

CHANGES on Well Permitting Process

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Governor Executive Order N-7-22 for Well Permits

9. To protect health, safety, and the environment during this drought emergency, a county, city, or other public agency shall not:
- a. Approve a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well in a basin subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and classified as medium-or high-priority without first obtaining written verification from a Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the basin or area of the basin where the well is proposed to be located that groundwater extraction by the proposed well would not be inconsistent with any sustainable groundwater management program established in any applicable Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by that Groundwater Sustainability Agency and would not decrease the likelihood of achieving a sustainability goal for the basin covered by such a plan; or
 - b. Issue a permit for a new groundwater well or for alteration of an existing well without first determining that extraction of groundwater from the proposed well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage nearby infrastructure.

This paragraph shall not apply to permits for wells that will provide less than two acre-feet per year of groundwater for individual domestic users, or that will exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.

In Summary: What is changing?

- County can't approve permits for new or altered wells:

9a. In medium/high priority basin w/o GSA determination that well is not inconsistent with GSP and would not impair ability to achieve sustainability

9b. Without determining that well is not likely to interfere with existing nearby wells and not likely to cause subsidence that would impact infrastructure

9b. Doesn't apply to de minimis wells (< 2 AF/year) or public supply systems

A Proposed solution to well permitting

Creates different pathways to permitting

- Express permits for ministerial wells
- More in depth analysis for non-ministerial wells (consistent with GSP findings, “well is (1) not likely to interfere with the production and functioning of existing nearby wells, and (2) not likely to cause subsidence that would adversely impact or damage *nearby infrastructure*”)

○ Requirements Examples from other counties:

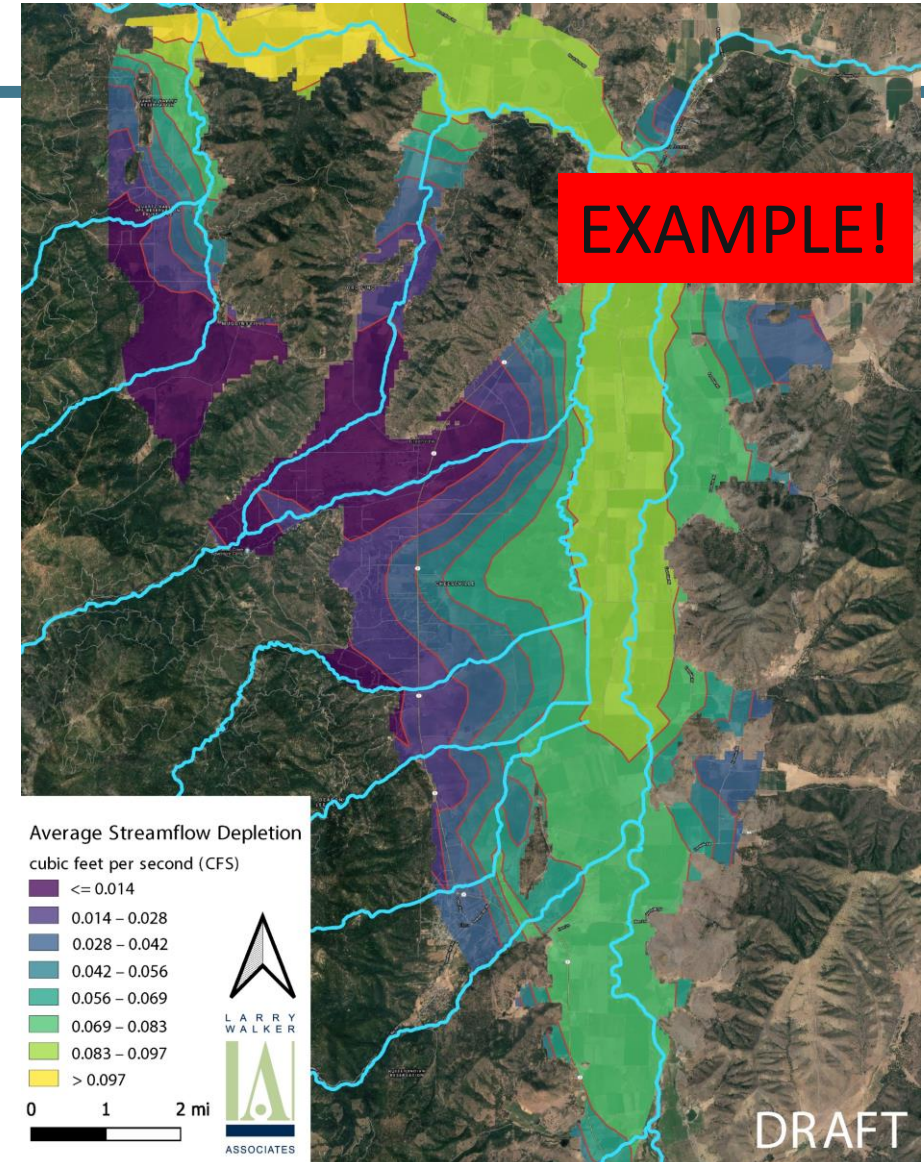
- No net increase for replacement wells or new wells with existing wells on property (2022)
- Applicants must prove no interference with other wells located within **XXX** ft
- Develop matrix that look into pumping capacity and distance

Table 1. Minimum Well Separation Distances

Pumping Capacity (gallons per minute)	Minimum Well Separation Distance (feet)
<i>Wells Within the Valley Floor Areas of the County</i>	
<500	250
500-999	500
1000-1499	1000
1500-1999	2000
≥2000	Report Required

How to set up a preliminary screening for the different areas?

- If a model is available, it can be used to define a “Sensitive map”, selecting areas where more in depth evaluation is needed.
- Outside of the sensitive area, the GSA can come up with a more streamlined approach



Governor's order

New County Well

Is the well ministerial?
Extracts < 2 acre-ft/yr?
Domestic Well, Public Water Supply Well

Yes

No

Permit

Is the well more than XXX ft from the nearest well?

This is just an example

No

Yes

Permit

A California-licensed PG or PE with hydrogeology expertise prepares a report indicating no "no adverse impact" at specific pumping rate to nearby wells within XXX radius

MANY OPTIONS: Permit through matrix calculation defining specific "sensitive" areas, using the GSP model, setting specific distances: need to demonstrate consistency with SMC, not likely to cause subsidence

Some additional information on the permit

- The permit should ask for a map with nearby wells
- A best effort should be made by the permit applicant to collect recent depth to water measurements on those nearby wells with the date of collection.

Simplified Permit Process: examples!

- New well pumps ≤ 2 Acre-feet/year
 - Includes domestic, environmental monitoring, piezometer, and may include some non-domestic pumping wells of small volume.
- Replacement well permitted for less \leq old well annual pumping volume
 - Documentation of previous pumping
 - Requires destroying old well(s) under permit
 - New Well receives a meter
 - Tiered fines on excess pumping above permitted limit
- New well ≥ 2 acre-feet/year **not in** recognized sensitive area
 - New permit user submits proposed well **location, design, and pumping** rate. GPDST tests on a pass/fail basis
- New well ≥ 2 acre-feet/year **in** recognized sensitive area
 - New permit user submits proposed **location only**. County/GSA uses models or other evaluation to provide maximum pumping rate and required well depth. New well is constructed with a meter. Meter is measured at least twice annually and fines are assessed to the parcel if overages or tampering are observed.



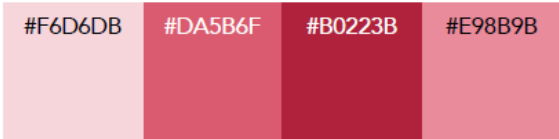
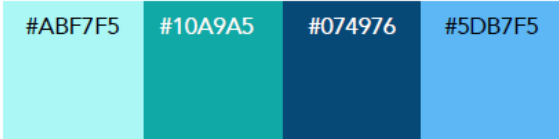
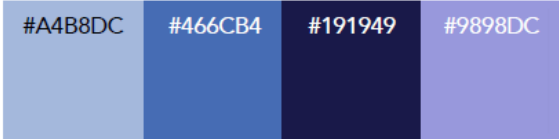
Thank You

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This guidance is for use on data visualization tools such as tables, charts, graphs, maps and SmartArt.





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