





# CITY OF EL PASO DE ROBLES

*"The Pass of the Oaks"*

September 22, 2014

SUBJECT: Ordinance No. 1000 N.S.  
Review Procedures for Private Wells Permit Applications

The subject Interim Ordinance is in effect through February 5, 2016, and disallows the issuance of City permits for construction of new private wells as well as for "the modification, rehabilitation or reconstruction of an existing well that would increase the amount of groundwater capable of being extracted from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin".

The purpose of this memo is to describe the administrative policy/interpretation to be followed in the review of private well applications that fall in the "modification, rehabilitation or reconstruction" category.

1. First examine whether the City may extend potable or recycled water service to the property in question.<sup>1</sup> Consider this the preferred course of action, particularly when peak demand for applicant does not overlap historic summertime peak demand periods citywide.
2. If extension of City water service is deemed infeasible, seek information from the applicant demonstrating that the proposed well is indeed a "modification, rehabilitation or reconstruction" of an existing well that would not increase the amount of groundwater capable of being extracted. Specifically:
  - a. Original driller's log for the well to be replaced or other acceptable information demonstrating the diameter, depth, perforated zones, and historic water level of the well to be replaced.
  - b. Proposed well reconstruction (depth, diameter, perforated zones, etc.) under present water levels and other evidence supporting that the proposed well has similar extraction capabilities as the well to be replaced.

*For example, if a well proposed for replacement is 8" diameter, 200 feet deep and historic water levels were 110 feet below the ground surface, that means it had a "wetted depth" of 90 feet.*

*If present water levels are 180 feet below the ground surface, then the proposed replacement well would be considered to have an equal extraction capability if it were also 8" diameter\* and drilled to a depth of 270 feet:*

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<sup>1</sup> Muni Code Section 14.06.132 "It is the goal of the city of El Paso de Robles to supply water to all premises within the boundaries of the city."

$$180' \text{ current depth to groundwater} + 90' \text{ of original wetted depth} = 270' \text{ replacement well depth}$$

3. If satisfactory evidence of like extraction capability is provided, require that the existing well be properly destroyed and abandoned in accordance with a County Health Department permit. Also, require metering and regular reporting of on-site usage to the City as well as measurement and reporting of Spring and Autumn water levels to the City<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> Spring water level measurements traditionally measured in April of each year; Autumn readings measured in October.