

ORDINANCE NO. 9826 (N.S.)

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE GROUNDWATER ORDINANCE  
AND THE ZONING ORDINANCE, RELATING TO  
WELL TEST PROCEDURES AND BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Diego ordains as follows:

Section 1. It is the intent of this ordinance to amend the San Diego County Groundwater Ordinance and Zoning Ordinance, to revise and enhance the residential well test requirements and to subject residential Boundary Adjustments to the Groundwater Ordinance. The new well test requirements will provide improved criteria to indicate whether a well is adequate. The inclusion of residential Boundary Adjustments will ensure that residential lots are not created smaller than the specified minimum parcel size and to prevent lots that are already smaller than the minimum parcel size to be further reduced in size.

Section 2. Section 67.703 of the San Diego County Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

**SEC. 67.703. DEFINITIONS.**

The following words shall have the meaning provided in this section. These definitions are to be broadly interpreted and construed to promote maximum conservation and prudent management of the groundwater resources within San Diego County.

Director: The Director of Planning and Land Use.

Groundwater Investigation: A study designed to evaluate geologic and hydrologic conditions, prepared in accordance with standards approved by the Director. The study must be prepared by a California State Registered Geologist or Registered Civil Engineer and be approved by the Director. The Director may require the study to demonstrate the groundwater adequacy of the basin to serve both the project and the entire basin if developed to the maximum density and intensity permitted by the general plan. For residential uses, the study shall assume an annual consumptive use requirement of 0.5 acre-feet (163,000 gallons) of water per dwelling unit. (Consumptive use is the amount of water lost from the groundwater resource due to human use, including evaporation and transpiration (plant use) losses associated with human use.)

Residual Drawdown: The difference between the initial (static) water level before a well test is conducted and the water level after recovery. Projected residual drawdown indicates an aquifer of limited extent and the long-term well yield may be lower than what is indicated in a well test.

**Specific Capacity:** An expression of the productivity of a well, obtained by dividing the rate of discharge of water (in gallons per minute) from the well by the drawdown (in feet) of the water level in the well.

**Water Intensive Use:** Any land use that requires a permit listed in Section 67.711 and is not exempt from this ordinance, and that will require more water than 20 acre-feet per year or more than 20,000 gallons per day.

**Water Service Agency:** Any city, mutual or municipal water district, or any other private or public agency which provides water at retail from either: (1) groundwater resources, to two or more users; or (2) imported water resources. Such water service agency must be in existence prior to the date of submittal of any project relying on service from that agency.

**Well Test:** The production procedure, reviewed and approved by the Director, by which water is produced from a water well and resulting water levels are monitored. If the results of the testing are inconclusive or improperly conducted, additional testing will be required. (All wells must have a valid San Diego County Health Department well permit prior to construction.)

1. **Residential Well Test:** A test of a well on property with zoning which permits residential use, or which is for a residential project, shall be conducted by or under the direct supervision of a California State Professional (or Registered) Geologist, who shall conduct all analysis. The Residential Well Test shall meet or exceed all of the following minimum requirements unless the Director has first approved an alternate procedure:

a. Well production during the Residential Well Test must be maintained at a rate of no less than three gallons per minute;

b. The Residential Well Test must be conducted over a period of at least 24 hours, unless after eight hours of pumping, the measured specific capacity is equal to or greater than 0.5 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown, at which time pumping can be terminated. In addition, all Residential Well Tests must produce at least two full well bore volumes of water (a bore volume is that quantity of water which is stored within the saturated portion of the drilled annulus of the well).

c. The analysis of the Residential Well Test must indicate that no residual drawdown is projected (taking into account minor inaccuracies inherent in collecting and analyzing well test data).

d. The analysis of the Residential Well Test must also indicate that the amount of drawdown predicted to occur in the well after five years of continual

pumping at the rate of projected water demand, will not interfere with the continued production of sufficient water to meet the needs of the anticipated residential use(s).

2. Nonresidential Well Test: A test of a well for a nonresidential project (such as a golf course) shall be in accordance with procedures approved by the Director and may be more extensive than those applicable to a Residential Well Test.

Section 3. Section 67.711 of the San Diego County Code is hereby amended, to read as follows:

**SEC. 67.711. APPLICATION.**

Prior to approval of any of the following discretionary land development applications for a project which proposes the use of groundwater (hereinafter referred to as "Projects"), the applicant shall comply with the provisions of Article 3 below:

General Plan and Specific Plan Adoptions and Amendments

Tentative Parcel Maps

Tentative Maps

Revised Tentative Parcel Maps and Revised Tentative Maps (Review shall exclude areas unaffected by the revisions proposed by the Revised Map)

Expired Tentative Parcel Maps and Expired Tentative Maps

Zoning Reclassifications Amending Use Regulations Applicable to Particular Property

Major Use Permits

Major Use Permit Modifications (Review shall exclude areas unaffected by the proposed modifications)

Certificates Of Compliance filed pursuant to San Diego County Code Section 81.616.1 or 81.616.2 (Excluding Condominium Conversions)

Adjustment Plats filed pursuant to San Diego County Code Section 81.901, on property zoned to permit residential use, if the Director determines that the Adjustment Plat will create a lot which would potentially worsen existing or future groundwater conditions at the maximum density and intensity permitted by the General Plan and Zoning, taking into consideration long-term groundwater sustainability, groundwater overdraft, low well yield, and well interference. If the

Director makes this determination, the Adjustment Plat shall comply with Section 67.722 but not Sections 67.720 or 67.721.

Section 4. Section 67.722 of the San Diego County Code is hereby amended, to read as follows:

**SEC. 67.722. ALL OTHER PROJECTS.**

Any application listed at Section 67.711 for a project not subject to Section 67.720 or Section 67.721, which proposes the use of groundwater not provided by a Water Service Agency, for all or any portion of the project, shall comply with the following regulations:

A. Residential Density Controls.

1. Tentative Maps, Tentative Parcel Maps, and Certificates of Compliance proposing parcels for single-family dwellings must comply with the minimum parcel sizes set forth in the following table; Adjustment Plats on property zoned to permit residential use shall also comply with these minimum parcel sizes, except that an existing parcel smaller than the applicable minimum parcel size need not be made to conform to the minimum, so long as it is not further reduced in size by the Adjustment Plat:

Mean Annual Precipitation* (inches)	Minimum Parcel Size**(Gross Acres)
Less than 9	20
9 to 12	15
12 to 15	11
15 to 18	8
18 to 21	5
More than 21	4

\*Mean annual precipitation is to be determined from the County of San Diego map entitled "Groundwater Limitations Map" on file with the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors as Document No. 0770050.

\*\* Compliance with the minimum parcel size does not guarantee project approval; site-specific characteristics may indicate that either larger parcel sizes are required or that the project should not be approved in individual cases.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 above shall not apply to a project which includes Lot Area Averaging in accordance with Section 4230 of The Zoning Ordinance, provided that all of the following are complied with:

a. The overall average density of the project does not exceed that which results from applying the applicable minimum parcel size set in paragraph 1 to the gross project area;

b. No proposed lot is less than 67 percent of the required minimum lot size as set in paragraph 1; and

c. The Director has reviewed and approved the lot density and water resource distribution. Projects shall not be allowed which place smaller lots in dry areas of the subdivision.

B. Groundwater Investigations. Any application listed in Section 67.711 and not subject to Sections 67.720, 67.721 or Paragraph A above, shall be accompanied by a Groundwater Investigation. The application shall not be approved unless the approving authority finds, based upon the Groundwater Investigation or other available information, either: (1) for a water intensive use, that groundwater resources are adequate to meet the groundwater demands both of the project and the groundwater basin if the basin were developed to the maximum density and intensity permitted by the General Plan; or (2) for all other projects, that groundwater resources are adequate to meet the groundwater demands of the project.

C. Well Tests. For any application for a Tentative Map, Specific Plan or Specific Plan Amendment, Tentative Parcel Map, Adjustment Plat or a Certificate of Compliance, well tests shall be performed for the number of lots shown in the following table. Tests shall be on lots which appear to have the least access to a viable groundwater supply as determined in advance of testing by the Director, who shall also specify nearby wells to be monitored while the testing is being conducted. If any well does not pass the requirements for Well Tests stated in Section 67.703 above, the Director may require additional well tests beyond what is required in the following table:

Number of Proposed Lots*	Number of Required Well Tests
1 through 10	1
11 through 20	2
21 through 30	3
31 through 40	4
Greater than 40	5

\* Excluding remainder parcels and "not a part" areas

Section 5. Section 67.750 of the San Diego County Code is hereby amended, to read as follows:

## **Sec. 67.750 EXEMPTIONS.**

- (a) A proposed subdivision which pursuant to the terms of Government Code Section 66424 or 66426 is exempt from the requirement to file a Tentative Map or Tentative Parcel Map is not subject to this Ordinance unless it also involves an application for a General Plan or Specific Plan adoption or amendment, a Zoning Reclassification, or a Major Use Permit or modification thereof.
- (b) The following Major Use Permits or Major Use Permit modifications are exempt from this ordinance:
  - (1) Those involving the construction of agricultural and ranch support structures used in the production, storage, or processing of food, fiber, and flowers, including but not limited to roadside stands, barns, sheds, packing houses, and greenhouses, except that this exception does not apply to feed lots.
  - (2) Those involving new or expanded agricultural land uses, including but not limited to changes in commodities produced on the property, operations performed upon such commodities, and development of additional irrigated acreage on the property unless accompanied by subdivision.

This agricultural exemption does not supersede or limit the application of any law or regulation otherwise applicable to the above-listed categories of agricultural support activities including the California Environmental Quality Act. For purposes of this exemption, "agricultural and ranch support structures" do not include the commercial exportation of groundwater for purposes of resale outside the basin.

- (c) The Director may grant an exemption from the requirement for a Groundwater Investigation imposed by Section 67.720, 67.721 or 67.722.B, the requirement for Well Tests imposed by Section 67.721 or 67.722.C, or the requirement for minimum parcel sizes imposed by Section 67.722.A, upon a finding that existing data clearly demonstrate that the finding required by Section 67.722.B. can be made without additional study. Such data may include a recent history (minimum of five years) of groundwater withdrawals or streamflow data and other geomorphic evidence which indicates that replenishment of groundwater resources is rapid and reliable, and is controlled primarily by infiltration of streamflow rather than on-site recharge.

Section 6. Section 6903 of the San Diego County Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended to read as follows:

### **6903 LOT LINE LOCATIONS**

Lot lines shall not be relocated so as to do any of the following:

- a. Impair any legal access or create a need for new access to any adjacent lots or parcels.
- b. Impair any existing easements, create a need for any new easements serving any adjacent lots or parcels or cause any of the lots or parcels involved to be without safe and adequate access.
- c. Require substantial alteration of any existing public improvement or create a need for any new public improvements, unless approval is given by the Director, Department of Public Works.
- d. Adjust the boundary between lots or parcels for which a Covenant of Improvement Requirements has been recorded and all required improvements stated therein have not been completed unless the Director determines the proposed boundary adjustment will not significantly affect said Covenant of Improvement Requirements.
- e. Include any lots or parcels, which in the Director's judgment, based on design, size, or specification of the original document creating the parcel, were not intended as a building site.
- f. Negate any condition imposed or finding made in the original action or actions that created any or all of the lots involved in any such relocation of a lot line.
- g. Negate any action or measure imposed to mitigate environmental impacts at the time any or all of the lots involved in any such relocation of a lot line were created.
- h. Result in any lot or lots which utilize or propose to utilize an individual sewage disposal system, unless said lot or lots have been certified by the Director of Environmental Health as being approved for the installation of a sewage disposal system in accordance with the Septic Tank Ordinance, said certification to be dated no earlier than one year prior to the filing of said request for relocation of lot line(s). The Director of Environmental Health may exempt a boundary adjustment lot(s) from certification when the lot line changes will not impact the ability of the lot(s) to utilize an individual sewage disposal system.
- i. Result in any increase in noncompliance to the lot design requirements specified in Section 81.401 of the County Subdivision Ordinance.
- j. Result in any lot or lots which do not comply with all applicable zoning regulations, except that in the case of a lot or lots which did not conform to zoning regulations prior to the lot line relocation, the relocation may be approved if it does not result in any greater degree of nonconformity.
- k. Include any area determined by the Director of Public Works to be subject to flooding or inundation unless the limits of said area are delineated by a distinctive

boundary line, clearly labeled, with an appropriate note stating said area is subject to flooding or inundation.

I. Where the Director has made the determination referred to in Section 67.711 of the San Diego County Code, lot lines may not be relocated so as to result in lots zoned for residential use that are smaller than the minimum parcel sizes set forth in San Diego County Code Section 67.722.A (within the San Diego County Groundwater Ordinance), except that an existing parcel smaller than the applicable minimum parcel size set forth in said Section 67.722.A need not be made to conform to the minimum, so long as it is not further reduced in size by the Adjustment Plat.

Section 7. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty days after its passage, and before the expiration of fifteen days after its passage, a summary hereof shall be published once with the names of the members of this Board voting for and against it in the San Diego Daily Transcript, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of San Diego.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2007

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