

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION 87-091

SUPPORT FOR THE MORATORIUM ON NEW ON-SITE SEWAGE
DISPOSAL SYSTEMS ADOPTED BY THE MARIN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- I. WHEREAS, the Bolinas Mesa is a partially-developed residential subdivision of approximately 350 acres in an unincorporated rural community located in western Marin County, and;
- II. WHEREAS, the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services (hereinafter the the Department) has permitting and oversight responsibilities for approximately 370 residences with individual on-site sewage wastewater disposal systems on the Bolinas Mesa, and;
- III. WHEREAS, the Mesa has a history of sewage disposal problems due, in part, to poor soils and surface/subsurface drainage problems, resulting in system failures and precluding the installation of effective new systems on much of the Mesa, and;
- IV. WHEREAS, the Department conducted a one year Pollution Study under the small community assistance section of the State Bond Law of 1984, from February 1986 to February 1987, and;
- V. WHEREAS, the study, entitled, "Wastewater Pollution Study for Bolinas Mesa," dated January 1987 and prepared by Questa Engineering Corporation, found that
 - a. The combination of many older, substandard septic systems, small lot sizes, poor surface drainage, and soil and groundwater constraints have contributed to significant sewage disposal problems on the Mesa.
 - b. On site inspections were conducted on 130 properties out of 175 that responded to the questionnaire. A total of 29 lots with surface discharge of sewage effluent were documented. A total of 50 (38%) of the inspected lots were judged to have marginal operational characteristics because of reported seasonal problems. Only 5% of the properties were judged to be in conformance with current codes, while 55-percent were considered non-conforming.
 - c. Groundwater monitoring data demonstrate a clear degradation of water quality in the shallow marine terrace aquifer as a result of septic system discharges. The principal contaminant was found to be high concentrations of nitrate and other forms of nitrogen (up to 47 mg/l of nitrate-nitrogen).
 - d. There is a distinct threat of significant or extensive bacteriological contamination of groundwater during normal wet weather conditions, since many of the substandard septic systems intersect the winter water table.

e. Significant bacteriological contamination was detected in Alder Creek, several side tributaries, and roadside ditches. This represents a significant hazard to public health. The threat to public health stems from:

- possible causal contact with contaminated surface waters along Alder Creek, its tributary drainageways, its outflow across Agate Beach, or Pacific Ocean tidal waters near the mouth of Alder Creek; and,
- consumption of contaminated shellfish from the Pacific Ocean tidal area in the vicinity of the Alder Creek outflow, and

VI. WHEREAS, on July 7, 1987, the Marin County Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 87-208, declaring a moratorium on new individual on-site wastewater disposal systems on the Mesa until funding can be obtained for corrective measures, and;

VII. WHEREAS, this Regional Board concurs with the Department that the present on-site waste disposal systems on the Mesa pose a hazard to public health and is adversely impacting water quality.

VIII. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Regional Board supports Resolution No. 87-208, adopted by the Marin County Board of Supervisors on July 7, 1987, establishing a moratorium on new on-site disposal systems on the Mesa until funding can be obtained for corrective measures.

IX. I, Roger B. James, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that 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 July 15, 1987.

ROGER B. JAMES
Executive Officer

Attachment: Marin Co. Resolution No. 87-208

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF MARIN, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of)
) Resolution No. 87-208
ESTABLISHMENT OF SEPTIC)
TANK SYSTEM MORATORIUM)
)

WHEREAS, the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services Division of Environmental Health, has determined that the area of the Bolinas Mesa has significant pollution and public health problems pertaining to the septic tank systems in the area; and,

WHEREAS, for the Division of Clean water Grants to recommend placement of the Bolinas Mesa on the Fiscal Year 1988 Priority List for the receipt of a Clean Water Grant contingent upon acceptance by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, a locally-imposed septic tank system building moratorium on the area is required; and,

WHEREAS, the recently completed Wastewater Pollution Study on Bolinas Mesa and past field inspections by County and Regional Water Board Staff have led us to conclude that, among other things, small lots, poor soil conditions with high ground water are causes of septic tank system failures, and that pollution of the ground water has occurred throughout the entire area; and,

WHEREAS, the County Division of Environmental Health has recommended that the boundary of the septic tank system moratorium area be as specified in the map attached hereto and by this reference incorporated herein; and,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held in the chambers of the Board of Supervisors concerning the imposition of the septic tank system building moratorium in the affected area,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin, State of California pursuant to the authority vested by California Health and Safety Code Sections 5413 and 5415, as follows:

1. The facts recited above are all found to be correct.
2. A community meeting has been conducted in the affected area to inform interested parties of the septic tank system problems.

3. No new septic tank systems shall be permitted in the area shown on the attached map until further order of this Board, unless a repair is needed to abate a public health problem.
4. Exceptions may be granted to the prohibition on new septic tank systems upon prior approval from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and County Division of Environmental Health. Further, property owners in the affected area will participate in alternative sewage system remedies when available.
5. The affected area is more fully depicted on the maps attached hereto, labeled Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by this reference.
6. The County Division of Environmental Health shall collect all necessary data and file an annual report and recommendations with this Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Board addressing the need for further restrictions or modifications of this policy. This policy shall continue until July, 1990 (period of construction).
7. This Resolution shall become effective only if Regional Water Quality Control Board adopts a Resolution supporting Marin County moratorium on the same area no later than July 15, 1987 and said Board issues an enforcement action through a cleanup and abatement order and requests the project be placed on Fiscal Year 1988 Grants List no later than 9/1/87.
8. The Clerk of this Board is directly to send a certified copy of this Resolution to the following:

Marin County Health Officer

Health and Human Services Department, Division
of Environmental Health

Department of Public Works

Planning Department

County Counsel

Regional Water Quality Control Board

The foregoing instrument is a
correct copy of the original
on record in this office.

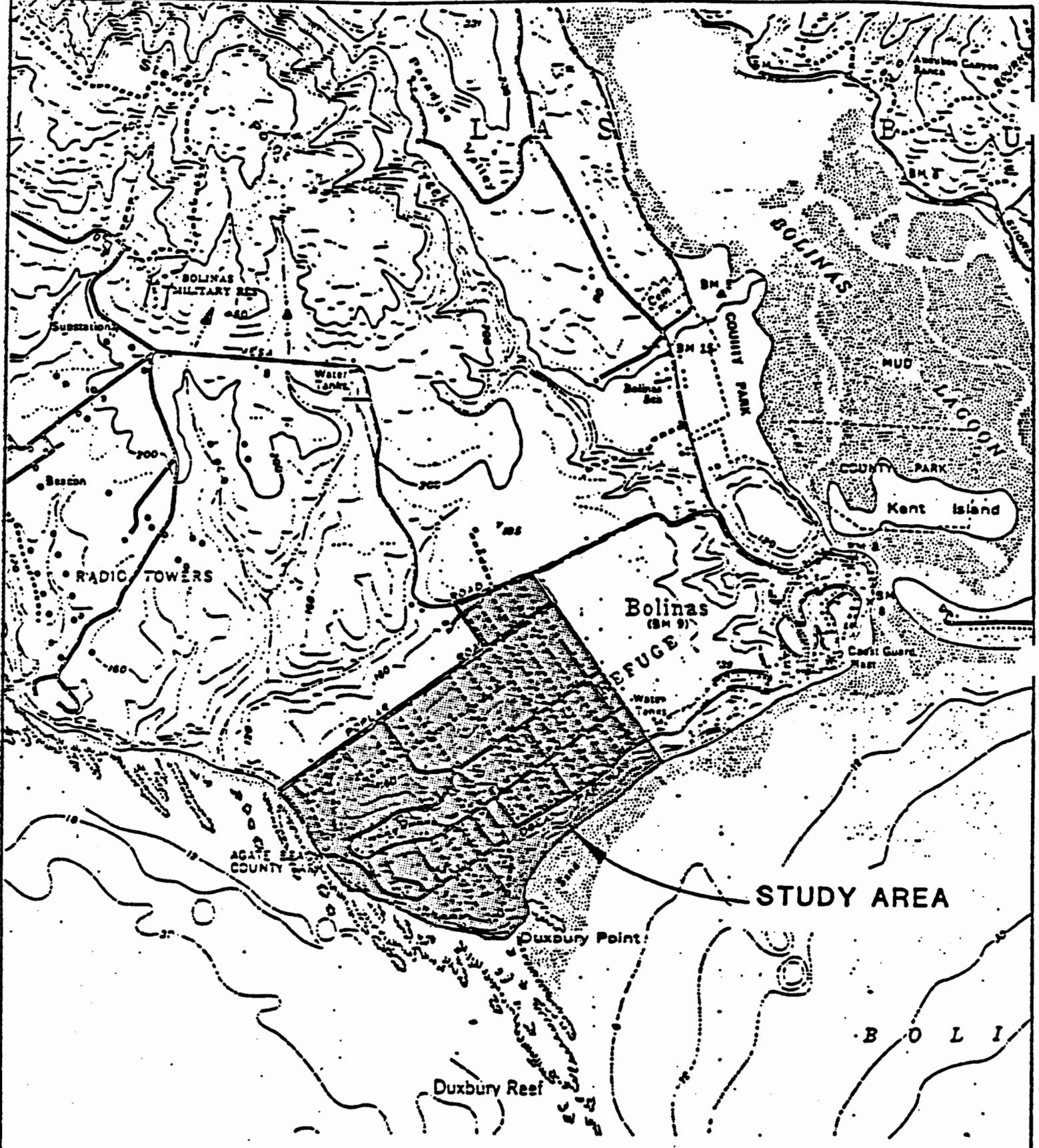
MARGARET F. COUNCIL
County Clerk of the Board of
Supervisors of the County of Marin
State of California

By Margaret F. Council

PASSED July 7, 1987

APPROVED SUPERVISORS Al Aramburu, Gary Giacomini, Bob Roumiguere, Harold Brown
ABSENT SUPERVISOR Bob Stockwell

Harold C Brown



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 Questa Engineering Corporation

 Civil, Environmental & Agricultural Engineers

LOCATION MAP


 Scale 1"=2000'

Figure 1