

# **Time Line - Natomas Company History, 1851-1984**

<b>Year</b> ====	<b>Event</b> =====
1851-1852	A.P. Catlin and others organized early mining and water companies as loose associations to divert water from the South Fork of the American River.
1853	Natoma Water & Mining Company incorporated as a public corporation on June 25, 1853. Construction of Natoma's 16 mile canal/ditch system completed to Prarie City, Nov., 1853. Water sales began.
1854	Natoma Water & Mining Company recapitalized, from \$200,000 to \$300,000, on October 13, 1854.
1854	A.P. Catlin and other principals of Natoma Water & Mining Company organized a second company, the American River Water & Mining Company, Dec. 9, 1854, capitalized at \$150,000, to divert water from theNorth Fork of the American River.
1857	Natoma Water & Mining Co. purchase 9,654 acres of land, i.e., the eastern portion of the Rancho Rio de los Americanos from Charles Nystrom, for \$36,000. The tract became known as the Natoma Purchase.
1864	Horatio Gates Livermore and his sons, particularly Horatio Putnam Livermore, obtain controlling interest in the Natoma Water & Mining Company. Begin plans to build an industrial center at Folsom.
1864	After seven years of court battles, the Natoma Water & Mining Company receives patent to the Natoma Purchase.
1866	Construction started on first Folsom Dam by Natoma Water & Mining Company.
1868	First convict labor contract made between Natoma Water & Mining Company and State of California, June 30, 1868. State was to receive 350 acres for Folsom Prison in exchange for 30,000 days of convict labor.
1881-1883	Natoma Water & Mining Company completes planting 2,000-acre vineyard. Largest vineyard in the world until surpassed by Leland Stanford's "Vina" in Tehama County.
1883	Natoma Water & Mining Company recapitalized at \$600,000, on March 27, 1883, to complete vineyard expansion.
1885-1886	Natoma Water & Mining Company builds a large winery complex to produce its own wine.

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1888	Natoma Vineyard Company incorporated by Charles Webb Howard, Herman Bendel, and others, on September 6, 1888. Livermores no longer in control of the Company.
1891-1892	First Folsom Dam completed late 1891, Folsom Prison Powerhouse completed in February, 1892.
1895	Folsom Powerhouse partially completed & single dynamo operated in June-July, 1895. All four dynamos working by time of "Electric Carnival" in September. Powerhouse completed by November, 1895..
1898	First commercially successful gold dredge in California completed & placed in operation in March, 1898.
1898-1899	First gold dredge at Folsom on Mississippi Bar. Prospecting begun Sept., 1898, construction started Jan., 1899, boat launched in Feb., and digging commenced in April, 1899.
1903	Natoma Water & Mining Company's 49-year charter expires.
1903	Folsom Development Company, backed by R.G. Hanford & a Colorado mining syndicate, was incorporated in San Francisco County on March 4, 1903.
1906	Natoma Development Company, backed by W.P. Hammon, was incorporated in San Francisco County on September 25, 1906.
1908-1909	Natomas Consolidated of California was formed by a merger of all but one dredging company in the Folsom area. Natomas Consolidated incorporation was officially dated January 1, 1909.
1911-1912	Natomas Consolidated of California completes a series of dredges, Natoma #8, Natoma #9, and Natoma #10. #8 was largest in world when completed in March, 1911. #10 was first all-steel dredge operated in California.
1914	Natomas Company of California was incorporated December 24, 1914, when Natomas Consolidated of California was reorganized after defaulting on bond interest payments.
1915	Main river & drainage levee system for Reclamation Districts 1000 & 1001 completed. Total enclosed area approximately 86,000 acres.



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1917-1918	First Bulldozer Blade designed and constructed by Natomas Company of California. Installed first on a Holt, then a Best tractor, and used to level tailings of reclamamation dredges Natoma #1 and Natoma #4, 1917-1918.
1918-1940	Mather Air Field started on 780 acres of land leased to the United States Govt. by Natomas Company of California for \$1 per year. Offer of sale for \$100/ac. for undredged land. In 1940, Natomas Co. sold 4,500 ac. to Mather for bomb range.
1928	Natomas Company is formed by reorganization of Natomas Company of California, November 10, 1928.
1934-1935	Price of gold raised by FDR from \$20.67, beginning in late 1934, and fixed at \$35 in January, 1935.
1946	Sacramento War Industries, including Natomas Company, is awarded the Army-Navy Big "E" for wartime production efficiency, 1942-1946.
1948-1956	United State Army Corps of Engineers finishes construction of new Folsom Dam. Work had begun in 1948.
1950	Natomas Company sells out last of land holdings in Reclamation Districts 1000 & 1001 in 1950. Price was almost always below book value.
1952	Folsom Powerhouse shutdown after over fifty years of successful operation.
1956	Natomas Company merger with APL Associates, Inc. Other mergers also had been examined, including Gallo Wine and Continental Uranium.
1961	American River Parkway first proposed by Natomas Company to Sacramento County Department of Parks & Recreation. About 1000 acres of land in the flood zone of the American River converted to equestrian bicycle, and other recreational uses.
1961	Constructed the International Building in San Francisco, sold in 1983.
1962	Western Geothermal, Inc. organized to engage in geothermal exploration and development.

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1962	Natomas Company shuts down last dredge at Folsom, Natoma No. 6, on February 12, 1962.
1962-1972	Natomas' only foreign venture was in Peru, where Poto No. 1 (a rebuilt dredge from Snelling, CA) began digging in Nov., 1962. Operation had many problems. Dredge sank in 1964 and again in 1972, when operation was abandoned.
1966	Oil refinery completed on the Caribbean Island of Antigua. Sold in 1976.
1966	State of California acquired through condemnation 1800 acres of Natomas lands in Butte County, California, in connection with construction of the Oroville Dam.
1968	Independent Indonesian American Petroleum Co. stock acquired. IIAPCO held oil concession off-shore Java; a second concession later acquired off-shore Sumatra. Both became highly profitable.
1974	Thermal Power Co., holder of 25% interest in the Geysers geothermal area of Sonoma County, California, is acquired.
1976	Apexco, a company with extensive oil and gas holdings in the United States, is acquired.
1978	Kentucky coal properties of Brown Badgett, Inc. are acquired.
1979	Acquired the minority interest in American President Lines, Ltd., from the Signal Companies, making the shipping company a wholly-owned subsidiary.
1980-1982	Planning for development of Natomas Company lands as residential communities is completed. Construction of "Gold River" begins in 1982, and planning for "Natoma Station" gets underway.
1983	Magma Power Co., holder of 25% interest in the Geysers steam field in California, is acquired by Natomas.
1983-1984	Natomas Co. acquired by Diamond Shamrock Corp. through an exchange of stock, accompanied by a "spin-off" of the shipping and real estate interests to a new company, American President Companies, Lt. Natomas ceases to exist as an independent company, ending a corporate history spanning 133 years.