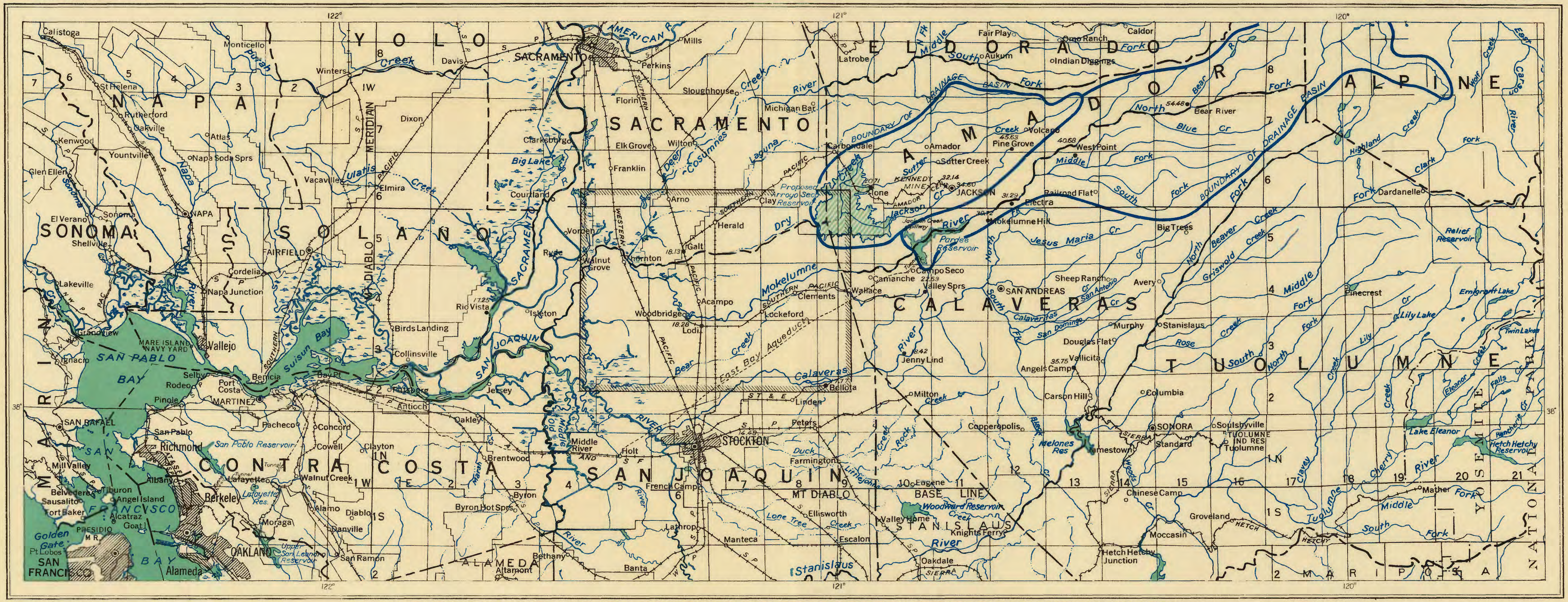


Base from U. S. G. S. map of California, 1929.

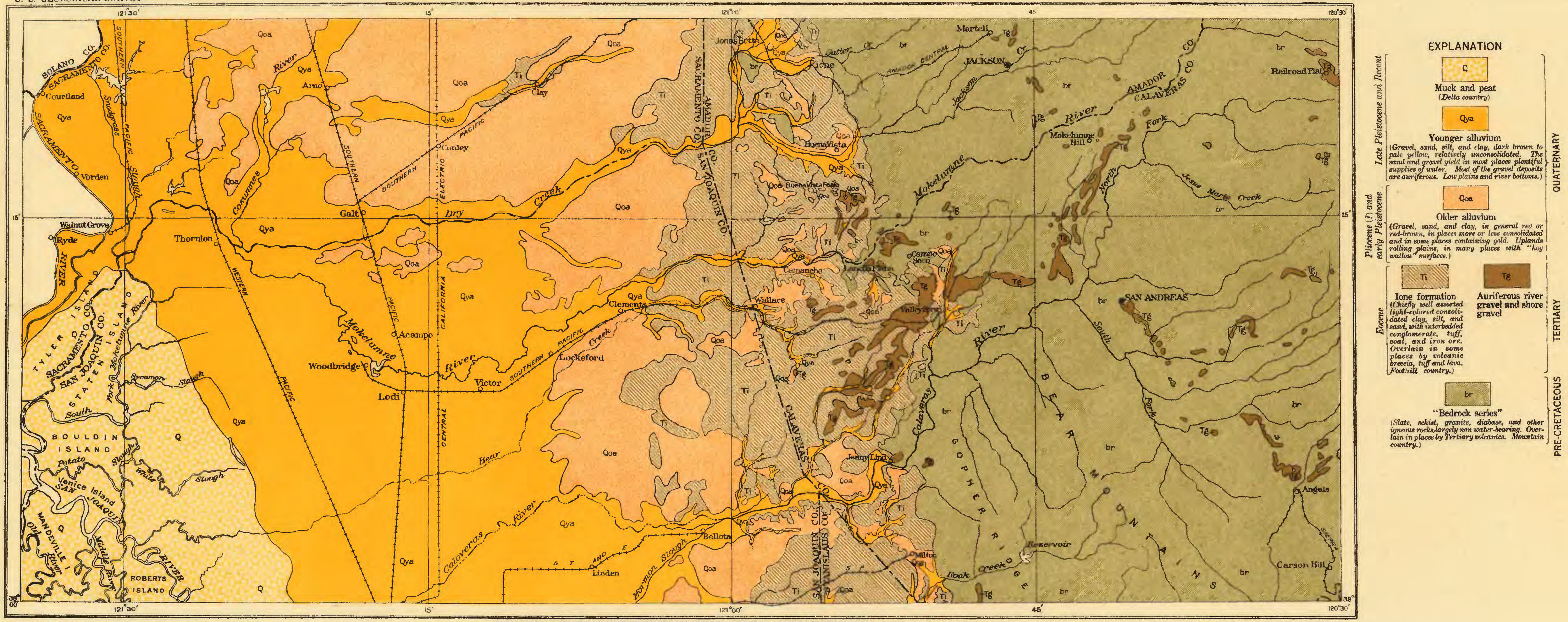
A. HOEN & CO. BALTIMORE, MD.

MAP SHOWING LOCATION OF AREA INVESTIGATED, SIXTEEN PRECIPITATION STATIONS, PROPOSED ARROYO SECO RESERVOIR, AND EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT RESERVOIRS, TUNNELS, AND PIPE LINE

0 10 20 30 40 Miles

1930

18.42 • Precipitation station. (Figures are long-term mean annual precipitation, in inches.)



GEOLOGIC MAP OF MOKELUMNE AREA, CALIFORNIA

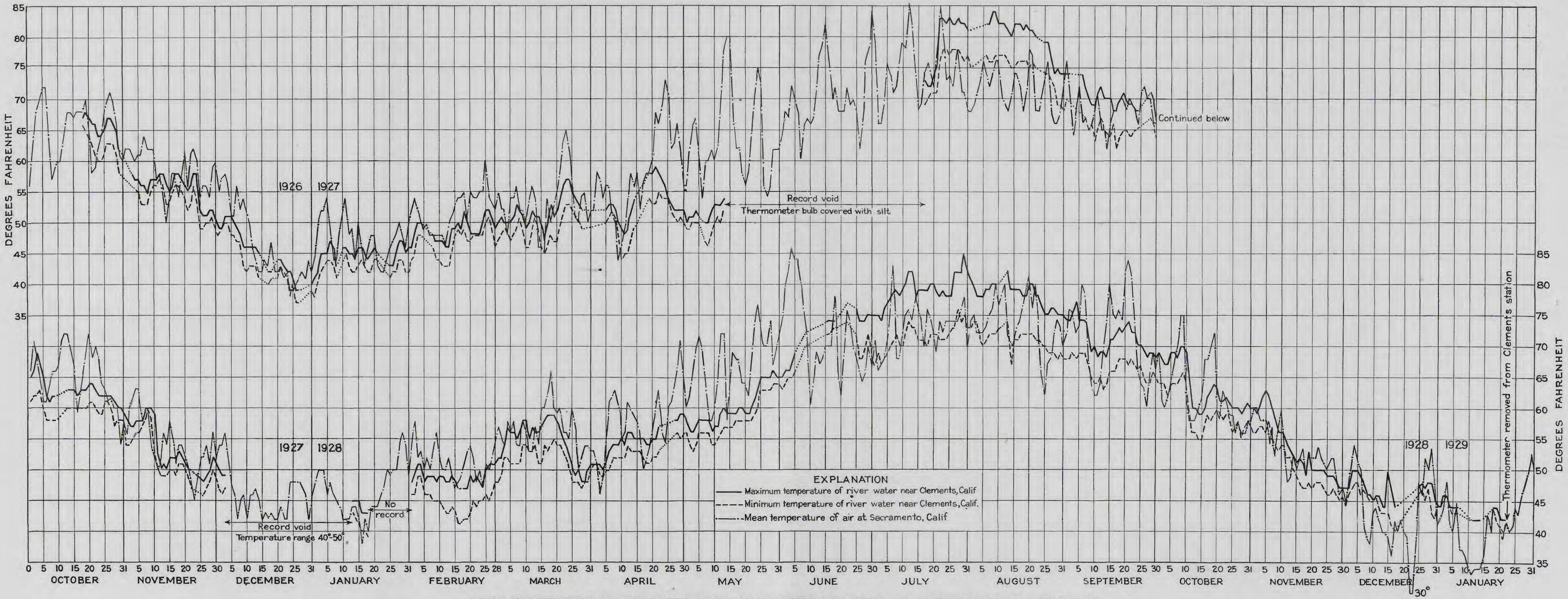
Scale $\frac{1}{250,000}$

0 5 10 MILES

1930

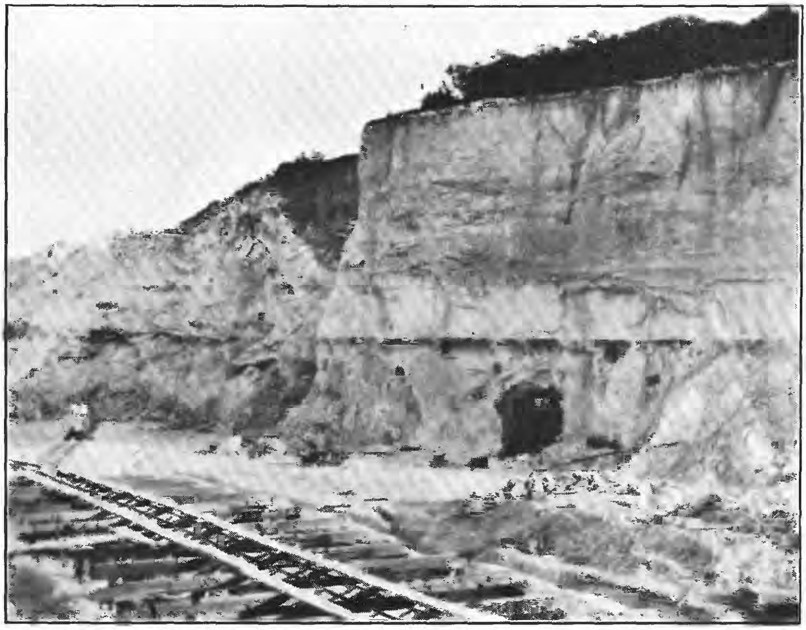
Base from U. S. Geological Survey atlas sheets.

Geology west of meridian 121° by H. T. Stearns; east of that meridian from U. S. G. S. Folio 11, modified.



DAILY TEMPERATURE OF MOKELUMNE RIVER AT CLEMENTS AND MEAN AIR TEMPERATURE AT SACRAMENTO

A. PILES OF COBBLES LEFT BY A GOLD DREDGE ALONG MOKELUMNE RIVER NEAR CLEMENTS



B. CLAY PIT IN THE IONE FORMATION NEAR IONE

Both photographs by Harold T. Stearns.

water level in a surface reservoir having the same area, because 1 foot of water will produce a rise of several feet in the ground-water reservoir, and, on the other hand, several feet of saturated alluvium must be drained to yield 1 foot of water.

The rate at which the water table rises or falls depends on the rate at which the underground supply is replenished or withdrawn. The principal controlling factors in the rise and fall of the water table in the Mokelumne area are the amount of rainfall penetration, the recharge from streams crossing the area, and the amount withdrawn from the ground by pumps. In many basins in the arid West the controlling factors are rainfall and evaporation, but in this area evaporation is much less important. It has been noted by many observers in area of pumping in California that the rise corresponds to the beginning of the rainy season and reaches its highest stage just after the dry season begins. In the Lodi area the recovery of the water table at the time the rains begin is more a coincidence than an effect, because it is also the end of the irrigation season, when the pumps are shut down. The rise in the area of intensive pumping during the first part of the season of recovery is due largely to a hydrostatic adjustment with the cessation of pumping; hence it is essentially a pressure gradient effect. Ground water slowly flows into the cone of depression caused by the pumping until the depression is filled.

If the amount of water pumped out during the previous irrigation season is greater than the recharge, the water table fails to return to its previous maximum stage, and an annual decline results. Decline may progress for a number of years, but during a series of wet years the water table may finally return to its former position. During wet years there is not only an increase in recharge but also a decrease in withdrawals due to decreased irrigation demands. The heavy pumping that results in the lowering of the water table increases the storage capacity of the ground-water reservoir, so that in wet years the soil may absorb water that would have gone to waste if the water table had not been low. A rise and fall of the water table over a period of years is known as a secular fluctuation. A secular decline of the water table has been recorded at Lodi since 1906. There have doubtless been years in this falling stage, as in 1926, when the water table rose slightly, but the general trend has been downward.

When the water table subsides all the water in the ground above it does not drain downward. In the Mokelumne area, where the structure is complicated by lenses of clay, a relatively large percentage of water remains above the water table during periods of subsidence, and the specific yield of the material is rather small compared with the pore space. If the material is permanently unwatered a somewhat larger proportion of the water eventually drains out.

86579—30——9

ANNUAL FLUCTUATIONS

The annual fluctuation of the water table under the entire area is illustrated by Plates 6 and 7, which show the contours of the water table at the high and low stages each year. The fluctuation is not uniform over the area but ranges from less than a foot in one locality to 12 feet in another. The average annual fluctuation for the entire Mokelumne area is about 2 feet. An annual fluctuation was observed in all wells, as is shown by the measurements recorded in the table on pages 292–398. It is the result of all operative factors—pumpage, rainfall, stream flow, evaporation, transpiration, and discharge by underflow into the delta country. In general the highest stage is reached in April or May and the lowest in September or October of each year.

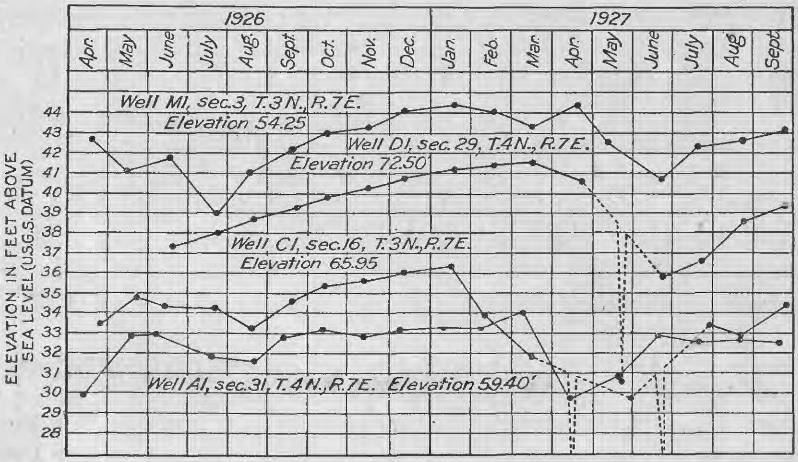
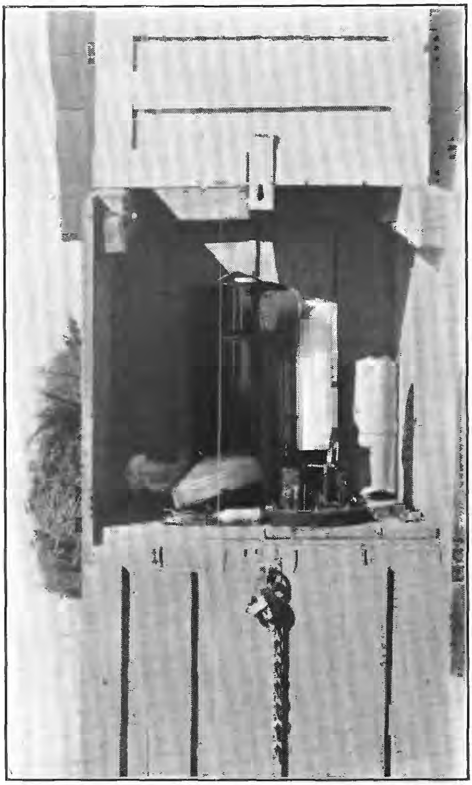


FIGURE 5.—Hydrographs of four wells illustrating the annual fluctuation of the water table in the Mokelumne pumping district

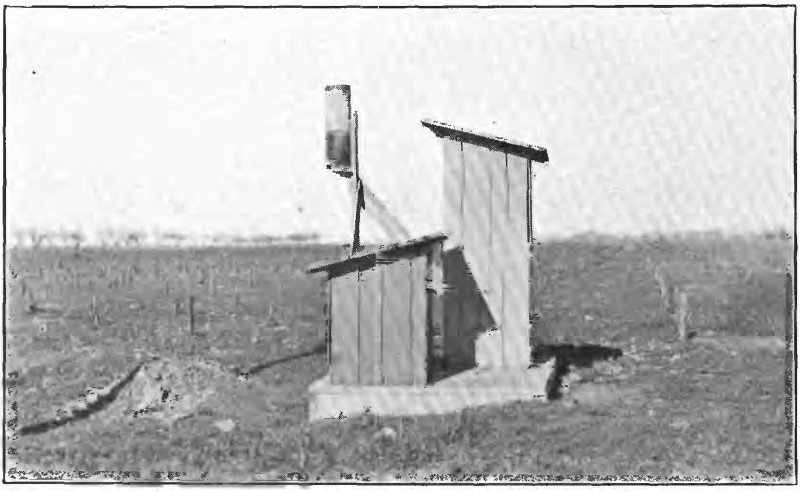
FLUCTUATIONS IN THE PUMPING DISTRICT

Pumping is started by a few irrigators as early as January, but most of the pumps start in April and May. This time coincides closely with the time when the water table begins its annual decline. As shown on page 271, about 70,800 acre-feet is withdrawn annually from the ground-water reservoir. The effect of pumping is shown by the hydrographs of wells in the heavily irrigated district in the vicinity of Lodi and Victor, given in Figure 5. The hydrographs of three of the wells show that in 1927 the decline of the water table started in March or April and reached the lowest stage in June, but that in 1926 the lowest stage was reached in July or August. In the heavily pumped district the fluctuation amounts to about 5 feet each year. In 1927 well 3716C1 reached its peak in January and its lowest point in June. It is believed that the early decline of this well resulted from pumping in January for irrigation.



A. RECORDING EQUIPMENT AND SHELTER USED ON WELL 4734K3

Photograph by Thomas W. Robinson.



B. RAIN GAGE AND SHELTERS FOR WATER-STAGE RECORDERS ON WELL 373G1

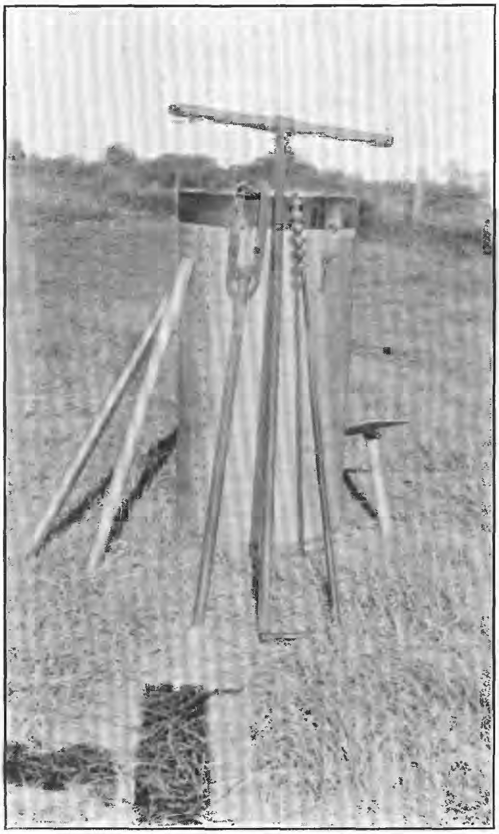
Photograph by Harold T. Stearns.

AIRPLANE VIEW SHOWING LOCATION OF WELLS 4734K2, 4734K3, AND 373G1, THE VICTOR GAGING STATION, AND VINEYARDS AND ORCHARDS TYPICAL OF THE HEAVILY PUMPED DISTRICT NEAR VICTOR

Photograph by United States Army Air Corps.

AIRPLANE VIEW OF WOODBRIDGE RESERVOIR WHEN IT WAS PRACTICALLY EMPTY IN THE FALL OF 1927, SHOWING THE LOCATION OF WELLS 4634R1, 4635E2, AND 4635A2 AND THE WOODBRIDGE GAGING STATIONS

Photograph by United States Army Air Corps.



A. SOIL CYLINDER, 1½-INCH NICKEL TUBES, 4-INCH SOIL AUGER WITH EXTENSION HANDLE, AND 1½-INCH WOOD AUGER USED IN SPECIFIC-YIELD TESTS

B. DEEP-WELL TURBINE ON WELL 4715C1

Both photographs by Harold T. Stearns.

AIRPLANE VIEW OF MOKELUMNE RIVER BETWEEN LANCHA PLANA AND CLEMENTS, SHOWING THE ROWS OF GRAVEL LEFT BY GOLD DREDGES

Photograph by United States Army Air C

A. U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY GAGING STATION AT CLEMENTS AT 11.33 A. M. MARCH 26, 1928

B. MOKELUMNE BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK WRECKED BY THE FLOOD OF MARCH, 1928

C. FLOOD WATERS OF MOKELUMNE RIVER ON BOTTOM LANDS NEAR LOCKEFORD, MARCH, 1928

All photographs by Harold T. Stearns.

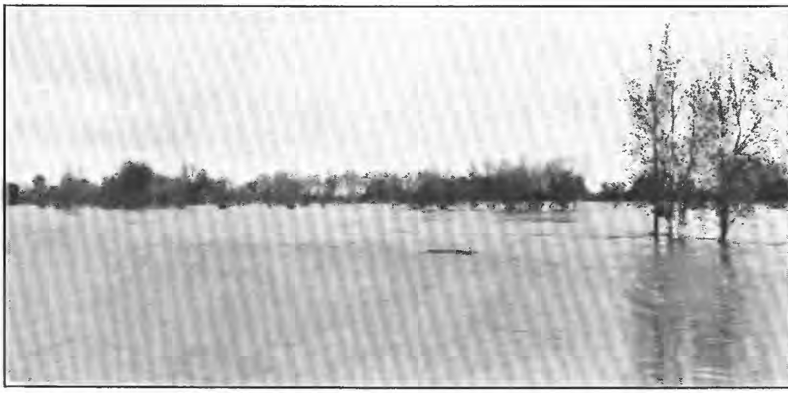
A. FRUIT TREES NEAR VICTOR SUBMERGED

B. VIEW LOOKING NORTH ALONG CHEROKEE LANE, SHOWING FLOOD WATERS OF MOKELUMNE RIVER

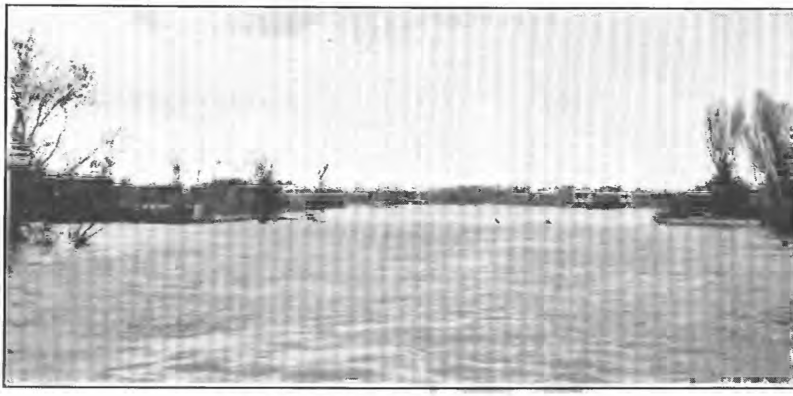
C. LODI-WOODBRIDGE HIGHWAY

VIEWS DURING FLOOD OF MARCH, 1928

Photographs by Harold T. Stearns.



A. WOODBRIDGE GOLF COURSE



B. WOODBRIDGE DAM SUBMERGED

C. WOODBRIDGE GAGING STATION

VIEWS DURING FLOOD OF MARCH, 1928

Photographs by Harold T. Stearns.

DEEP-WELL TURBINE ON WELL 4726E1

Photograph furnished by courtesy of Sterling Pump Co., Stockton.