

#### ITO AND JOHNSON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MILLS TOWER, SUITE 1500
220 MONTGOMERY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104-9736

(415) 362-3503 (415) 989-1137 FAX

August 27, 1993

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Division of Hazardous Materials, Attn: Mr. Scott Seery 80 Swan Way, Room 200 Oakland, CA 94621

Re:

16035 East 14th Street, San Leandro, CA

Opposition to the Addendum Protesting the Naming of Petitioners Garcia and

Gallegos as Responsible Parties

Dear Mr. Seery:

This letter is written, on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Petsas, in opposition to the Addendum to the Petition for Review of the Decision by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Naming Petitioners, Mr. Garcia and Mrs. Gallegos, as Responsible Parties.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Petsas are the current owners of the property (the "Property") located at 16035 E. 14th Street, San Leandro, California. The Property is the site of a former service station which operated three underground petroleum storage tanks (the "tanks").

Petitioners Beatrice S. Gallegos and Gregory Joseph Garcia are the former owners of the Property. While the Petitioners owned the Property, the use of the tanks was discontinued. Because the Petitioners were the owners of the tanks when the use of the tanks was discontinued, Mr. and Mrs. Petsas request the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency confirm its decision naming Petitioners as responsible parties.

#### Petitioners Are Responsible Parties

In 1962, Beatrice S. Garcia obtained title to the Property. (Exhibit A, Judgment Settling First Account.) Petitioners admit that Seaside Oil Company operated the service station on the Property between 1965 and 1970. [Exhibit B,

operated the service station on the Property between 1965 and 1970. [Exhibit B, Petition For Review of Decision By Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Naming Petitioners As Responsible Parties, pp. 1-2]

In 1971, Petitioner Beatrice S. Gallegos, formerly Beatrice S. Garcia, granted a one-half interest in the Property and the service station to Petitioner Gregory Joseph Garcia. (Exhibit C, Grant Deed; and Exhibit D, Order Approving Guardian's Petition.) Petitioners admit that between 1972 and 1979 the Property and the service station was leased for use. [Exhibit B, p. 2]

The Petitioners sold the Property to Mr. and Mrs. Petsas in 1979. (Exhibit E, Grant Deed.) Mr. and Mrs. Petsas first learned that the tanks were located on the Property during a 1985 fire inspection. They immediately decommissioned the tanks causing them to become inoperable. Since Mr. and Mrs. Petsas have owned the Property, the tanks have never been used or operated.

In 1992, Mr. and Mrs. Petsas removed the tanks and discovered that the tanks had leaked petroleum. Upon discovering the leak, Mr. and Mrs. Petsas reported the leak to the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency. Because Mrs. Gallegos and Mr. Garcia owned the tanks immediately before the use of the tanks was discontinued, Mr. and Mrs. Petsas request the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency confirm its decision naming the Petitioners as responsible parties.

# Petitioners Are Responsible Parties <u>Under 23 California Code of Regulations §2720</u>

The Petitioners owned the Property between 1962 and 1979. They admit that while they owned the Property the tanks were operated. In 1979, when Mr. and Mrs. Petsas purchased the Property, the use of the tanks had been discontinued. The tanks have not been used since 1979.

A responsible party is defined as follows:

"In the case of any underground storage tank no longer in use, any person who owned or operated the underground storage tank immediately before the discontinuation of its use" [23 Cal Code of Regulations §2720 (Responsible Party) (2)]

Because Mrs. Gallegos and Mr. Garcia were the persons who owned the

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underground storage tanks immediately before the use of the tanks was discontinued, they are, by definition, responsible parties.

#### The Petitioners' Claim that Seaside Is The Owner of the Tanks is False

In their Addendum to their Petition, Mrs. Gallegos and Mr. Garcia claim that Seaside Oil Company is the owner of the tanks located on the Property.

"From the information presently available to the Petitioners, it appears that the underground storage tanks were owned last by the Seaside Oil Company." [Exhibit F, Addendum to the Petition For Review of Decision By Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Naming Petitioners As Responsible Parties, p. 3]

This claim is false. Unless otherwise specified, a conveyance of realty transfers all fixtures and appurtenances to the buyer even though they are not specifically mentioned in the contract or deed. [Civ. Code §1084; Trask v. Moore (1944) 24 Cal.2d 365, 370, 149 P.2d 854] When the Petitioners granted the Property to Mr. and Mrs. Petsas, the Petitioners either granted Mr. and Mrs. Petsas all the rights in the Property with no exceptions, or the grant deed was a fraudulent transfer and Mr. and Mrs. Petsas have a basis on which to rescind the sale of the Property.

#### Conclusion

In light of the above, the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency is requested to confirm its decision naming Petitioners Beatrice S. Gallegos and Gregory Joseph Garcia as responsible parties for the investigation and possible cleanup of the unauthorized petroleum spill which has occurred at 16035 E. 14th Street, San Leandro, California.

\* \* \* \* \*

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions,

please contact me.

Very truly yours,

ITO AND JOHNSON

Mark B. Johnson

cc: Mr. Gil Jenson, Esq., Alameda County District Attorney's Office

Mr. Hans Herb, Esq., Counsel for Petitioners

Mr. and Mrs. Petsas

Enclosures: 6

- A. Judgment Settling First Account and Report of Administration For Allowance on Account of Statutory Compensation and of Preliminary Distribution
- B. Petition For Review of Decision By Alameda County Health Care Services Agency naming Petitioners as Responsible Parties, p. 3
- C. Grant Deed From Beatrice S. Gallegos, Formerly Beatrice S. Garcia, to Gregory Joseph Garcia
- D. Order Approving Guardian's Petition For Final Discharge and Consent of Minor To Waiver of Accounting
- E. Grant Deed From Beatrice S. Gallegos and Gregory Joseph Garcia to Jerry and Mary Petsas
- F. Addendum to the Petition For Review of Decision By Alameda County Health Care Services Agency Naming Petitioners As Responsible Parties, p. 3

# Exhibit A

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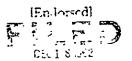
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RE: 755 M:545

#### AT176171

GARCIA & BRUZZGNE Attorneys at law 16101 East 14th St. San Leandro, California 351-6161

Attorneys for Petitioner



JACK G. BLUE, County Clerk By S. J. McGIDBEN

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALLFORNIA FOR THE COUNTY OF ALMAEDA

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JOSEPH R. GARCIA, MISO known as JOSEPH GARCIA, also known as JOE GARCIA,

Deceased.

NO. HAY 229

JUDGMENT SETTLING PIRST ACCOUNT AND REPORT OF ADMINISTRATELY FOR ALLOW-ANCE ON ACCOUNT OF TAXTORY COMPENSATION AND OF PERLIPTIMARY DISTRI-TATION.

EMATRICA E. FARCIA, as administratrix of the estate of the above named decedent, naving filed herein a first account and report and petition for settlement thereof and for allowance on account of statutory compensation and a patitionfor preliminary distribution, and the petition coming on this day regularly for hearing, the Court finds:

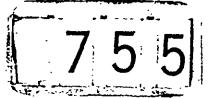
Due and legal notice of the hearing of the petition and of the settlement of the account has been regularly given for the period and in the manner required by law.

The account and report of the administratrix is full, true, and correct, and all of the allegations of the petition for its settlement are true. The account should be settled, allowed, and approved as filed and all the acts and transactions of the administratrix relating to the metters set forth in it should be ratified, confirmed, and approved.

Notice to predictors have one published for the period

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RE: 755 IN:546

and in the manner prescrited by law. Within thirty days after completion of publication of notice to creditors there was filed with the clerk of this Court an affidavit showing due publication of notice to creditors in the manner and form required by law.

Nord than six months have elapsed since the issuance of letters of administration in this estate and since the first publication of notice to creditors, and the time for filing or presenting claims has expired.

All claims against the estate have been paid.

The estate is but little indebted.

A written report of the inhoritance tay appraiser appointed hersin is on file herein and an order fixing the inhamitance tax has been made by this Court. The receipt of the Treasurer of the County of limmeds, State of California, is on file herein showing that the tax has been paid in full.

 $\lambda$  federal sutate tax return has not been flied for this estate, and no federal estate tax is due on payable.

All federal and "Slifornia State income taxes due and payable by the estate have been paid.

Although the estate is not now in a condition to be closed, there may be distributed at this time, without loss to the creditors or injury to the estate or any person interested in it, the property described below in accordance with the laws of succession, and allowances may be made on account of statutory compensation as hereafter set forth.

The petitioner, as administratrix of neid catate, has waived nor statutory commission for her nervices.

The distribution may be made without the granting any distributes here named to execute a bond payable to the administration.

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RE: 755 IM:547

settles, allowed, and approved as filed, and all acts and transactions relating to the matters in that secount and report set forth are ratified, confirmed, and approved; there is allowed to GARCIA & BRUZZONE, attorneys, on account of statutory compensation, the sum of \$1037.9%; and there is distributed to the following persons, in accordance with the laws of succession, the property described below:

#### SEPARATE PROPERTY

To BEATRICE S. GARCTA, as guardish of the person and estate of GRENORY JOSEPH WARCTA, an undivided one-half (1/2) interest in the following described property; and

To BEATRICE S. GARCIA, as surviving spouse of said decedent, an undivided one-half (1,2) interest in the following described property:

Beal Entate as follows:

All that certain real property illusted in the Township of Eden, County of Alameda, described as follows:

Parcel 1: Beginning at the intersection of the eastern line of County Road Number 2552, known as Ashland Avenue, with the southwestern line of East 14th Street, as the said street is now laid out and improved, and running thence along said southwestern line south 48° 56' hast 109.07 feet (the hearing of the southwestern line of East 14th Street being taken as South 48° 56' East (for the purpose of making this description); thence leaving said Southwestern line of East 14th Street South 33° (h! West 111.22 feet; thence north 89° 38' West 22.50 feet; to the said lastern line of Abhland Avenue; thence along the last named line north 60° 22' East 164.72 feet to the point of legismir.

Said premises are project to a pulse apprecent with Seaside Oil Company, a California corporation, which lease terminates on Daccher ().

1955 at a monthly rental of \$250.00.

Said premises are commonly known and designated as 16035 fast inth Street, San Leandro, California.

Service Station equipment located at 15035 sast 14th Street, San Sandre, children's.

#### COMMUNITY PROPERTY

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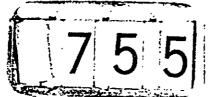
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RE: 755 IM:548

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4	2.	Furniture and furnishings at 18200 Vin Arriba, Can Lorenzo, California.				
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6	of a bond from any distributee above named is dispensed with.					
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# Exhibit B

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

#### STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of the of Gregory J. Garcia Beatrice S. Gallegos		SWRCB No:	
	/		

PETITION FOR REVIEW
OF DECISION BY ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
NAMING PETITIONERS AS RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Hans W. Herb, Esq. LAW OFFICES OF HANS W. HERB 50 Santa Rosa Ave., 5th Fl. Santa Rosa, CA 95404 (707) 576-0757 (800) 757-9562

Attorneys for Gregory J. Garcia and Beatrice S. Gallegos

#### INTRODUCTION

On April 6, 1993, Petitioners received notice from the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency ("Alameda County") that they had been named as responsible parties for the underground storage tank investigation at the property located at 16035 E. 14th Street in San Leandro, California. Petitioners had, at one time more than a dozen years ago, an ownership interest in the property, but never had any involvement with the operation of the underground storage tanks on the property. Petitioners are unaware of any unauthorized discharges from the underground storage tanks during the period of their ownership. Because petitioner's believe none of this Board's previous order's would require, or even authorize petitioners to be named as responsible parties, they respectfully bring this petition requesting that the State Board instruct Alameda County Health Care Services Agency to remove petitioners from the list of responsible parties.

#### BACKGROUND

In 1961, Joseph Raymond Garcia died and left the property located at 16035 E.14th Street in San Leandro, California, to the petitioners herein, Gregory J. Garcia and Beatrice S. Gallegos. At the time petitioners obtained the property, Seaside Oil Company, a Santa Barbara based oil jobber, had a lease on the premises. From information petitioners have discovered in historical documents, it appears that Seaside Oil

Company had leased the premises from the decedent and his predecessor owners for some period of time before 1940.

Seaside Oil Company continued its lease agreement on the property through December 21, 1965, and it continued operations on the station for several years after that.

Specifically, after 1965, Seaside subleased the premises to a number of sub-operators, before finally leaving the property in the late 1960's. For a while thereafter (several months in early 1970), the station remained vacant. Later, it was leased by William and Peggy Gritzuk. The Gritzuks written lease indicates they leased the station from September of 1972 until at least March of 1979, but they are believed to have occupied the site for several years before that. The petitioners sold their interest in the subject property to the current owners, Jerry and Mary Petsas in March of 1979.

At no time did petitioners ever operate any of the underground storage tanks on the premises, nor did they operate any business on the site. Instead, all storage tank operations at the site were conducted by Seaside Oil Company and/or one of its subtenants and the Gritzuks.

Although petitioners have not yet been able to locate a copy of the written lease agreement between Seaside Oil Company and the late Joseph Raymond Garcia, they have located the 1972 lease between petitioners and the Gritzuks. Under the express terms of the lease, the Gritzuks were responsible to; at their own cost and expense, maintain the premises, "including the

# Exhibit C

Garcia, Bruzzone & Dunn

16101 E. 14th Street

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DOCUMENTARY TRANSFER TAX NONE

GARCIA, BRUZZONE & DUNN

RECORDED at REQUEST OF ATTORNEY Min. Past 10:30 A

MAY 11 1971

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA: JACK G. BLUE COUNTY RECORDER

Beatrice S. Gallegos & Gregory Joseph Garcia

San Leandro, California 94578

16115 E. 14th Street San Leandro, California 94578

Grant Deed

FOR A VALUABLE CONSIDERATION, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged,

BEATRICE S. GALLEGOS, formerly known as BEATRICE S. GARCIA, Guardian of the Estate of GREGORY JOSEPH GARCIA,

hereby GRANT(S) to

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GREGORY JOSEPH GARCIA, a single person,

an undivided one-half interest in and to the following described real property in the Township of Eden County of Alameda , State of California:

Parcel 1: Beginning at the intersection of the eastern line of County Road Number 2552, known as Ashland Avenue, with the southwestern line of East 14th Street, as the said street is now laid out and improved, and running thence along said southwestern line south 48°56' East 109.07 feet (the bearing of the southwestern line of East 14th Street being taken as South 48°56' East for the purpose of making this description); thence leaving said Southwestern line of East 14th Street South 33°04' West 111.22 feet; thence north 89°38' West 22.60 feet; to the said Eastern line of Ashland Avenue; thence along the last named line north 0°22' East 164.72 feet to the point of beginning.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_APR\_3 0 1971

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF ALLANDA ADELL 29, 1971 ALAM EDA

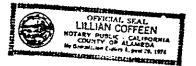
a Notary Public in and said State, personally appeared -BEATRICE S. GALLEGOS

whose name\_IS instrument and acknowledged that. and official sout

Lillian Coffeen

Name (Typed or Printed)

Gester S. Telleges



(This are for official metarial well)

Title Order No.,

Escrow or Loan No

# Exhibit D

#=49334

After recording return to:

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GARCIA, BRUZZONE & DUNN
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RECORDED at REQUEST OF
ATTORNEY

APR 2 6 1971 LACK G. BLUE, County Clerk

Min. Part 10:30 Aby: Peter Chinn, Deputy

ATTORNEYS FOR GUARDIAN

APR 9 8 1971

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF ALAMEDA CUUNTY, CALIFURNIA JACK C. CLUE

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Guardianship of the Estate of

NO. 157701

GREGORY JOSEPH GARCIA.

A Minor

ORDER APPROVING GUARDIAN'S PETITION FOR FINAL DISCHARGE AND CONSENT OF MINOR TO WAIVER OF ACCOUNTING

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BEATRICE'S. GALLEGOS, formerly known as BEATRICES. GARCIA, as guardian of the estate of the above named minor, having heretofore filed with the Clerk of this Court a Waiver of Accounting, Petition for Discharge and Consent of Minor, and the matter coming on regularly for hearing this day, and it appearing to the Court that due and legal notice of said hearing has been given in all respects as required by law, the minor having consented in writing to the guardian's petition for discharge and waiving the rendition of an accounting by his said guardian, and no one appearing to except to said petition or to contest the same, the Court, after hearing the evidence, approves said notice and finds said petition to be true and correct.

IT IS ORDERED that the petition of said guardian be, and the same is hereby approved, allowed and settled.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that said guardian be allowed from the estate of said ward a reasonable sum in the amount of \$ 200 for the services of her attorneys. GARCIA, BRUZZONE & DUNN, as ordinary fees for their services to the guardian and the guardianship estate during this accounting period.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that due to the fact the minor of this guardianship has reached the age of majority a guardianship of his estate is

#### II- 49334

no longer necessary and that the estate of said minor in possession of the guardian remaining after the payment of attorney fees be turned over to the former ward of the guardian, GREGORY JOSEPH GARCIA, and the guardian discharged one year from the date of this order. Said property of the ward remaining for distribution after payment of the attorney fees consists of the following:

Cash in the approximate amount of \$5,187.53

2. An undividied one-half interest in service station equipment located at 16035 East 14th Street, San Leandro, California;

3. An undivided one-half interest in the following described real property:

All that certain real property situated in the Township of Eden, County of Alameda, State of California, described as:

Parcel 1: Beginning at the intersection of the eastern line of County Road Number 2552, known as Ashland Avenue, with the southwestern line of East 14th Street, as the said street is now laid out and improved, and running thence along said southwestern line south 48°56' East 109.07 feet (the bearing of the southwestern line of East 14th Street being taken as South 48°56' East for the purpose of making this description); thence leaving said Southwestern line of East 14th Street South 33°04' West 111.22 feet; thence north 89°38' West 22.60 feet; to the said Eastern line of Ashland Avenue; thence along the last named line north 0°22' East 164.72 feet to the point of beginning.

DATED APR 26 1971

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

ATTEST,-APR 2 6 1971 -

JACK G. SLUE, County Cherk.
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Exhibit E

RECORDED at PENNIET OF RECORDING EQUESTED BY Western Title Goaranty Co. At 10:30 A.M.: TRANSFER WHEN RECORDED MAIL TO APR - 3 1979 PETSAS TAX PAID OFFICIAL RECORDS OF LSIS TOLEDO ST ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA RENE C. DAVIDSON SANKENNOED, KAL Escrow No 591609- JR Title Order No. Computed on full value of property conveyed, or Computed on full value less liens and encumbrances remaining thereon at time of sale. 850539 Individual Grant Deed FOR VALUE RECEIVED, BEATRICE S. GALLEGOS, formerly known as Beatrice S. Garcia, under which name she acquired title, and GREGORY JOSEPH GARCIA JERRY PETSAS and MARY PETSAS, his wife as joint tenants Township of Eden all that real property situate in the Alameda County of , State of California, described as follows: SEE EXHIBIT "A", ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF Gestus Stallagos. 19.79 March 21 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 19-061446 County of Fresno March 28, 19 79 before me, the undersigned. FOR NOTARY SEAL OR STAMP a Notary Public, in and for said State, personally appeared Beatrice S. Gallegos subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged to ma that OFFICIAL SEM executed the same. ruti: a. Kusamura

MAIL TAX STATEMENTS AS DIPECTED ABOVE

\* J. &

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

OB Track 3. 7th injore me his undured

a Mptary Public, in and for said State, personally appeared

Description for me to be the person, whose name in subscribes
to the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that the executed the same

My commission expires

Notary Public

79-061446



JOHN J. RISSO

CITY & COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO My Commission Expires April 27, 1982

Signature of the state of the s

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Exhibit F

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

### STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

In the Matter of the of Gregory J. Garcia Beatrice S. Gallegos	and	SWRCB No:
	,	

ADDENDUM TO THE
PETITION FOR REVIEW
OF DECISION BY ALAMEDA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE SERVICES AGENCY
NAMING PETITIONERS AS RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

Hans W. Herb, Esq. LAW OFFICES OF HANS W. HERB 50 Santa Rosa Ave., 5th Fl. Santa Rosa, CA 95404 (707) 576-0757 (800) 767-9562

Attorneys for Gregory J. Garcia and Beatrice S. Gallegos

# THERE IS NO "EVIDENCE" LET ALONE "SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE" THAT PETITIONERS WERE EVER THE "OWNERS" OF THE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

After submission of the original Petition, Sandra L.

Malos, Chief of the Local Oversite Program, wrote a letter to

Petitioners, claiming that Petitioners were responsible parties

for the investigation at the site in San Leandro because they met

the definition of "owners" under RCRA. Petitioners challenge

this assertion, factually and legally.

First, as was noted in the original Petition,

Petitioners were owners of the <u>property</u>. Owners of the property

are not necessarily owners of fixtures placed thereon by third

parties.

While Petitioners are aware that the State Underground Storage Tank Cleanup Fund ("Fund") has allowed claims for "de facto" tank owners, neither federal nor state law recognizes any such basis for imposing liability.

By analogy, if a gasoline tanker truck was to crash into your home spilling gasoline, the responsibility for the cleanup would be solely on the trucking company and the driver. There would be no good legal reason, nor would it foster sound public policy, to require the owner of the property to clean it up simply because he or she owned the property.

From the information presently available to the Petitioners, it appears that the underground storage tanks were owned last by the Seaside Oil Company. Petitioners are not affiliated in any way with the Seaside Oil Company. Under these