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Monterey County
Water Resources Agency

Ordinance No. 3709

**AN ORDINANCE OF
THE MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
PROHIBITING GROUNDWATER EXTRACTIONS AND
THE DRILLING OF NEW GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FACILITIES
IN CERTAIN PORTIONS OF THE PRESSURE 180 FOOT AQUIFER
AFTER JANUARY 1, 1995**

County Counsel Summary

After January 1, 1995, this ordinance prohibits the extraction of groundwater from groundwater extraction facilities that have perforations between zero feet mean sea level and -250 feet and are located within the territory between the City of Salinas and Castroville, bounded by Highway 183 and the dividing line between the Pressure Area and the East Side Area. After January 1, 1995, it also prohibits the drilling of new wells with perforations between zero feet mean sea level and -250 feet in the portion of the Pressure Area north of Harris Road to the Pacific Ocean. It provides a variance procedure in case of hardship and penalties for violations.

The Board of Supervisors of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. The following provisions are hereby enacted:

PART I -- INTRODUCTION

1.01.00 AUTHORITY

Under the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Act (Stats. 1990, Chap. 1159), the Agency has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to water within the entire area of the County of Monterey, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas. Under the Act, the Agency is authorized to conserve water in any manner, to prevent the waste or diminution of the water supply within the territory of the Agency, to conserve water for the present and future use within the territory of the Agency, and to prevent groundwater extractions which are determined to be harmful to the groundwater basin. The Agency may further adopt, by ordinance, reasonable procedures, rules, and regulations to

(NOMO180.ORD -- 9/14/93)

implement the Act, and may specify in any ordinance that a violation of the ordinance is an infraction. The Board further has power to perform all other acts necessary or proper to accomplish the purposes of the Act.

1.01.01 FINDINGS

A. Groundwater supplies in the Salinas Valley basin are being diminished in both quantity and quality. This inability to maintain a constant, usable water supply is due to historical overdraft, increases in demand, lack of new water supplies, and contamination of the existing supply.

B. Increases in demand have come from all sectors of the Salinas Valley -- agricultural, residential, industrial, commercial, and others. These increases in demand, coupled with the recent six year drought, have exacerbated water quality impacts and significantly accelerated overdraft.

C. Even without drought, overdraft of the groundwater basin is a constant problem; it depletes the existing water supply and contributes to the intrusion of seawater into the basin along the coast.

D. The location of the seawater intrusion front poses an imminent threat to the municipal water supply for the City of Salinas and to farming operations in the lower Salinas Valley. Restrictions on groundwater pumping are necessary in order to reduce the rate of seawater intrusion and allow recharge to raise groundwater levels. Seawater intrusion is most extensive in the Pressure 180 Foot Aquifer and threatens to contaminate lower aquifers which supply drinking water to thousands of Salinas Valley residents. Because of the extent of seawater intrusion in and near these areas, further extraction of groundwater from the water-bearing strata between zero feet mean sea level and -250 feet, within the territory defined in Section 1.01.03.D of this ordinance, would be harmful to the groundwater basin.

1.01.02 PURPOSE

It is the purpose of this ordinance to prohibit groundwater extractions from extraction facilities located in the northern Salinas Valley with perforations between zero feet mean sea level and -250 feet as of January 1, 1995, so as to reduce the rate of seawater intrusion and allow recharge to raise groundwater levels.

1.01.03 DEFINITIONS

A. AGENCY shall mean the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

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B. GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FACILITY ("Facility") shall mean a groundwater well or facility for the extraction of groundwater which employs a motor-driven pump for the extraction of groundwater and which has a discharge pipe with an inside diameter equal to or greater than 3 inches.

C. PERSON shall mean an individual; a sole proprietorship, corporation, partnership, association, trust, or any other form of business or non-profit entity; or a city, county, state, the United States, or any other federal, state, local or foreign government entity.

D. TERRITORY A shall mean that portion of the northern Salinas Valley bounded by Highway 183 (beginning at Blackie Road) to Davis Road to Laurel Drive to Highway 101 to the Pressure-East Side boundary to Blackie Road back to Highway 183, as more particularly described in Attachment A. The boundary between the Pressure and East Side Areas is described on a map on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and in the office of the Monterey County Water Resources Agency.

E. TERRITORY B shall mean that portion of the northern Salinas Valley bounded by Highway 183 (beginning at Blackie Road) to Davis Road to Laurel Drive to Sanborn Road to Highway 101 to Harris Road to Zone 2A boundary to Potrero Road to Highway 1 to Highway 183 to Blackie Road, as more particularly described in Attachment B.

F. WATER REPORTING YEAR shall be from November 1 to October 31 of the following year.

G. WATER SUPPLIER shall mean a person who owns or operates a groundwater extraction facility.

H. WATER USER shall mean a person who receives water from a groundwater extraction facility for consumptive use.

PART II -- PROVISIONS

1.01.10 GROUNDWATER EXTRACTIONS PROHIBITED IN TERRITORY A

After January 1, 1995, no person may cause, suffer, or permit the extraction of groundwater from any groundwater extraction facility located in territory A, as defined in Section 1.01.03.D, with perforations between zero feet mean sea level and -250 feet.

(NOMO180.ORD -- 9/14/93)

1.01.11 NEW GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FACILITIES PROHIBITED IN TERRITORY B

After January 1, 1995, no person may construct within territory B, as defined in Section 1.01.03.E, any groundwater extraction facility with perforations located between zero feet mean sea level and -250 feet.

1.01.12 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS IN TERRITORY A

Under Agency Ordinance No. 3663, every water supplier must submit to the Agency an annual groundwater extraction report, following the close of each water reporting year during any part of which the water supplier maintained an operational groundwater extraction facility. The annual report for the 1994-95 water reporting year submitted by each water supplier extracting water from territory A, regardless of the depth from which the water is extracted, shall show extractions for that part of the 1994-95 water reporting year prior to January 1; for that part of the 1994-95 water reporting year after January 1, the report shall accurately reflect no groundwater extractions from between zero feet mean sea level and -250 feet in territory A, as defined in Section 1.01.03.D.

1.01.13 VARIANCES

A. Any person may, at any time, apply in writing for a variance from the strict application of this ordinance. The application for the variance shall be filed with the Agency. The General Manager may dispense with the requirement of a written application upon finding that an emergency condition requires immediate action on the variance request.

B. The applicant shall submit an action plan within 30 days after the variance request is filed, describing how and when the applicant will comply with this ordinance without the need for a variance. Compliance with this plan, as presented by the applicant or as modified by the General Manager, shall be a condition of granting the variance.

C. The General Manager may grant a variance to the terms of this ordinance upon making the finding that the strict application of the ordinance would create an undue hardship, or an emergency condition requires that the variance be granted.

D. In granting a variance, the General Manager may impose any conditions in order to ensure that the variance is consistent with the overall goals of this ordinance. Variances may be granted for a limited period of time. The variance and all time limits and other conditions attached to the variance shall be set forth in writing,

(NOMO180.ORD -- 9/14/93)

and a copy of the written variance shall be provided to the applicant.

E. The decision of the General Manager on an application for a variance may be appealed as provided in the section of Ordinance No. 3539, as now in effect or as subsequently amended or superseded, pertaining to appeals.

F. No person shall operate or maintain a groundwater extraction facility or water distribution system for which a variance has been granted hereunder, or use water therefrom, in violation of any of the terms or conditions of the variance.

1.01.20 PENALTIES

A. Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance is guilty of an infraction.

B. Any violation of this ordinance is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

C. Any violation which occurs or continues to occur from one day to the next shall be deemed a separate violation for each day during which such violation occurs or continues to occur.

D. Any person who violates this ordinance shall be assessed a fine of \$100 for each violation.

E. Any person who violates this ordinance shall be liable for the cost of enforcement, which shall include but need not be limited to:

1. Cost of Investigation
2. Court Costs
3. Attorney Fees
4. Cost of Monitoring Compliance

PART II -- CONCLUDING PROVISIONS

1.01.22 SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance, including any other section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase therein.

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SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall take effect 30 days after its final adoption by the Board of Supervisors.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of Sept., 1993, by the following vote:

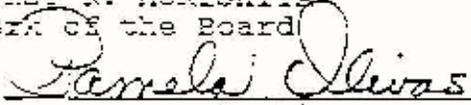
AYES: Supervisors Salinas, Shipnuck, Perkins, Johnsen & Karas
NOES: None
ABSENT: None



BARBARA SHIPNUCK, Chairwoman
Board of Supervisors

WITNESSETH:

ERNEST K. MORISHITA
Clerk of the Board

By 

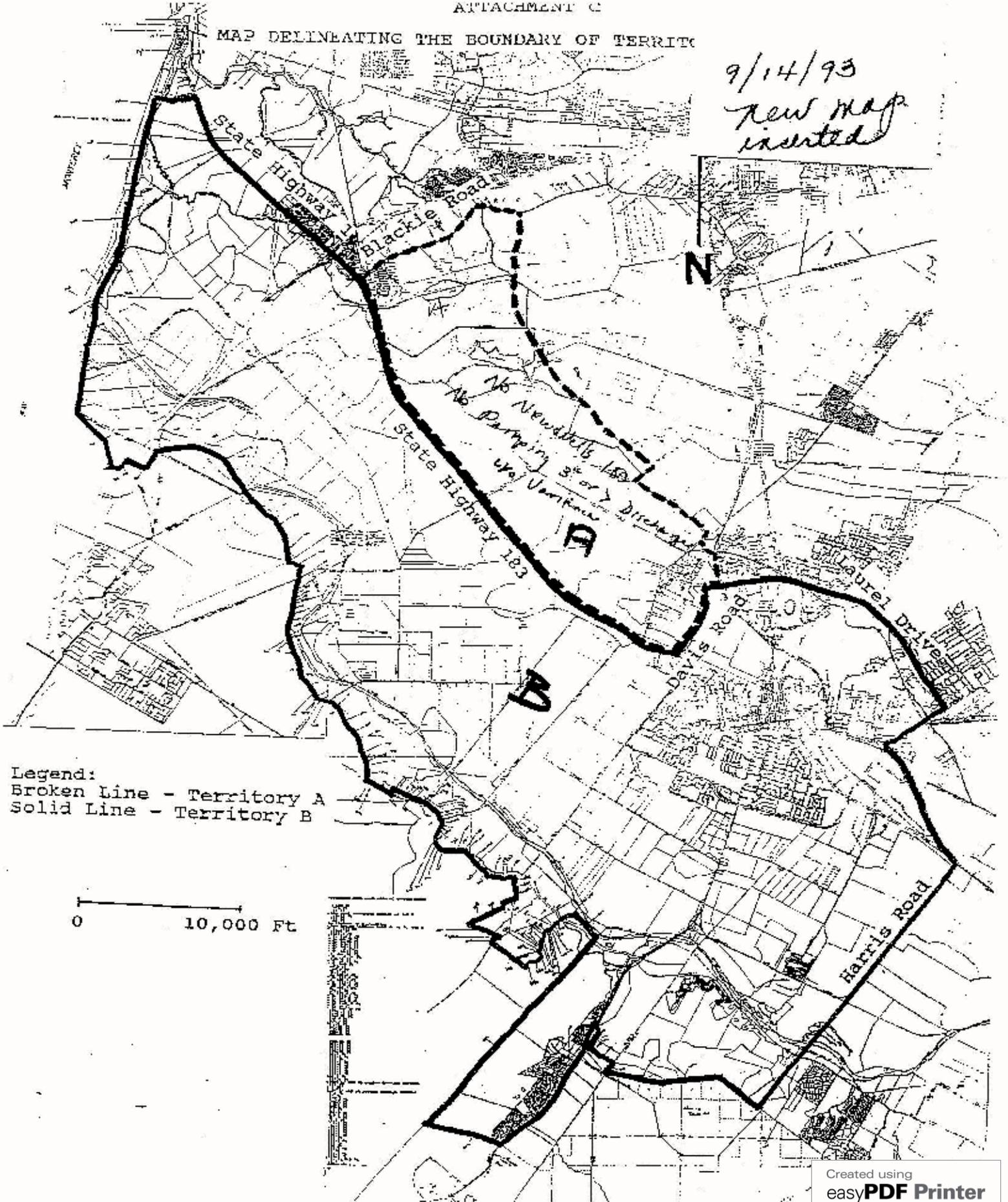
Deputy

(NOMO180.ORD -- 9/14/93)

ATTACHMENT C

MAP DELINEATING THE BOUNDARY OF TERRITORY

9/14/93
New map
inserted



Legend:
Broken Line - Territory A
Solid Line - Territory B

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