

Attachment 1- Replacement Well Definition

“Replacement well” means a new well drilled for the sole purpose of replacing an existing well which is impaired or otherwise rendered ineffective due to structural difficulties or water quality; which is constructed to provide water for the same purpose as the existing water well; and, if the purpose is for irrigation, which delivers water to the same amount of irrigated acreage served by the existing well.

- a. Replacement wells shall be located on the same or adjacent parcel as the existing well.
- b. Replacement wells shall replace an existing water well that has not been destroyed but which will not be used after construction of the replacement well. The existing well will be destroyed within one hundred eighty (180) days after the replacement well is operational¹.
- c. Replacement wells being constructed in a different aquifer than the existing well shall, as part of the permitting process, provide at least five (5) years of annual extraction data or otherwise quantify the volume of groundwater typically extracted from the existing well in order to allow for a reasonable estimate of the additional water likely to be extracted by the replacement well.
- d. This definition is not intended to include the deepening of an existing well.
- e. Domestic and municipal drinking water wells are exempt from policies that apply to replacement wells.
- f. Replacement wells shall be subject to an assessment of potential significant impacts to existing domestic or municipal water supply wells.²

¹ “Operational” means that the well has been fitted with a pump and connected to a source of power, or other means by which water can be extracted from the well on-demand by the well owner or operator.

² The assessment methodology and thresholds for determining potential significant adverse impact shall be the same as what is used by the Water Resources Agency in application of Monterey County 2010 General Plan policies PS-3.3 and PS-3.4.