



MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

BOARD POLICY

No.: 3

Date: 2/22/78

Revised: 3/22/78, 9/13/89
and 9/23/92

Reviewed 2/23/94

Subject: WELLS AND OTHER PRIVATE WATER SOURCES

The District is charged with supplying water within its boundaries. The District has determined it is in the best interest of its consumers, both existing and future, to allow the use of wells or other private water sources only for non-potable use, and only to supplement District service. As a water conservation measure, the District wishes to encourage the use of wells for irrigation purposes; and, has developed this policy in response to planning needs of the Cities and County.

The District requests that the Cities and County require new multi-unit development to have water service from the District as the potable water source and require review by the District of any such development wishing to supplement such service. The District's review as a condition for development shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Impact of total water requirements on District's facilities in the event of well failure.
2. Need for well system to provide fire protection.
3. Need to install backflow prevention devices to protect District's system.

It is not the intent of this policy to limit or prevent the use of a private well or other private water source for irrigation of landscaping or for non-potable uses, but said private water supply shall not serve as the potable water source for two or more units. Water supply shall be located on the same property for which the water supply serves.

In the event of failure of the private water source, an application for change in the character of service shall be submitted to District and will be processed in accordance with the District's rules and regulations in effect at the time of such application. District does not assume any commitment to provide additional potable water services in the event of the failure of any private system.

The use of a private water source for a single-residential unit does not require a meter from the District but a proposal for such use should be reviewed by District prior to building permit approval.



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A supplemental water system which is installed for a single-residential unit already connected to the District shall require District review and approval, and shall require installation of appropriate backflow protection.

We suggest the following section as a guide for the department or departments responsible for the issuance of well permits for single-residential units.

A. Adequate Water, Vertical Wells

Adequate Water (Vertical Wells) is defined as a well or wells which will produce a minimum of one gallon per minute for a sustained pumping test of 8 hours after the pumping level has been established or the well is pumped to the bottom. This minimum shall be accompanied at the time of residential construction, with a minimum of 1,000 gallons of storage capacity.

B. Adequate Testing Requirements

In addition to the 8-hour yield test described above, testing to meet the above yield requirements must be conducted from June 1 to November 15 and must be done by a licensed drilling or pump contractor or a registered geologist. In the case of prolonged dry weather, the time period may be extended or certification be required by a registered geologist as to the well's productivity.

C. Adequate Storage Requirements

Minimum storage facility shall be a 1,000 gallon tank. This allows 2 to 3 days of storage for consumption during periods where well is out of service for maintenance reasons or for pump repair.

D. Potable Water

Water intended for domestic use must meet all standards and conditions as the health officer deems necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

E. Hold Harmless Agreement

A Hold Harmless Agreement between the issuing authority and the applicant (property owner) relieving the issuing authority of any liability must be entered into prior to the issuance of a permit. This should be recorded with the Marin County Recorder.



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F. Abandoned Wells, Test Wells, or Holes and Destruction of Wells

No person should abandon, construct, destruct, remodel, or reconstruct any well, test well, or hole without first submitting an application to and receiving a permit from the local jurisdiction for such construction or abandonment. Such permit should be subject to conditions necessary to comply with State laws and the rules and regulations issued thereunder that will promote the protection of public health.

G. Review by Water District

Any applicant for a well permit should submit the proposed well application to the Marin Municipal Water District for review. Well applications should include:

- Plot plan of property showing buildings, roads, sewer lines, septic systems, storage facilities, etc.
- Description of intended use (potable, irrigation, fire protection, etc.).
- Any other information pertinent to the well development.

A letter from the Water District attesting to the review should be required prior to issuance of a well permit. The letter from the District will advise the applicant that the District cannot assume in advance any commitment to provide additional potable water service to the property in the event of the failure of the well unless the applicant applies and pays for the amount of water which the District calculates is needed to serve the property without benefit of the well. The District will not reduce its calculation of the amount of District water needed by such an application because of the proposed utilization of a well due to the impossibility of determining with any certainty how long the well is likely to be productive and at what level of yield.