

Water Supply Wells

in San Mateo County

Greg Smith, PG, REHS



SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH
**ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES**



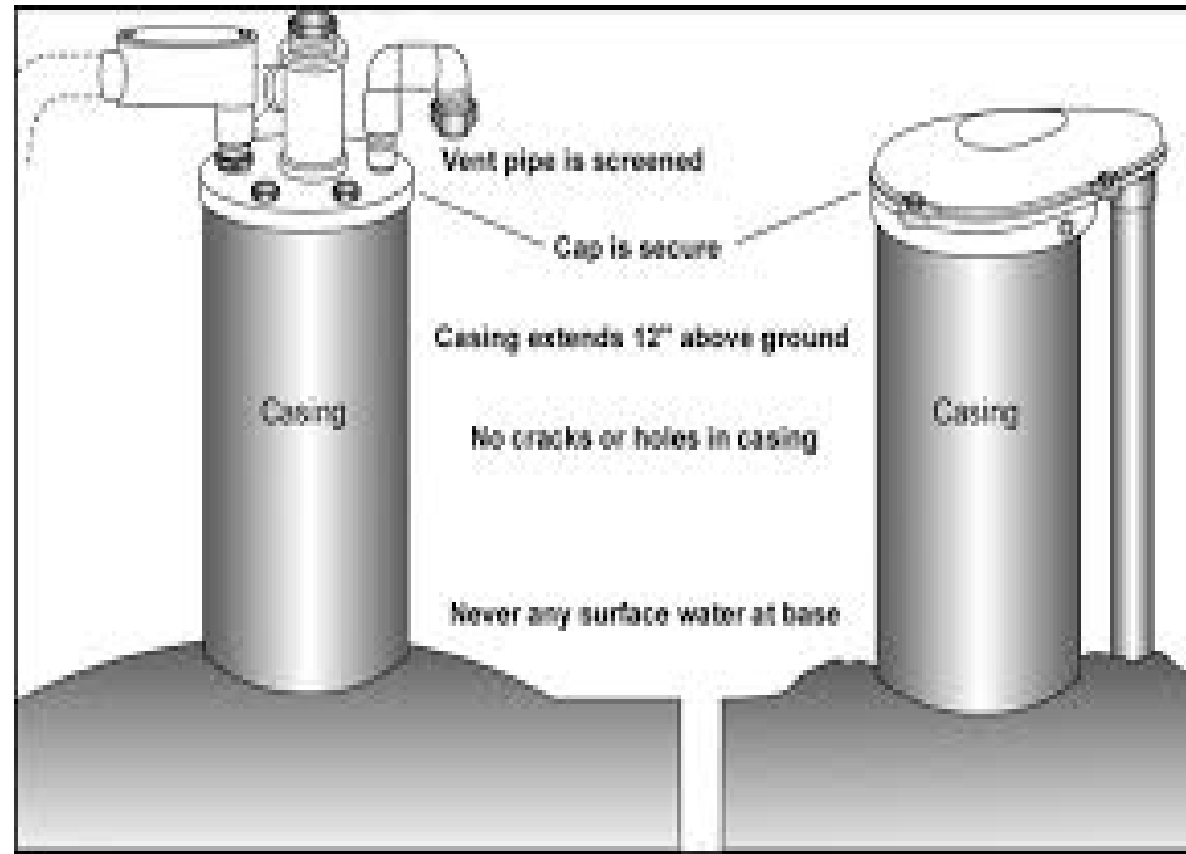
Types of Wells

- Irrigation/Agricultural Supply Wells
- Domestic Supply Wells
- Public Water System Supply Wells
- Springs/Horizontal Wells
- Other:
 - Cathodic Protection Wells (anodes)
 - Groundwater Monitoring Wells & Piezometers
 - Ground-Source Heat Exchange Wells
 - Geotechnical/Sensing Wells (inclinometers, etc.)





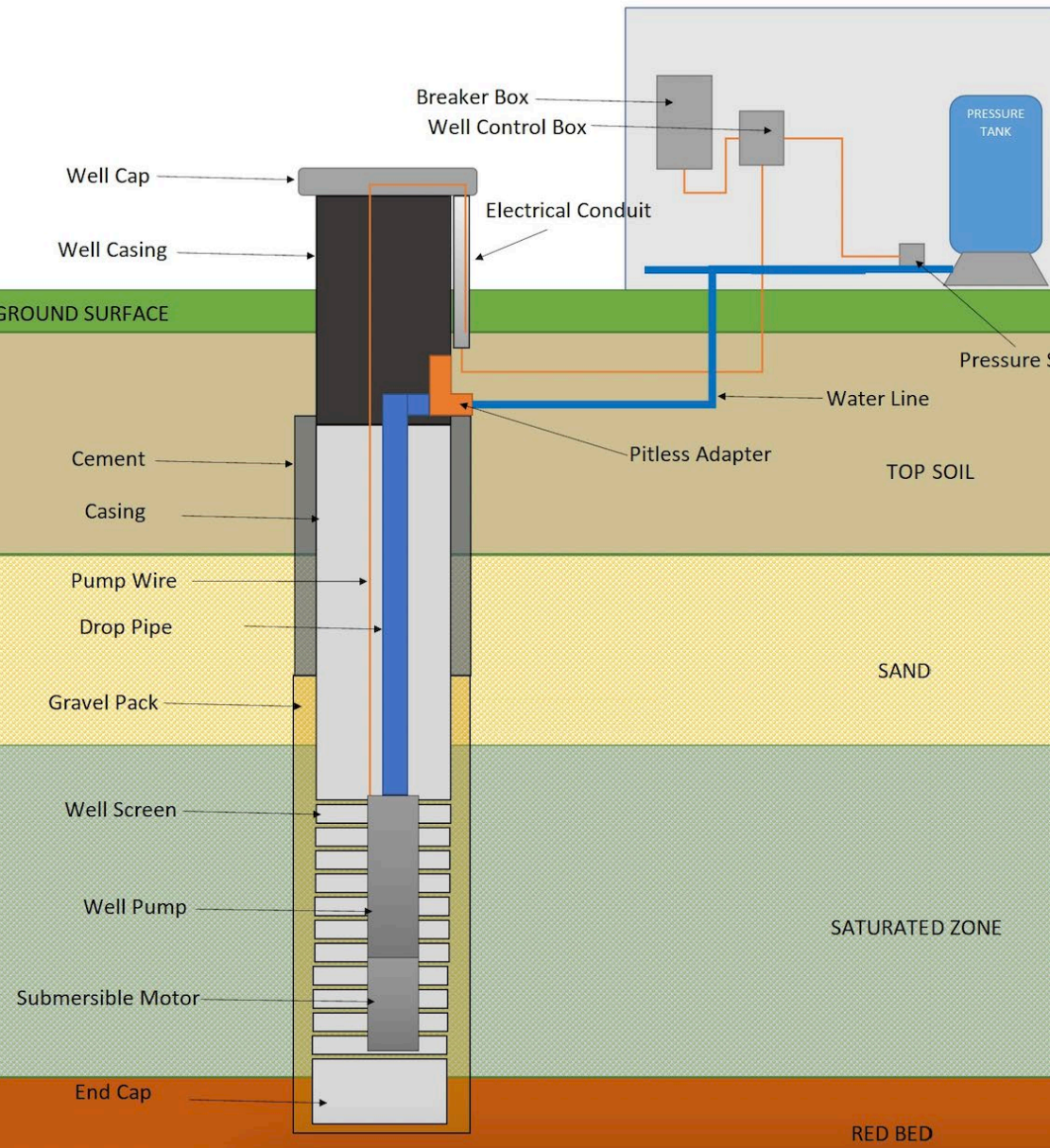
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TYPICAL WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAM



www.CurrieDrilling.com



Elements of a Well

- Construction determined by
 - State Well Standards
 - County Wells Ordinance
 - Water Works Standards (Public)
- Different Construction by Risk of Contamination

Water Well Permitting

- Env Health Svc is sole well permitting authority in County
- County/City Planning & Building may require add'l permit (development, grading, plumbing, electrical)
- LCP/Coast Zone requires either CDP or CDX to issue permit
- There is NO well moratorium, but there is State Executive Order N-7-22 from March 28, 2022



Water Well Permitting (continued)

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; 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 (652,000 gal.) per year (1800 gal/day) 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.



Water Well Permitting (continued)

- Show that proposed well location meets all required setbacks
 - Currently no setback from creeks, but will be coming soon due to law suits in other parts of the State
- Irrigation/Agricultural Wells – NO pump test, NO water quality reqrd
- Domestic Wells – pump test and water quality required to operate
- Public Supply Wells – pump test, water quality, DSWAP, engineering report, comply with Water Works Standards
- Well use can be converted, i.e., Ag to Domestic by permit
- List of Well Drillers and service providers at www.smcgov.org/landuse



Fees

Fees broken into phases

- Planning Application Review (CDP/X)
(typically waived for wells)
- Well Drilling
- Pump Test
- Permit to Operate as Domestic Source
- Well Destruction

<u>Current</u>	<u>7/1/23</u>
\$991	\$1245
\$1634	\$1992
\$1656	\$1992
\$1821	\$1494
\$828	\$1245



Destroying Older Wells

Abandoned wells can be pathways for pollutants to enter groundwater. They also pose a threat to public health and safety – children, animals, and even adults can fall into abandoned wells, causing injury or death. It is the responsibility of the well owner to destroy abandoned wells per the Public Health and Safety Code, Part 9.5, [Section 115700](#).

Pressure grouting is most common method of destruction; may require explosive or complete drill-out depending on construction



Financial Assistance

- Planning/Building/One-time Environmental Health Fees waived for Farm Worker Housing related improvements, including all well-related fees (does NOT include annual permit fees for State-Small Water Systems)
- Grants/Loans available through State Water Resources Control Board for some well or water system related work





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