County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health

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To: Well Drillers
          Well Pump Contractors

SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF SURFACE CONSTRUCTION FEATURES FOR AGRICULTURAL WELLS

This memorandum was issued as a reminder to members of our regulated community that pursuant to the Department of Water Resources' Bulletin 74-90 (California Well Standards), the minimum surface construction features must be met. Some of the required surface features are summarized below. For a comprehensive list of required features, please refer to the Bulletin 74-90. The hyperlink is provided here:
http://www.water.ca.gov/groundwater/well_info_and_other/california_well_standards/well_standards_content.html.

1. Openings:
   - Openings in the top of the well (e.g.: access plug and gravel fill pipe) shall be protected with watertight caps or plugs.
   - Air or casing vent shall terminate above the ground and known flood level and shall be protected against contamination by installation of a down-turned and screened "U" bend.
   - All other openings (holes, crevices, cracks, etc.) shall be sealed.
2. Sounding tube, taphole with plug or similar access shall be affixed to the casing of ALL wells.
3. Gasket or a well cap shall be installed to close any gap between the pump and pump base, or pump base and the rim of the casing, or casing and the pump column pipe, or casing and any pipes or cables.
4. Gasket or watertight seal shall be placed between discharge head and the line, or discharge pipe and the line.
5. If the pump is not installed immediately, water tight cover shall be installed at the top of the casing.
6. Concrete Base/ Pad:
   - The base shall be free of cracks and voids.
   - The contact between the base and the annular seal and the casing shall be watertight.
   - The concrete based shall be poured before the annular seal has set when the sealing material is cement-based, unless approved by Yolo County Environmental Health.
   - The upper surface of the base shall slope away from the well casing.
   - The dimension of the base shall be at least 2' laterally in all directions from outside of the well boring and the base shall be a minimum of 4" thick for small diameter, single-user domestic wells.
7. Pump blowoff shall be located above any known flood levels and protected against the possibility of backsiphonage or backpressure. The blowoff shall not be connected to any sewer or storm drain except when connected through an air gap.
8. Backflow prevention: All pump discharge pipes not discharging or open to the atmosphere shall be equipped with an automatic device to prevent backflow and/or back siphonage into a well.
   - Backflow prevention requirements for drinking water wells can be found in Title 17, Public Health, California Code of Regulations (Sections 7583-7585 and 7601-7605)
   - Backflow prevention requirements for irrigation wells, including those used for landscape irrigation, and other wells that employ, or which have been modified to employ, chemical feeders or injectors shall be approved by the appropriate enforcing agency.

Important Notice: Effective immediately, verification of the surface construction features will be required for all wells. Verification can be satisfied by a field inspection or submitting pictures of the well showing the required surface construction features meet the standards. Pictures must be of good quality. Yolo County Environmental Health will proceed to finalize the well permit once the verification is successfully completed.

This memo can be found in this hyperlink http://www.yolocounty.org/community-services/environmental-health-services/land-environmental-protection/ground-water-protection-and-well-permits