

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 73-14

AMENDMENT TO THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (INTERIM)  
SAN FRANCISCO BAY BASIN, PROHIBITING WASTE DISCHARGES  
TO INDIVIDUAL LEACHING OR PERCOLATION SYSTEMS IN THE  
GLEN ELLEN AREA OF SONOMA COUNTY

- I. WHEREAS the Glen Ellen area of Sonoma County, as shown on the attached map, encompasses portions of Sonoma Creek and Calabazas Creek, both of which are non-tidal streams, and
- II. WHEREAS the Regional Board has adopted the Water Quality Control Plan (Interim) San Francisco Bay Basin, which prohibits discharges of all sewage-bearing wastes to non-tidal waters, except as part of an approved reclamation project, and prohibits the degradation of any groundwater by any controllable water quality factor, and
- III. WHEREAS the beneficial uses of Sonoma Creek, Calabazas Creek and contiguous waters are:
  - Swimming and wading
  - Fish and wildlife propagation and sustenance, and habitat and resting for waterfowl and migratory birds
  - Esthetic enjoyment
  - Recharge of groundwater supplies, and
- IV. WHEREAS the beneficial uses of groundwaters in the Glen Ellen area include irrigation and domestic water supply, and
- V. WHEREAS most existing and proposed developments in the Glen Ellen area have individual septic tanks with leaching or percolation systems for sewage disposal, and
- VI. WHEREAS a study by the Sonoma County Public Health Service found over one-third of all leaching or percolation systems in the Glen Ellen area were either failing or likely to fail during periods of wet weather or heavy use, thus polluting Sonoma Creek and posing a serious threat to public health, and
- VII. WHEREAS the above study found that for those septic tank leaching or percolation systems which were failing or likely to fail, over two-thirds lacked sufficient area for expansion to ensure adequate performance, and

- VIII. WHEREAS the Public Health Officer of Sonoma County has concluded, based on past experience and on the U. S. Department of Agriculture Soil Survey of Sonoma County, that percolative characteristics of soils in the Glen Ellen area are generally very poor, and
- IX. WHEREAS a trunk sewer has already been constructed to carry wastes from the Glen Ellen area to the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District waste treatment plant.
- X. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Regional Board finds that discharges to leaching and percolation systems in the Glen Ellen area are incompatible with:
- a) The prohibition against sewage-bearing wastes to non-tidal waters contained in the Water Quality Control Plan (Interim), San Francisco Bay Basin,
  - b) The protection of beneficial uses of ground and surface waters in the Glen Ellen area, including Sonoma Creek and Calabazas Creek, and
  - c) The protection of the public from nuisances, including a serious threat to public health, and
- XI. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be added to the Waste Discharge Prohibitions of the Water Quality Control Plan (Interim), San Francisco Bay Region:

The discharge of sewage-bearing wastewater to individual leaching or percolation systems in the Glen Ellen area of Sonoma County is prohibited for:

- A. Any new system serving a property for which a building permit had not been issued prior to October 31, 1973.
- B. Any and all such systems after October 15, 1975.

An exemption to prohibition B may be granted by the Executive Officer providing the discharger is able to document that the installation or continued use of leaching or percolation systems will not individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, either violate other discharge prohibitions, impair the beneficial uses specified in this Water Quality Control Plan for the affected waters, or result in threat to the public health. In the event of an adverse ruling by the Executive Officer, the matter may be appealed to the Board.

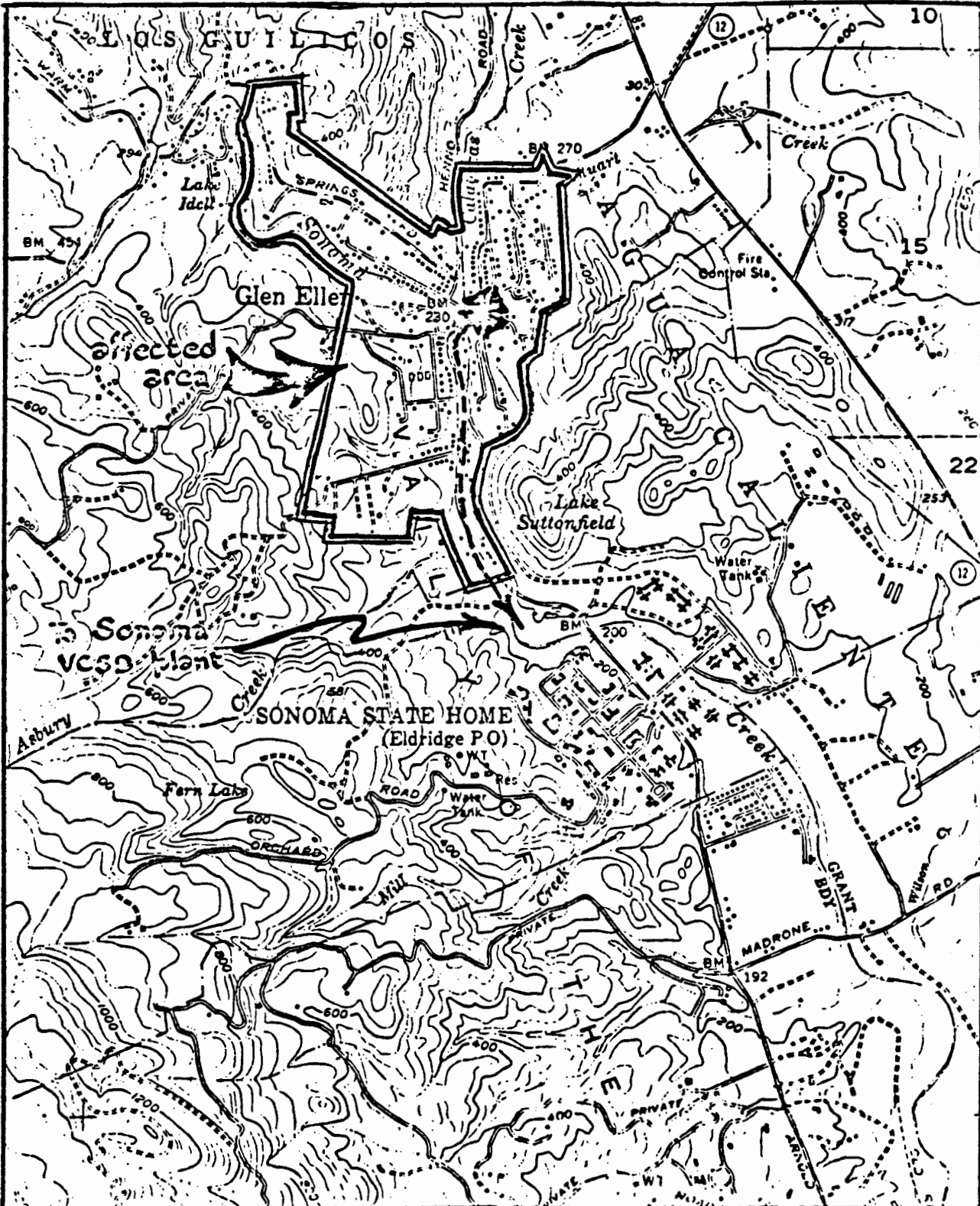
The Glen Ellen area is defined as all of the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District area located to the north and west of the Sonoma State Home Property.

- XII. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regional Board hereby commends the Sonoma County Health Service for vigorous action it has taken to correct the problems of failing septic tank systems in the Glen Ellen area, and urges that such action continue.

I, Fred H. Dierker, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on September 25, 1973.

Attachment: Map dated 8/7/73  
by LPK of Glen Ellen

FRED H. DIERKER, Executive Officer



DRAWN BY: LPK  
 AUGUST 7, 1973

Glen Ellen

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER  
 QUALITY CONTROL BOARD,  
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