



WELL DRILLING APPLICATION APPROVAL PROCEDURE

BEDFORD & COLDWATER SUBBASIN

Bedford Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority (BCGSA), as the Groundwater Sustainability Agency for the Elsinore Bedford-Coldwater Subbasin (8-004.02), is coordinating with the Riverside County Environmental Health Department (RCEHD) in the issuing of water well permits within the Bedford-Coldwater Subbasin. BCGSA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) consisting of the City of Corona, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, and Temescal Valley Water District, formed for the purpose of being the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) for the Bedford-Coldwater Subbasin

The GSA was formed pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), which was passed by the State of California legislature in 2014. This law empowered the GSA to exercise certain management authority over the Bedford-Coldwater Subbasin, including the development of a groundwater sustainability plan ("GSP"). The law requires GSPs be developed to provide guidance to local agencies in an effort to achieve long-term sustainability of groundwater resources. In November 2021, the GSA adopted its GSP for the subbasin. The GSP is a comprehensive plan, which includes data on subbasin hydrogeology characteristics, water supply sources, and current and historical groundwater conditions. It defines "sustainable management" as the use and management of groundwater in a manner that can be maintained without causing undesirable results, which are defined as significant and unreasonable effects caused by groundwater conditions occurring throughout the subbasin.

On March 28, 2022, Governor Newsom signed [Executive Order N-7-22](#) (EO-N-7-22), which provides additional well permitting criteria as a result of the drought emergency and will be in effect until the order is lifted. Order number 9 is as follows:

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.

The purpose of this document is to describe the procedure that the BCGSA will use to respond to the applicant's (Well Applicant) well application submitted to RCEHD. The process can be broken down into two phases: 1) Determination of Applicability to EO-N-7-22 and 2) GSA Evaluation.

PHASE 1: DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY TO EO-N-7-22

RCEHD forwards new water well applications for all wells located in the Bedford-Coldwater Subbasin to the BCGSA for review and comment. The BCGSA then provides the well applicant with the BCGSA's Well Information Form (Attachment 1), which must be filled out by the Well Applicant and returned to the BCGSA. Upon receipt of the completed Well Information Form, the BCGSA will determine the applicability of the proposed well to EO-N-7-22. The Well Applicant will receive an EO-N-7-22 Determination Letter within thirty (30) days of providing the Well Information Form to the BCGSA. If the proposed well is determined to not be applicable to EO-N-7-22, the Well Applicant will receive a Negative Determination Letter which they can provide to RCEHD. If the proposed well is determined to be applicable to EO-N-7-22, the Well Applicant will receive a Positive Determination Letter, notifying the Well Applicant that further analysis is required for GSA Evaluation.

PHASE 2: GSA EVALUATION

GSA EVALUATION PROCESSING FEE

In order to proceed with the GSA Evaluation Process (described below and shown graphically in Attachment 2), the Well Applicant must pay the GSA Evaluation Fee in full to cover the necessary analysis. At the conclusion of GSA Evaluation, BCGSA will provide a GSA Response Letter that the Well Applicant can send to RCEHD. The GSA Evaluation may include up to the following three tasks: (1) Data Compilation, (2) Screening-Level Analysis, and (3) Evaluation of Potential Impacts. The fee to complete Task 1 (Data Compilation) and Task 2 (Screening-Level Analysis) for each well application is \$2,000. If Task 3 (Evaluate Potential Impacts) is required, then the fee increases by \$3,500 for a total of \$5,500 per well. To expedite the schedule, BCGSA requests payment for the full \$5,500 and will refund the Well Applicant \$3,500 if the well application passes the Screening-Level Analysis. The following is the payment information for the GSA Evaluation Processing Fee:

Bedford-Coldwater Groundwater Sustainability Authority

Attention: Margie Armstrong

31315 Chaney Street, Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

The BCGSA will use a phased approach to assess the potential effect of the proposed well on nearby wells and successful implementation of the GSP. Upon receipt of the BCGSA Well Information Form, the Well Applicant may receive a BCGSA Response Letter within 90 days if only Task 1 (Data Compilation) and Task 2 (Screening-Level Analysis) are required, and 120 days if Task 3 (Evaluate Potential Impacts) is required.

Each well application will undergo a Screening-Level Analysis, which may take up to 60 days.

If the well application passes the Screening-Level Analysis and finds that the well is both consistent with the GSP and not likely to cause interference, then the BCGSA will provide a Response Letter to the Well Applicant that can be sent to RCEHD. If the well application does not pass the Screening-Level Analysis, the Well Applicant will be notified that Task 3 (Evaluate Potential Impacts) is required, which may take up to an additional 30 days.

Task 1. Data Compilation

Estimated time of completion: 30 days upon receipt of GSA Evaluation Fee

Information related to existing wells near the proposed well will need to be compiled, including:

- Location(s) of wells closest to proposed well
- Recent historical pumping from existing wells (if not already documented in GSP and/or Annual Reports)
- Depth(s) of nearby existing wells
- Static and pumping water level(s) in nearby wells

Additional information on the basin including current groundwater conditions, local hydrogeology, sustainability management criteria, and other data will be compiled from the GSP and most recent Annual Report.

Task 2. Screening-Level Analysis

Estimated time of completion: 30 days upon completion of Task 1

Once all relevant data are available, a screening-level analysis will be performed to assess the consistency of the proposed well with the GSP and whether it could cause impacts to neighboring wells. The screening-level analysis will include:

- Neighboring Wells – The proposed well will be mapped to identify distances to other wells. If there are no existing wells within 1,500 feet of the proposed well, then no additional interference assessment will be necessary
- Subsidence – The proposed well location will be compared to subsidence maps in the GSP or the most recent Annual Report to assess its potential to cause or exacerbate subsidence.
- Interconnected Surface Water – The proposed well location will be compared to interconnected surface water (ISW) and groundwater dependent ecosystems (GDEs) as defined in the GSP to identify the potential for impacts to this sustainability management criteria. If the well is more than 1,500 feet from ISW and GDE locations, then no further assessment of impacts related to ISW and GDE sustainability will be required.
- Inclusion in planning documents - The GSP growth scenarios and other planning documents (e.g., General Plans, Urban Water Management Plans, etc.) will be reviewed to check if additional production was anticipated in the area of the new well and included in the analysis for those planning documents. Preference will be given to the GSP in this process. If growth in the location

of the proposed well with additional groundwater use was included in the GSP, then no further assessment relating to GSP consistency will be required.

If no issues are identified for the proposed new well, the BCGSA will provide a brief technical memorandum (TM) that will document the information and will be included in the BCGSA Response Letter. If the proposed well does not clear all of the screening analyses, then a full impact analysis will be completed in Task 3.

Task 3. Evaluate Potential Impacts

Estimated time of completion: 30 days upon completion of Task 2

If the screening-level analysis in Task 2 identifies potential concerns with the proposed new well, the additional analysis in this task will be required. Specific analyses would depend on which potential impact was identified in the screening analysis. Additional analyses may include:

- Water budget assessment using the existing numerical groundwater model and customized simulations to assess the effects of additional pumping related to the proposed well. Analysis of model results would include comparison of local, management area, and basin-wide water budgets with and without the new well and assessment of potential effects on local water levels resulting from long-term pumping.
- Interference assessment using analytical techniques. Localized short-term and dynamic drawdown effects from pumping the proposed well will be assessed using analytical techniques. This may include application of fundamental hydrogeologic tools such as Theis analyses or similar means of estimating drawdown at distance. Estimates of pumping-induced drawdown at distance will be customized and compared to the nearby well locations to identify interference with existing wells.
- Analytical assessment of potential effects on relevant sustainability management criteria. This would include evaluation of potential effects of pumping the proposed well on the sustainability criteria identified and defined in the GSP. This assessment would focus on water-level related sustainable management criteria such as water levels in Key Wells, groundwater storage, and ISW/GDEs and use techniques similar to those identified for well interference.

If a full investigation is needed, the BCGSA will provide a TM detailing the analyses performed and the findings of potential impacts; and will be included in the BCGSA Response Letter.

GSA RESPONSE LETTER

The BCGSA will prepare a letter that makes a determination of whether or not the proposed water well is consistent with the GSP, and 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 GSA Response Letter can be sent to the RCEHD to complete the permitting process.

Attachment 1: BCGSA Well Information Form

Groundwater Production Well Information (Applicant to Fill Out)

Applicant First and Last Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Property Owner Name (if different from above):

First and Last Name: _____ Date: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Assessor's Parcel Number: _____

Proposed Well Use (agricultural, industrial, private domestic): _____

Water Type (potable, non-potable): _____

Will the proposed well produce less than two acre-feet of groundwater per year? Yes No What is the anticipated annual volume of water produced (acre-feet): _____

Will the proposed well exclusively provide groundwater to public water supply systems as defined in section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code? Yes No

Will the proposed well be outfitted with a flow meter? Yes No If yes, what type of flow meter will be used? _____

Attachment 2 Well Drilling Application Approval Procedure for EO-N-7-22 Compliance

