



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ♦ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

Land Use Program
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**PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING WATER SUPPLY APPROVAL
UTILIZING A WELL WATER MITIGATION PROCESS**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to provide property owners and/or homeowners with established guidelines in the procurement of and the use of water treatment technologies / devices for proposed private water wells that have been found to exceed the maximum contaminant levels established by the State Drinking Water Standards. These guidelines are intended to assist these property owners in complying with Los Angeles County Code, Title 11, which is necessary to obtain water availability approval from Environmental Health (EH) for the purpose of securing a building permit.

BACKGROUND:

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance 2005-0053, on July 5, 2005, requiring well water for domestic purposes, for new, repaired or reconstructed existing wells to meet all bacteriological and chemical requirements of the State Drinking Water Standards (SDWS) prior to use. This expanded the criteria for approval of proposed well water installations in Los Angeles County to include compliance with the biological as well as, chemical water quality standards found in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22.

Environmental Health, in March, 2007, developed a plan for the treatment of well water that exceeds the current maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for any regulated primary inorganic chemical, including arsenic. An evaluation was conducted at point-of-entry (POE) and point-of-use (POU) devices, to be utilized by the well owner, for achieving compliance with drinking water standards. These changes greatly affect property development in certain areas of Los Angeles County. This evaluation concluded that POE devices directly address the needs of public health protection in compliance with drinking water standards.

DEFINITIONS:

Point of Entry (POE) means a water treatment device utilizing treatment technologies installed at the well head, before it enters the dwelling, to achieve compliance with current drinking water standards. POE devices are identified as the preferred alternative for achieving compliance with State and Federal drinking water standards necessary for obtaining water availability approval from EH.

Contaminant means any health-related physical, chemical, biological or radiological substance or matter in water.

Point of Use (POU) means treatment devices utilizing treatment technologies installed at all fixtures within the dwelling that are used for drinking water purposes.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) means the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) as feasible using the best available treatment technology and taking cost into consideration. MCLs are enforceable standards.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) means the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety and are non-enforceable public health goals.

Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) - The SDWA was originally passed by Congress in 1974 to protect public health by regulating the nation's public drinking water supply. This is the main federal law that ensures the quality of drinking water in the United States. The SDWA authorizes the US EPA to set national health-based standards for drinking water to protect against both naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants that may be found in drinking water. The US EPA, the individual States, and water systems then work together to make sure that these standards are met.

Department means Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Director means the director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health or his/her duly authorized designee.

Well Water Mitigation Approval means an approval that is issued to a homeowner approving a water treatment device upon verification that the device is working properly to reduce primary inorganic chemicals in the drinking water. This approval must be obtained prior to issuance of the Water Supply Approval letter.

PROCEDURE:

A water treatment device may be used for the treatment of well water exceeding current MCLs for any regulated primary inorganic chemical. This device may be used at the well head (POE) in order to achieve state drinking water standards necessary for obtaining water availability approval from EH. *Well Water Mitigation Approval* shall be obtained from the Department prior to issuance of the *Water Supply Approval* letter.

STEPS:

The homeowner / property owner will be advised via a *Water Sampling Test Results Letter* that their well water currently exceeds the current MCL for a regulated primary inorganic chemical. EH will provide a complete well water mitigation application "packet" to the property owner / homeowner (to include: a flowchart entitled *Property Owner Procedure to Process an Application for a Well Water Treatment Device*, *Notification of Intent* (property owner's intent to install a water treatment device), *Application for Well Water Mitigation Approval*, a *Service Request Application*, the *Procedures for Obtaining Water Supply Approval Through Well Water Mitigation Process* and the *Work Plan Guidelines for Obtaining Well Water Mitigation Approval*).

This packet will be mailed to the property owner with the *Water Sampling Test Results Letter*.

1. The property owner must complete the *Notification of Intent* and return it to the Department indicating their willingness to provide a water treatment device for the purpose of mitigating the contaminant level. All devices submitted for approval will be considered. Following review of specifications regarding the ability to reduce the specified contaminant to the acceptable level, approval may be granted.
2. The property owner shall subsequently return the completed *Application for Well Water Mitigation Approval*; a *Service Request Application* and payment of the applicable fees; as well as submission of a completed Work Plan to the Department for plan review and approval.

A WORK PLAN SHALL INCLUDE:

THE PLOT PLAN:

- A. A plot plan drawn to scale of no less than 1" = 20' for parcels of one acre or less, and 1" = 40' for parcels over one acre. The typeface and size must remain legible. The plot plan may not exceed a paper size of 11" X 17".
- B. The plot plan shall indicate the location of the well and POE; and a plumbing diagram from the well head to the dwelling, to any accessory buildings, and to all exterior hose bibs.
- C. The location of any water storage tanks and the well house should be indicated.

ADDITIONALLY:

- D. On a separate sheet of paper, provide the water treatment device specifications including a diagram of the overall mitigation system. This

sheet should also include NSF or equivalent certifications of all water grade components.

- E. List the types of contaminants to be removed from the water.
- F. Provide installation requirements per the manufacturer's specifications.
- G. Provide maintenance requirements specified by the manufacturer's specifications. Each individual device will have specific requirements for maintenance and operation.
- H. **IF THE DEVICE REQUIRES BACK-FLUSHING:**
 - a) Specify the amount of water to be released into the septic system after back-flushing.
 - b) Specify required frequency of back-flushing.
 - c) Specify the chemicals contained in the back-flushed water.

NOTE: The amount of water generated by back-flushing the well water mitigation system may require an increased capacity of the Onsite Waste Water Treatment System (OWTS).

3. The Department shall review the work plan within 20 business days. Upon review, the Department will issue either a *Plan Correction Sheet* or a *Plan Approval Sheet*.
4. When a *Plan Correction Sheet* has been issued, a *Re-Submittal Reminder Letter* will be mailed to the property owner, if a corrected work plan has not been received within 30 calendar days. A *Re-Submittal Reminder Letter* will be sent once again at the end of a 90-day period if a corrected work plan has not been received. This reminder emphasizes to the property owner that plans are only valid for 1 year from the date of the original submission.
5. Once the plans have been re-submitted, and have been reviewed and approved, a *Work Plan Approval Sheet* shall be issued by the Department.
6. Upon completion of the installation, the homeowner / property owner must provide notification to the Department so that water samples may be collected within 10 business days from date of notification.

7. When water samples indicate that the primary inorganic chemicals are within the maximum contaminant level, the property owner will be required to record a covenant with the County Registrar Recorder's office, declaring that the water treatment device was installed properly and will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
8. A copy of a contract with a third party contractor (Service Provider) for maintenance, monitoring and preparation of inspection reports and a *Memorandum of Maintenance Agreement for Water Treatment Device* (ATTACHMENT XIII) must be provided to the Department (Land Use Program). Notification of any changes in Service Provider contract must be made to the Department within 30 days of date of change.
9. Once a copy of the recorded covenant AND the *Memorandum of Maintenance Agreement for Water Treatment Device* (ATTACHMENT XIII) is received by the Department, a conditional *Water Supply Approval* (ATTACHMENT IX) will be issued, enabling the property owner to obtain their building permit.
10. Upon completion of construction, prior to occupancy, the property owner must schedule an appointment with the inspector to conduct water sampling for verification that water continues to meet the MCL standards. Upon verification, the well water mitigation device approval will be issued.