

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD  
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. 76-58

REVISION AND AMENDMENT OF THE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN,  
SACRAMENTO RIVER BASIN (5A)  
BY THE ADDITION OF A PROHIBITION OF WASTE DISCHARGE  
FROM LEACHING AND PERCOLATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE  
COMMUNITIES OF NICE AND LUCERNE  
LAKE COUNTY

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (hereafter Board) finds that:

1. The Board, on 25 July 1975, adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin (5A).
2. The Plan contains areas where the discharge of waste from leaching and percolation systems is prohibited.
3. Nice and Lucerne are adjacent communities on the North Shore of Clear Lake, Lake County. Both are located on Highway 20, with surface drainage to Clear Lake.
4. The beneficial uses of Clear Lake and downstream waters are: domestic, municipal, agricultural, and industrial supply; recreation; esthetic enjoyment; navigation; and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources.
5. The beneficial uses of the groundwater are domestic and agricultural supply.
6. Lake County Health Department records show 26 observed and reported septic system failures since August 1971. Records beginning June 1972 show 53 apparent failures as indicated by the necessity of frequent pumping of tanks. Failures occur primarily in areas which have soils of low percolation (0.8 inch/hr or less).
7. In areas near the lakeshore, where percolation rates are faster, septic systems are apparently contaminating wells and the lake itself. Samples of wells since 1960 have shown 76 to be contaminated (not all wells are tested). Samples taken in Clear Lake show a much greater concentration of total and fecal coliform at the shoreline near Nice and Lucerne.
8. The areas of concern are shown on the attached maps and lie within Improvement District No. 3 of the Lake County Sanitation District.

9. Continued installation and usage of leaching and percolation systems will increase the threat to public health and will further unreasonably impair water quality.
10. On 27 February 1976, in the Auditorium, Modesto, California, after due public notice, the Board conducted a public hearing at which evidence was received concerning the discharge of wastes from individual sewage disposal systems in the communities of Nice and Lucerne.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The discharge of waste within the communities of Nice and Lucerne (Nice Assessment District and Lucerne Assessment District), as delineated on the attached maps, from leaching or percolation systems installed after approval of this amendment by the State Water Resources Control Board is prohibited. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted by the Executive Officer after presentation by the proposed discharger of geologic and hydrologic evidence that leaching system disposal will not individually or collectively result in a pollution or nuisance.
2. The discharge of waste within the communities of Nice and Lucerne, as described herein, from leaching or percolation systems is prohibited after 1 March 1978. An exemption to this prohibition may be granted whenever the Board finds that the continued operation of individual sewage disposal systems in a particular area will not, individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, adversely affect water quality.
3. Chapter V of the Water Quality Control Plan is revised by the addition of this prohibition, upon approval of the State Water Resources Control Board.

I, JAMES A. ROBERTSON, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, on 27 February 1976.

  
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JAMES A. ROBERTSON, Executive Officer

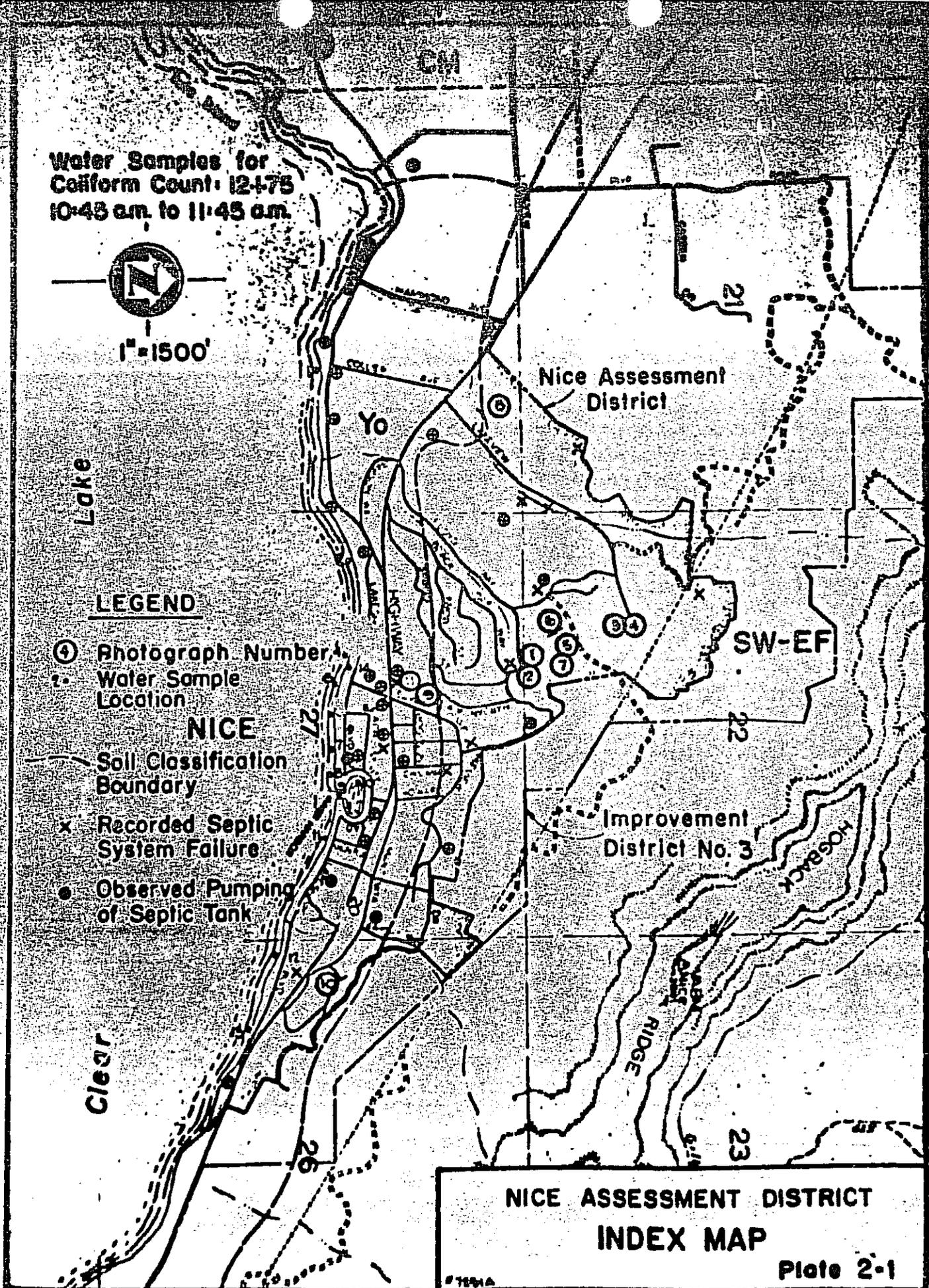
Water Samples for  
 Coliform Count: 12-175  
 10:43 a.m. to 11:43 a.m.



1" = 1500'

**LEGEND**

- ④ Photograph Number
- Water Sample Location
- NICE Soil Classification Boundary
- x Recorded Septic System Failure
- Observed Pumping of Septic Tank



**NICE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT  
 INDEX MAP**

Plate 2-1



1"=1500'

Lake

Polluted Well

LUCERNE

**LEGEND**

- ⊙ Photograph Number
- Water Sample Location
- Soil Classification Boundary
- x Recorded Septic System Failure
- Observed Pumping of Septic Tank

Lucerne Assessment District

Improvement District No. 3

Ma-LE-EF2

Water Samples for Coliform Count: 12-1-75  
1:20 p.m. to 2:20 p.m.

**LUCERNE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT  
INDEX MAP**

Plate 2-2

7391A