BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - COUNTY OF MARIPOSA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORDINANCE NO. 204

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE SANITARY DISPOSAL OF
SEWAGE IN THE COUNTY OF MARIPOSA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, State of
California, do ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Ordinance certain words and phrases
are defined and certain provisions shall be construed as herein set
forth, unless it shall be apparent from their context that they
have a different meaning:

a. APPROVED means any plan of facilities which indicates that
the existing facility or construction thereof is or will be
equal to the generally accepted standards for such installations.

b. BOARD means the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa,
State of California, or their delegated governing bodies.

c. DWELLING means any housing unit constructed for the purpose
of housing one or more families.

d. DRAINAGE SYSTEM means all the piping within public or private
premises which conveys sewage, or other liquid wastes to a
point of disposal, but shall not include any portion of a
public sewage system.

e. EFFLUENT means any liquid waste or sewage of which a portion
of the solids have been removed by a primary treatment method.

f. HEALTH DEPARTMENT means the Health Department of the County
of Mariposa, State of California.

g. HEALTH OFFICER means the Health Officer of the County of
Mariposa, State of California, or his duly authorized rep-
resentative.

h. PERSON means any person, firm, association, organization,
partnership, business, corporation or company.
i. SEPTIC TANK means a watertight receptacle which receives the discharge of a drainage system or part thereof, designed and constructed so as to retain solids, digest organic matter during a period of detention, and allow the effluent to drain into a sub-surface absorption system.

j. SEWAGE means any and all waste substances, liquid or solid, associated with human habitation, or which contains or may be contaminated with human or animal excreta or excrement, offal or any feculent matter.

k. SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM means any sewer system, sewage disposal plant, septic tank, drainage system, cesspool, seepage pit, chemical toilet, privy or any other facility constructed for the purpose of receiving sewage or its effluent.

l. SEWER WELL means any hole used for disposal of sewage that has been dug or drilled into the ground and extends to or into the subterranean water bearing stratum which is used or may be used as a domestic water source.

SECTION 2.

ILLEGAL OCCUPANCY:

It shall be unlawful for any person to maintain, or use, any dwelling, place of business, or other building or place where persons reside, congregate, or are employed which is not provided with means for the disposal of human excreta, either by connection to an approved sewage disposal system or to a public sewerage system. Where it is impractical to do otherwise, the Health Officer may allow privies or chemical toilets, provided that approved methods of construction and maintenance are adhered to in said installations.

SECTION 3.

PUBLIC SEWER CONNECTIONS:

Sewage from all dwellings or other buildings shall flow by gravity to any available public sewer when connected. Approval of other than gravity flow connection will be granted by the Health Officer when it can be shown that such connection will include adequate protection against sewage backflow at maximum flow rates of lateral sewers. Such connections shall be separate for each
dwelling or building.

SECTION 4. REQUIREMENTS FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEMS:

It shall be unlawful for any person to construct or maintain any sewage disposal system which discharges any sewage, effluent, impure waters or any matter or substance offensive, injurious or dangerous to health, whereby they shall do any of the following:

a. Overflow on the surface of the ground.

b. Empty, flow, seep or drain into any springs, streams, rivers, lakes or domestic water supplies of the County of Mariposa, State of California.

SECTION 5. SEPTIC TANKS AND DRAINAGE SYSTEMS:

Shall be so constructed as to meet the following approved minimum standards:

a. Septic tanks shall be of two compartment construction, the first compartment being twice the capacity of the second. Said compartments shall be properly vented to the outside air through the existing drainage system. Said tank shall be constructed and located in accordance with the recommendations of the Health Officer.

1. SIZE. Septic Tanks shall be of a 750 gallon capacity or in reasonable compliance with current recommended standards of the latest edition of the Uniform Code Plumbing, except that where said sizes may be considered excessive in specific locations and under certain conditions as may be determined by the County Health Officer, the size may be less than that specified above on the condition that the Health Department approve such lesser size prior to installation.

2. MATERIALS. Septic tanks shall be of watertight construction and of a strong, durable material.

b. DRAINAGE SYSTEMS. The effluent from the septic tank shall discharge into an approved absorption field or pit.
1. **SUB-SURFACE ABSORPTION FIELDS** shall be constructed of approved type pipe laid on a grade of not to exceed three (3) inches fall per one hundred (100) lineal feet. The trench shall be filled with at least twelve (12) inches of loose gravel before the drainage pipe is laid. The minimum absorption area shall be at least two hundred (200) square feet for a two (2) bedroom dwelling, or when soil percolation tests are indicated, then the area shall be that recommended for that percolation rate by the latest edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

2. **SEEPAGE PITS.** If a seepage pit is used for disposing of septic tank effluent then said pit shall be constructed so as to terminate at least four (4) feet above the highest known water-bearing strata at the point where the pit is installed. Seepage pits shall only be installed where permitted by the Health Officer.

c. **CESSPOOLS AND SEWAGE WELLS** shall be unlawful and are hereby declared to be a nuisance. Any person who drills, constructs or maintains a cesspool or sewer well shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. Existing violations of this sub-section may be given reasonable time for correction.

**SECTION 6.**

**APPROVAL REQUIRED**

At any place of business or other public building where there is installed a water flush system of sewage disposal, which is not connected to a public sewer system, and where the number of users exceed fifteen (15), and when the Health Officer determines that such facilities are necessary as a health measure, there shall also be installed a private sewage disposal plant, the plans of which, in each case, shall be approved by the Health Officer.

**SECTION 7.**

**SUBMISSION OF PLANS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, build, or rebuild any place of business or other public building which is
not to be connected with a public sewer, without first submitting plans of the sewage disposal system to the Health Officer for approval. Such plans shall include a plot plan, elevations and the size and type of sewage disposal system.

SECTION 8.

PENALTY

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance or any orders of the Health Officer made pursuant to this ordinance for the protection of human health or comfort shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not less than twenty-five dollars ($25.00) or more than five hundred dollars ($500.00) for each offense or by imprisonment for not less than five (5) days or more than one hundred twenty (120) days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

SECTION 9.

VALIDITY

If any portion of this ordinance is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and every portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more portions be declared unconstitutional.

SECTION 10.

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days after its passage and adoption by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, State of California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Mariposa, State of California, this 10th day of November, 1959, by the following vote:

AYES: McGregor, Ellis, McCoy, Miller, Conrad

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ATTEST:
County Clerk and Clerk of the Board