

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OPERATIONS DIVISIONM E M O R A N D U M

TO: OPERATIONS DIVISION STAFF

FROM: BRUCE S. DAVIS AND GREG WALLACE 

DATE: MAY 12, 1994

SUBJECT: CONVERSION OF EXPLORATION/GEOTECHNICAL WELLS AND/OR
MONITORING/PIEZOMETER WELLS TO WATER PRODUCTION WELLS.

There have been several recent requests to convert the above mentioned wells to water production wells. This memo outlines the official policy of the Operations and Hydrology Divisions on this issue.

1. Effective immediately, requests for conversion of an exploration/geotechnical well to a water production or to a monitoring/piezometer well shall not be accepted. R12-15-801.13 defines "Exploration wells" as a well drilled in search of geophysical, mineralogical, or geotechnical data. This definition limits their use to the collection of data only. Secondly, these wells are usually not drilled in such a manner that would allow them to meet minimum well construction standards. Third, experience has shown that these types of wells, not being drilled specifically as water production wells, usually have insufficient information to provide the Department with an adequate well log and construction information to assure aquifer integrity. Where an exploration/geotechnical well was constructed for later entry, it may be possible for the applicant to convert the well for water production. These types of conversions should be discouraged for the above reasons. However, should the applicant persist in their desire to convert the well they must meet all the criteria listed below in item #2.

2. Effective immediately, requests for conversion of a monitoring/piezometer well to a water production well will be approved subject to the following:

A. A new Notice of Intention to Drill shall be filed with the Operations Division requesting a modification of an existing well with payment of the required filing fee.

B. The person requesting the conversion shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Hydrology Division, that the well meets all minimum construction standards or that all variance requests previously granted for the well are still valid or that the well will be reconstructed to meet minimum well construction standards.

C. The well must have been previously registered with the Department and have a unique identification number.

D. A well log for the previously drilled well shall be on file with the Department.

E. A well impact analysis will be required for any well located within an AMA with proposed capacity exceeding 35 gpm and they must have an associated water right.

F. The applicant should provide the Department with a letter indicating that he/she has discussed the conversion of the specified monitor/piezometer well with ADEQ and that the conversion of the well for consumptive use is found to be acceptable to ADEQ.

Once approved for conversion, a new well log reflecting any modifications to the well and completion report will be required to be submitted as per current rules and statutes.