

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West



Rancho Seco Sunset – Photo Credit: Richard Stevenson

In 1966, Sacramento Municipal Utility District purchased 2,100 acres in southeast Sacramento County for a nuclear powerplant, which was built 25 miles southeast of downtown Sacramento. The Rancho Seco Nuclear Generating Station is a decommissioned nuclear powerplant built by SMUD in Herald, California. The plant operated from April 1975 to June 1989, but it was closed by public vote on June 7, 1989. All the power generating equipment was removed from the plant, but the towers remain as a part of the landscape.

Along with the Nature Conservancy, SMUD dedicated, in June 2006, the Howard Ranch Nature Trail, a 7-mile-long trail that follows riparian and marsh habitat along Rancho Seco Lake. The lake offers year-round camping, fishing (bass, bluegill, red ear sunfish, rainbow trout, crappie and catfish), swimming, kayaking, rafting, boating and wildlife viewing (ducks, geese, hawks, bald eagles, blue heron and migratory birds).

For more information on Rancho Seco, please visit:
<http://www.rockymountainrec.com/lakes/lake-rancho-seco.htm>