

PRIVATE WELL OWNERS

Drought Preparation and Potential Impacts

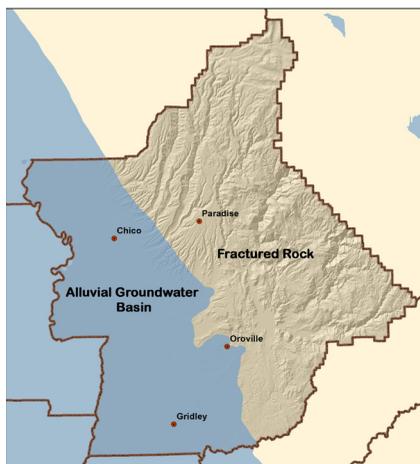
No one can predict who will have a drought related well problem, but some areas are at higher risk, such as the Durham/Dayton area, outskirts of Chico, and foothill areas. Keep in mind, wells throughout the region can face problems. In the valley, shallow wells (less than 100 feet deep) are most at risk during the middle of summer in July and August around peak irrigation season. In the foothill areas, wells pump water from fractured rock formations which are much more directly dependent on precipitation. These wells are at higher risk for reliability problems until the rainy season begins again.

Fractured Rock

In the foothill and mountainous areas of Butte County, groundwater can be found in the cracks or fractures of hard rocks. These fractures store water and yield small amounts of water to wells that

intersect the fractures. Only a relatively small quantity of groundwater is stored in the fractures of these rocks. This makes wells in fractured rock areas most vulnerable to drought.

Alluvial Groundwater Basin



The majority of groundwater is stored in what is commonly called "dirt" or "soil," but is more technically described as alluvium (loose gravel, sand, and silt) which has spaces between the grains. Alluvium is found in the valley portion of Butte County. Groundwater level monitoring occurs only in the valley because observations from a single well can provide information

on broader conditions and trends in an alluvial groundwater basin. This is not the case for a well in fractured rock.

HELP! I'm having problems with my well.

1. Call a pump contractor.

Find a pump contractor by searching online at, <http://www.wellowner.org/finding-a-contractor/contractor-lookup/>.

If you have pressure or flow problems, consult with a local, licensed well driller or pump company to determine the cause of the problem.

2. Store water. If you have the ability to store water or purchase a storage tank, use only licensed water haulers for delivery of potable water. There are currently five licensed water haulers in Butte County.

- Ben Porta Showers, 530.846.4110
- Butte Water Truck Service, 530.589.0645
- Craig Dewsnap Trucking, 530.846.3116
- M and C Equipment, 530.624.4332
- T & L Drinking Water, 530.876.8661



Help us document impacts of the drought. Although we cannot solve individual well problems, gathered information will assist in the County's drought assessment efforts and understanding of groundwater basin conditions. Information on well problems can be provided voluntarily to the County using the online form located at, buttecounty.net/reportwellproblems.

PRIVATE WELL OWNER CHECKLIST

1. Get your Well Log

This should tell you the total depth of your well and other information about the well's construction. A copy of your Well Log, also known as a Well Completion Report or Well Driller Report, is available from the Butte County Environmental Health Division. You may also request your well depth information and Well Log from the Department of Water Resources Northern Region Office.

You can request your Well Log from the Butte County Environmental Health Division in two ways:

1. Fill out the Well Log Release Request located at www.buttecounty.net/welllog and return the completed form to Environmental Health, or
2. Call 530.538.7281 and request your Well Log.

You can request your Well Log from the Department of Water Resources Northern Region Office in Red Bluff in two ways:

1. Complete and submit the Well Log Request Form located at bitly.com/dwrwelllogrequest.
2. Call 530.529.7300 and request your well log.

2. Find pump depth and water level

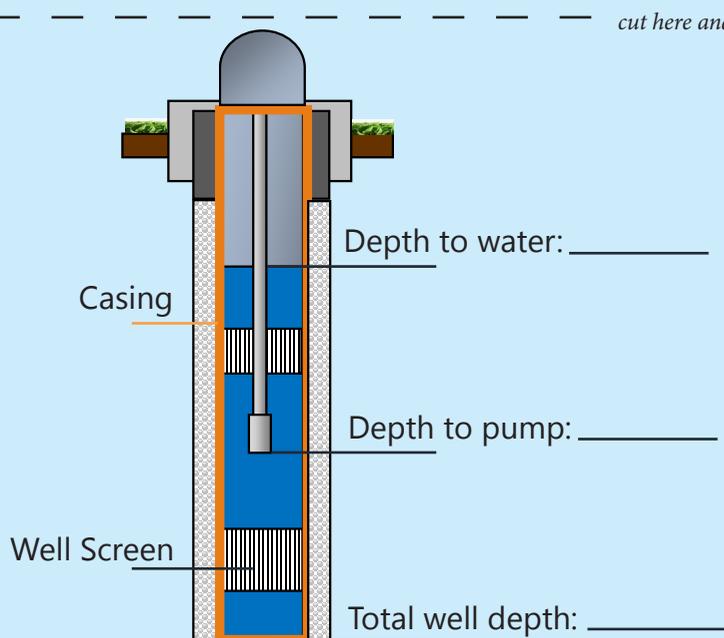
Know the depth of the pump in your well. This may be recorded on installation receipts, or may be available from the pump company which performed the installation.

Annual well maintenance is also recommended. Have your well serviced to check pump performance and the depth to water level in your well measured.

3. Identify nearby monitoring wells

Depth to groundwater for monitoring wells in your area can be viewed at the Water Data Library website, www.water.ca.gov/waterdatalibrary. Use the map to find a monitoring well near you.

If you know the total depth of your well, where it is screened, and how deep your pump sits in the borehole, then you can compare that information to local groundwater conditions in nearby monitoring wells to gauge your risk for running into well troubles.



Facts about my well.

Do I have my well log? Yes | No

Date of last service: _____

Am I in the groundwater basin or fractured rock? _____

Is there a nearby monitoring well? Yes | No



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