

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

ORDER NO. 77-224

REVISION AND AMENDMENT OF WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN
BY THE ADDITION OF A PROHIBITION OF
WASTE DISCHARGE FROM SEPTIC TANKS OR
CESSPOOLS WITHIN THE CORCORAN FRINGE AREA
KINGS COUNTY

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

1. The Corcoran Fringe Area includes unincorporated community areas around the City of Corcoran as well as areas within the Corcoran city limits. The Corcoran Fringe Area has a population of about 2,000 persons, is generally located in the east central portion of Kings County, is in T21S, R21E, MDB&M, and specifically designates the four sub-areas shown on the attached map.
2. During July and August of 1975 the Kings County Health Department conducted a sewage disposal system survey of 987 parcels, 633 of which were developed, within the Corcoran Fringe Area. The survey found signs of sewage system failures in 299 (45%) of the sewage systems surveyed. Observed failures included 214 instances (32%) of laundry waste being discharged onto the ground; 22 instances (3%) of sewage surfacing onto the ground; 38 instances (6%) of excessive pumping frequency (defined as more than once a year); 37 instances (6%) of septic tanks or cesspools uncovered; and 38 instances (6%) of septic tanks or cesspools caving in.
3. The Kings County Health Department investigated 354 vacant lots during their disposal system survey and found that 183 (52%) were too small for development, because of inadequate separation between wells, property lines, and future sewage disposal systems.
4. The Kings County Health Department collected 310 water samples during their disposal system survey; 78 (26%) of these samples were found to be positive for coliform bacteria, and fecal coliform were present in 35 (11%) of the positive samples. Since completion of the survey, a water system has been completed that will serve many of the residents within the Corcoran Fringe Area.
5. The Kings County Health Department has concluded that sewage disposal conditions within the Corcoran Fringe Area are creating a severe community health hazard that requires immediate attention and should include the cessation of subsurface sewage disposal applications.
6. Beneficial uses of local groundwaters include domestic and agricultural use. Depth to groundwater ranges from less than 10 to over 50 feet, with the shallow water tables found in the southwest portions of the area.
7. Soils in the Corcoran Fringe Area pose moderate to severe limitations for septic tank leaching systems. Results of 24 percolation tests conducted within the fringe areas indicate a mean percolation rate of 343 minutes per inch.

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8. The Board adopted a Water Quality Control Plan for Tulare Lake Basin 5D (hereinafter "Basin Plan"), on 25 July 1975.
9. The Basin Plan states that the Regional Board will consider a ban on new septic tank systems and will require the elimination of existing systems in areas where the systems contaminate the underlying groundwater or where a substantial percentage of existing systems fail annually. Each area will be considered on a case by case basis.
10. On 22 July 1977, after due notice, the Regional Board conducted a public hearing at which evidence was received concerning the discharge from failing septic tanks in the Corcoran Fringe Area.
11. Continued operation of the existing waste disposal systems and installation of new septic tank disposal systems will increase the threat to public health and degrade the quality of local groundwaters.
12. The County of Kings has prepared a final Environmental Impact Report in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 2100 et seq).
13. The EIR discussed a project which has a basic objective to eliminate existing or potential public health hazards created by the use of septic tanks and pit privies in the Corcoran Fringe Area.
14. The project as approved by the County of Kings may have the following significant effects on the environment:
 - a. Possible displacement of 90 acres of agricultural land for a new treatment facility.
 - b. Odors from the treatment facilities.
 - c. Provision of a wastewater collection and treatment facility will permit further urbanized development in the Corcoran Fringe on vacant lots and in existing residential areas.
 - d. The City of Corcoran will have to expand the capacity of their waste treatment facility in order to provide for treatment of wastes collected in the Corcoran Fringe Area.
 - e. Wastewater treatment will require the consumption of additional electrical energy.

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15. Installation and operation of sewage collection and treatment facilities in accord with waste discharge requirements adopted and implemented by the Regional Board will abate and mitigate public health hazards and nuisance conditions in Corcoran Fringe Area. Other significant affects on the environment identified as Findings 14a and 14c are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of other public agencies and corrective measures should be implemented by such other agencies. Findings 14d and 14e are unavoidable adverse environmental effects and it is infeasible to mitigate or avoid those conditions.

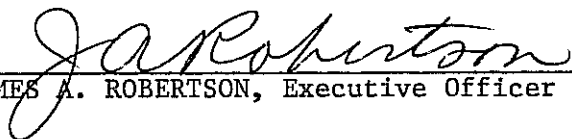
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. In order to achieve water quality objectives, protect present and future beneficial water uses, protect public health and prevent nuisance, discharge of waste from new individual waste disposal systems ^{1/} is prohibited forthwith and the discharge of waste from existing individual disposal systems is prohibited after 1 July 1981 in the area described as:

Corcoran Fringe Area, which is comprised of the four sub-areas shown on the attached map.

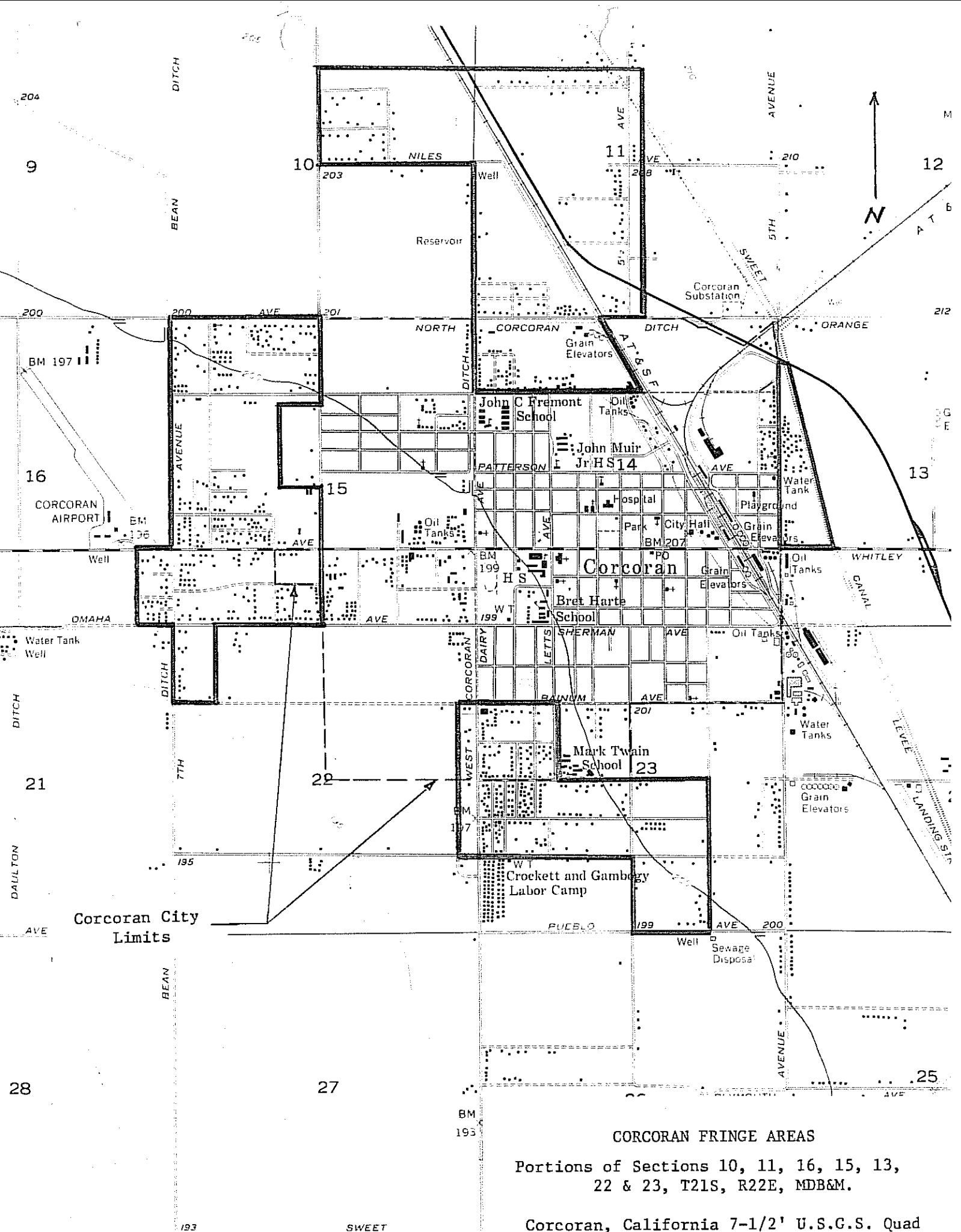
2. The Board may grant an exemption to the prohibition for (1) new individual disposal systems after presentation of geologic and hydrologic evidence by the proposed discharger that such system(s) will not individually or collectively result in a pollution or nuisance, and (2) existing individual disposal systems if it finds that the continued operation of such system(s) in a particular area will not, individually or collectively, directly or indirectly, affect water quality adversely.
3. Chapter V of the Basin 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 22 July 1977.



JAMES A. ROBERTSON, Executive Officer

^{1/} Individual waste disposal systems means any waste disposal system designed and constructed to provide for collection, storage or disposal of liquid wastes from five or fewer commercial or family dwelling units.



Corcoran City Limits

CORCORAN FRINGE AREAS

Portions of Sections 10, 11, 16, 15, 13, 22 & 23, T21S, R22E, MDB&M.

Corcoran, California 7-1/2' U.S.G.S. Quad