

Ann Edwards
County Executive



Bruce Wagstaff
Deputy County Executive
Social Services Agency

Environmental Management
Department
Jenea Monasterio, Interim
Director

County of Sacramento

NEW PROCEDURES IMPLEMENTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER N-7-22

On March 28, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-7-22 (“Executive Order”) in response to extreme drought conditions which **effective immediately** prohibits the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department from issuing a construction permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing groundwater well pursuant to Chapter 6.28 of the Sacramento County Code unless certain requirements are met or the permit falls within the limited exception to the requirements.

A complete copy of the Executive Order is available here: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/March-2022-Drought-EO.pdf> (see Paragraph 9).

Limited Exception

Paragraph 9 of the Executive Order excludes permits for wells that will provide **less than two (2) acre-feet per year** of groundwater for individual domestic users **or** that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 116275.

If a water well construction permit application for a new groundwater well **or** for alteration of an existing groundwater well identifies the “intended use” in the “well proposal details” as “domestic,” EMD will treat the permit as exempt from the requirements of the Executive Order if and only if the **property owner** signs and submits the declaration attached as **Exhibit A**.

If a water well construction permit application for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing groundwater well identifies the “intended use” in the “well proposal details” as “public / community water system,” EMD will treat the permit as exempt from the requirements of the Executive Order if and only if an authorized representative of the public water system provides the identification number and submits the declaration attached as **Exhibit B**.

Licensed Professional Report Required for ALL Non-Exempt Wells

Regardless of the well’s location, the water well construction permit application for a non-exempt new or altered groundwater well must be accompanied by a report signed by a California licensed

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professional, such as Professional Geologist with a Certified Hydrogeologist specialty certification or a Professional Engineer. The licensed professional must conclude **both** that extraction of groundwater from the well (1) “is not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells” **and** (2) “is not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.” (See Paragraph 9(b) of the Executive Order).

Verification from Groundwater Sustainability Agency for Certain Non-Exempt Wells

Additionally, EMD will not issue a water well construction permit for a non-exempt new groundwater well or alteration of an existing groundwater well located within the North American subbasin, the South American Subbasin, the Cosumnes Subbasin, or the Solano Subbasin without first obtaining written concurrence from the applicable Groundwater Sustainability Agency the verification required by Paragraph 9(a) of the Executive Order (in addition to the report described above).

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OFFICE USE

Permit No. _____

WP No. _____

EXHIBIT A

Well for Individual Domestic Use

As the owner of the proposed well or existing well to be altered and as a necessary condition on the issuance of a water well construction permit for a new groundwater well or alteration of an existing groundwater well, I hereby declare for myself, successors and assigns, that no more than two (2) acre feet per year will be pumped from the well **AND** that all water pumped from the well will be used only to supply water for the **domestic needs of an individual residence**. Without limiting the foregoing, I acknowledge that such needs **do not include** any commercial use regardless of scale, including, without limitation, use for the growing of food or other crops for sale in any venue, including, without limitation, at a local farmer's market.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____

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EXHIBIT B

Well for a Public Water Supply System

The public water system name is: _____.

The public water system identification number is: _____.

As an authorized representative for the water system identified above, I hereby declare that the proposed well or existing well to be altered will be exclusively used to provide groundwater to the public water supply system for human consumption as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 116275. I further declare that a previously constructed public water supply system well will not be replaced by the proposed well such that the previously constructed well can be used for purposes other than human consumption.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____