



Public Health Department

Environmental Health

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Water Well Advisory Group -Minutes-

Thursday, November 17, 2016
Tahoe Room at 202 Mira Loma Drive in Oroville
5:00-7:00 p.m.

I. Preliminary Items

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Brad at 5:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Tom Barker, Walt Kruse, Ron Stilwell, David Moench, Luis Zamudio, John Riley, Rod McDonald, and John Scott present.

C. Introduction of Guests

Debbie Spangler, DWR, and Paul Gosselin, WRC, and Brad Banner, EH, attended the meeting in support of the group.

D. Review of Meeting Notes from October 26, 2016

The meeting notes from October 26, 2016 were reviewed by the group and accepted as written by consensus.

E. Agenda Review

No changes were proposed for the agenda.

F. Public Comments and Input

There was no public comment.

II. Informational Non-Action Items

A. SGMA and Its Impact on Butte County Water Wells

Paul Gosselin, Director of the Butte County Water and Resources Conservation Department gave a PowerPoint presentation on SGMA.

III. Action Items

A. Advisory Group By-Laws



John Riley made a motion to approve the by-laws as written. John Scott seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

B. Election of Officers

Members of the group selected Ron as Chair and Tom as Vice-Chair.

C. Proposed Changes to the Well Construction Manual

1. Purpose and Development of the Manual

The group strongly supported the concept of allowance for variation from the requirements in Bulletin 74-81 and 74-90 based on local conditions. Brad noted that the variations allowed could not be applied to wells within the Chico Nitrate Compliance Area without approval of the Regional Board and could not be applied to public water system wells without the approval of the State Health Department.

John Riley made a motion to recommend adoption of this section of the Manual. Tom seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Recommended Use of Concrete Slabs

The group briefly referenced the positive aspects of slabs, namely the structural support and the clean, finished appearance of the completed well. Potential problems with the use of slabs was also mentioned.

David made a motion to recommend adoption of this section that changes the use of concrete slabs from a mandate to a recommendation. John Riley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Continuous Pour of Concrete Slab with Concrete Seal

The only proposed changes to this section of the Manual were minor modification of terminology and providing for exceptional circumstances where concrete seals and slabs should be a continuous pour. Ron pointed out that the type of concrete used for annular seals and the type of concrete used for slabs were different and a continuous pour would not work well.

John Scott made a motion to recommend adoption of this section, but without an attempt to list exceptions other than consistency with the Manual. John Riley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Use of Bentonite as Annular Seal Material in Vegetated Areas

The only proposed change to this section of the Manual was adding a condition stating "...unless otherwise specified in the Manual."



John Riley made a motion to recommend adoption of this section. Rod seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Use of Bentonite as Annual Seal Material in Arid Areas

Again, the only proposed change to this section was adding a condition stating "...unless otherwise specified in the Manual."

Luis made a motion to recommend adoption of this section. John Riley seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Screened Well Vents

The only proposed change to this section was a change in terminology.

John Scott made a motion to recommend adoption of this section. Ron seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Well Installation in Areas Subject to Flooding

a. The group noted that the title of this section should indicate that it applies only to residential wells.

b. The group discussed whether pitless adapters were appropriate for installation in areas subject to flooding. There was discussion as to whether pitless adapters required vents that would allow in flood water. The group did not speak favorably about pitless adapters but agreed that they could be installed in a manner to make the well watertight.

c. The group questioned who could be considered a "licensed professional" for stamping approval of mechanical backflow prevention devices as a condition for use in Butte County. Luis stated that such a device should be reviewed, tested, and certified by a mechanical engineer.

d. This item was tabled until the next meeting, and Preferred Pumps will consider whether they want to market the product patented by David.

8. Reduced Well Setback to Watertight Septic Tank

This section of the Manual proposes a reduction of setback from wells to watertight septic tanks from 100 feet as stated in the Bulletin 74-90 to 50 feet. Brad pointed out that 50 feet is universally accepted by other counties and that our own Onsite Wastewater Ordinance specifies a 50 foot setback from wells.

John Riley made a motion to recommend adoption of this section. Tom seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.



9. Free Fall Placement of Bentonite Chips for 50 Foot Annual Seal in Hard Rock Wells

The group began discussing whether chips could be dropped through water or a mud slurry and whether chips could be dropped 50 feet in other than hard rock wells.

[This item was tabled until the next meeting.](#)

IV. Agenda Preparation for Next Meeting

- A. The next meeting will include a presentation of new fees based on countywide fee study that has been completed.
- B. The group asked Brad not to schedule the meeting during the period December 6-10 because they will be at a conference.
- C. The next meeting will start at 3:00 p.m.

V. Adjourn

[The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Note

The next meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 12, in the Klamath Room here at 202 Mira Loma Drive in Oroville





Public Health Department

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Water Well Advisory Group Sign-In Sheet

Date: November 17, 2016

Location: Tahoe Rm, 202 Mira Loma Dr., Oroville

Name	Company	Email
Brad	EH	bbrink@buttecounty.ca
Ron Stilwell	North State Drilling	wellguy33@gmail.com
Debbie Spangler	DWR	debbie@water.ca.gov
John Scott	PUBLIC MEMBER BUTTE VALLEY COAST GUARD SERV. CO	john_lewis_scott@msf.com
Luis Zamudio	California Water	lzamudio@calwater.com
DAVID Moench	DAVID + SON Drilling	
John P. Belyust	precision pump & well drilling	precisionpump@comcast.net
T. Kruse	KRUSE PUMP & CO	KRUSEPUMP@comcast.net
Rod McDonald	Preferred Pump & Equip	rmcdonald@preferredpump.com
Tom Barken	WS Heitman Drilling	Tom@heitmandrilling.com