Drought Well Permitting Requirements

Executive Order N-7-22, Action 9

Listening Session Webinar
April 13, 2022
Listening Session Agenda

• Opening Remarks

• Presentation on Drought Executive Order Action 9

• Question and Answer Session

• Closing
Historic Drought Conditions
Excerpt of Action 9 from Drought Executive Order:

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.
Drought EO N-7-22: Action 9

For new wells or alterations to existing wells*

9a. Consultation with the GSAs, Prior to Approving a Well Permit
   • In high and medium priority basins, where there is a GSA and GSP
   • Obtain written verification from the GSA
   • Consistency with GSP & sustainability goals

9b. Permit Evaluation, Prior to Issuing a Well Permit
   1. Not likely to interfere with production and functioning of existing nearby wells
   2. Not likely to cause adverse subsidence impact or damage nearby infrastructure

*excluding individual domestic wells who use less than two acre-feet per year and public water system supply who rely exclusively on groundwater wells
Available State Resources

Groundwater basins subject to SGMA and classified as medium or high priority:
- Basin Prioritization Dashboard

Groundwater Sustainability Agency managing the applicable basin or area of the basin:
- GSA Map Viewer

Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by the local Groundwater Sustainability Agency:
- GSP Map Viewer

View existing nearby wells (domestic, irrigation, public supply and reported dry wells):
- California’s Groundwater Live – Well Infrastructure

View groundwater levels and trends:
- California’s Groundwater Live – Groundwater Levels

View subsidence data and nearby infrastructure:
- California’s Groundwater Live – Subsidence Data
Question & Answer Session

• Please submit your questions via the chat box.
Closing

• For questions, please contact: SGMPS@water.ca.gov