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Bonneau Dickson, P.E.

Consulting Sanitary Engineer

MOBILE HOME PARK ASSIGNMENTS

Bonneau H. Dickson Jr., P.E.

Education:

Georgia Institute of Technology
B.S. Civil Engineering -- 1960
M.S. Sanitary Engineering -- 1964

Harvard University
M.A. Sanitary Engineering -- 1965

Harvard Business School
Master of Business Administration -- 1975

Registration:

Civil Engineer -- California # 19491

Professional
Associations:

Water Environment Federation (WEF)
California Water Environment Association (CWEA)
American Water Works Association (AWWA)
National Onsite Water Association (NOWA)
California Onsite Water Association (COWA)
Pipe Users Group Of Northern California (PUG)

Forty year's experience in all aspects of designing and constructing water and wastewater facilities, both in the United States and abroad. Over 25 year's forensic and expert witness experience in more than 100 cases.

Mobile Home Park Contamination, North Bay. Technical expert on a case north of San Francisco Bay where the residents sued the owner alleging that the water supply was contaminated and that they had been exposed to sewage.

Mobile Home Park Sewage Overflow, San Jose, CA. Represented the owner of a mobile home in a park where the sewer system regularly overflowed under his unit. Determined that the previous overflows were due to problems with the pump station that served the mobile home park. These problems were fixed but another overflow occurred. Determined that there was also a problem with roots clogging the sewage line that served the unit. Noted that there were no manholes in the park, thus there was very limited access to the sewer system.

Mobile Home Park, San Joaquin County, CA. Investigated a situation where the sewer system in a mobile home park was failing. The park had been more or less abandoned by the owner and much of it was occupied by squatters. Police reports showed that the police had been called to the park approximately once per week.

Permit Application for Mobile Home Park, Placer County, CA. Provided technical advice and an engineer's report for permitting the wastewater system in a mobile home park. Estimated the flow, evaluated the sewer system and pumping station, and analyzed the treatment performance of the wastewater lagoon. Provided a water balance for the disposal system. Evaluated the potential for contamination of the well by percolating treated effluent.

Mobile Home Park Sewage Overflow, Mountain County, CA. Evaluated the source and causes of a sewage overflow into a mobile home. Analyzed the damages that were claimed to have been caused by the sewage overflow.

Water System Contamination in Mobile Home Park, Butte County, CA. As an expert witness, evaluated alleged coliform contamination of the water supply to a mobile home park. The issues in the case involved the sampling techniques, the significance of the coliform laboratory analyses, the adequacy of the supply of water from the water well, and the operation of the chlorine disinfection system.

Contaminated Water Supply, Sonoma County. Provided technical expertise on a case in which a tenant in a mobile home on an agricultural property sued due to a contaminated water supply and an overflowing septic tank/leach field system. Determined that the property owner's house was being served with the same water supply that was claimed to be contaminated, that no health official had seen the septic tank overflow, and that the surface discharge was from a kitchen sink that the tenant had plumbed to flow onto a nearby field.

Mobile Home Park Contamination, North Bay, CA. Technical expert on a case north of San Francisco Bay where the residents sued the owner alleging that the water supply was contaminated and that they had been exposed to sewage.

High Desert Mobile Home Park, Rural Los Angeles County. Technical expert in a case where the leach fields in a rural mobile home park began to fail. Determined that the owner of the park had stopped pumping the septic tanks some years previously, which led to clogging of the leach fields.

Inadequate Leach Field Construction, Danville, CA. Served as expert witness in a case involving the failure of a leach field at a very large single family home shortly after the leach field was constructed. While channeling the overflowing sewage away from the residence, the home owner contracted Giardia Lamblia and was banned by health officials from working for six weeks at his normal job, which involved food preparation. Investigations revealed that the Contractor had not followed the requirements of the County Health Department and had constructed less leach line than was offered in his proposal.

Septic Tank/Leach Field Failure, Contra Costa County, CA. Evaluated why a toilet served by a septic tank and leach field would not flush for several months during a period of heavy rain. The tenant finally called the health authorities. The owner responded with a retaliatory eviction. Found that the leach field and septic tank were flooded for an extended period, apparently due to grading done by the owner of the property.

Septic Tank Drowning. Technical expert on a case in which the concrete cap over a septic tank deteriorated, then collapsed when a child stepped on it. The child fell into the tank and drowned.

Coliform Contamination from a Sewer. Provided advice on the significance of coliform organisms found in soil above a sewer in a law suit involving three homeowners. The downstream homeowner attributed the coliforms to leakage of sewage from the upstream lots but sampling found that the coliform concentrations were lower in the soil near the sewer than on the surface of the plaintiff's lot. The most likely source of the coliforms at the surface was the plaintiff's dogs.

Septic System Failure. Investigated why the toilet at a rural residence in Contra Costa County would not flush properly. The tenant had called the County Environmental Health Department and the landlord had responded with a retaliatory eviction. Found that the septic tank and leach field had been flooded for a protracted period during wet weather, due apparently to improper grading that the owner had done.

Surfacing Septic Tank Effluent, Oakland, CA. Reviewed voluminous documents and summarized the technical facts for two attorneys for insurance companies, whose insureds were being sued by a downslope neighbor who claimed that their septic systems were discharging on to his property. Interviewed the defendants. Prepared questions to be put to the plaintiff during depositions. Testified in a mediation hearing.

Inadequate Leach Field Construction, Danville, CA. Served as expert witness in a case involving the failure of a leach field at a very large single family home shortly after the leach field was constructed. While channeling the overflowing sewage away from the residence, the home owner contracted Giardia Lamblia and was banned by health officials from working for six weeks at his normal job, which involved food preparation. Investigations revealed that the Contractor had not followed the requirements of the County Health Department and had constructed less leach line than was offered in his proposal.

Water System and/or Leach Field Leakage, San Mateo County. Prepared a report for an attorney representing an insurance company on a situation where a house owner in San Mateo County alleged that a high groundwater level and the presence of coliform organisms in the groundwater were caused by leaks in the water system and/or a failure of the septic tank/leach field system on the uphill residential lot.

Contamination from a Leach Field. Served as technical expert in a case in which a property owner claimed that his pond was contaminated by the failure of a leach field on the next property uphill. Represented the installer of the leach field. Determined that the leach field piping had been broken by large trucks that had operated on top of it.

Improper Septic Tank Construction, Oakland, CA. Technical expert to a homeowner who discovered after purchase that the septic tank for his residence was located in the garage and that the leach field was inadequate.

Leach Field Failure, San Mateo County, CA. Prepared a report for an attorney representing an insurance company on a situation where a house owner alleged that a high groundwater level and the presence of coliform organisms in the groundwater were caused by leaks in the water system and/or a failure of the septic tank/leach field system on the uphill residential lot.

Septic Tank/Leach Field Failure, Contra Costa County, CA. Evaluated why a toilet served by a septic tank and leach field would not flush for several months during a period of heavy rain. The tenant finally called the health authorities. The owner responded with a retaliatory eviction. Found that the leach field and septic tank were flooded for an extended period, apparently due to grading done by the owner of the property.

Rancho Garcia Mobile Home Park Wastewater System Report. Working with law students from UC Irvine and the Rural Assistance program, prepared a preliminary engineering report on how the wastewater facilities within the mobile home park should be improved. Evaluated four alternatives.

Septic Tank Drowning, Mobile Home Park, Arizona. Served as an expert witness in a case in which a child fell into a septic tank in a mobile home park and drowned. A major issue in the case was the flimsy construction of the septic tank riser.

Flooding Of A Mobile Home, Yucaipa, CA. Served as an expert witness in a case where the sewer system in a mobile home park clogged and flooded a mobile home. The staff of the park did not contact a remediation company but instead attempted to clean the mobile home with its own inexperienced staff. This spread the contamination much further into the mobile home. Was deposed. The day after my deposition, the mobile home park management revealed that it did have a plan of the sewer system, which it had previously denied having. The judge imposed sanctions, which included a second report and a second deposition, all at the expense of the defendant park. Testified at trial. The jury found in favor of the plaintiff mobile home owner.

Flooding Incidents In A Mobile Home Park, Northern CA. Provided professional engineering analyses in a case where a mobile home park suffered repeated sewer blockages and overflows. The park blamed it on the city sewer to which the park discharge, noting that there were some deficiencies in the city sewer. The analyses showed that the defects in the city sewer were minor and that they would not have affected the hydraulics of the sewer system in the park. It was noted that the design of the sewer system in the park had slopes that were below the usual standards for gravity sewer systems and that the park had done virtually no maintenance of the sewer system for years.