

PLAT 2C PUBLIC HEARING
BLACK DIAMOND, WASHINGTON
DECEMBER 11, 2014
Judith Carrier

Your Honor,

My name is Judith Carrier. My address is 24305 SE Green Valley Road, Auburn, Washington.

Thank you and the City of Black Diamond for the opportunity to ask for some conditioning for the protection of groundwater on and under Plat 2C. The conditioning is intended to safeguard water here in the city, in neighboring jurisdictions to the south and west, and the whole region west to Puget Sound near Browns Point in Tacoma, southwest of us, and northwest where the Duwamish River flows into Elliot Bay.

Much of the soil in The Villages (of which Plat 2C is a part) is extremely permeable being filled with sand, gravel, and rocks left behind by the Ice Age. Gardeners in this region are well-acquainted with the large quantity of rocks. They use compost to hold water as a sponge does. Decades and decades of rain and forest decay have covered The Villages and the areas that were once forested with layers and layers of spongy compost. This, coupled with the rocky glacial till, allows the water to flow down or away quickly.

In addition, a major part of South King County and, definitely in and around Black Diamond is considered a critical aquifer recharge area. You will find a King County map attached (**King County Critical Aquifer Recharge Areas Map, June 9, 2008**) showing different categories of recharge areas with the Black Diamond area marked to show we have a large portion of crucial Category 1 and 2 areas that are moderately or highly "susceptible to groundwater contamination" and are or may be "located within a sole source aquifer or a wellhead protection

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area". (King County Code 21A.24.313 Critical aquifer recharge areas — categories) This information from the above- referenced King County Code indicates that for Category 1 where there is "hydrogeologic mapping or a numerical flow transport model in a Washington department of health approved wellhead protection plan" it is demonstrated " that the area is within the one year time of travel to a wellhead for a Group A water system". Group A water systems are large public systems. Group B water systems supply 2 to 10 residences.

To me, through "best science", this quoted information indicates travel time of water underground, contaminated or not, can be tracked and clocked in some way so that even though we cannot see water flowing underground, there is science available to get a pretty good idea of where it is from, the direction it is going, how far it travels, and at what speed.

The direction of groundwater flow under The Villages is south and west, downhill, toward the Green River according to testimony during the FEIS appeal. The Regional Water Association of South King County sent a letter to Black Diamond in 1988 (**attached**) in regard to a sewage problem. Because of local soil conditions, aquifers, and a westward flow the problem presented " a serious threat to groundwater critical to the future needs of South King County." Some Black Diamond citizens here will remember that sewage problem, how long it took to fix it, and, thankfully, have not had that dreadful situation since.

For those of us in the unincorporated area to the south and west of The Villages--- my neighbors and my husband and I---there is concern for the safety of our water systems---wells and springs. Attached is a King County groundwater map showing many, but probably not all, of the well and spring systems in the Greater Black Diamond Area. Even though we live in the area, it is a surprise to the uninitiated to see how many there are that could be affected in quality or quantity if we are not careful with our treatment of groundwater.

Because of our concern about the area's groundwater, clear cutting and ground -scraping of Plat 1A, and reading about the number of future development sites included in the Plat 2C application for approval, we request, at the very least, conditioning that those future sites, be left in their natural state and absolutely protected if clear-cutting nearby happens. Attached is a Yarrow Bay "Future Capacity Requirement" diagram showing the sites and a total of an additional 241 ERUs to be constructed at some unknown time. It is my opinion that if these future sites are approved with those declared sites in the Plat 2C application, it is like accepting "a pig in a poke".

It is reasonable to conclude that the groundwater under the development and the groundwater for some of our water system sources are part of the same system. Where evidence is lacking

to say for certain exactly where the water moves, it is because the developer has not done the studies. This is a deficiency that must be corrected. Conditioning for this would be improved if the studies were done by a government agency with developer funding, such as the Department of Ecology rather than a commercial corporation because of the former's repeated experience and familiarity with this area as well as the regulations for groundwater protection.

Because wetlands are a part of the whole groundwater system and because there are quite a few in the Plat 2C acreage (See the attached Yarrow Bay Wetland Diagram of 6/14), we request conditioning that requires expert study of the protective buffers needed for them and/or a requirement that wetland buffer widths be set according to government regulations...not a mathematical calculation that decreases one buffer and adding the decreased amount to another or any other numerical gymnastics. Conditioning needs to require that the buffers do what they should: fully protect the wetlands.

The city cannot allow a situation where our local or regional water supply, our health and safety, the value of our properties, and county or city tax revenue is adversely affected by development.

Therefore, it is appropriate to condition this plat approval to require groundwater and wellhead/spring monitoring for water sources in Black Diamond and neighboring jurisdictions such as Green Valley Road.

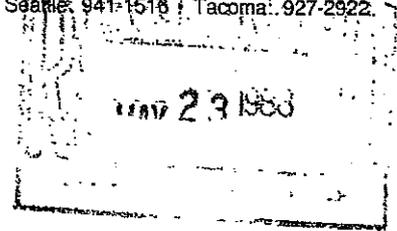
We ask that the examiner require a monitoring plan to be put in place with oversight by the city of Black Diamond and condition occupancy permits and future plat approval on successful outcomes so that no impact on rural residents', or in-city residents', well or spring water has occurred.

Thank you.

RWA REGIONAL WATER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH KING COUNTY

P.O. Box 4249 • 31627 - 1st Avenue South, Federal Way, Washington 98063
Seattle: 941-1518 • Tacoma: 927-2922

May 20, 1988



Brown & Caldwell
Consulting Engineers
100 West Harrison Street
Seattle, WA 98119

Attn: Mr. George Mason

Re: Black Diamond Waste Treatment

Gentlemen:

The Regional Water Association of South King County ("RWA") wishes to express its concern over the possibility of land application of Black Diamond's waste water.

RWA in coordination with DSHS, DOE and King County is in the process of preparing a Master Comprehensive Plan of Water Supply and Management for South King County - including the Black Diamond area. This study consists of three components: (1) A Critical Water Supply Plan under the State Act; (2) A Groundwater Management Plan under the State Act; and (3) A joint study with USGS of available groundwater resources.

One of the major thrusts of the above is aquifer management and protection.

Because of soil conditions and a pattern of shallow aquifers running from the Black Diamond area westward, land application of sewage could present a serious threat to groundwater critical to the future needs of South King County.

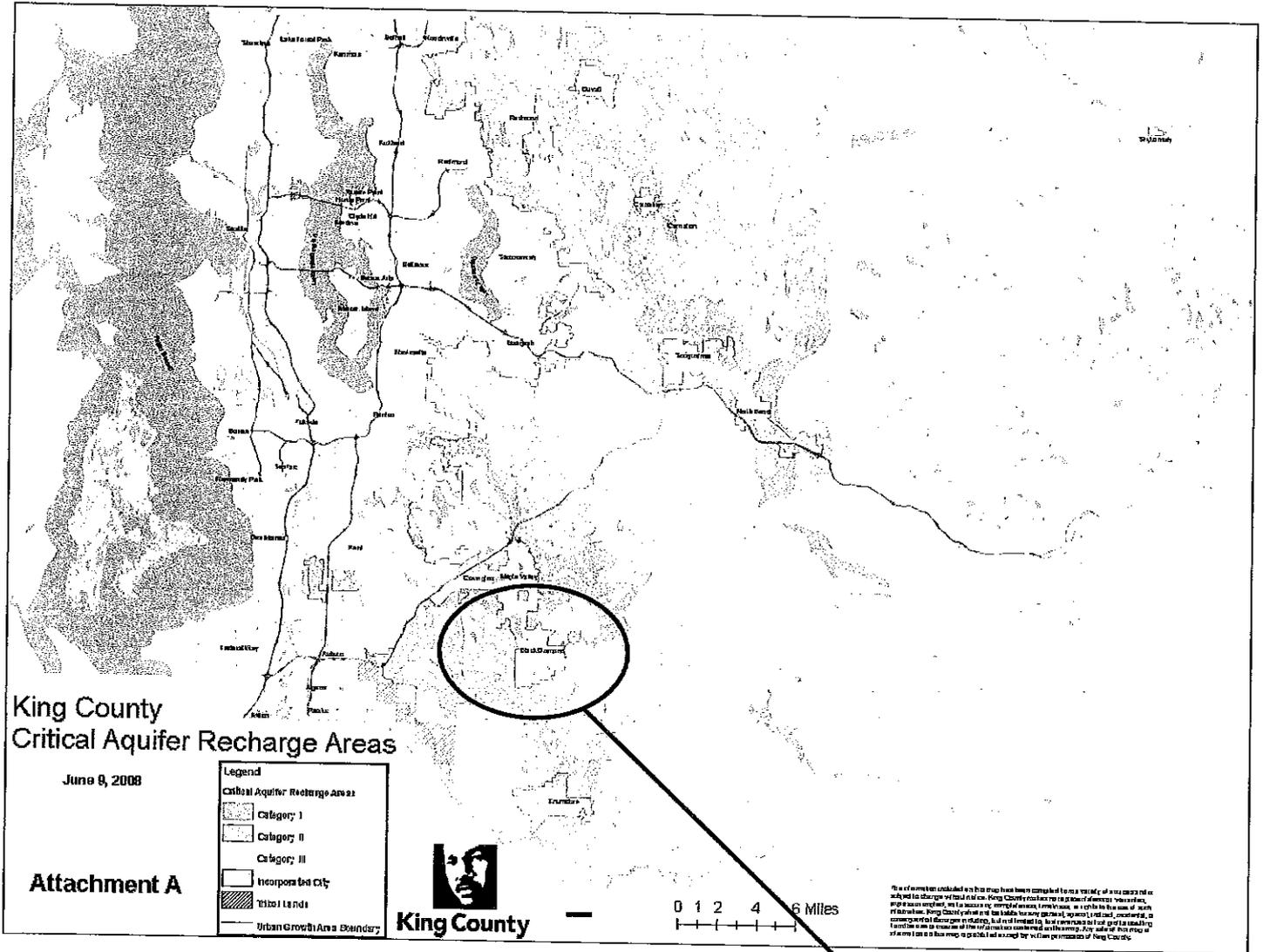
Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John T. Sawyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John T. Sawyer,
RWA Administrator

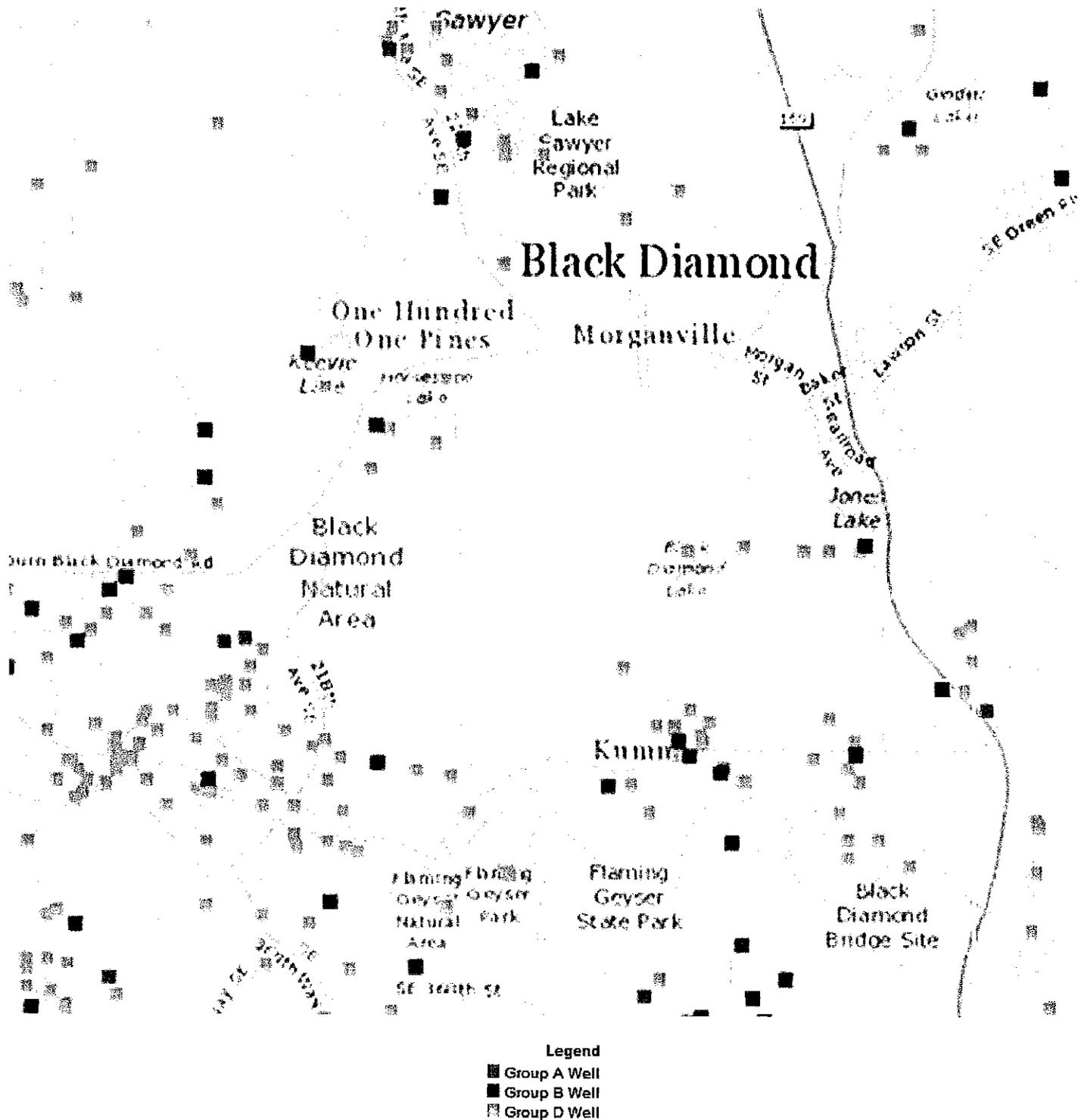
JTS/bjh

KING COUNTY CRITICAL AQUIFER RECHARGE AREAS: FOCUS BLACK DIAMOND AREA



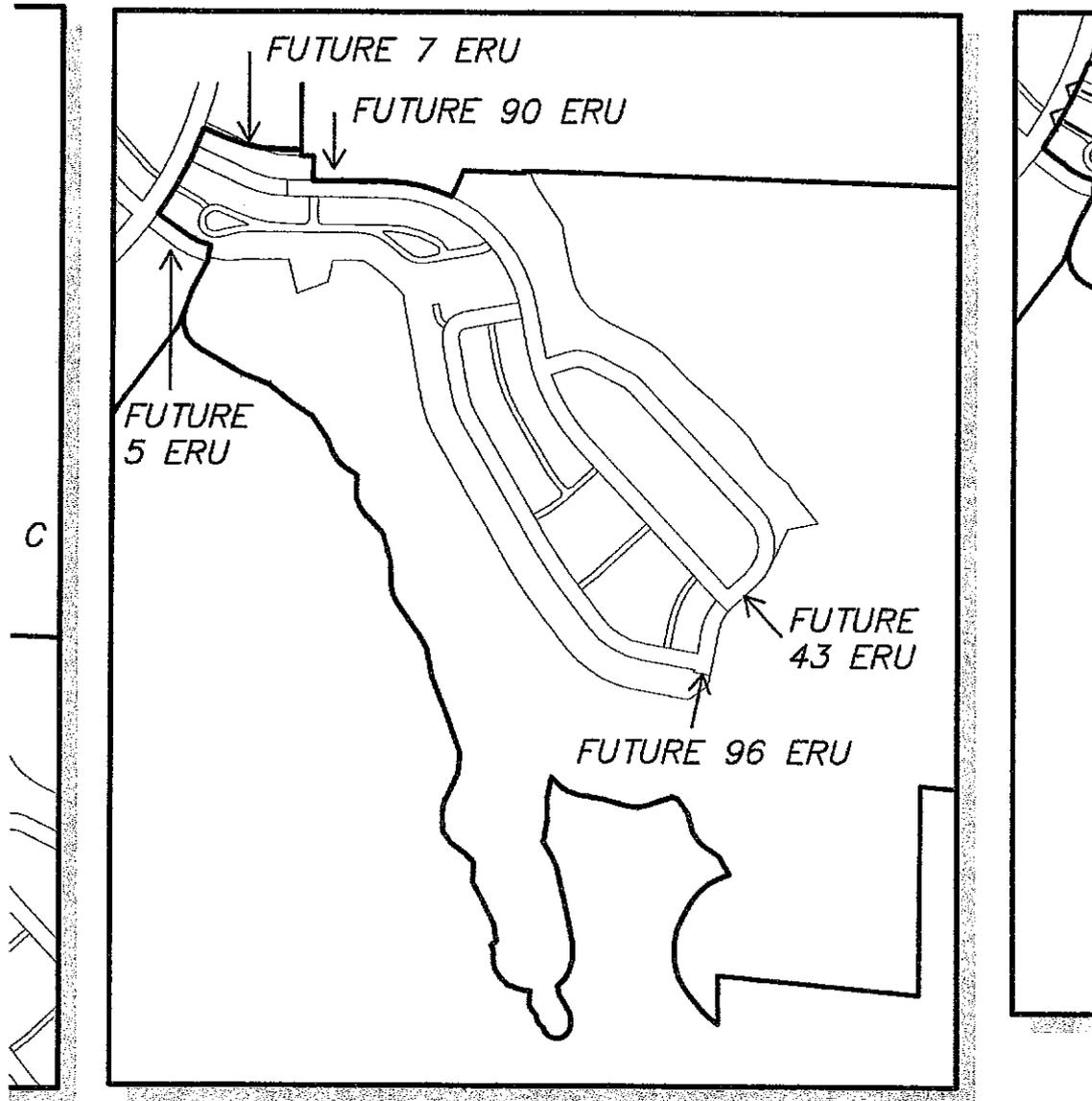
BLACK DIAMOND AREA

GREATER BLACK DIAMOND AREA WELL AND SPRING SITES



SOURCE: Yellow Bay
TRIAD ASSOCIATES
16-DA1
Plat 2 C

241 Additional ERUs



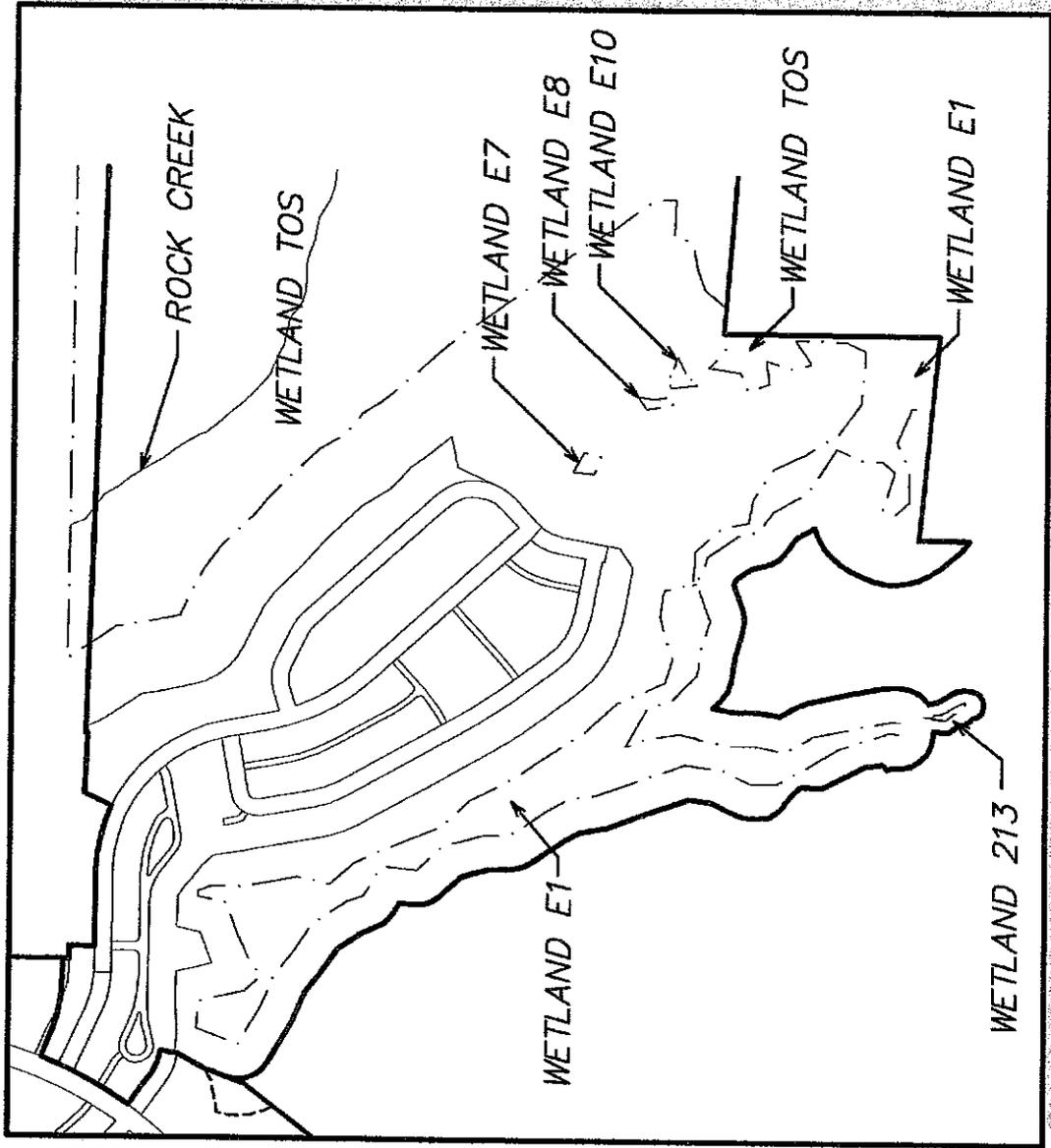
CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS
(FUTURE)

Judith Carrier
Public Testimony

Yarrow Bay
TRISA ASSOCIATES

SOURCE:
16-UP1
PLAT 2 C

Wetlands



Judith Carrier
Public Testimony