Well Permits and Water Production

Well Permits

- California Water Well Standards and Humboldt County Code require wells to be constructed, altered or destroyed only by a contractor holding a C-57 license.
- As of February 13, 1990, permits are required for all wells constructed, altered or destroyed in Humboldt County. Permit applications can be obtained from the Division of Environmental Health (DEH) for proposed well work. DEH will inspect the well location prior to drilling, observe the sanitary seal around the well casing during construction, and issue the final permit approval when we can verify that work was completed according to California Water Well Standards and Humboldt County Code.
- A permit cannot be issued for well construction that was performed without prior DEH review, inspection and approval of the sanitary seal. While a previously unpermitted well cannot be retroactively permitted, an existing unpermitted well may nevertheless continue to be used under certain, case-by-case circumstances. The age, location and type of use (agricultural supply, individual supply, community supply and/or industrial supply) of each well is considered by DEH during project reviews. When potential competing water supply needs are identified by DEH in a project, the water producing capacity of the well or other water source may need to be calculated.

Water Production Testing

- When rural lands are subdivided, water production testing is required.
- All water production tests must be conducted during the dry season and be representative of the lowest annual water production anticipated from the source. The dry season testing period is **August 1 through September 30**.
- Water production tests for springs and streams must be conducted by a Licensed Well Driller, Licensed Land Surveyor, Registered Civil Engineer, or Registered Geologist.
- Water production tests for wells must be conducted by a Licensed Well Driller, Registered Civil Engineer, or Registered Geologist.
- Water quantity requirements for commercial, institutional, and industrial facilities are established by DEH on a project-specific basis.

For more details, you may request a copy of *Water Production Standards and Test Procedures* by contacting the Division of Environmental Health (DEH) at 707-445-6215, 800-963-9241 or by email at ENVHEALTH@co.humboldt.ca.us. It is also available on our webpage at: [http://www.humboldtgov.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3266](http://www.humboldtgov.org/DocumentCenter/Home/View/3266).