

June 11, 2012

Dear Staff and Associates of the Lahontan Regional Water Board,

Please accept this letter as my response to the complaint issued against me alone, as Mr. Helmer died a few years ago from Leukemia.

In 2008 our family put a manufactured home on the property located at 686-755 Cedar Wy. in Spalding . (This property is directly adjacent to the property in question. With an APN# 077-372-16-11) At which time we gladly, without question, hooked up to the required sewer system. (Please see attached Certificate of Occupancy, Sewer sign off, and Location Map.) In approximately January of 2009 I began paying your required fees as requested and always on time.

pages 5,6,7

In approximately April of 2011 I noticed the fees being collected were actually for two hook-ups, however, to my knowledge I only had one. This prompted me to call the number on the billing statement. I spoke to Miss Virginia and explained that I only had 1 sewer hooked-up but had evidently been paying for ^{x two} the last couple of years? I thought there must be some mistake. I also explained that I'd been receiving various paper work from the Lahontan Water Board on the same issue, which I honestly thought must be in error. This is because I had complied with the required sewer hook-up back in 2008 when I disconnected my existing trailer, a 10 X 50, 1 bedroom unit, from the existing sewer and took it to the dump. It was then that I hooked up the new replacement home to your sewer system as you requested. (FYI - while I was receiving correspondence from you on this issue, I was also receiving **large** amounts of correspondence from the Department of Water Resources, Honey

Lake Resource Conservation District, and the Lahontan Irrigation Company, as well as several reports from the Water Master on another water issue concerning Baxter Creek, which confused me even further.) Miss Virginia and I were both perplexed by the situation, so she assured me that she would research the issue in question and get back to me as soon as possible, and she did. Some days later we finally caught up with each other and came to this conclusion, that it was not the new home connection that was being called into question, but is was in fact the old tank that I had disconnected from back in 2008, on the adjacent parcel that I used to camp on, before we put the new home in, back in 2008.

Since the new home was installed I had no further use of the campsite and of course would stay in the new unit when my health permitted me to visit the lake. I believe my conversation with Virginia was in the 1st part of July 2011. I quickly called Mr. Mike Engman a well known, local contractor as well as my son's father-in-law and requested a bid for what I thought was being required by you folks at the Lahontan Water Board, a new septic system with hook-ups for the campsite next door, wether it was used or not. I received and agreed to Mr. Engman's proposal toward the end of July and was put on his waiting list. (Please see attached paperwork.) Mr. Engman does beautiful work and everyone loves him, so his waiting list was substantial. To my dismay I was still waiting in Nov./Dec. so I called Miss Virginia and explained my dilemma.

(pages)

While the following does not excuse any tardiness on my part it certainly did add to the over all distress of the situation. In 1994 I broke my back and as a result, have been disabled since that time. In addition to all the confusion surrounding this issue,

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during the same time time frame, due to the stress of the failing economy as well as a failing family business, I developed numerous perforated ulcers and lacerations through out my large intestine. This ultimately lead to a blow out of the intestine which almost proved fatal. I was care flighted from Lassen Banner Hospital to Renown Medical Center, where I spent a week in the Intensive Care Unit. My Gastro-Intestinal surgeon called it “a heart attack of the bowel” from which I was lucky to be alive! Needless to say, I’ve been in and out of the hospital several times since. I was diagnosed with an auto-immune disorder which in turn, has lead to other auto-immune responses, which has left me with even more pain and some serious mobility issues. If you require hospital records or would like to speak to my treating physician, please let me know and I will make those arrangements.

In response to his letter dated 5/3/12 (ie: Notice of Hearing) I called Mr. Harold Singer on 5/9/12 and spoke to him regarding the time frame for my letter of explanation. Somewhere in the course of **that** conversation he informed me that the Board wanted me to, #1 hook-up to the new sewer system, or #2, “demo the old tank.” Those last four words hit me like a tone of bricks! I am ashamed to say that before Mr. Singer said that I never understood that, **that** was all you needed from me to stay this process! That is why I got the bid from Mr. Engman, to do the complete job. Which I am still waiting for, although the tank was destroyed on 5/9/10.

Just think, for years that old tank has served no purpose and according to Miss Virginia, who called me on 5/11/12, (to reapply some of the fees I had just paid.) I could have saved all the money I had paid out in fees since 2009 or before, for a sewer

connection that I may never have! For this terrible error I am deeply sorry! I sincerely regret any trouble I have caused for you and your staff! Please know that no ill-will was ever intended and that my non-compliance was never out of malice, nor would I ever be defiant over such a matter! With that being said, I don't know what else to do except hope and pray that you accept my sincere heartfelt apology! To know that this entire issue could have been avoided months ago by just destroying one old septic tank makes me ill. To think that we have actually reached this cataclysmic point truly saddens me. What an unfortunate misunderstanding. I am so sorry!

Respectfully submitted to The Lahontan Regional Water Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gail A. Helmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "G".

Gail A. Helmer.

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY

BUILDING PERMIT NO. MH2007-11

Address or location of unit 686-800 Chestnut Way, Spalding, Eagle Lake
Legal Description of Real Property AP#077-372-20

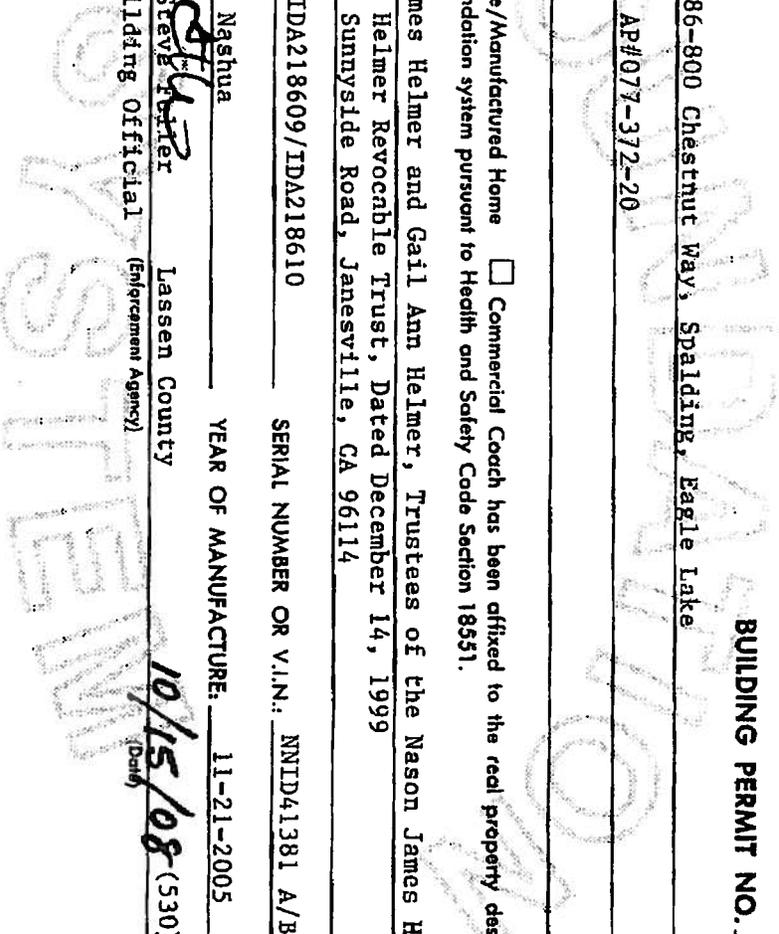
Mobilehome/Manufactured Home Commercial Coach has been affixed to the real property described above by installation on a foundation system pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18551.

Owner's name: Nason James Helmer and Gail Ann Helmer, Trustees of the Nason James Helmer and Gail Ann Helmer Revocable Trust, Dated December 14, 1999
Owner's address: 708-776 Sunnyside Road, Janesville, CA 96114

INSIGNIA OR HUD NUMBER: IDA218609/IDA218610 SERIAL NUMBER OR V.I.N.: NNID41381 A/B

MANUFACTURER'S NAME: Nashua YEAR OF MANUFACTURE: 11-21-2005
Steve Helmer Lassen County
(Official Approving Installation) Building Official (Enforcement Agency)

10/15/08 (Date) (530) 251-8269 (Phone)



6.

Permit # 000375

INSPECTION RECORD REQUIRED BY LASSEN COUNTY
Spalding Tract Sewer System
Lampe Engineering

Assessment # 86

For Inspections call: 825-0004 (land line) between 9AM and 11AM, Monday through Thursday

Name Helmer

*P-Pass, F-Fail

SEWER HOOKUP INSPECTIONS	DATE	P-F*	INSPECTOR
1A Manholes opened for existing water level check			Dave
1 B Tanks pumped, visual condition check			
2 Tank inlet & outlet plugged, filled with water and sat for 24 hours H/20 test	6/17/08	P	Dave
N New tank inspection if needed (same as above) New tank			
3A Effluent filter, access riser and lid installed	6/17/08	P	Dave
3B Service lateral trenching (bedding & pipeline)	6/11/08	P	Dave
Final Tank and lateral connections and leach field abandoned	6/17/08	?	Dave

DO NOT COVER ANYTHING UNTIL APPROVED BY INSPECTOR

1 New Home
2 Camp Site

2

CHERRY

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CHESTNUT

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CEDAR

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CATALPA

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MIKE ENGMAN COMPANY
PO BOX 270429
Susanville, CA 96127
530-252-4544
CA LIC# 643648

BID PROPOSAL

DATE: 7/15/11

TO: Gail Helmer

JOB LOCATION: 686-755 Cedar Way, Spaulding

WE HEREBY SUBMIT SPECIFICATIONS AND ESTIMATE FOR:

Install 1000 gal septic tank as per required

ROCK CLAUSE: SHOULD GROUND CONDITIONS REQUIRE THE USE OF HEAVY ROCK REMOVAL EQUIPMENT SUCH AS HAMMER ADDITIONAL FEES WILL BE INCURRED. ALL ADDITIONAL FEES WILL BE DISCUSSED AND AGREED UPON PRIOR TO CONTINUANCE OF JOB.

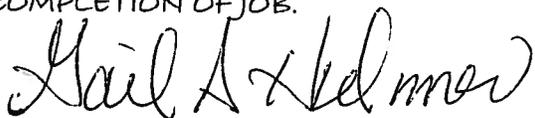
WE PROPOSE TO FURNISH MATERIAL AND LABOR AS STATED ABOVE FOR THE SUM OF:
Estimated Job Cost \$ 3500.00

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE:



THE ABOVE PRICES, SPECIFICATIONS AND CONDITIONS ARE SATISFACTORY AND ARE HEREBY ACCEPTED. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DO THE WORK AS SPECIFIED. PAYMENT WILL BE MADE AT COMPLETION OF JOB.

SIGNATURE:



DATE:

7/19/11

BID IS NULL AND VOID AFTER 30 DAYS UNLESS UPDATED AND RENEWED



LASSEN COUNTY

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION • 1445 PAUL BUNYAN RD. • SUSANVILLE, CA 96130 • (530) 251-8128

ALCOHOL & DRUG
476 Alexander Ave.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8112

MENTAL HEALTH
555 Hospital Lane
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8108

PUBLIC GUARDIAN
720-A Richmond Rd.
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8337

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH/
PUBLIC HEALTH
1445 Paul Bunyan Road
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8528 Fax 251-2668

VETERANS SERVICES
Memorial Building
Susanville, CA 96130
(530)-251-8192

May 10, 2012

Scott Ferguson, Chief-Enforcement Unit
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, Ca 96150

Re: Certification of abandonment of septic system in Spalding Tract, Assessor's parcels 077-372-16 Spalding Tract Block 88, lots 17, 18, 19, & 20.

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

On May 10, 2012 the Lassen County Environmental Health Department inspected the abandonment of the septic system on Assessor's parcel 077-372-16 Spalding Tract Block 88, lots 17, 18, 19, & 20. The Lassen County Environmental Health Department certifies that the septic tank on the above mentioned parcel was abandoned as per Lassen County requirements.

If you have any questions, or if you need further information, please contact me at the Lassen County Environmental Health Department at 530-251-8528.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Korver, M.D.
Lassen County Health Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Jones".

Alan A. Jones, REHS, Director
Lassen County Environmental Health Department

Cc: Gail Helmer, Spalding Community Services District