



Division of Environmental Health

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

On March 28, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Executive Order N-7-22 (EO) in response to extreme and expanding drought conditions which prohibits Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health (DEH) from issuing construction permits for new groundwater wells or for alteration of existing groundwater wells pursuant to Humboldt County Code §631 unless certain requirements are met or the permit falls within the limited exception to the requirements.

New Requirements

Requirements pertaining to water well permitting are described in paragraph 9 of the EO:

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.*

Limited Exception

Paragraph 9 of the EO does not apply to 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 use type" as "domestic," DEH will treat the permit as exempt from the requirements of the Executive Order if and only if the **owner of the well** signs and submits the attached declaration.

Declaration - Well for Individual Domestic Use

As the owner of the proposed well or existing well to be altered and as a necessary condition for 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.

AP#: _____

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____