


Countywide Services Agency
Environmental Management Department

Water Protection Division

Inspection and enforcement of laws pertaining to
Wells/Borings



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Water Program Activities

- Well Permitting
- Sanitary Seal Inspection
- Final Inspections
- Complaint Response
- Enforcement/Compliance
- Tracking

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Well Program Statutory Authority

Sacramento County has maintained a Well Ordinance (SCC 6.28) for over 40 years (last revised in 2003)

State of California adopted the Model Well Ordinance into the Water Code in 1989

Sacramento County maintains a file of suggestions for future Ordinance revisions



2003 Ordinance Changes

- GENERAL PROVISIONS: Added language to clarify who is responsible for compliance with ordinance provisions. e.g. the well owner is always responsible for compliance and the applicant is responsible for compliance until the regulated activity for which the permit was issued has been completed.
- VARIANCES: Modified existing authority to grant variances from the ordinance for any activity not mandated by the State of California.
- DEFINITIONS: Added new definitions for "Director" and "Well Owner" to clarify existing code language.
- ACTS PROHIBITED: Added language prohibiting damage or covering of a well such that the well is inaccessible for service.
- ENFORCEMENT: Simplified existing enforcement language to ensure conformity with other EMD program areas.



Enforcement

- Approximately 20 actions/year
 - Half are permit violations (e.g. sealing w/o inspection)
 - Half are well abandonment violations
- Enforcement Orders = Fines + Fix



Upcoming Changes

- Imaging of well records
- GIS tracking of well locations
- Enhanced detection and destruction of abandoned wells
- Ordinance revision



Proposed Ordinance Revisions

Removal of prohibition against domestic supply from well-water crossing parcel boundaries

Permitting of de-watering wells

Summary abatement ("clean and lien") authority



Questions

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<http://www.emd.saccounty.net/WP/EMDwells.htm>
