

POLICY NO: 24.51A-1

SUBJECT: Second Residential (SRU) Coastal Water Production Testing Requirements

ISSUED: August 7, 1998

SUPERSEDES: Coastal Groundwater Development Guidelines, adopted by the Mendocino Board or Supervisors (BOS), July 1989

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

Since July, 1989, water production testing requirements for Second Residential Unit (SRU) applications have been governed by the Mendocino County Coastal Groundwater Development Guidelines. Depending on the parcel size and the water regime classification, water production testing varied from no testing requirement to full hydrological study. In March, 1997, Mendocino County Division of Environmental Health (DEH) dropped the requirement for hydrological studies, except in the Town of Mendocino.

DEH, responding to the request for permit streamlining, proposed to the BOS the elimination of water testing for all SRU applications. It was the decision of the BOS to continue to require water testing for SRU applications.

At the November 7, 1997, Site Evaluators' Meeting, consensus was reached concerning a definitive Inland SRU water testing procedure. On May 2, 1998, a subsequent meeting was held for Coastal Environmental Health staff and Coastal consultants. At that meeting, Coastal SRU water production testing guidelines were discussed and a definite procedure, as described in Table II, was agreed upon.

STATEMENT OF NEW POLICY

Coastal SRU water production testing shall be governed by the testing procedures outlined in Table II, enclosed. A restriction on the time of year (August 1 - September 30), for water testing for SRU's using springs will remain in effect.

TABLE II			
COASTAL SRU WATER PRODUCTION TESTING			
DWR Classification	Acres	Proof of Water	Inland Test Guidelines
SWR	< 2	X	X¹
	≥ 2		
MWR	< 4	X	X¹
	≥ 4		
CWR	< 10	X	X¹
	≥ 10		
CWRbr			X¹

¹ The Inland Test Guidelines require shallow well water production tests to be conducted between August 20 and October 31, while deep wells may be tested anytime.

A shallow well is defined as a well less than 40 feet deep which obtains its water predominately from alluvium or terrace deposits, or a well less than 60 feet deep which obtains its water predominately from cracks and fissures in bedrock.

IMPLEMENTATION/PRACTICE OF NEW POLICY

Use the most recent revision of DEH form 26.05, Water Quality Evaluation Report, in reporting all Coastal SRU water production data.