



# California Regional Water Quality Control Board

## Los Angeles Region



Winston H. Hickox  
Secretary for  
Environmental  
Protection

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June 13, 2003

Mr. David Martel  
Balboa Yacht Club  
1801 Bayside Drive  
Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
CLAIM NO. 7002 2410 0006 3316 4869

Dear Mr. Martel:

**WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS (WDRs) AND TIME SCHEDULE ORDER (TSO) FOR BALBOA YACHT CLUB, CATALINA ISLAND STATION AT HEN ROCK, SANTA CATALINA ISLAND, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA (FILE NO. 02-009, CI-8600)**

Our letter of April 23, 2003 transmitted the tentative Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) including the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) and an accompanying Time Schedule Order (TSO) for Balboa Yacht Club. Based on your comments dated May 13, 2003, the tentative Orders were revised on May 19, 2002.

Pursuant to Division 7 of the California Water Code, this Regional Board at a public meeting held on June 5, 2003 reviewed the tentative WDRs and TSO, considered all factors in the case, and adopted WDRs Order No. R4-2003-0085 and TSO Order No. R4-2003-0086 relative to this discharge. In addition, the Board directed that the tentative WDRs include the additional revision as noted below (the deletion is stricken out and the addition is **bold**):

Item D. 12 on Page 7 of the revised tentative WDRs has been changed as follows:

Under no circumstances shall the vertical separation distance of a leachfield from groundwater be less than ~~3~~ **5** feet.

You are required to implement the MRP No. CI-8600 on the effective date of Order No. R4-2003-0085. Your first monitoring report under these requirements is due October 15, 2003. Even if there is no discharge, you are required to report quarterly. All monitoring reports should be sent to the Regional Board, Attn: Information Technology Unit, and please reference all monitoring reports to our Compliance File No. CI-8600.

We are sending the WDRs, MRP, and TSO to the discharger (Balboa Yacht Club) only. For recipients on the mailing list, an electronic or hard copy of these enclosures will be furnished upon request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call Dr. Kwangil Lee at (213) 620-2269 or Dionisia Rodriguez at (213) 620-6122.

Sincerely,

Paula Rasmussen, Section Chief  
Enforcement and Groundwater Permitting

Enclosures:

1. Board WDRs Order No. R4-2003-0085
2. MRP No. CI-8600
3. Board TSO Order No. R4-2003-0086
4. Standard Provisions applicable to WDRs (addressee only)

cc: See Mailing List

**California Environmental Protection Agency**



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Our mission is to preserve and enhance the quality of California's water resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mailing List

Mr. Michael Lauffer, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board  
Mr. Robert Sams, Office of Chief Counsel, State Water Resources Control Board  
Mr. Carl W. Sjoberg, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works,  
Environmental Programs Division  
Mr. Richard Wagoner, Department of Health Services, County of Los Angeles  
Ms. Kathy Goldsberry, Department of Health Services, County of Los Angeles  
Mr. James E. Hartl, AICP, County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning  
Mr. Kevin Johnson, County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning  
Mr. Barton Slutske, Consultant  
Mr. Robert Tyler, AIA, Tyler Gonzalez, Architects  
Ms. Julie Vilinsky, Ensitu Engineering, Inc.



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
LOS ANGELES REGION**

ORDER NO. R4-2003-0085  
WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS  
FOR  
BALBOA YACHT CLUB  
(Catalina Island Station at Hen Rock)  
(File No. 02-009, CI-8600)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) finds:

REGULATION OF DISCHARGE

1. Balboa Yacht Club (hereinafter Discharger) owns and operates a camping and recreational facility (Facility) located at the Catalina Island Station at Hen Rock, (White's Landing), Santa Catalina Island, Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1). The Facility consists of a mobile home residence, a septic disposal system, picnic tables, cook tops and sinks, washrooms, a comfort station and tent facilities for guests. The Facility was established in 1957. The Discharger plans to replace the existing mobile home residence with a new residence with toilet, sink and shower, and expand an existing comfort station.
2. On January 23, 2002, the Discharger filled a report of waste discharge for discharges of domestic wastewater from the Facility. The Discharger has never had Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) from the Regional Board for the Facility.

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY

3. The Facility is immediately adjacent to the Pacific Ocean and located approximately 4.5 miles north of the City of Avalon. The Facility is on a 2.56 acre of land that is leased from the Santa Catalina Island Conservancy. The neighboring parcel to the west and north is vacant, while the parcel to the south is also utilized for recreational purposes.
4. The Facility is located in an unsewered area within a remote coastal canyon along the eastern shore of Santa Catalina Island. It is not economically feasible for the Discharger to connect to the existing sewer system in the City of Avalon because of the cost of installing a wastewater pipeline that would need to be pumped and would traverse approximately five miles of rugged mountainous terrain.
5. The Facility has an unpermitted septic system, which was installed in 1957 that services the caretaker's mobile home residence, comfort stations, sinks, showers, and toilets. The septic system provides only primary treatment to the wastewater from the Facility before being discharged into a leachfield. The leachfield area is located approximately 50 feet from a small water drainage that is flowing to the ocean. The drainage has been identified as a blue line stream on a United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map for Santa Catalina Island.

April 17, 2003  
Revised June 5, 2003

6. The Discharger does not have meters for wastewater flow. The only meter is for total water consumption. Based on the annual water consumption rates, the Discharger has estimated that the average discharge from the Facility is 670 gallons per day (gpd). The Discharger projected that the maximum daily flow occurs during special events, which are held three times a year at the Facility. During those events, the Facility is used as a picnic ground by the club members who arrive and stay on their own private yachts, which are anchored in the cove; therefore, usage of the on-shore sewage disposal system is limited to time ashore. The projected maximum daily flow is 3,000 gpd.
7. All wastewater from the Facility is classified as domestic wastewater and is disposed through the treatment/disposal system. The Discharger indicates that no industrial wastes or organic or inorganic industrial constituents are expected to be present therein, nor is there any restaurant or restaurant wastewater. The effluent quality from the septic system before being discharged to the leachfield is not monitored on a daily basis, as a result the effluent quality from the septic system is not known.
8. On January 22, 2003, the County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning granted the Discharger a permit to construct a new caretaker's residence. A new septic system was designed to service the new caretaker's residence which will contain a kitchen with sink and a bathroom with toilet, sink and shower; expansion of the club comfort station to three showers, four toilets and four bath sinks; and the existing sink units in the barbecue and bar areas (Figures 2 and 3). The proposed treatment disposal system will consist of:
  - a) A leachfield that is 3 feet wide by 95 feet long, with a total of 285 square feet.
  - b) One 3,000 gallon primary septic tankHowever, neither the proposed septic system nor the existing septic system is capable of disinfecting wastewater or removing nutrients prior to discharge to the leachfields.
9. The Discharger has verified that there is sufficient land area reserved for possible future 100 percent replacement of the subsurface disposal area.
10. Groundwater was not encountered in an excavation made to a depth of ten feet below ground surface (bgs). However, there is no demonstration that the groundwater exploration was conducted during an anticipated high ground water period. The Discharger claims that the assumed level of groundwater is ten feet below the existing grade and the underlying level of groundwater is not anticipated to rise within five feet of the bottom of the proposed leachfield. However, the minimum standard for the vertical separation between the bottom of the septic system leachfields and the high groundwater table should be at least 10 feet.

Since the 10-foot vertical separation requirement between the bottom of the leachfield and the groundwater has not been verified, Regional Board staff are concerned that the

existing treatment system may need additional treatment, such as disinfection to protect groundwater quality. The Regional Board, in Order No. 01-031 "*General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Commercial and Multifamily Residential Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems*," adopted on February 22, 2002, noted in footnote c) in Section E.3. that "in areas of shallow groundwater and coastal regions where a minimum of ten feet of vertical separation cannot be maintained between the bottom of the disposal system and the historic high or anticipated high groundwater level ... effluent shall be disinfected to levels consistent with the beneficial uses of groundwater and the nearest surface water body." Because Regional Board staff believe the leachfield site has less than 10 feet vertical separation and the proposed leachfield is 120 feet from the ocean, this Order requires the Discharger to include supplemental disinfection treatment for the system in order to meet the receiving water limitations for coliform that are included herein.

11. The projected location for the Facility is Catalina Station at Hen Rock Portion of Lot 64, L.A.C.A. Map 59. Its approximate latitude is 32° 12'36" and longitude is 118°12'00'.

#### APPLICABLE LAWS, PLANS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

12. On June 13, 1994, the Regional Board adopted a revised *Water Quality Control Plan for the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties* (Basin Plan) which was amended on January 27, 1997 by Regional Board Resolution No. 97-02. The Basin Plan (i) designates beneficial uses for surface waters and groundwaters, (ii) sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be attained or maintained to protect the designated beneficial uses and conform to the state antidegradation policy (*Statement of Policy with Respect to Maintaining High Quality Waters in California*, State Water Resources Control Board [State Board] Resolution No. 68-16, October 28, 1968), and (iii) describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the Region. In addition, the Basin Plan incorporates by reference applicable State and Regional Board plans and policies and other pertinent water quality policies and regulations. This Order implements the plans, policies, and provisions of the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan designates beneficial uses and water quality objectives for the following waterbody as follows:

#### San Pedro Channel Islands (Santa Catalina Island)

Existing            Municipal and domestic supply

Potential            Industrial Process Supply

Island Nearshore Zones (Santa Catalina Island)

Existing: Navigation, water contact recreation, non-contact water recreation, commercial and sport fishing, marine habitat, wildlife habitat, preservation of biological habitat, rare, threatened, or endangered specie refuge and shellfish harvesting.

Potential: Municipal and domestic supply, and spawning, reproduction and/or early development

13. On November 16, 2000, the State Board adopted a revised *Water Quality Control Plan for the Ocean Waters of California* (Ocean Plan). The State of California Office of Administrative Law and the United States Environmental Protection Agency approved the Ocean Plan on July 9, 2001 and December 3, 2001, respectively. The Ocean Plan contains water quality objectives for coastal waters of California. The beneficial uses of the ocean waters of the State that shall be protected include industrial water supply; water contact and non-contact recreation, including aesthetic enjoyment; navigation; commercial and sport fishing; mariculture; rare and endangered species; marine habitat; fish migration; fish spawning; and shellfish harvesting. This Order includes receiving water limitations, prohibitions, and provisions that implement the objectives of the Ocean Plan.
14. The Facility is located within the Santa Catalina Island groundwater basin as identified in the Basin Plan. The Basin Plan indicates that the beneficial uses for groundwater in Santa Catalina Island include municipal and domestic supply (MUN); however the beneficial use (MUN) is not applicable to beach areas lacking significant aquifers. The beneficial use (MUN) of any ground water that may be found at the facility is limited because the facility is adjacent to the beach. While the effluent will be discharged to the land through the existing leachfields, the depth to the ground water is controlled by the tide, and at this location, the receiving surface water is assumed to be the Pacific Ocean.
15. Moonstone Beach and Button Shell Beach, which are adjacent to the Facility, are not designated as impaired under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1313(d)). Avalon Beach, which is 4.5 miles southeast of the site, is listed as impaired for bacteria.
16. Although the ultimate receiving water is assumed to be the Pacific Ocean, ocean monitoring is not proposed. An effluent monitoring program is necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment system and a groundwater monitoring program is necessary to evaluate the impacts from the discharge of treated wastewater to groundwater, which in this location is connected to the Pacific Ocean. Ocean Plan standards have been used for the limitations established herein.
17. Impacts to beachfront waters from developments along the shoreline are of concern when leachfields are in relatively close proximity to the shoreline. It is believed that the

groundwater flow gradient is generally toward the Pacific Ocean, with groundwater flow direction changing in response to tidal influences. Thus, wastewater system pollutants such as ammonia and pathogens could move through groundwater to the coastal waters.

18. The Discharger is not able to achieve immediate compliance with the constituent limitations in this Order (specifically, fecal coliform, and enterococcus). In order to provide the Discharger time to come into compliance with the limits without being in immediate violation of requirements in the WDRs, the Regional Board is including a Time Schedule Order (TSO) that will allow the Discharger to complete all needed upgrades within a timeframe specified in the TSO.
19. The requirements contained in this Order are based on the Basin Plan, Ocean Plan, other state plans, policies, and guidelines, and best professional judgment.

#### CEQA, NOTIFICATION, AND APPEALS

20. In compliance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.), the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration to the Discharger for this upgrade project on January 22, 2003.
21. The Regional Board has notified the Discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to issue WDRs for this discharge, and has provided them an opportunity to submit their views and recommendations for the requirements.
22. The Regional Board, in a public meeting, heard and considered all comments pertaining to the discharge and to the requirements.
23. Pursuant to California Water Code section 13320, any aggrieved person may seek review of this Order by filing a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board). The State Board, P.O. Box 100, Sacramento, California 95812, must receive the petition, within 30 days of the date of adoption of the Order.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Discharger, Balboa Yacht Club, shall comply with the following requirements in connection with the disposal operations at the Facility.

#### A. INFLUENT LIMITATIONS

1. Waste discharged to the on-site treatment/disposal system shall be limited to domestic wastewater only.
2. The daily flow shall not exceed the design capacities of the on-site wastewater treatment/disposal system. This flow limitation also applies to treated effluent discharged to the leachfield disposal system. Treatment system design capacity for

average flows is estimated by the Discharger to be 670 gpd with capacity for peak flows at 3,000 gpd.

**B. EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS**

1. The pH of wastes discharged to the leachfield shall be within the range of 6 to 9.
2. Wastewater discharged to the leachfield system shall not contain additives or residual chlorine levels such that the biomat layer or the hydraulic capacity of the leachfield system is irreparably damaged.

**C. RECEIVING WATER LIMITATIONS**

1. The wastewater discharged to the leachfield disposal system shall not cause the receiving groundwater to contain constituents in excess of the following limits:

<u>Constituent</u> <sup>1</sup>	<u>Units</u> <sup>2</sup>	<u>Monthly</u>		<u>Daily</u>
		<u>Mean</u>	<u>Median</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Total coliform <sup>3</sup>	MPN/100mL	--	70	--
Fecal coliform <sup>3</sup>	MPN/100mL	200	--	--
Ammonia (expressed as nitrogen)	mg/L	2.4	--	--
Enterococcus <sup>3</sup>	MPN/100mL	24	--	--
Residual chlorine	µg/L			8

<sup>[1]</sup> For the above parameters, the Discharger may choose the compliance point for each parameter to be the wastewater treatment system end of pipe or the downgradient groundwater monitoring well \*

<sup>[2]</sup> MPN/100mL: Most Probable Number per 100 milliliter, mg/L: milligrams per liter, µg/L: micrograms per liter

<sup>[3]</sup> If only one sample is taken in any monthly period, that value shall be considered as the mean/median for the month.

2. The wastewater discharged to the leachfield disposal system shall not contain salts, heavy metals, or organic pollutants at levels that would adversely impact groundwater that may be in hydraulic connection with surface waters designated for marine aquatic life or body contact recreation uses.
3. Compliance with these receiving water requirements shall also be based upon consideration of the upgradient quality of groundwater moving under the site to determine the net effect upon groundwater caused by the Discharger.



D. PROHIBITIONS

1. There shall be no septic/wastewater treatment system overflows or discharge of wastes to waters of the State (including storm drains) at any time.
2. Wastes shall not be disposed of in geologically unstable areas or so as to cause earth movement.
3. Wastes discharged shall not impart tastes, odors, color, foaming or other objectionable characteristics to the receiving water.
4. Waste discharged shall not cause any impact on the indigenous marine life and diverse marine community.
5. Adequate facilities shall be provided to divert surface and storm water away from the treatment and leachfield disposal systems and from areas where any potential pollutants are stored.
6. The septic tanks, treatment collection system and the leachfield disposal system shall be protected from damage by storm flows or runoff generated by a 100-year storm.
7. There shall be no onsite disposal of sludge. Any offsite disposal of sewage or sludge shall be made only to a legal point of disposal. For purposes of this Order, a legal disposal site is one for which requirements have been established by a regional water quality control board and which is in compliance therewith. Any sewage or sludge handling shall be conducted in such a manner as to prevent sewage or sludge from reaching surface waters or watercourses.
8. The treatment system, including the collection system and the leachfield disposal system, shall be maintained in such a manner that prevents sewage from surfacing or overflowing at any location.
9. Sewage odors shall not be detectable.
10. The discharge of waste shall not create a condition of pollution, contamination, or nuisance.
11. The direct or indirect discharge of any wastewater to surface waters or surface water drainage courses is prohibited.
12. Under no circumstances shall the vertical separation distance of a leachfield from groundwater be less than 5 feet.

E. PROVISIONS

1. A copy of this Order shall be maintained at the Facility so as to be available at all times to operating personnel.
2. In the event of any change in name, ownership, or control of the Facility, the Discharger shall notify the Regional Board of such change and shall notify the succeeding owner or operator of the existence of this Order by letter, a copy of which shall be forwarded to the Regional Board.
3. The Discharger shall file with the Regional Board technical reports on self-monitoring work performed according to the detailed specifications contained in Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI 8600 attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, as directed by the Regional Board Executive Officer (Executive Officer). The results of any monitoring done more frequently than required at the location and/or times specified in the Monitoring and Reporting Program shall be reported to the Regional Board.

Monitoring and Reporting Program No. CI 8600 contains requirements, among others, specifying that a monitoring program for groundwater shall be established if the Discharger selects the compliance point for the parameters in section C. Receiving Water Limitation to be at a downgradient groundwater monitoring well. Submittal of a plan for monitoring groundwater, which is subject to the approval of the Executive Officer, is due in accordance with Time Schedule Order No. R4-2003-0086.

4. The Discharger shall prepare a plan to upgrade the treatment system, including disinfection, to meet the Receiving Water Limitations contained in section C above in accordance with Time Schedule Order No. R4-2003-0086 adopted concurrently herewith. Upon approval of the plan by the Executive Officer, the Discharger shall construct the system upgrade.
5. The Discharger shall prepare a spill response plan with phone numbers in accordance with Time Schedule Order No. R4-2003-0086.
6. The Discharger shall cause the treatment/disposal system to be inspected annually during the life of this Order by a professional inspector to be retained by the Discharger. National Sanitation Foundation standards should be applied where possible to the inspection. The inspector shall also specify the capacity and condition of the treatment system and of the leachfields and the corrections needed. The Discharger shall provide information regarding the separation distance between groundwater and the leachfield, information regarding the capacity and adequacy of the treatment system and disposal area to handle the

discharge, and establish the contingency plan measures needed to accommodate disposal system failures or to deal with loss of assimilative capacity of the soils.

7. The Discharger shall notify the Regional Board within 24 hours of any adverse condition resulting from the discharge of wastewater from the Facility; written confirmation by the Discharger shall follow within one week. The Discharger in the next monitoring report shall also confirm this information. In addition, the report shall include the reasons for the violations or adverse conditions, the steps being taken to correct the problem (including dates thereof), and the steps being taken to prevent a recurrence.
8. The Discharger shall notify the Regional Board within 24 hours, by telephone or electronically, of any bypassing or surfacing of wastes. Written confirmation by the Discharger shall follow within one week and shall include information relative to the location(s), estimated volume, date and time, duration, cause, and remedial measures taken to effect cleanup and measures taken to prevent any recurrence.
9. This Order does not relieve the Discharger from the responsibility to obtain other necessary local, state, and federal permits to construct facilities necessary for compliance with this Order; nor does this Order prevent imposition of additional standards, requirements, or conditions by any other regulatory agency.
10. Any discharge of wastewater from the treatment system (including the wastewater collection system) at any point other than a site with approved waste discharge requirements or specifically described in this Order is prohibited, and constitutes a violation of this Order.
11. After notice and opportunity for a hearing, this Order may be terminated or modified for cause including, but not limited, to:
  - a) Violation of any term or condition contained in this Order;
  - b) Obtaining this Order by misrepresentation, or failure to disclose all relevant facts;
  - c) A change in any condition, or the discovery of any information, that requires either a temporary or permanent reduction or elimination of the authorized discharge.
12. The Discharger shall furnish, within a reasonable time, any information the Regional Board may request to determine whether cause exists for modifying, revoking and reissuing, or terminating this Order. The Discharger shall also furnish to the Regional Board, upon request, copies of records required to be kept by this Order.

13. The Discharger shall file a written report within 10 days with the Regional Board at such time as the average daily waste flow per month has reached or exceeded 80 percent of the recognized septic system design flow capacity (currently 3,000 gpd) or conditions suggest that the hydraulic or treatment capacity for the treatment/disposal system has been exceeded. The report shall detail proposed provisions to cope with excess flows.
14. The Discharger shall comply with all applicable requirements of chapter 4.5 (commencing with section 13290) of division 7 of the California Water Code.
15. Should monitoring data indicate contamination of groundwater or discharge related violations of receiving water limitations, the Discharger shall submit, within 60 days after discovery of the problem, plans for measures that will be taken, or have been taken, to mitigate any long-term effects that may result from the subsurface disposal of wastes.
16. This Order includes the attached "Standard Provisions Applicable to Waste Discharge Requirements" which are incorporated herein by reference. If there is any conflict between provisions stated herein and the "Standard Provisions," those provisions stated herein will prevail.
17. The WDRs contained in this Order will remain in effect for a period of five years. Should the Discharger wish to continue discharging to groundwater for a period of time in excess of five years, the Discharger must file an updated Report of Waste Discharge with the Regional Board no later than 180 days in advance of the fifth-year anniversary date of the Order for consideration of issuance of new or revised waste discharge requirements. Any discharge of waste five years after the date of adoption of this Order, without filing an updated Report of Waste Discharge with the Regional Board, is a violation of California Water Code section 13264. The Regional Board is authorized to take appropriate enforcement action for any noncompliance with this provision including assessment of penalties.
18. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order requiring that any proposed activity be reviewed to determine whether such activity will cause additional energy usage, Regional Board staff have determined that implementation of these WDRs will result in minimal increases in energy usage.
19. All discharges of waste into the waters of the State are privileges, not rights. In accordance with California Water Code section 13263(g), these requirements shall not create a vested right to continue to discharge and are subject to rescission or modification.

F. REOPENER

This Order may be reopened to delete outdated requirements, or to include additional or modified requirements to address pollutant loading problems verified by monitoring data, Discharger workplans or mitigation plans, TMDL schedules, or Ocean Plan or Basin Plan mandates.

I, Dennis A. Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an Order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on June 5, 2003.

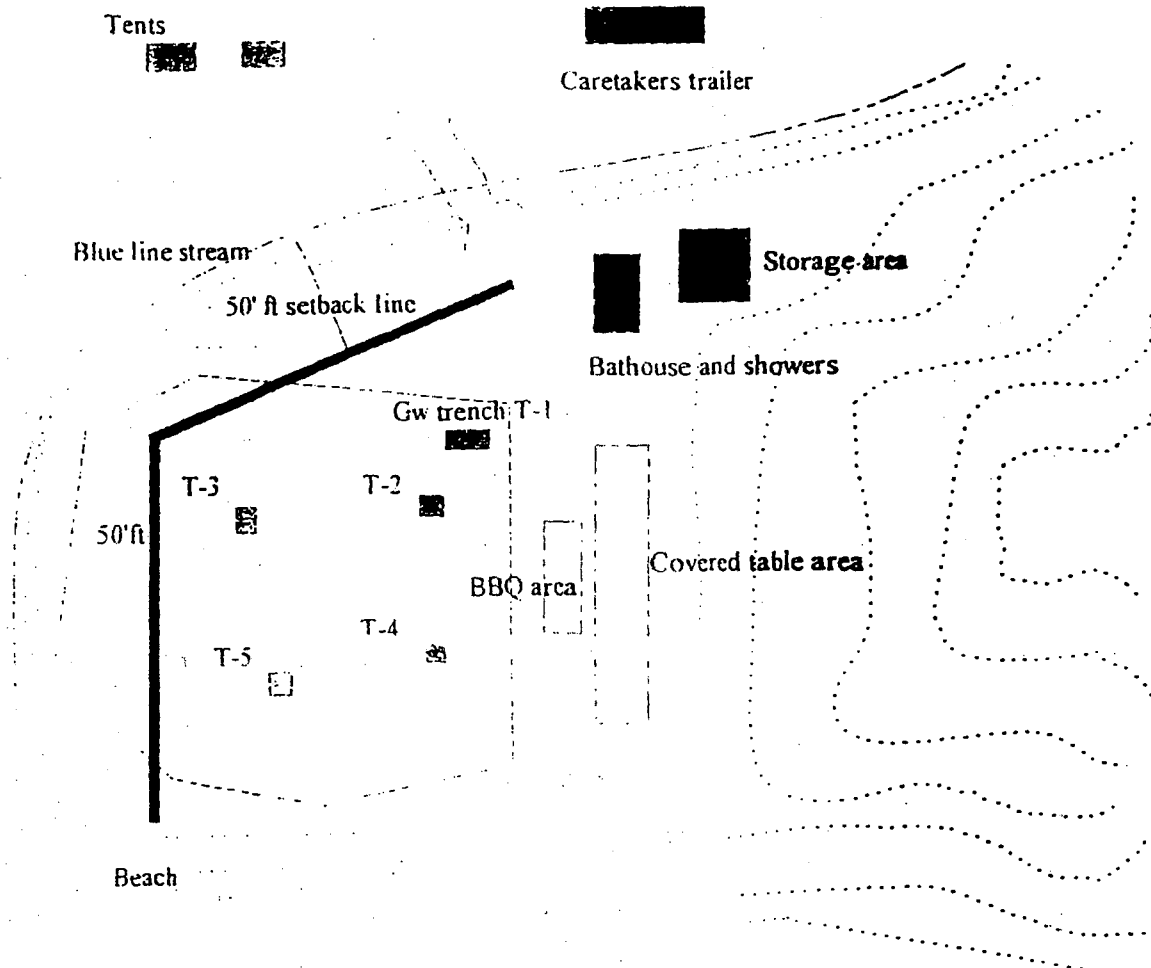


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Dennis A. Dickerson  
Executive Officer



**SITE PLAN OF TEST AREAS:**



**Figure 2**

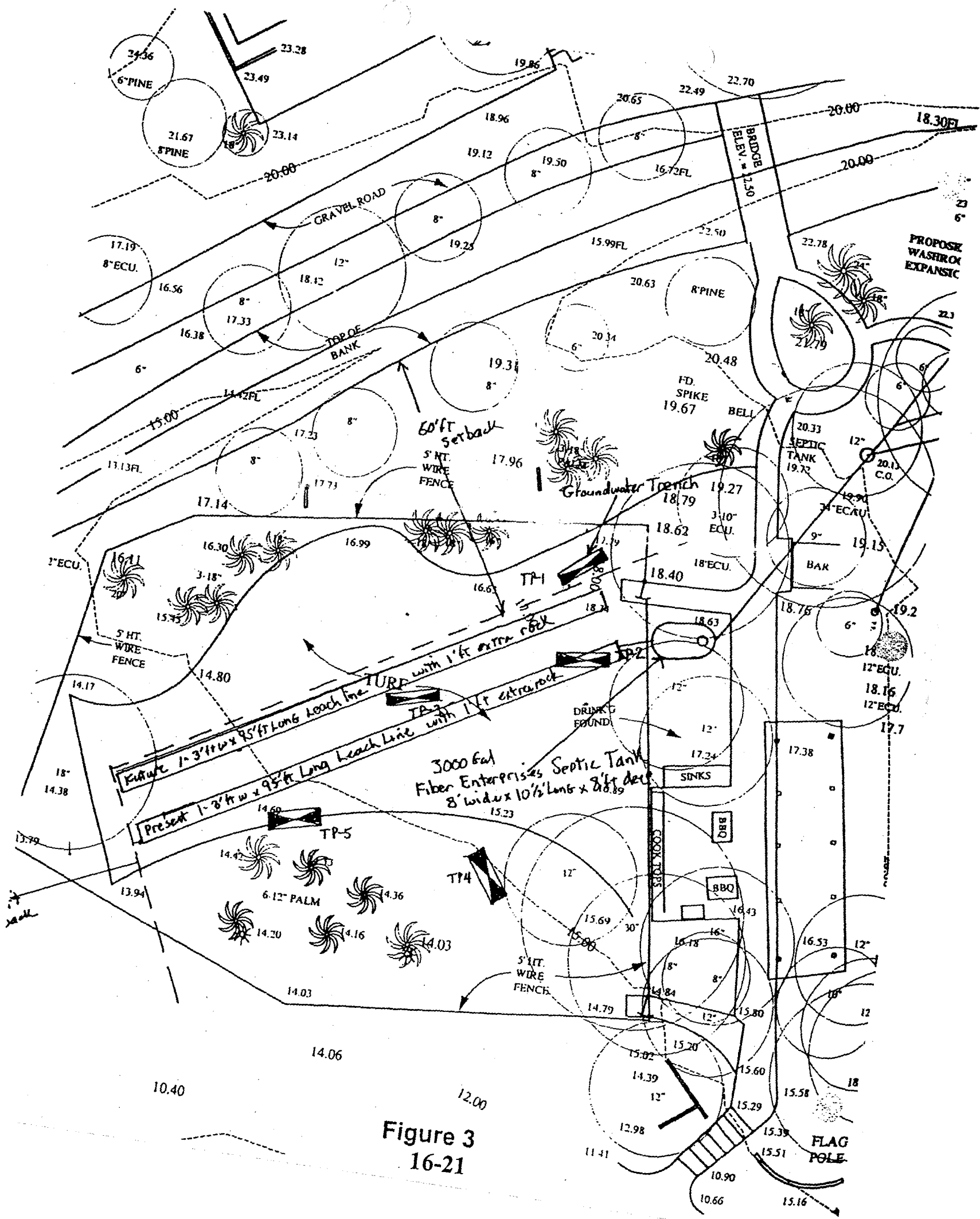


Figure 3  
16-21