

Well permitting changes to comply with Governor's Executive Order N-7-22

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.

Key points:

- Does not apply to small domestic wells or public water supply system wells. Therefore, Should verify that less than 2 acre-ft/year (650,000 gal/year) are pumped from the well
 - Current permit application lists proposed gallons/minute
 - Should add something about total volume pumped/delivered to confirm it is exempt from the Executive Order
- Additional information that will be needed for Agricultural, Commercial and other well permits that are not exempt includes:
 - Comparison of well location to areas in Basin with groundwater elevations near or below minimum threshold (or below the measurable objective) and measurable objectives for other Sustainable Management Criteria [need to establish a value that triggers a 'pass' or 'fail']
 - Evaluate potential impact of proposed well on nearby wells – application should ask for a map of nearby wells
 - Evaluate potential to cause subsidence
 - Develop statement to include in well permit application or for approved application verifying that proposed well location is consistent with the objectives of the GSP, does not interfere with the operation of other wells and does not have potential to cause subsidence