

SEISMIC GROUNDNOISE SURVEY IN THE SAN EMIDIO DESERT

for:

STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

**SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.**  
TULSA, U.S.A.

2-9-1975 E



## **SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.**

**6945 EAST 11TH STREET, TULSA, OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 15447, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74115  
PHONE (918) 836-6746**

*IMAGINEERING for EXPLORATION, ENGINEERING and ENVIRONMENT*

SEISMIC GROUNDOISE SURVEY IN THE SAN EMIDIO DESERT  
FOR STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: San Emidio Desert, Washoe County, Nevada.  
T28,29 30N; R22,23E.

Dates: May 4-9, 1974.

Seismic groundnoise is due to a combination of cultural, atmospheric, and geological disturbances. The resultant microseisms propagate primarily as surface waves with a log normal type of distribution in their power versus frequency plot (Figure A).

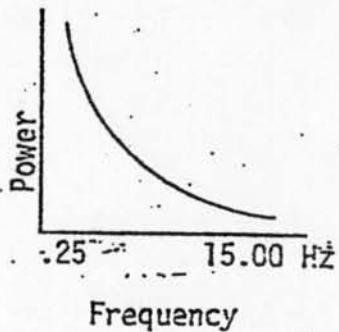


FIGURE A

Microseism power may vary from region to region, but for a given locale it can be considered as originating at a distant source. If the impedance sequence, coupling, and response of seismometers in an array are the same, then the measured power spectrum of the groundnoise would be identical from seismometer station to seismometer station. Since instrument response is identical and ground coupling is good, measured variation of power and frequency may be associated with varying impedance sequences beneath each station.

A local noise generator may also be responsible for power and frequency anomalies. Such an energy source is caused by a circulating steam/water system; deep volcanic activity, fluid flow in a fault system, pres-

sure fluctuations, and other associated expressions of tectonic activity.

The recorded time series (24 hrs.) at each groundnoise station is searched for a "quiet" interval (3 hrs. or more); and this is spectrally analyzed for the true ground beat at that station.

The data from all stations is statistically evaluated for each specified parameter (Integrated Power, Mean Frequency, etc.) and the parameter(s) tabulated and contoured. Based on the statistical analysis, parameters exhibiting more than 1 standard deviation above the mean can be considered anomalous. In ground-noise surveys an anomaly is defined as an area in which two or more parameters exhibit values greater than 1 standard deviation, Figure 3, Anomalous Areas Map.

## II. OVERVIEW

The purpose of the survey was to investigate the possibilities of areas of geothermal interest. A complementary objective included delineation of structural features due to faulting.

## III. RESULTS

The San Emidio survey consists of 36 stations on a 1+ mile grid. It is contained in an area of approximately 5 mi (E-W) by 16 mi (N-S).

Statistical data is contained in Table 1.

Parameter	Average	Standard Deviation	% Std. Dev.
Integrated Power (db)	31.87	9.37	29.41
Mean Frequency (Hz)	6.34	0.86	13.62
36 Stations			

Table 1.

A major groundnoise anomaly occurs at the intersection of Sec. 17, 18, 19, 20 of T29MR23E, Figure 3, Anomalous Areas. The fault pattern lends itself to two possible interpretations. If the existence of a strike-slip NNW trending fault is feasible, the horst structure of faults T-U and T'-U' indicates this displacement. T and U are expressed to the west by Rodeo Creek and Rattlesnake Canyon. There is also an indication of this possibility through the structural displacement of the northern

portion of Lake Range separated by the Three Mile Canyon showing NW/SE slip. This interpretation is indicated on the Anomalous Areas Map, Figure 3.

The alternate possibility is faulting normal to the NNE structural trend with Fault T-T' and U-U' striking WNW-ESE. Fault X is then expressed out of Stage Canyon trending NE through the southern portion of the survey. This interpretation establishes the groundnoise anomaly in a downthrown fault block. Fault V on cross sections A-A' and C-C' is topographically indicated by the Three Mile Canyon to the south.

#### IV. COMMENTS - RECOMMENDATIONS

Interpretation of faulting was aided by correlation of topography and power/frequency cross-sections. The major anomaly is also expressed via SP measurements made by Senturion Sciences. See Self Potential Survey, San Emidio, Nevada, dated June 1, 1974. Further work is in progress utilizing stations 1.1 through 6.1 as control stations for microearthquake investigations. Heat flow test holes are recommended to provide complementary information on this prospective area.

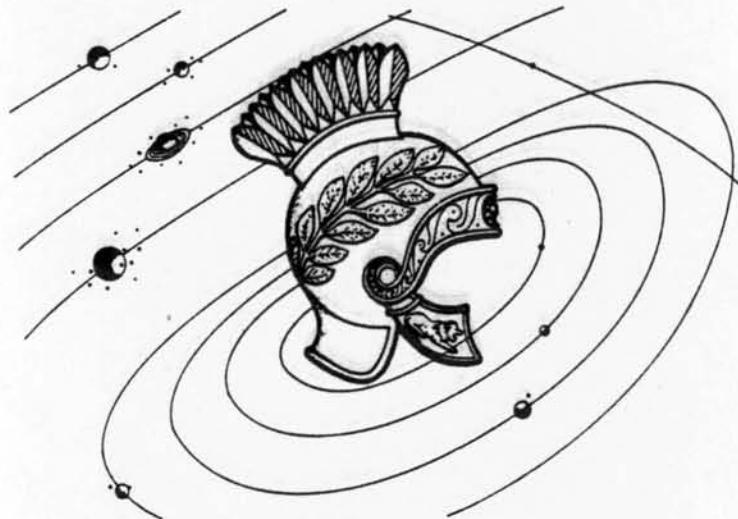
The computer generated grids for contouring were developed on  $\frac{1}{2}$  mi grid intervals. Data is stored for additional processing if required.

## V. LIST OF FIGURES AND APPENDIX

<input type="checkbox"/> 2	CONTOUR MAP OF INTEGRATED POWER	Figure 1.
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	CONTOUR MAP OF MEAN FREQUENCY	Figure 2.
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	ANOMALOUS AREAS AND STRUCTURE	Figure 3.
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTOUR MAP OF PREDOMINANT POWER	Figure
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTOUR MAP OF FREQUENCY OF PREDOMINANT POWER	Figure
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONTOUR MAP OF FREQUENCY ANALYZED DATA	Figure
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADDITIONAL MAPS	
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	CROSS SECTIONS    2 ea.	
		A-A'
		Figure 4.
		B-B'
		Figure 5.
		C-C'
		Figure 6.
		Figure

## APPENDIX

<input type="checkbox"/> 36	POWER SPECTRAL DENSITY PLOTS
<input type="checkbox"/>	STATISTICS AND DEVIATIONS
<input type="checkbox"/>	GROUNDNOISE SUMMARY
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	COMPUTER LISTING
<input type="checkbox"/>	ADDITIONAL DATA



**APPENDIX**

**SEISMIC GROUNDOISE SURVEY IN THE SAN EMIDIO DESERT**

**for:**

**STANDARD OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA**

*2-9-NV9SE3*

**SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.**  
TULSA, U.S.A.



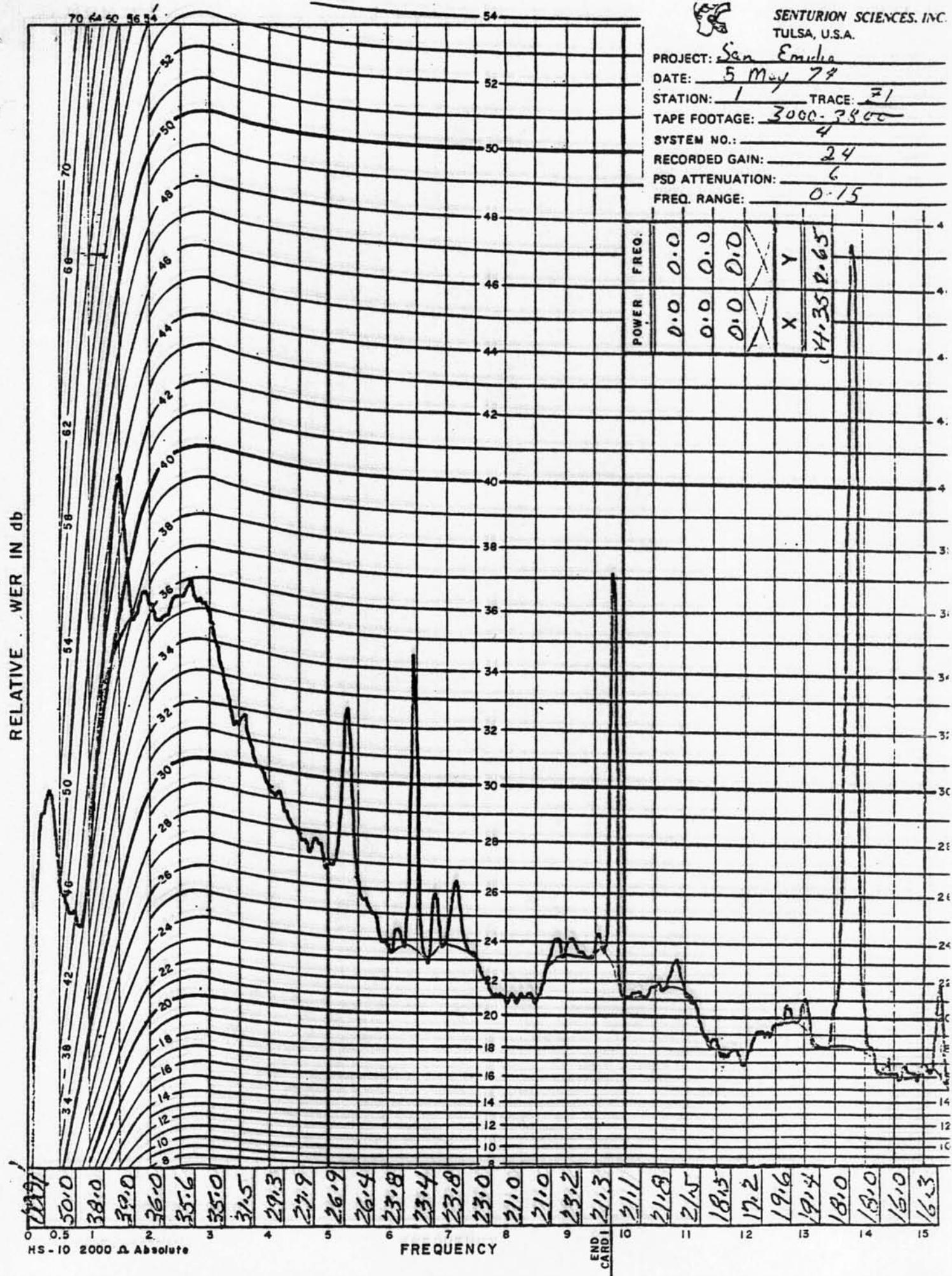
## **SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.**

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P.O. BOX 15447, TULSA, OKLAHOMA 74115  
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APPENDIX  
SAN EMIDIO DESERT GROUNDNOISE

 SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
 TULSA, U.S.A.  
 PROJECT: San Emilia  
 DATE: 5 May 78  
 STATION: 1 TRACE: 21  
 TAPE FOOTAGE: 3000-3800  
 SYSTEM NO.: 4  
 RECORDED GAIN: 24  
 PSD ATTENUATION: 6  
 FREQ. RANGE: 0-15

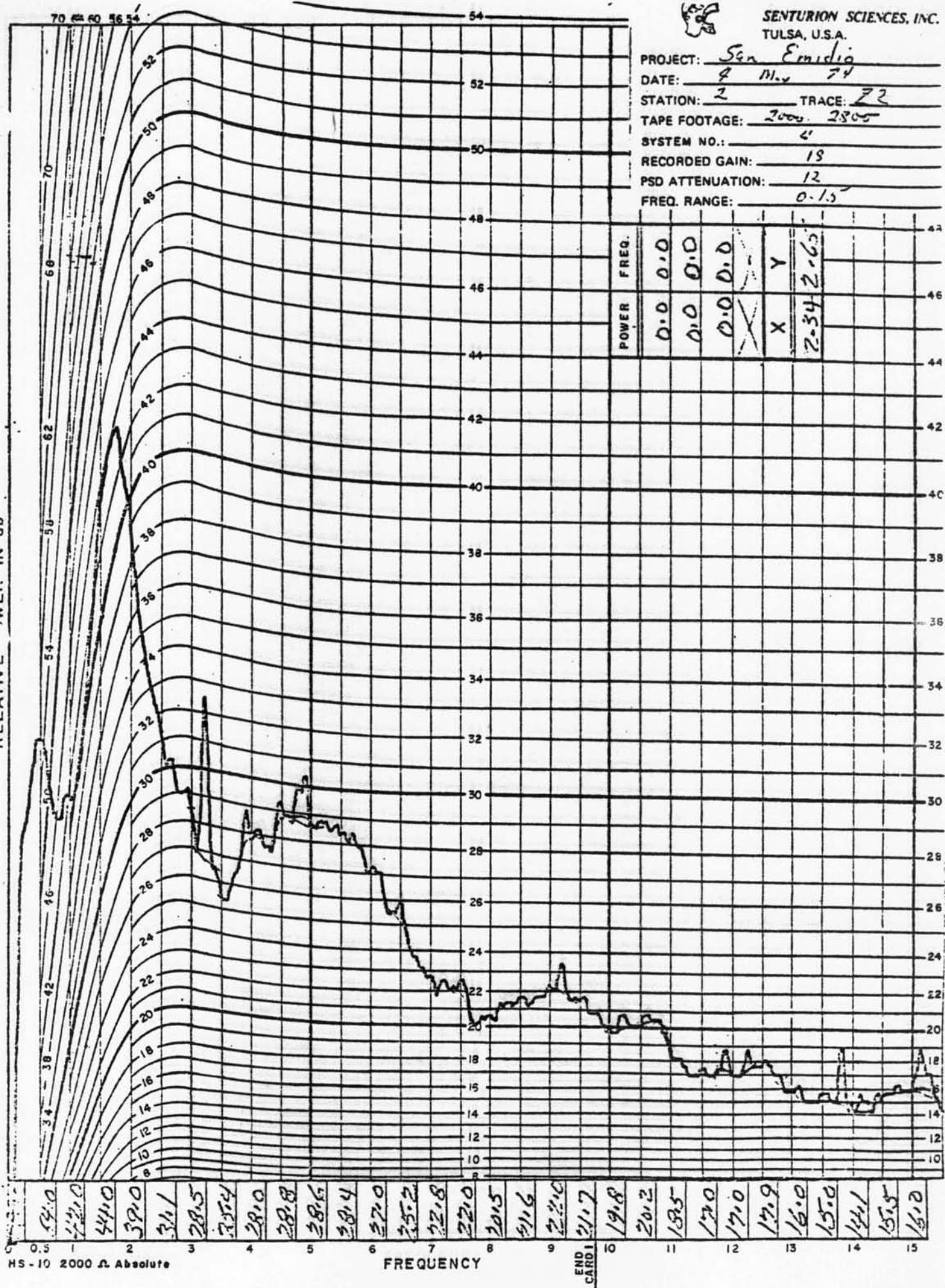


SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

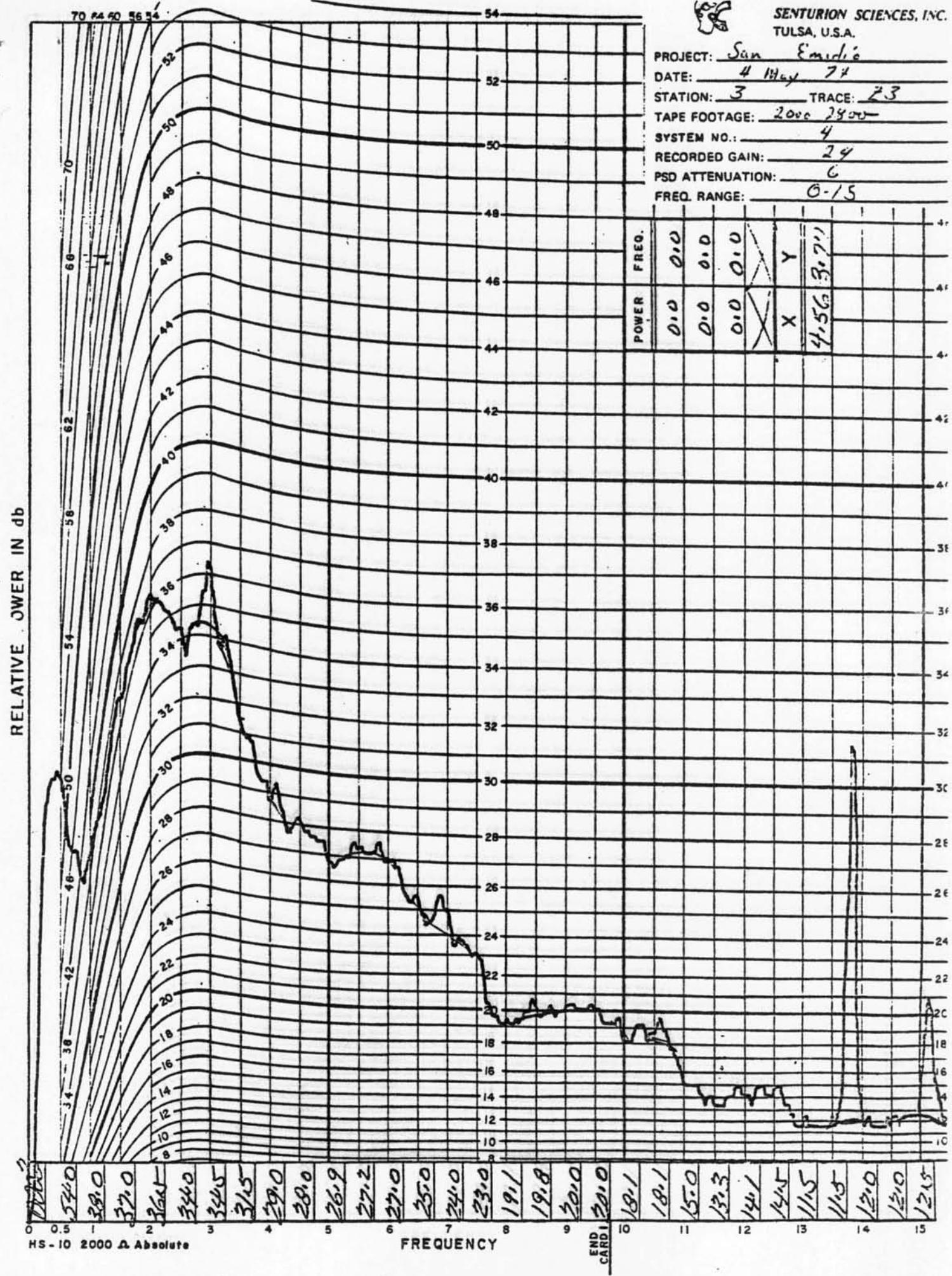


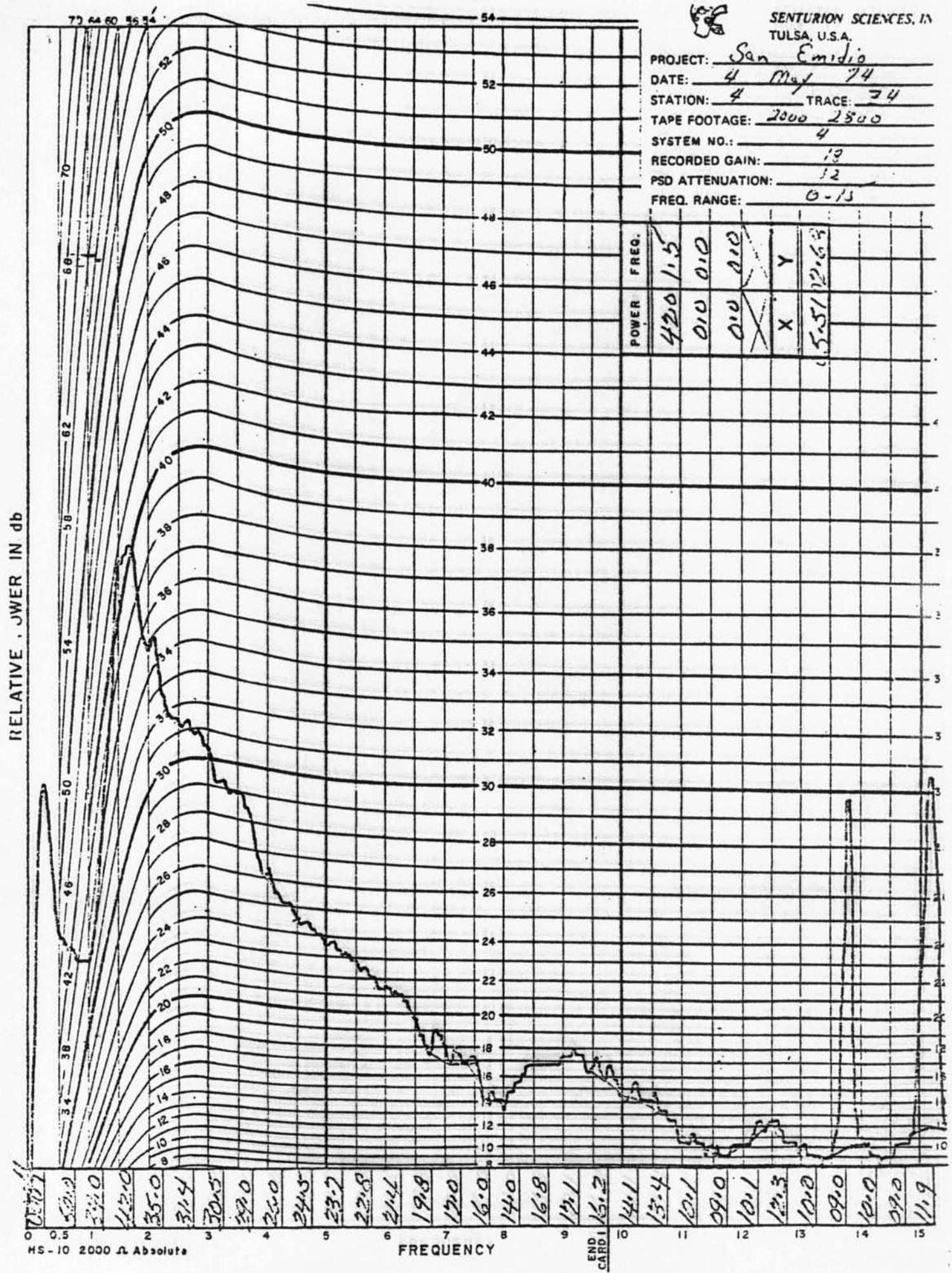
PROJECT: San Emidio  
DATE: 8 Nov 74  
STATION: 2 TRACE: 72  
TAPE FOOTAGE: 2000 2800  
SYSTEM NO.: 4'  
RECORDED GAIN: 18  
PSD ATTENUATION: 12  
FREQ. RANGE: 0-1.5

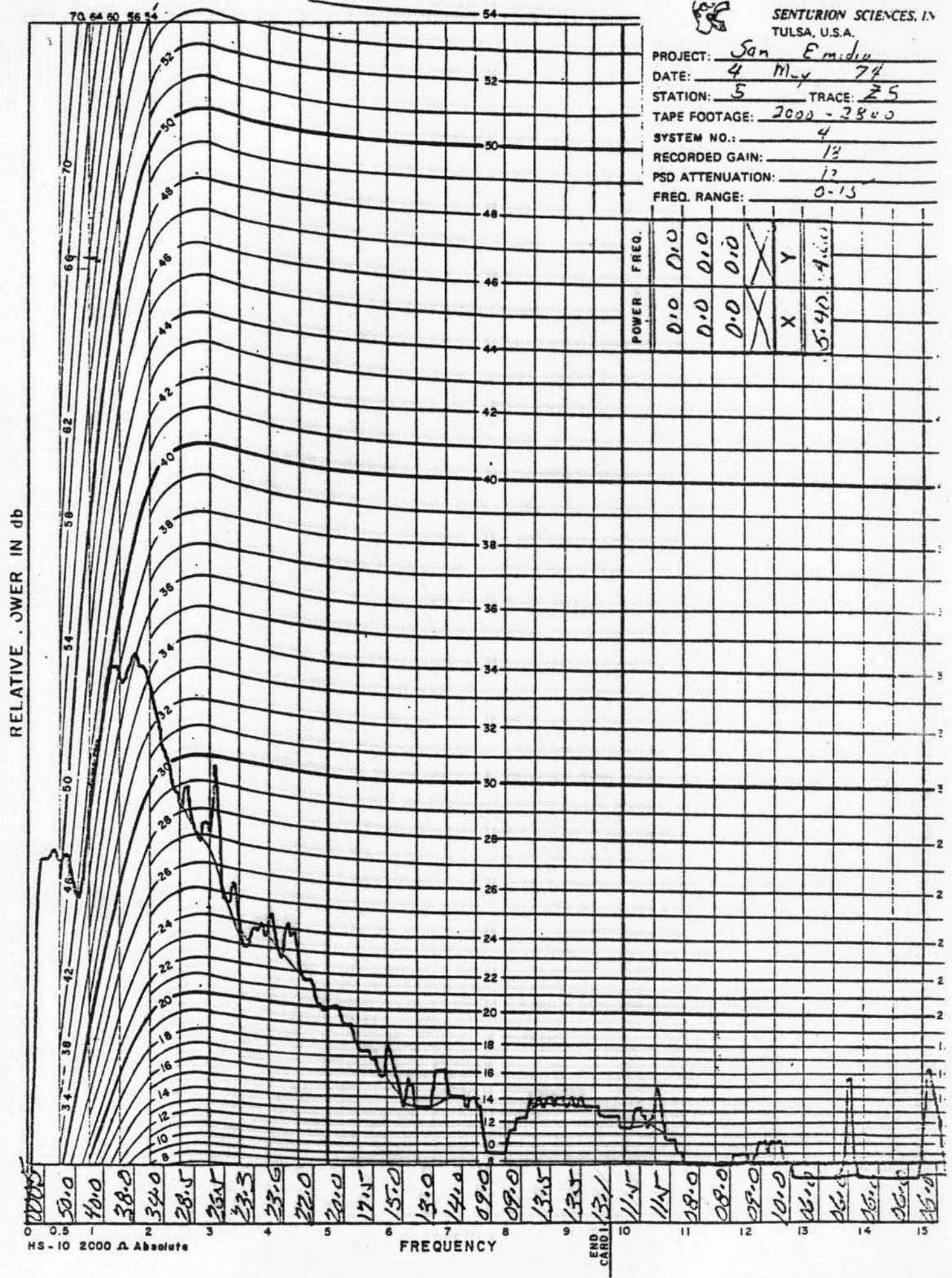
RELATIVE POWER IN db




**SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.**  
 TULSA, U.S.A.  
 PROJECT: San Emidio  
 DATE: 4 May 74  
 STATION: 3 TRACE: 23  
 TAPE FOOTAGE: 2000 2800  
 SYSTEM NO.: 4  
 RECORDED GAIN: 24  
 PSD ATTENUATION: 6  
 FREQ. RANGE: 0-15





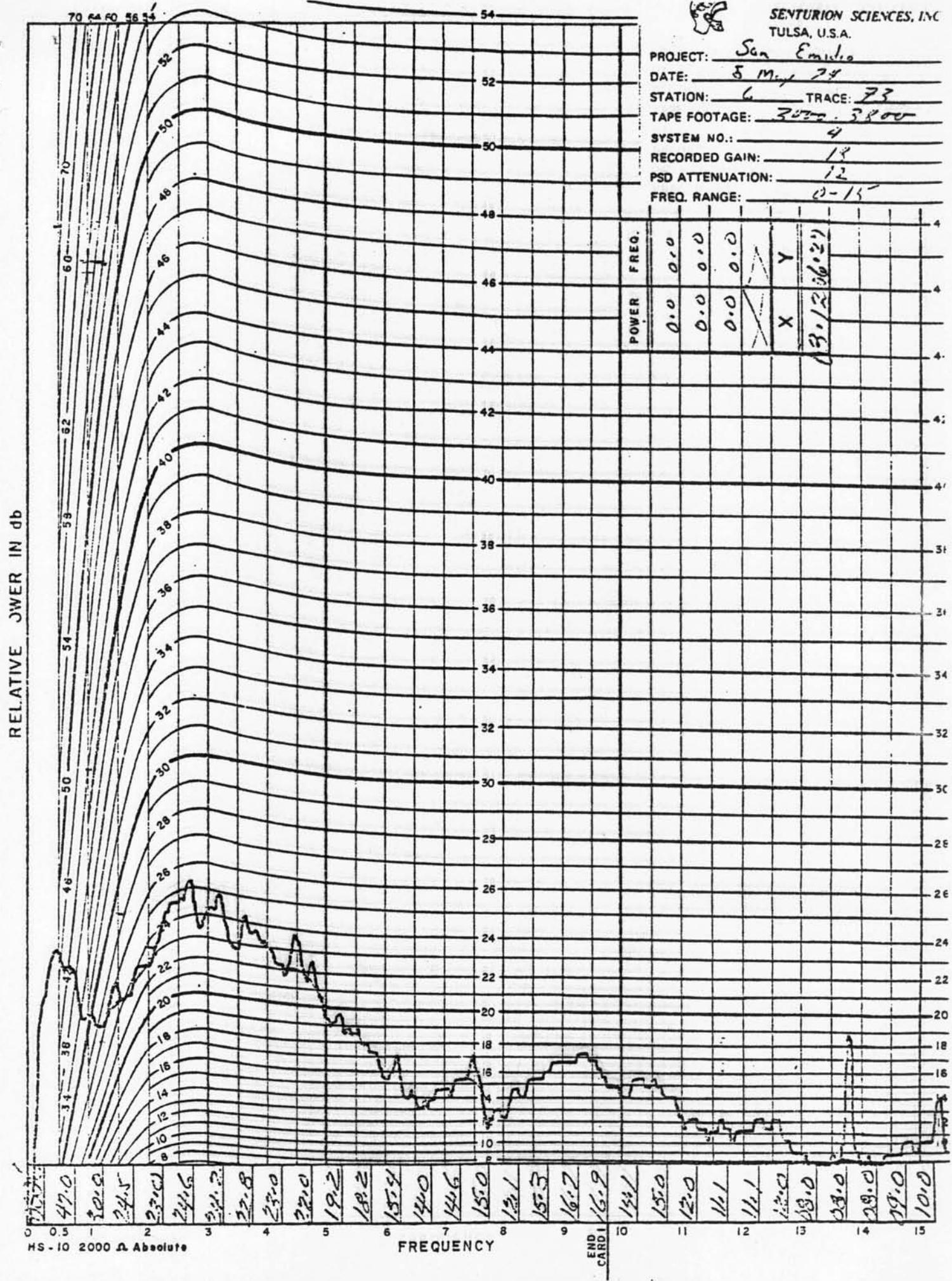


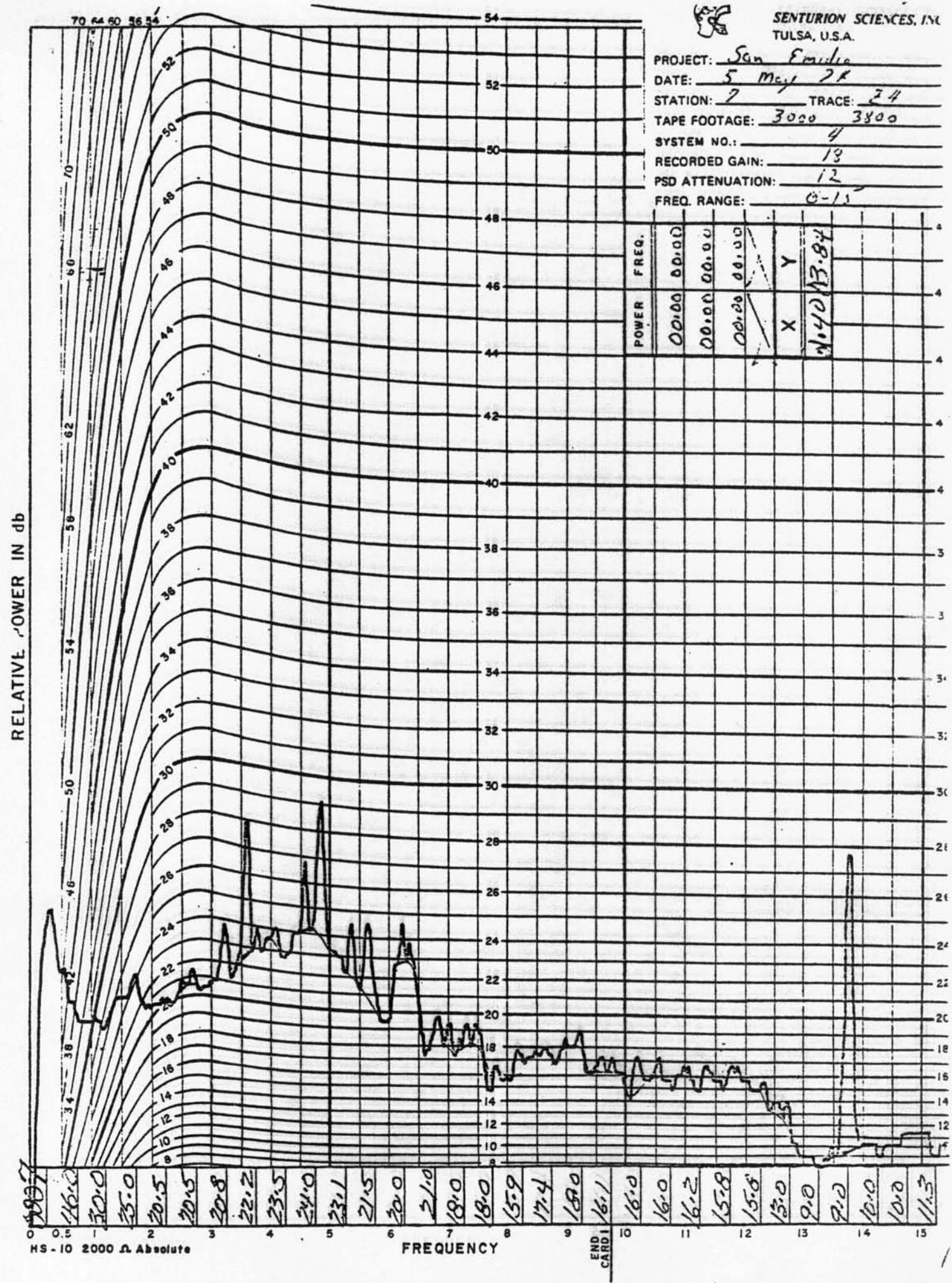
SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.

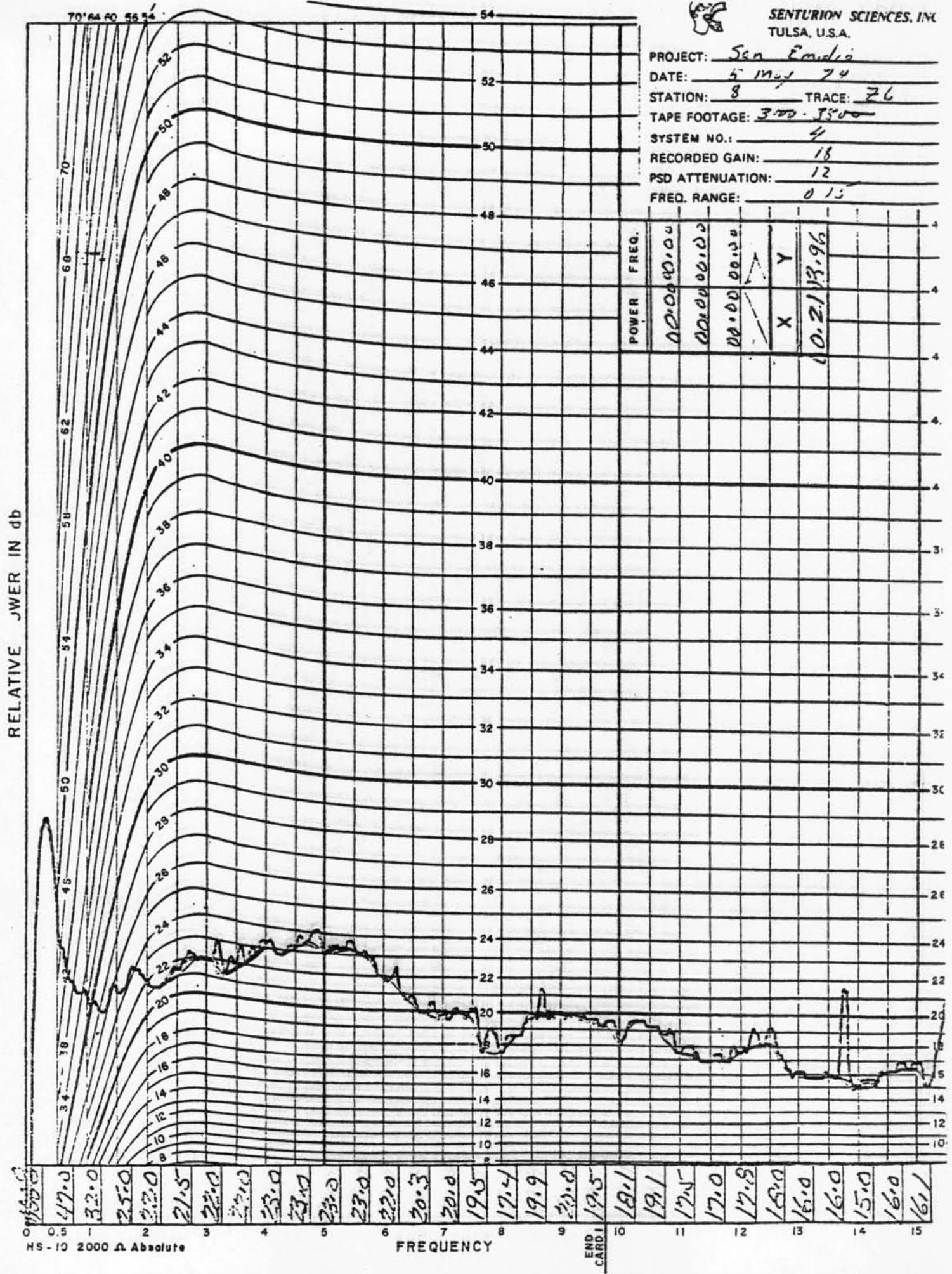
TULSA, U.S.A.

PROJECT: San Emidio  
 DATE: 4 May 74  
 STATION: 5 TRACE: 25  
 TAPE FOOTAGE: 7000 - 2800  
 SYSTEM NO.: 4  
 RECORDED GAIN: 13  
 PSD ATTENUATION: 12  
 FREQ. RANGE: 0-13

5.40, 4.60  
 X Y  
 5.40, 4.60

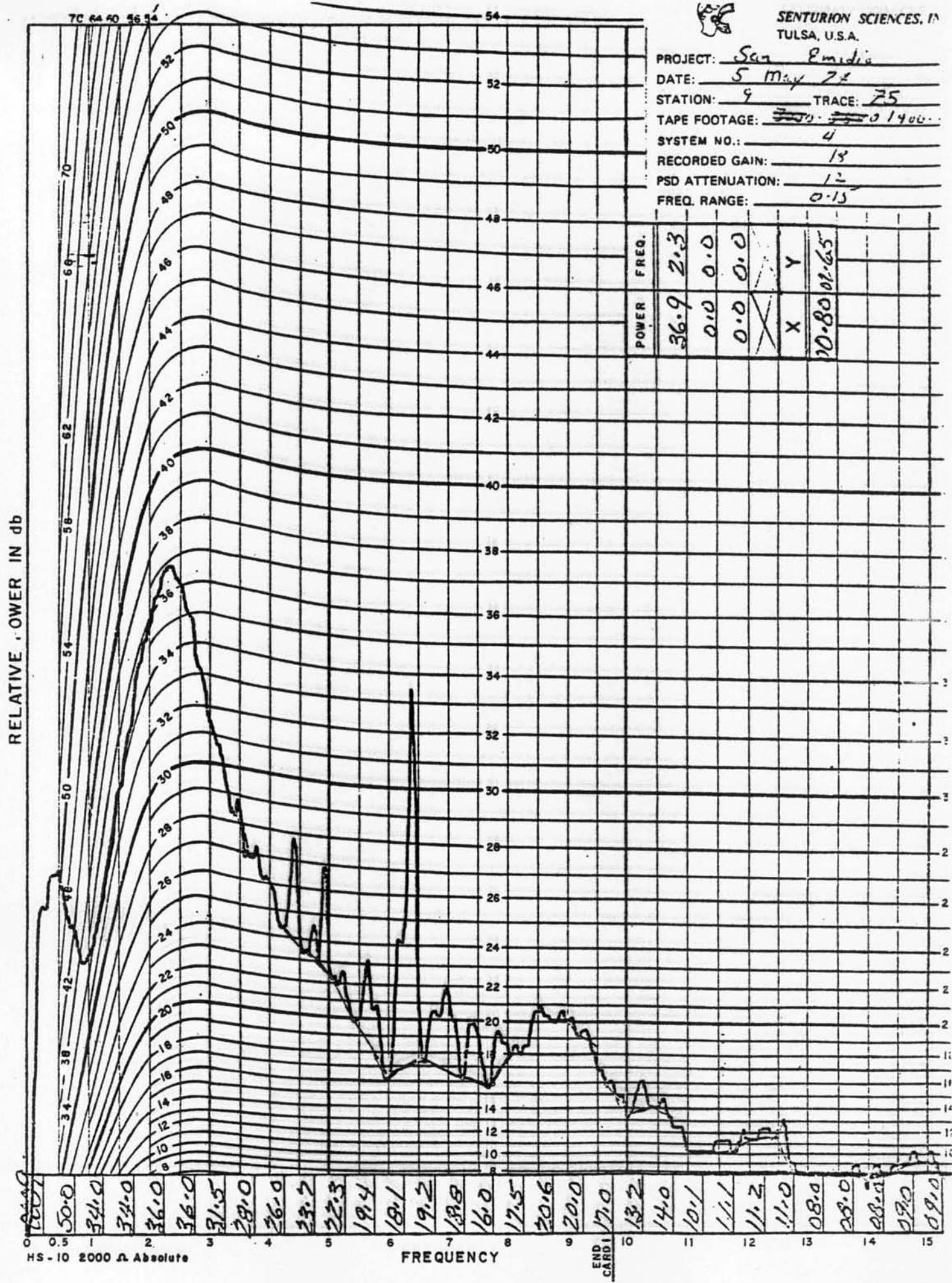






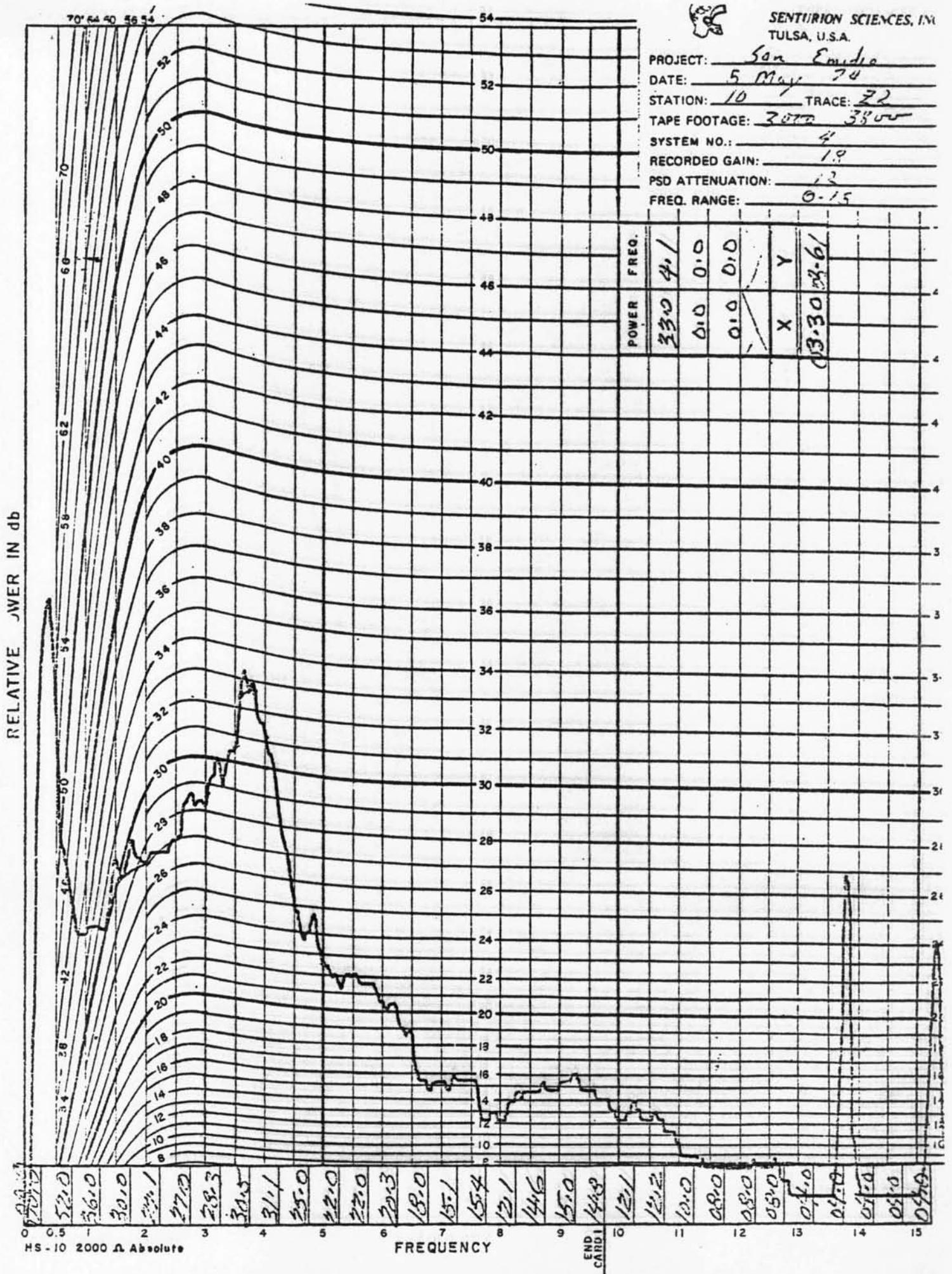
SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

PROJECT: San Emilia  
DATE: 5 May 74  
STATION: 8 TRACE: 26  
TAPE FOOTAGE: 3.00 - 15'00"  
SYSTEM NO.: 4  
RECORDED GAIN: 18  
PSD ATTENUATION: 12  
FREQ. RANGE: 0-15



SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

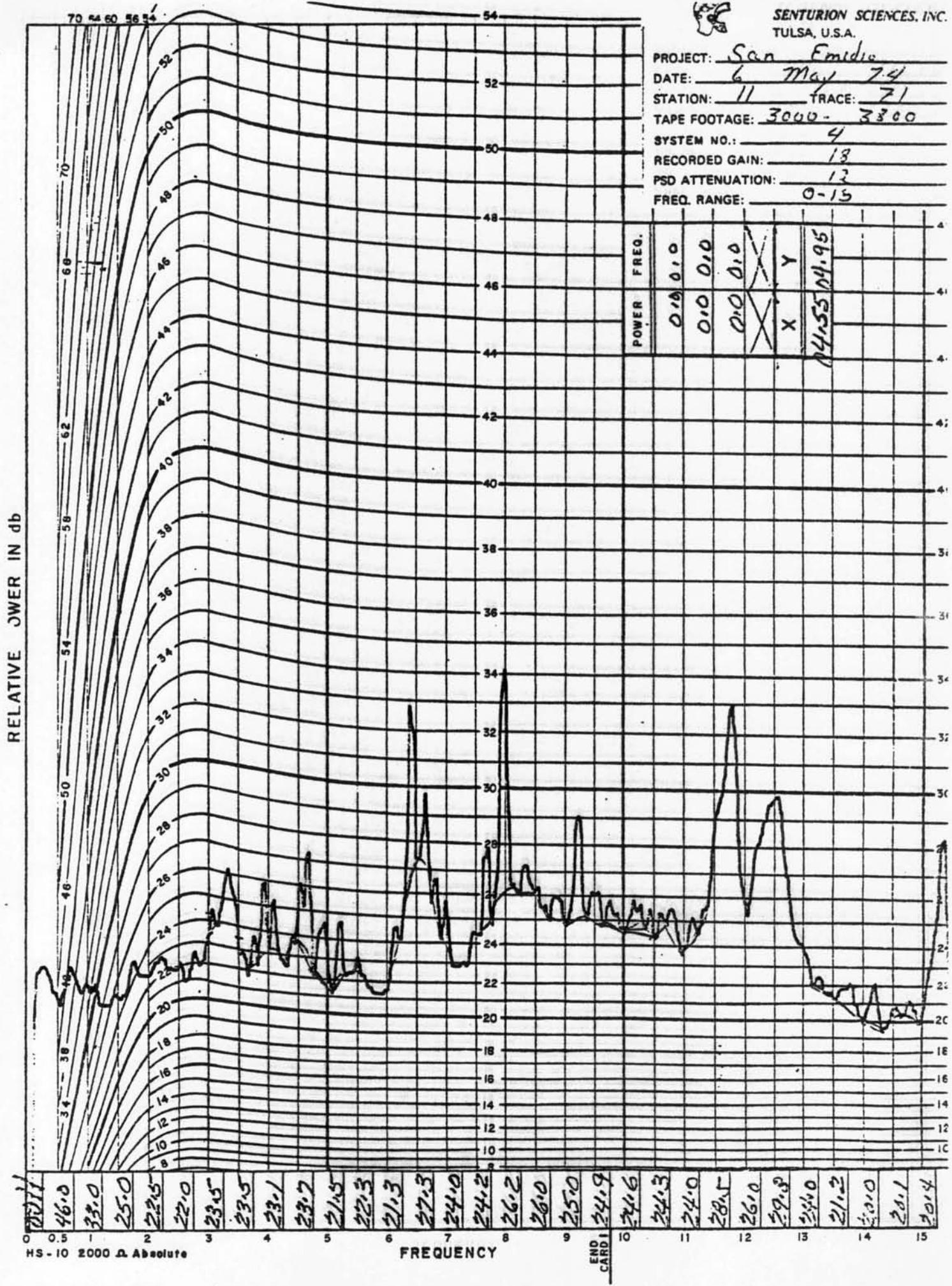
PROJECT: Say 8 mid  
 DATE: 5 May 72  
 STATION: 9 TRACE: 75  
 TAPE FOOTAGE: 200-01400-  
 SYSTEM NO.: 4  
 RECORDED GAIN: 15  
 PSD ATTENUATION: 12  
 FREQ. RANGE: 0-15



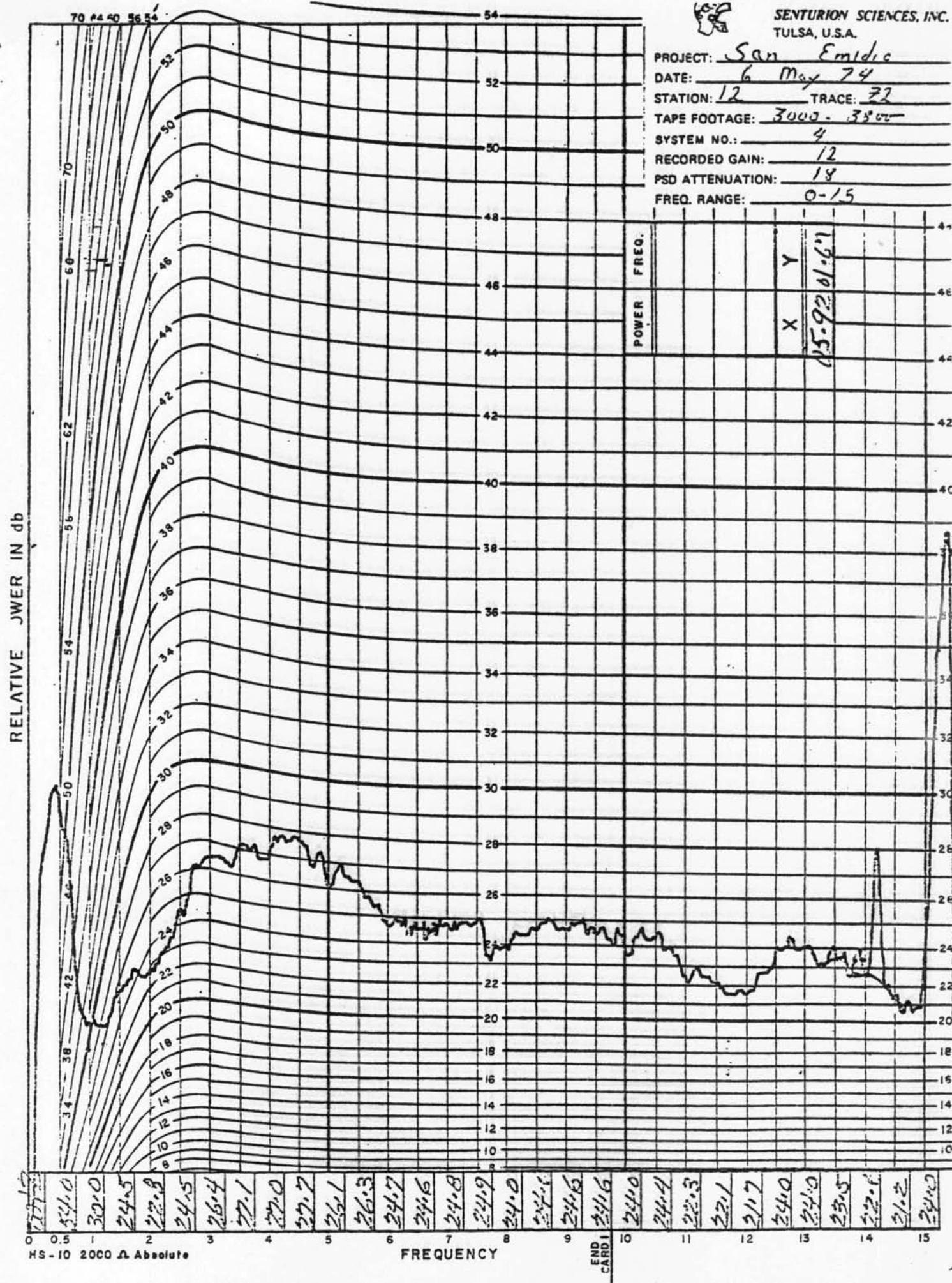


SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

PROJECT: San Emedio  
DATE: 6 May 74  
STATION: 11 TRACE: 71  
TAPE FOOTAGE: 3000 - 3300  
SYSTEM NO.: 4  
RECORDED GAIN: 13  
PSD ATTENUATION: 13  
FREQ. RANGE: 0-15



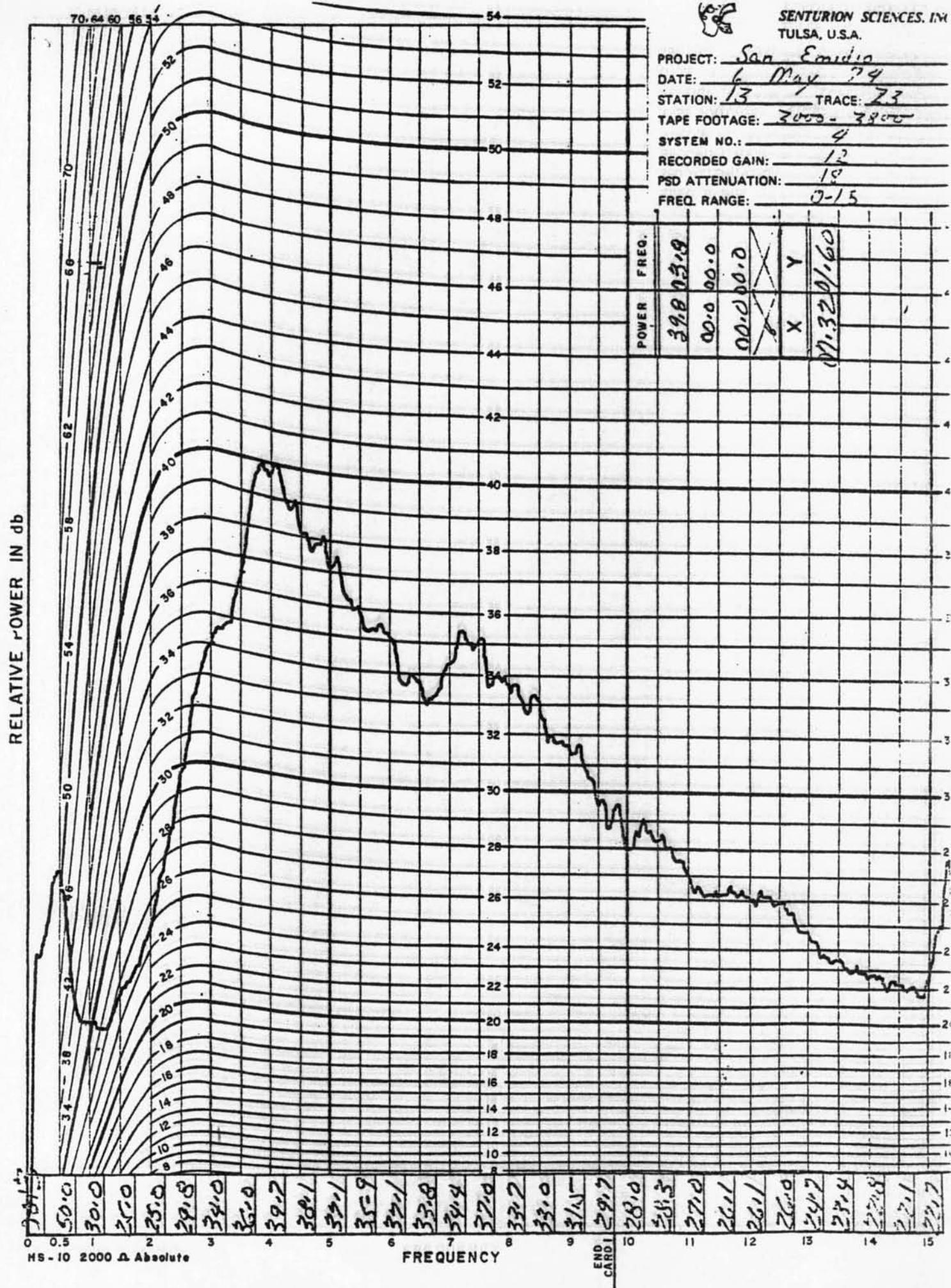
SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
 TULSA, U.S.A.  
 PROJECT: San Emidio  
 DATE: 6 May 74  
 STATION: 12 TRACE: 72  
 TAPE FOOTAGE: 3000 - 3500  
 SYSTEM NO.: 4  
 RECORDED GAIN: 12  
 PSD ATTENUATION: 18  
 FREQ. RANGE: 0-15

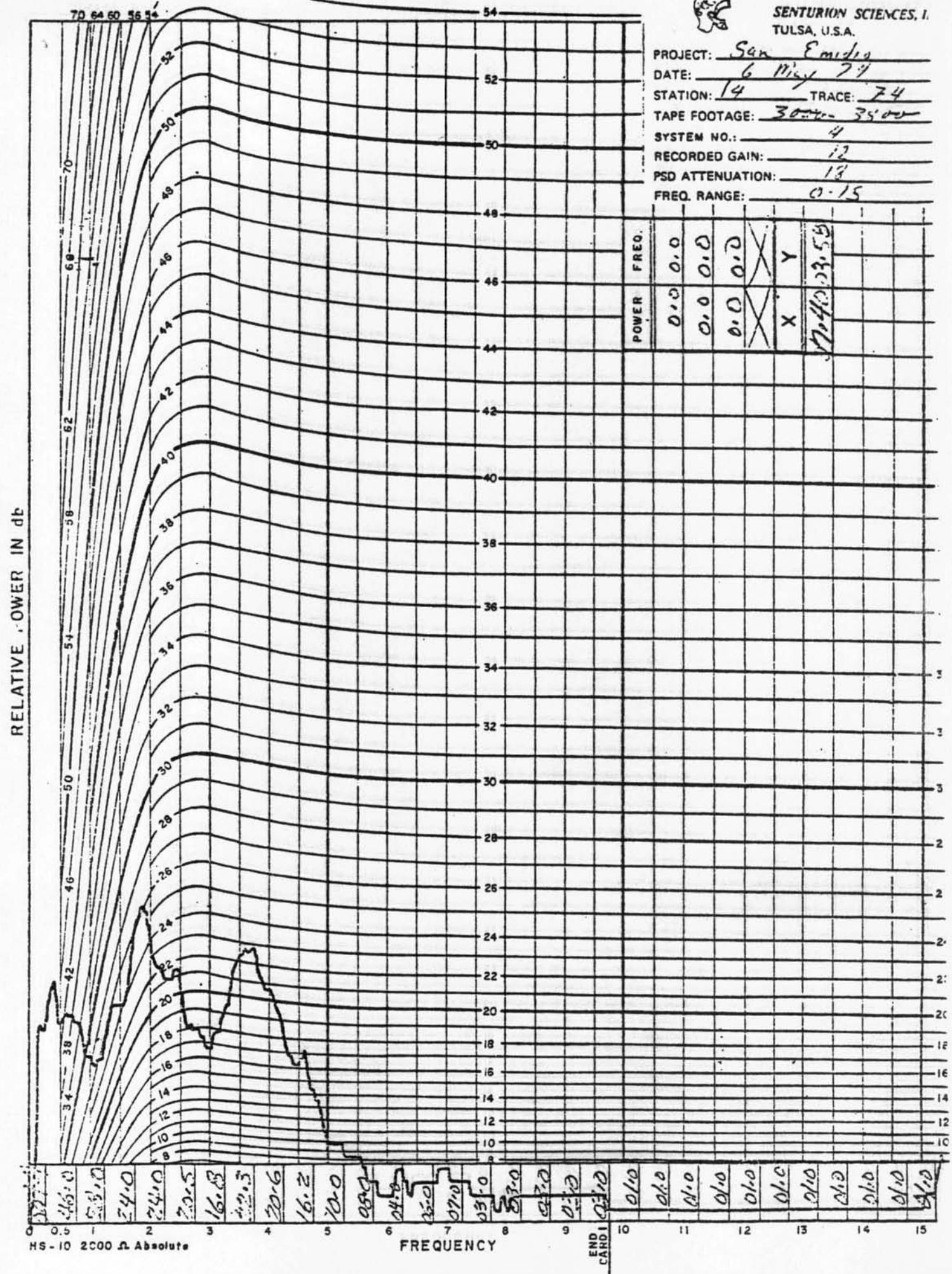


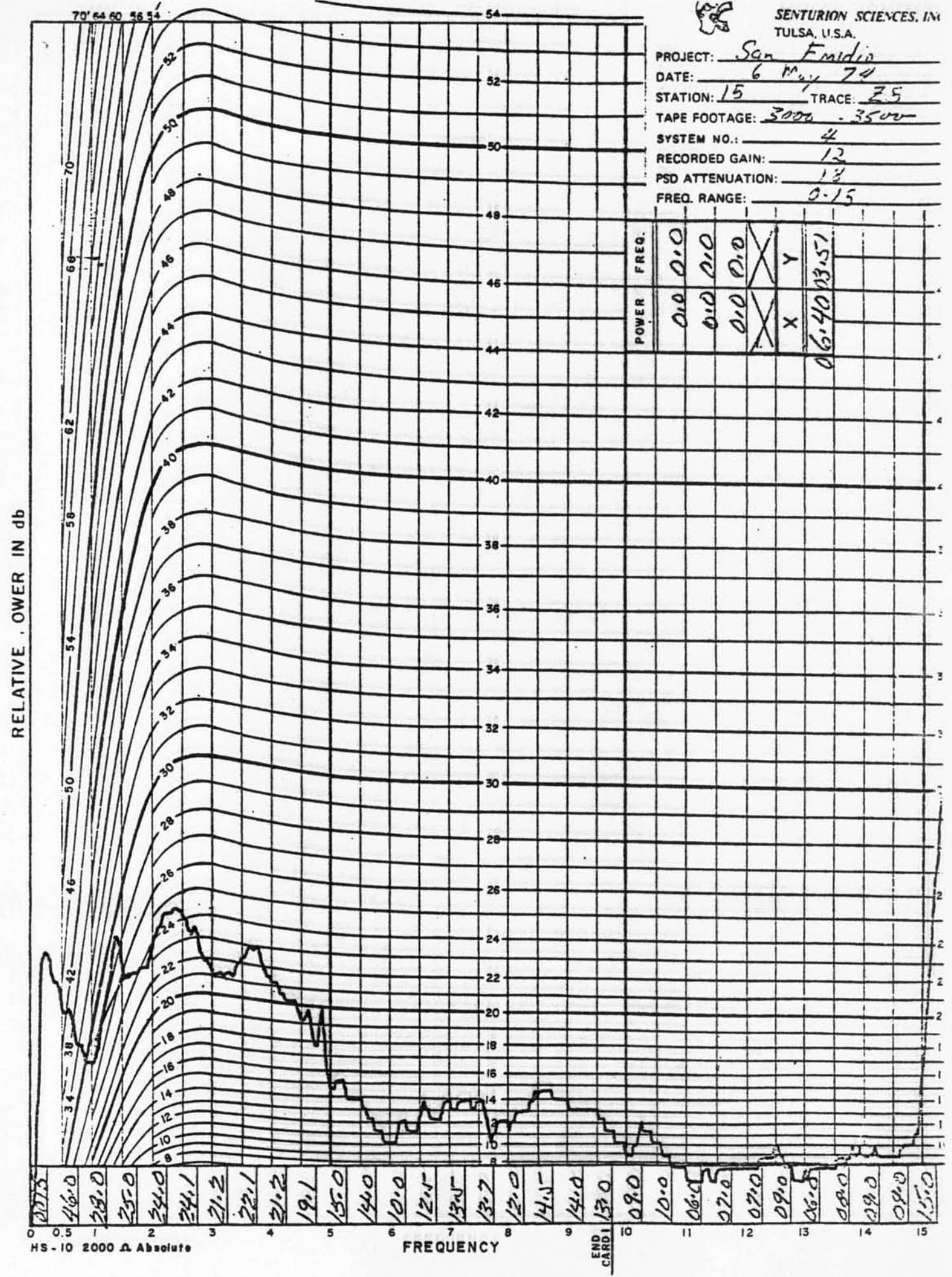


SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

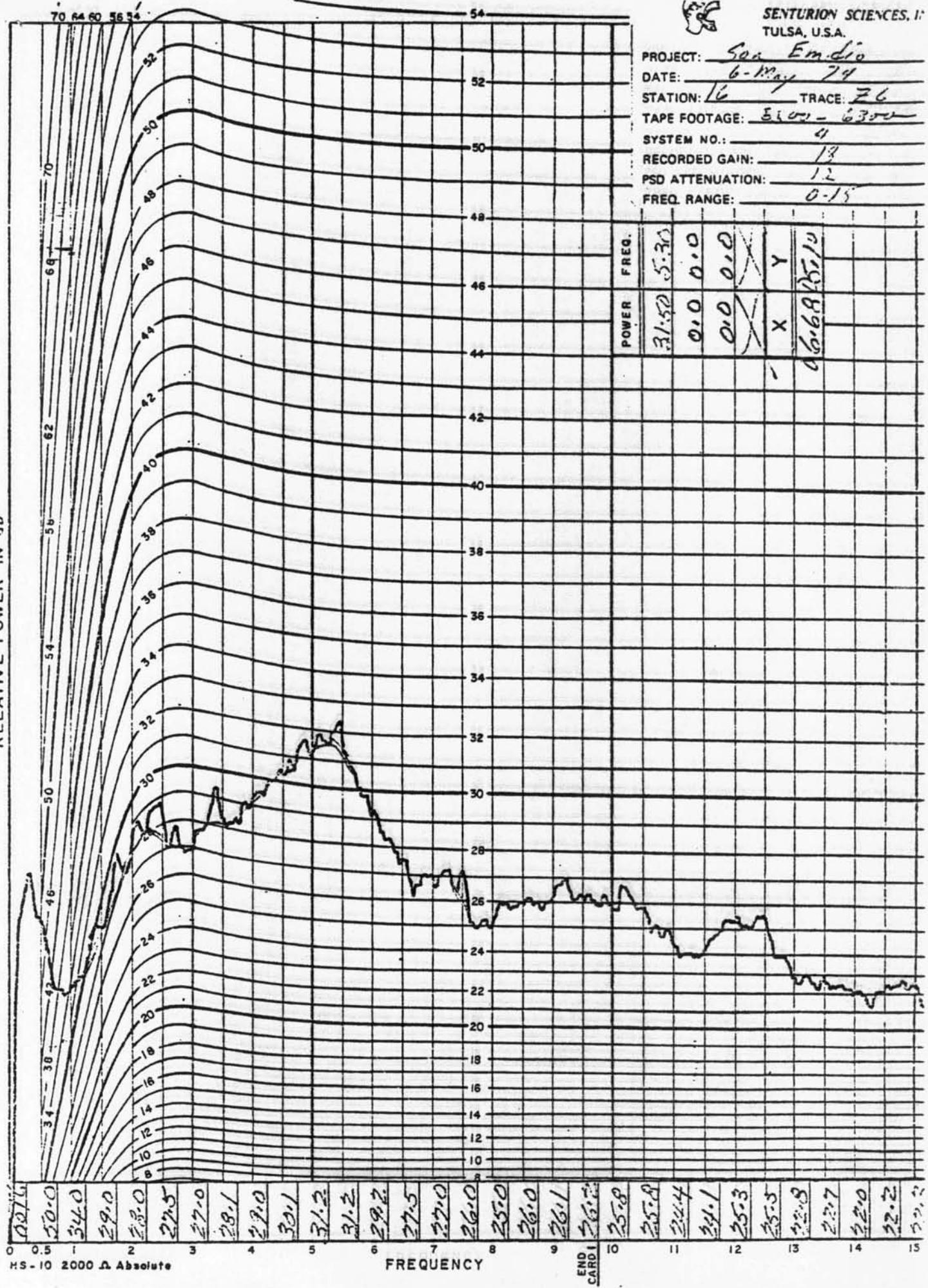
PROJECT: San Emilia  
DATE: 6 May 79  
STATION: 13 TRACE: Z3  
TAPE FOOTAGE: 3050 - 3800  
SYSTEM NO.: 4  
RECORDED GAIN: 12  
PSD ATTENUATION: 10  
FREQ. RANGE: 0-15





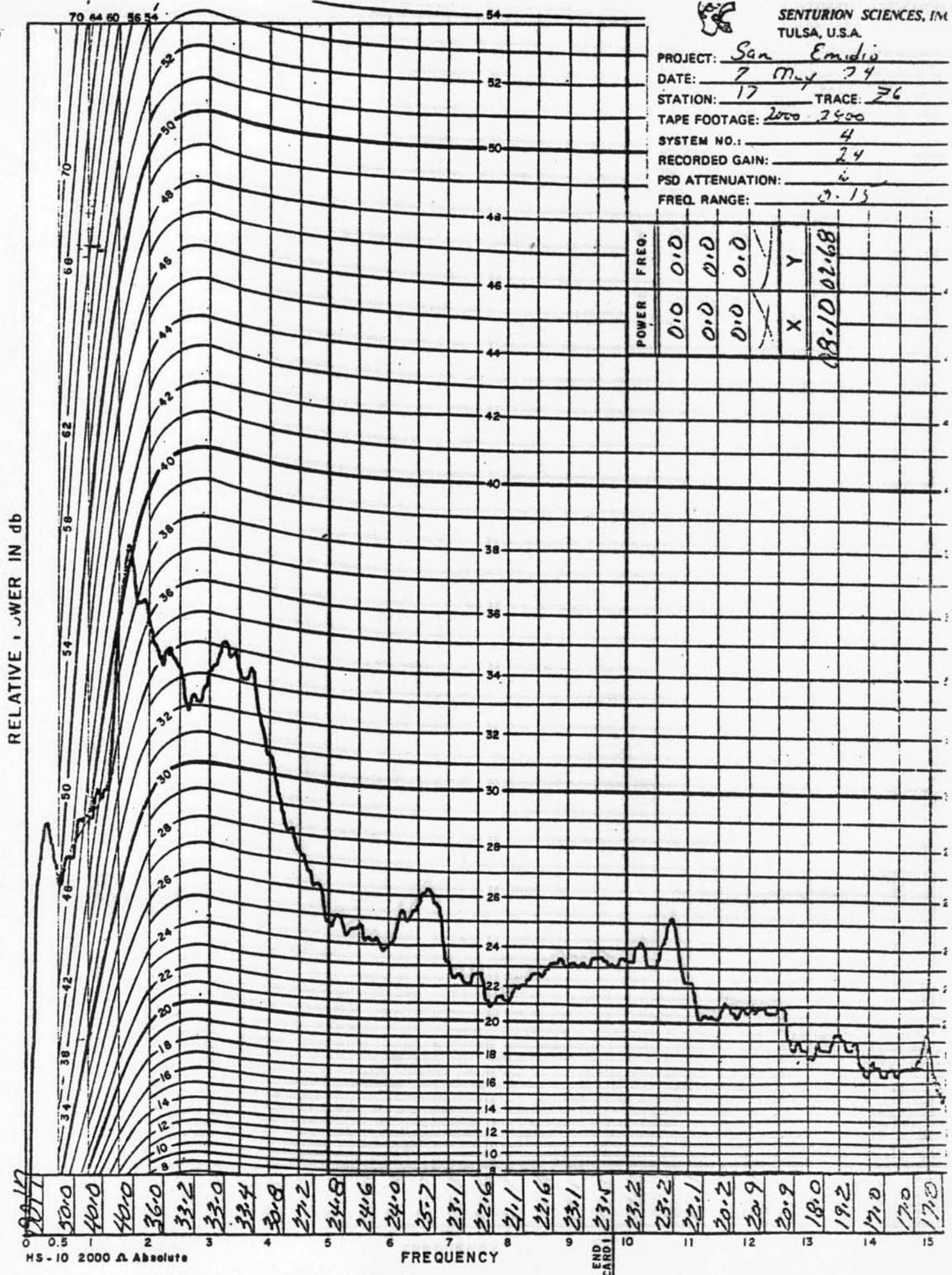


## RELATIVE POWER IN dB

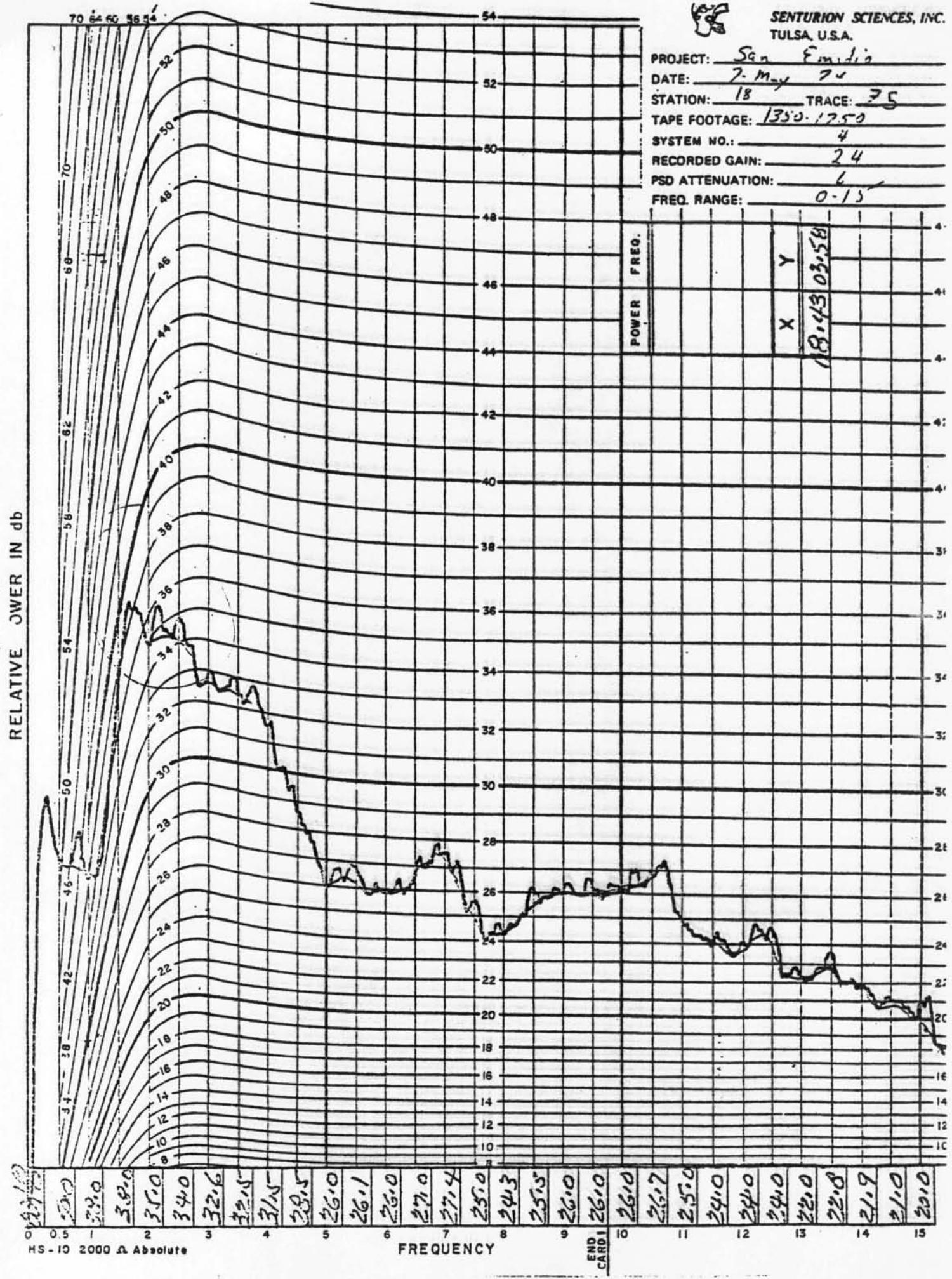


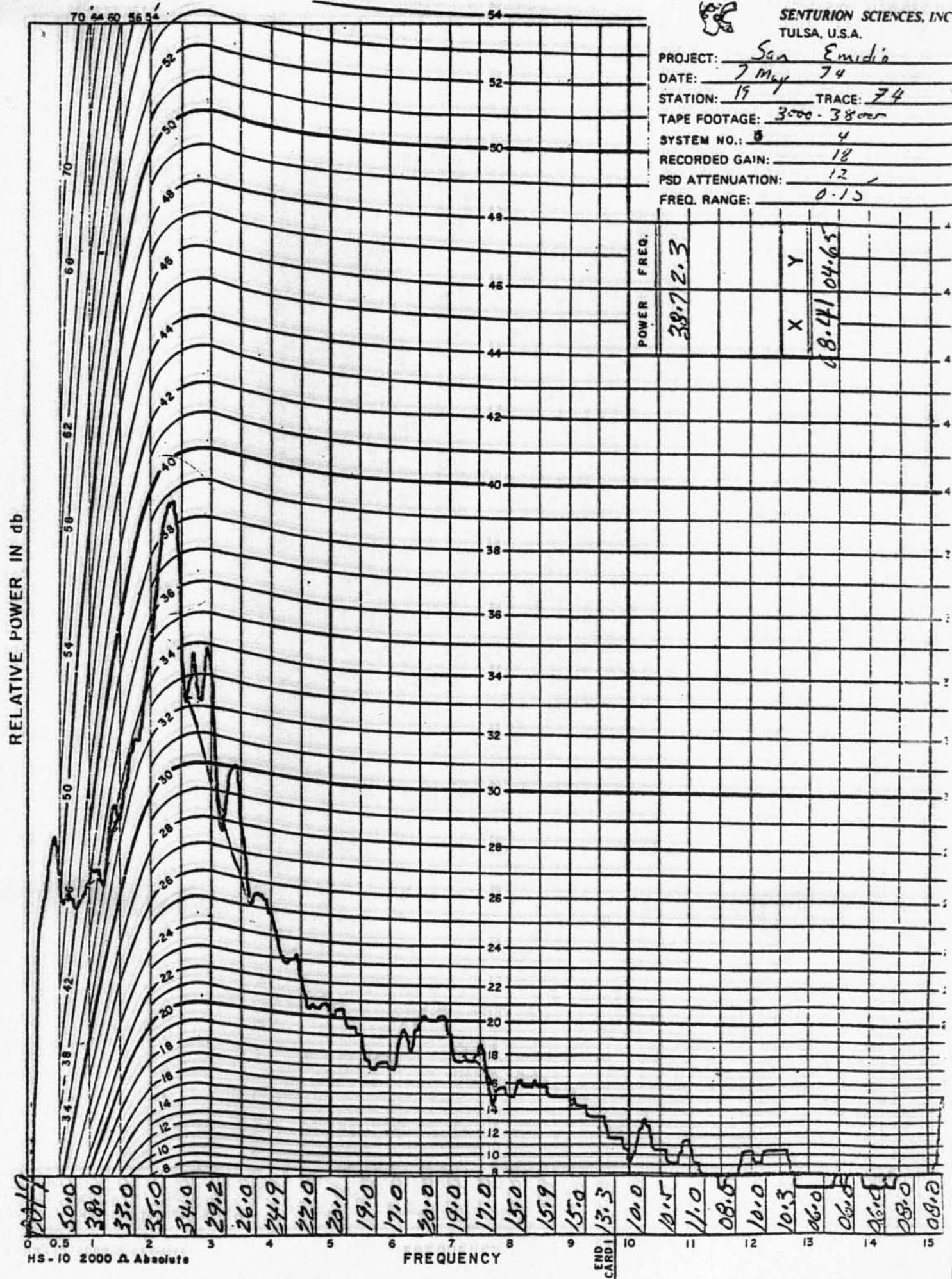
SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

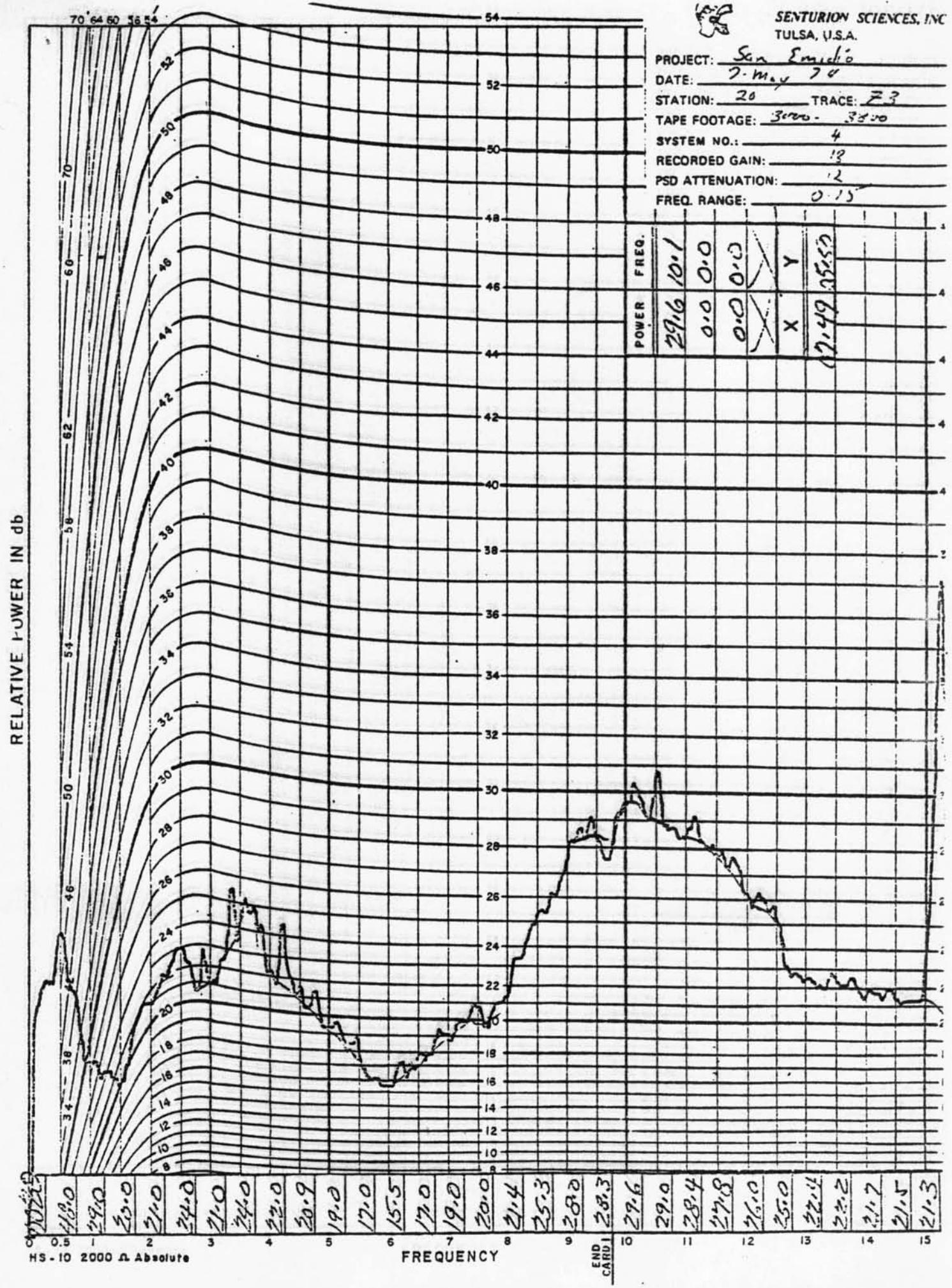
PROJECT: Sea Em. dio  
DATE: 6-May 74  
STATION: 16 TRACE: Z6  
TAPE FOOTAGE: 5100 - 6300  
SYSTEM NO.: 41  
RECORDED GAIN: 13  
PSD ATTENUATION: 1.2  
FREQ. RANGE: 0-15

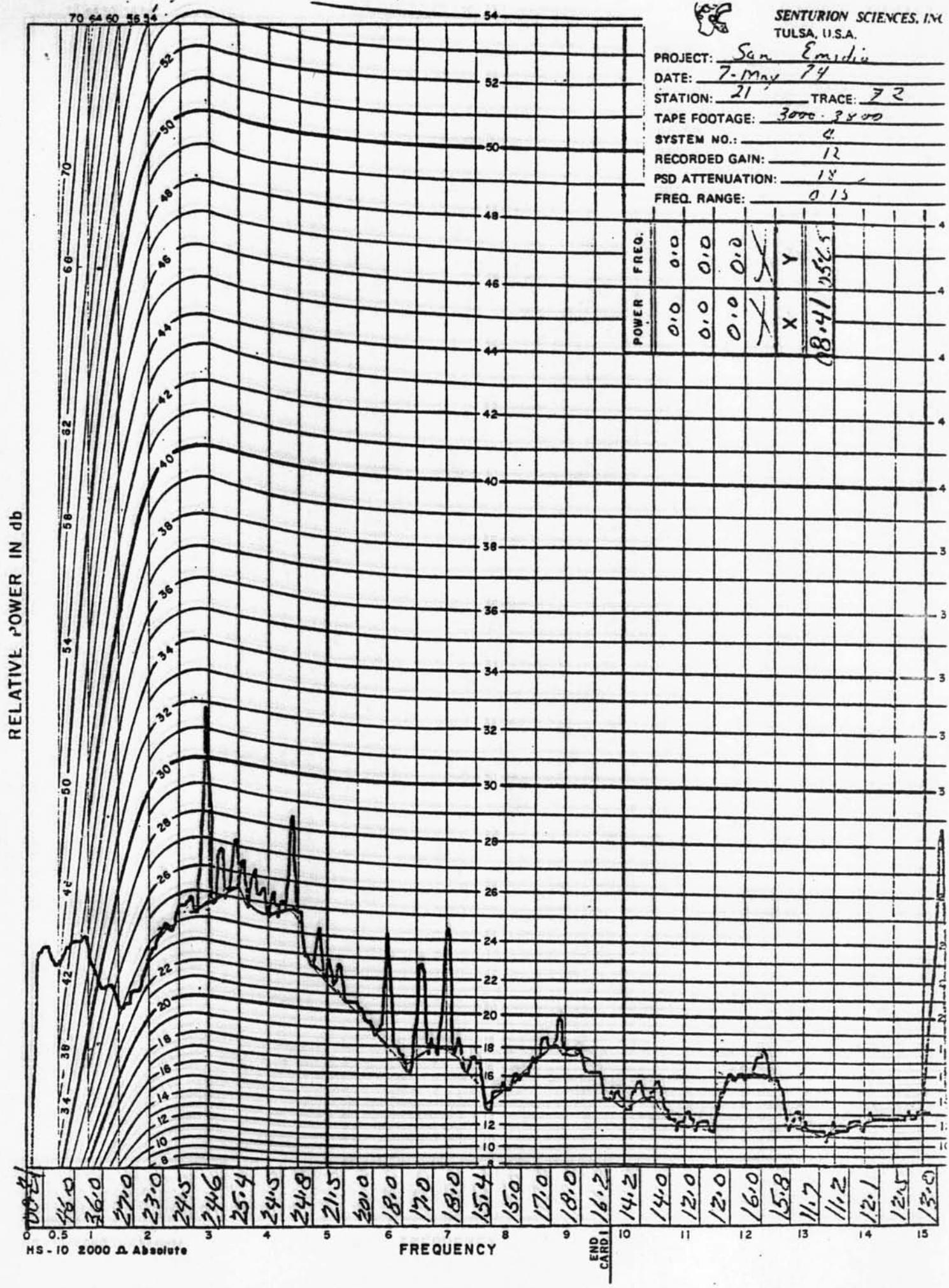



**SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.**  
 TULSA, U.S.A.  
 PROJECT: San Joaquin  
 DATE: 7-May 74  
 STATION: 18 TRACE: 75  
 TAPE FOOTAGE: 1350.1250  
 SYSTEM NO.: 4  
 RECORDED GAIN: 24  
 PSD ATTENUATION: 6  
 FREQ. RANGE: 0-15

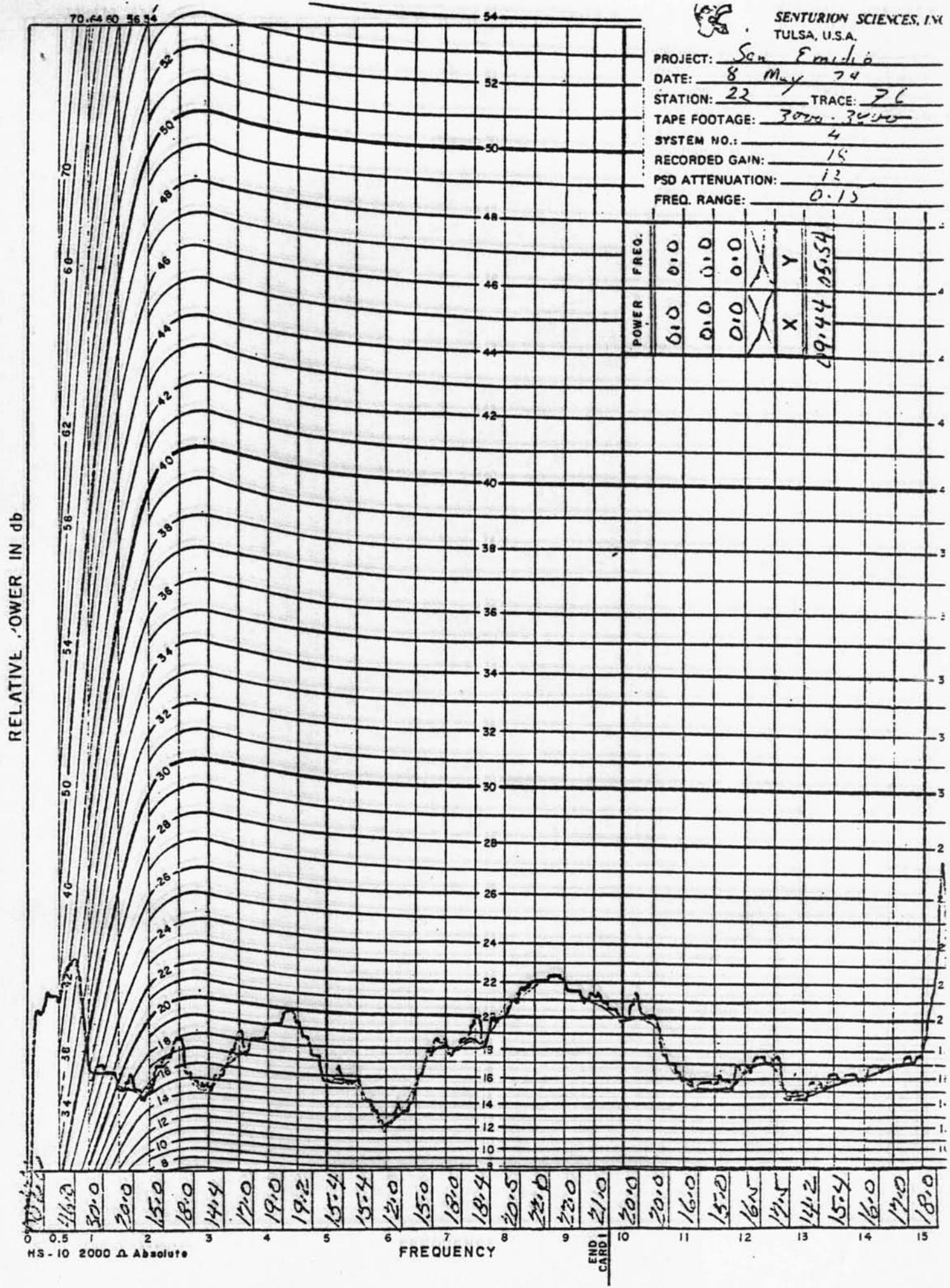


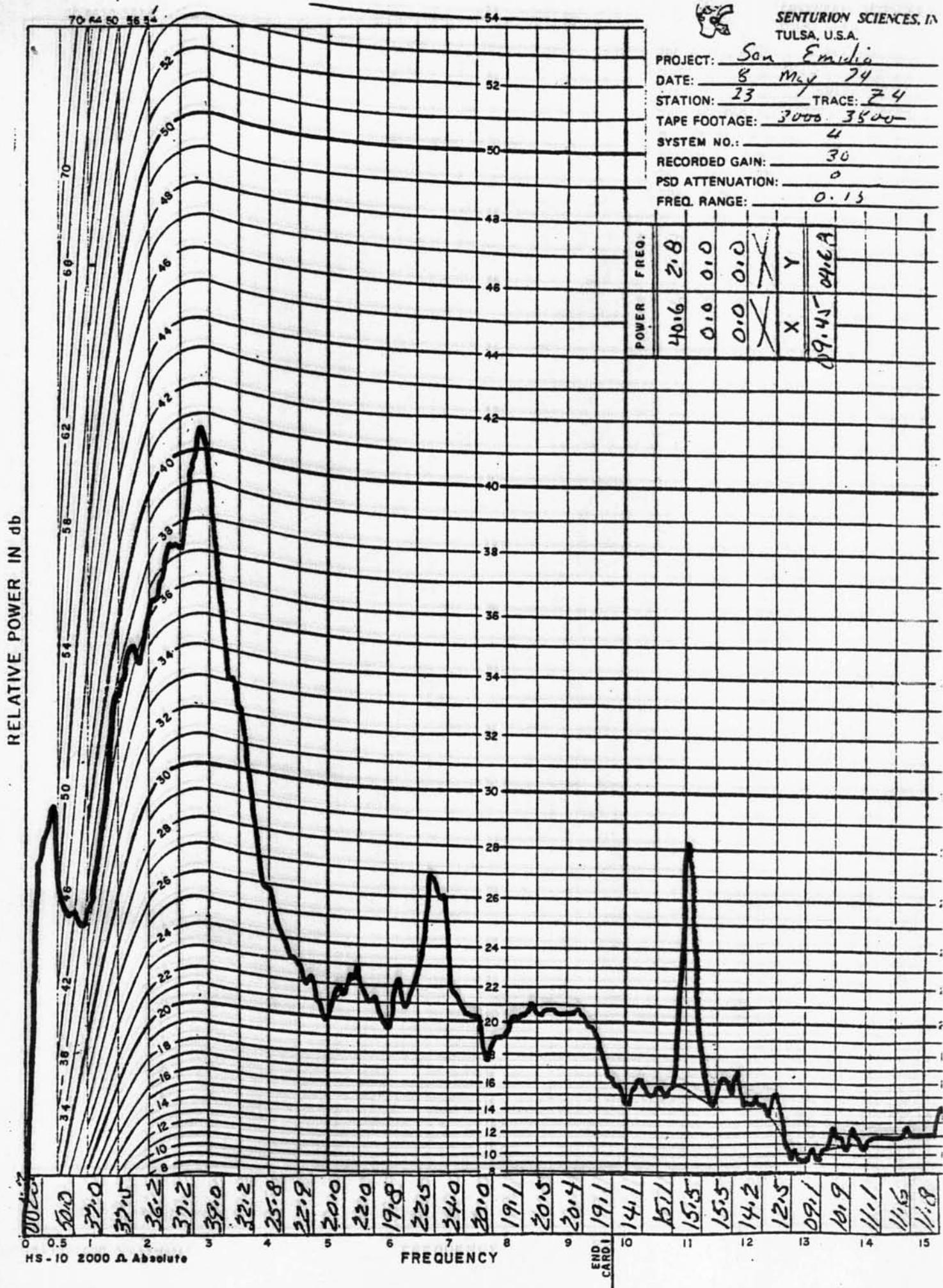






SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
 TULSA, U.S.A.  
 PROJECT: Scan Emissio  
 DATE: 8 May 74  
 STATION: 22 TRACE: P6  
 TAPE FOOTAGE: 3020 - 3050  
 SYSTEM NO.: 4  
 RECORDED GAIN: 15  
 PSD ATTENUATION: 12  
 FREQ. RANGE: 0.15







SENTURION SCIENCES, INC  
TULSA, U.S.A.

PROJECT: San Emidio

DATE: 8-May 74

STATION: 24 TRACE: Z 3

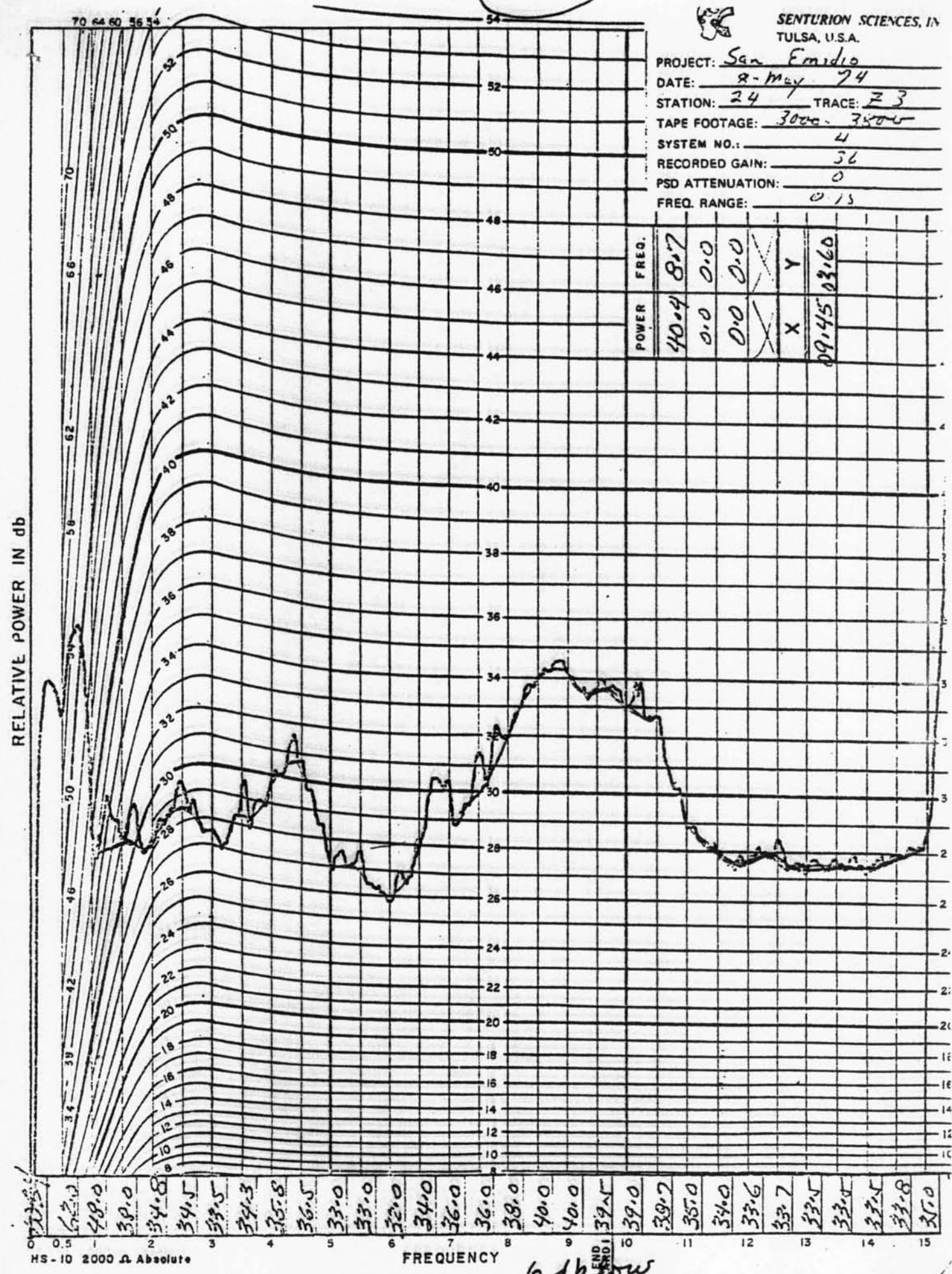
TAPE FOOTAGE: 3000 - 3500

SYSTEM NO.: 4

RECORDED GAIN: 36

PSD ATTENUATION: 0

FREQ. RANGE: 0 - 15





SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.

TULSA, U.S.A.

PROJECT: San Emidio

DATE: 8 May 74

STATION: 25 TRACE: 72

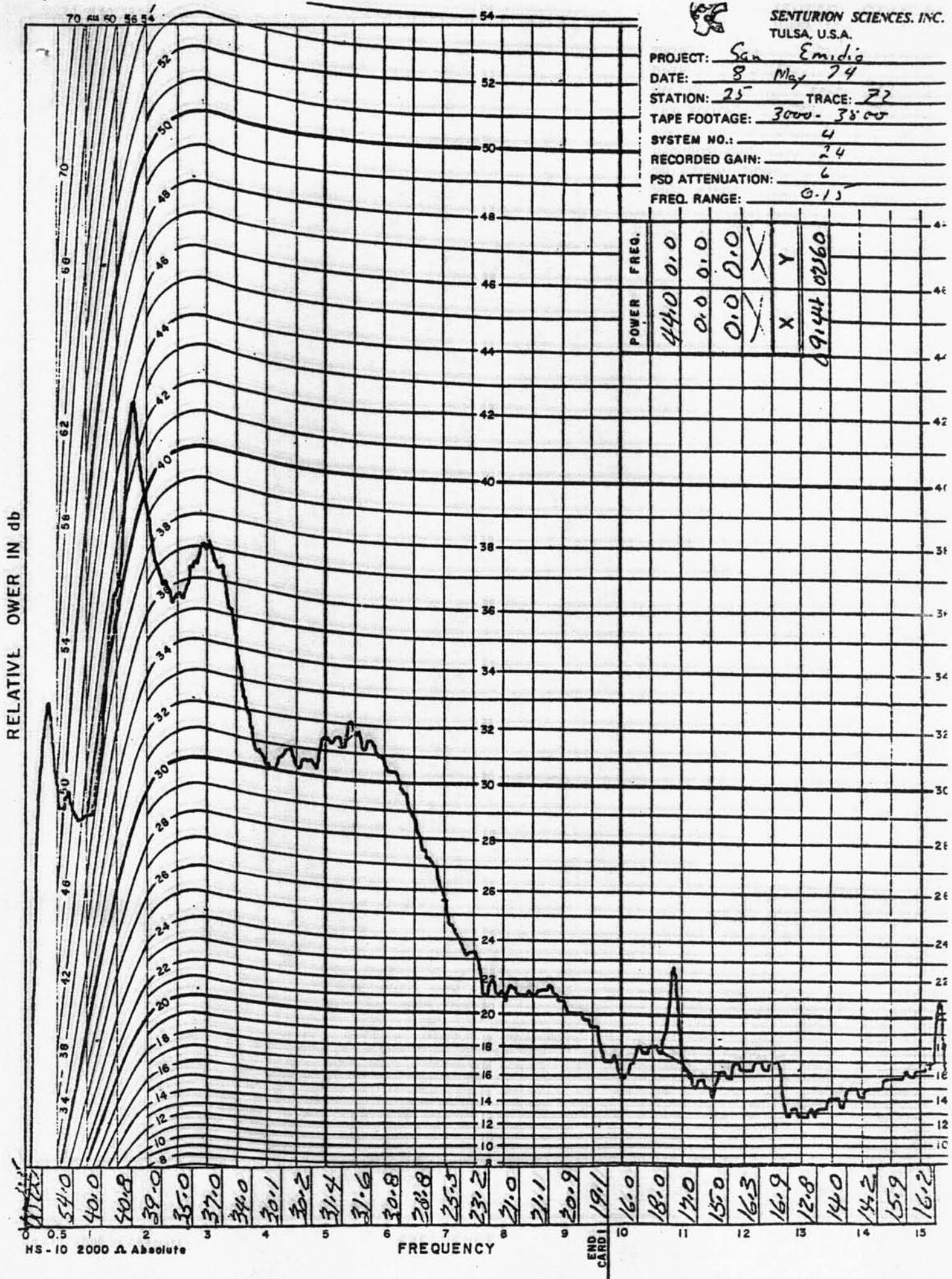
TAPE FOOTAGE: 3000 - 38' 00"

SYSTEM NO.: 4

RECORDED GAIN: 24

PSD ATTENUATION: 6

FREQ. RANGE: 0-15



SENTRION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

PROJECT: San Emidio

DATE: 9-May 74

STATION: 26 TRACE: ZC

TAPE FOOTAGE: 3000 - 3500

SYSTEM NO.: 4

RECORDED GAIN: 15

PSD ATTENUATION: 12

FREQ. RANGE: 0-15

POWER FREQ. X Y

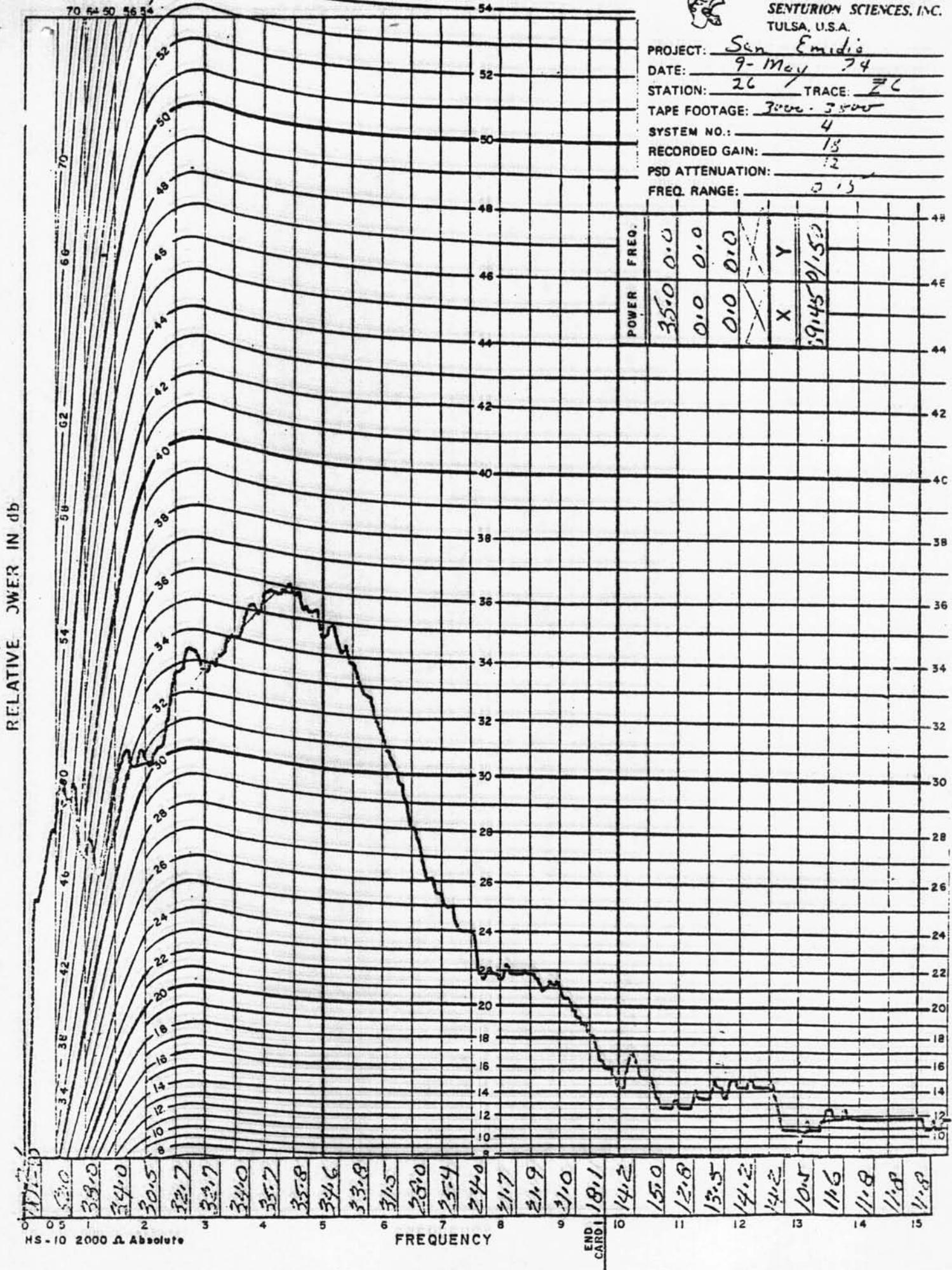
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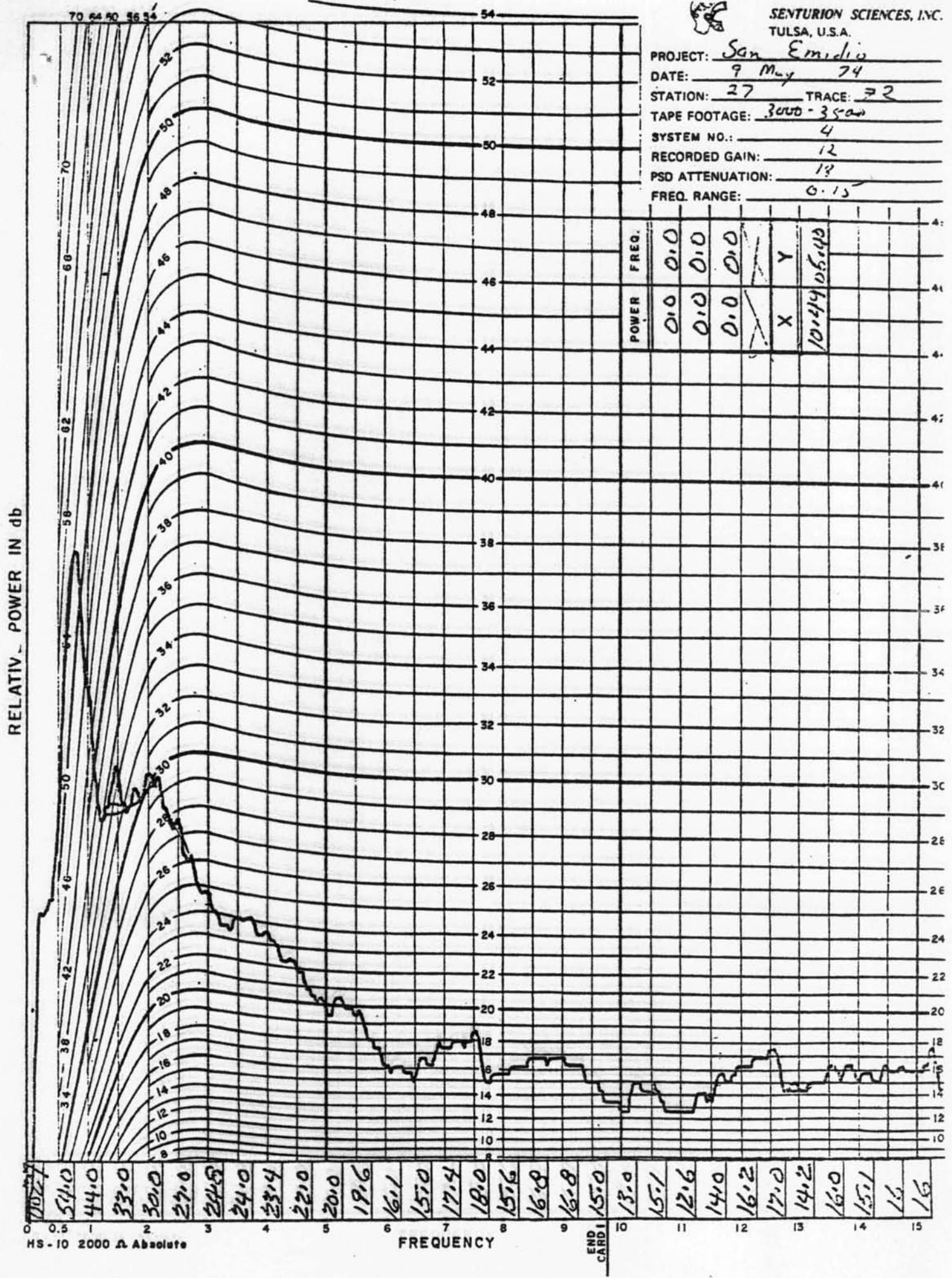
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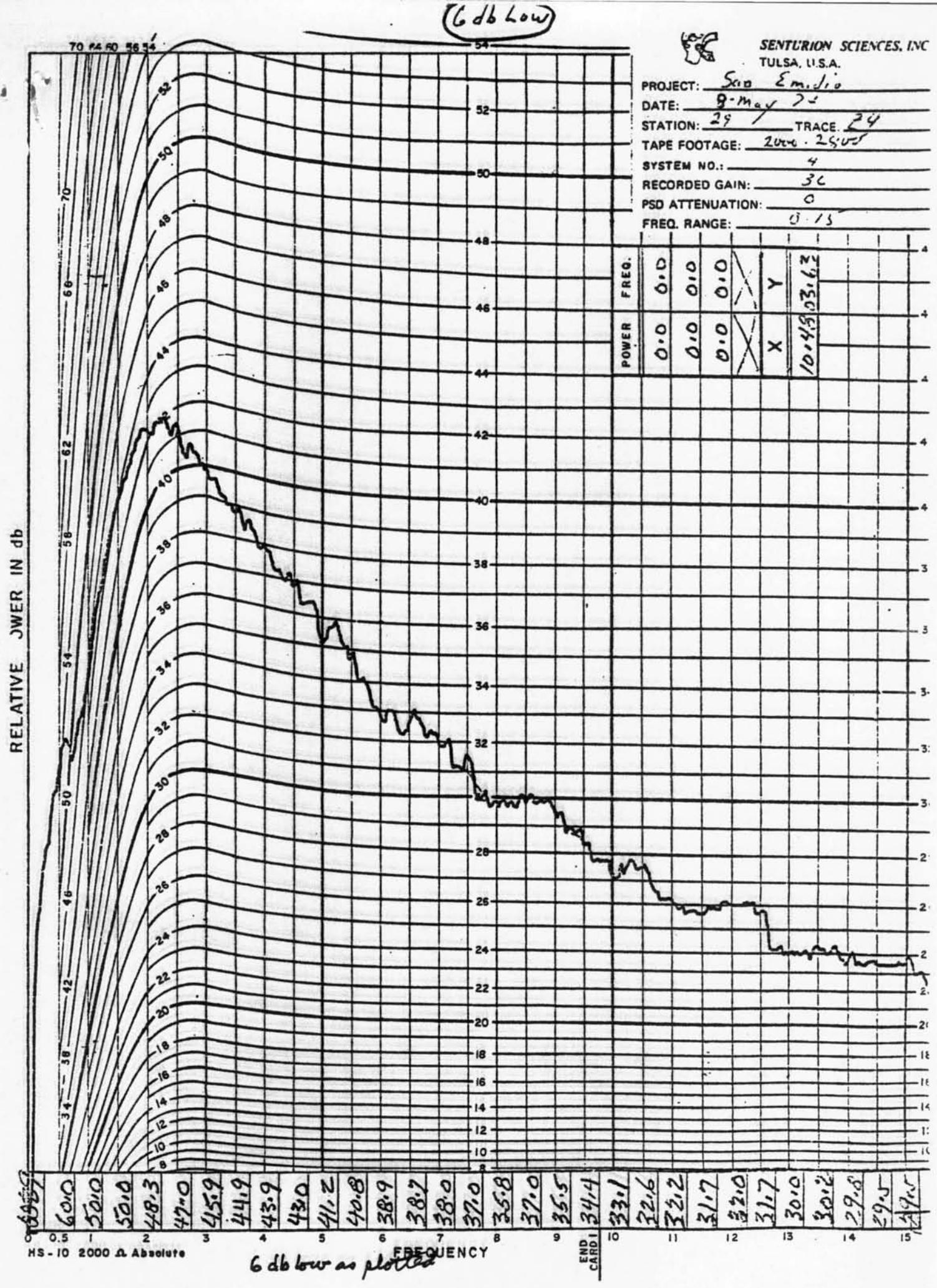
X Y

945 9/15/74









SENTURION SCIENCES, INC.  
TULSA, U.S.A.

PROJECT: San Emigdio

DATE: 9. May 78

STATION: 30 TRACE 75

TAPE FOOTAGE: 1500 ft

SYSTEM NO.: 4

RECORDED GAIN: 24

PSD ATTENUATION: 3

FREQ. RANGE: 0-15

POWER FREQ.

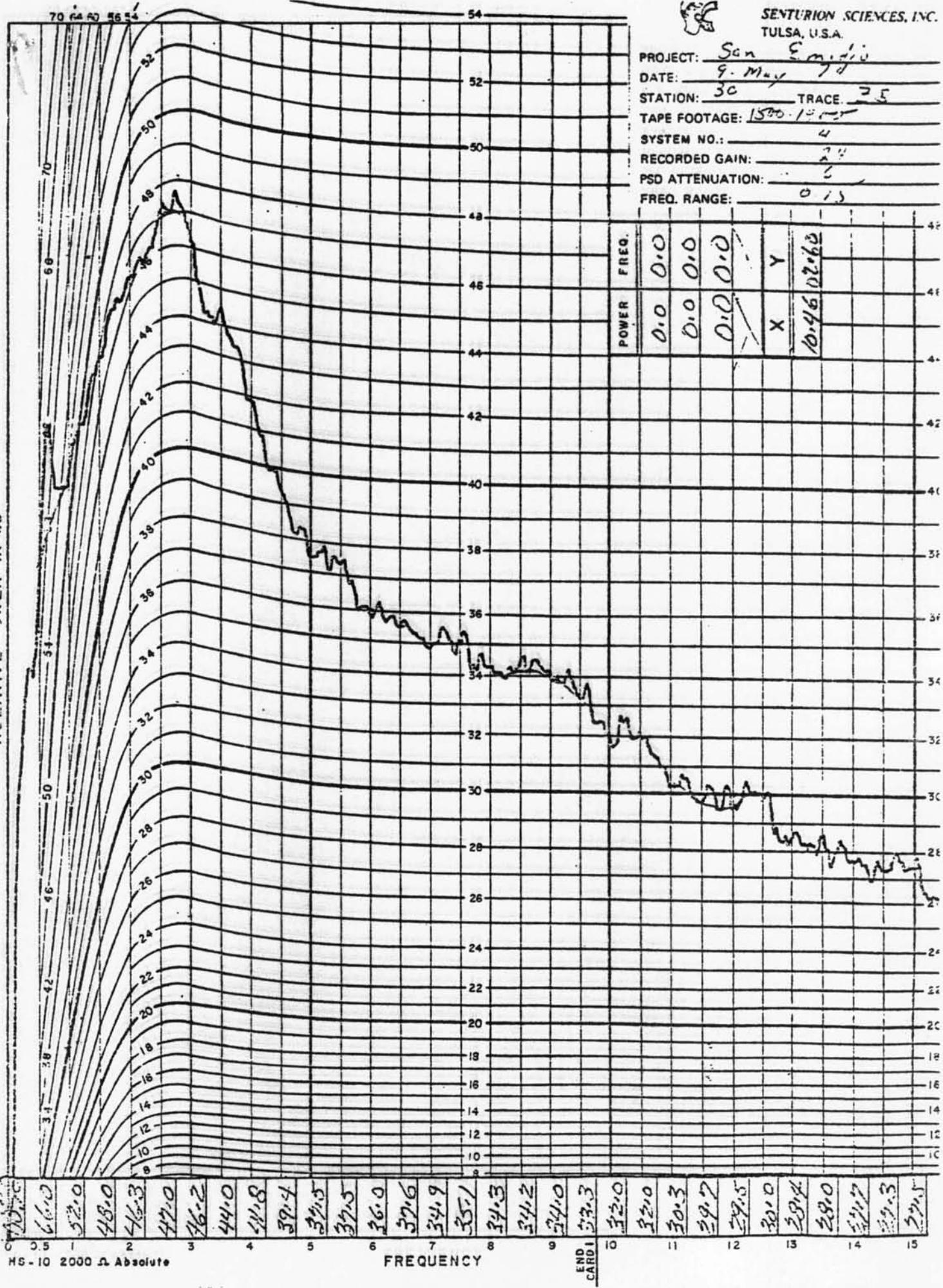
0.0 0.0

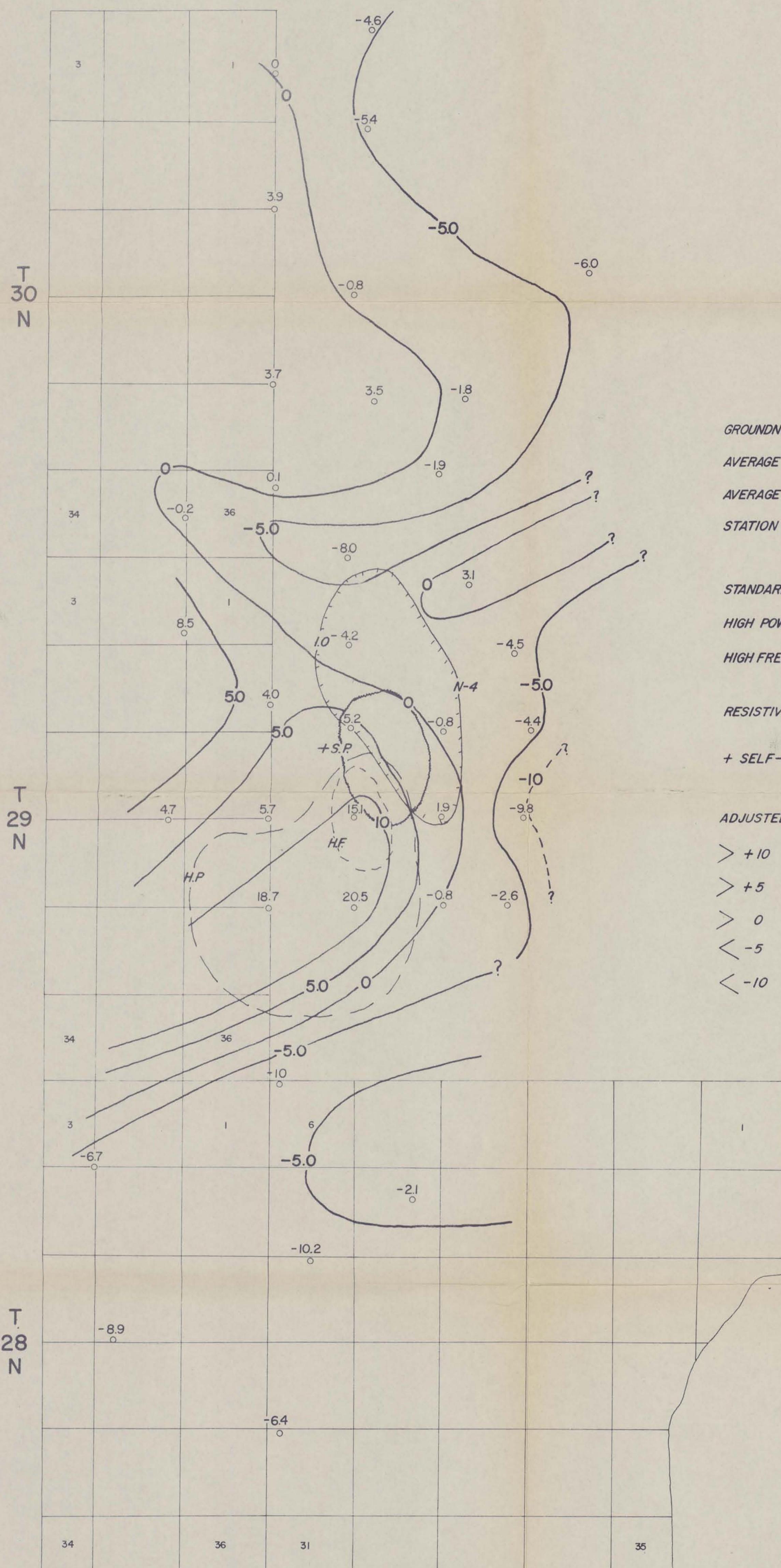
0.0 0.0

0.0 0.0

X Y  
10.46 02.65

RELATIVE POWER IN dB





GROUNDNOISE: STATISTICAL INTERPRETATION

*AVERAGE POWER = 35.60*

AVERAGE FREQUENCY = 6.68

$$\text{STATION VALUE} = \text{POWER} - (\text{FREQ.} \cdot \frac{\text{AVG. POWER}}{\text{AVG. FREQ.}})$$

## *STANDARD GROUNDNOISE ANOMALIES*

*HIGH POWER*

## HIGH FREQUENCY ( - - - )

#### *RESISTIVITY ANOMALY (1 OHMFOOT)*

### *+ SELF-POTENTIAL*

### *ADJUSTED GROUNDNOISE ANOMALIES*

- |       |                          |
|-------|--------------------------|
| > +10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| > +5  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| > 0   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| < -5  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| < -10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

# SEISMIC GROUNDOISE SURVEY STATISTICAL INTERPRETATION

SAN EMIDIO  
GEOTHERMAL AREA

WASHOE Co., NEVADA

SCALE 1: 48,000