

Countywide Services Agency

Environmental Management
Department

Environmental Compliance Division

Elise Rothschild, Chief



County of Sacramento

Bradley J. Hudson, County Executive
Ann Edwards, Chief Deputy County Executive
Val F. Siebal, Department Director

Date: February 16, 2011

To: Environmental Consultants
Well Contractors
Well Program Webpage (<http://www.emd.saccounty.net/EnvComp/WP/Wells.html>)

SUBJECT: DAMAGED OR MISSING WELLS

This memorandum has been issued as a reminder to members of our regulated community that pursuant to the Sacramento County Code, Title 6, Chapter 6.28 (Wells and Pumps), Section 6.28.020 ("Acts Prohibited"):

"It is unlawful for any person to damage a well, or to construct any improvements or take any other action that renders a well inaccessible for service."

Examples of this type of violation include:

- Paving over wells;
- Removing surface features of wells during grading activities;
- Construction of buildings, walls, and other structures over wells;
- Burying or covering wells with gravel, debris, or other materials.

It is the responsibility of the well owner or their authorized representatives to notify EMD immediately when a well has been damaged or "lost." Early detection and reporting of damaged or missing wells is a vital precursor to the prompt mitigation of threats to human health and groundwater quality that may be posed by damaged wells. Administrative penalties of up to \$10,000 per day, per well, may be levied against any party responsible for directly violating this provision or any party responsible for compliance with this provision.

Note: If the wells were constructed in conjunction with the investigation of an unauthorized release from an underground storage tank, Responsible Parties are required to notify EMD within one calendar week of the discovery of a damaged or missing monitoring well, pursuant to Sacramento County Code, Title 6, Chapter 6.34, Section 6.34.029 ("Corrective Action Requirements"). Violations of this provision are also subject to administrative penalties.

Both of the referenced Sacramento County Ordinances may be accessed online at: <http://qcode.us/codes/sacramentocounty/>. Please contact Susan Williams at (916) 875-8452 if you have any questions.

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