

CHAPTER 4. DEFINITION OF TERMS

The District defines the following terms as they are listed in the Chapter Rules as follows:

- (1) “Abandoned well” is a well that is not in use. A well is in use if:
 - a) The well is not a deteriorated well and contains the casing, pump, and pump column in good condition;
 - b) The well is not a deteriorated well and has been capped;
 - c) The water from the well has been put to an authorized beneficial use, as defined by the Texas Water Code;
 - d) The well is used in the normal course and scope and with the intensity and frequency of other similar users in the general community; or
 - e) The owner is participating in the Conservation Reserve Program authorized by Sections 1231-1236, Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. Sections 3831-3836), or a similar governmental program.
- (2) “Acre-Foot of Water” is the quantity of water needed to cover one acre of land to the depth of one foot; 325,851 U.S. gallons of water.
- (3) “Agricultural Well” is a well used for agricultural activities as defined under Section 36.001 (19) of the Texas Water Code.
- (4) “Altering” is the process of changing the diameter, depth, design, or natural production of the original completed boring.
- (5) “Annular Seal” is the impermeable material emplaced in the annular space between the borehole wall and the outermost casing to prevent the downhole movement of surface water or the vertical mixing of groundwater.
- (6) “Annular Space” is the space between the outer casing wall and borehole wall.
- (7) “Apprentice” is an individual registered by the department to act or offer to act as a driller or installer under the supervision of, and pursuant to a training program developed by the supervising licensed driller or pump installer.
- (8) “Authorize or Authorization” is to empower or to give an approval that before a new boring or an altering begins within the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District, an approval will be needed from the District or a District representative.
- (9) “Bentonite” is a sodium hydrous aluminum silicate clay mineral (montmorillonite) commercially available in powdered, granular, or pellet form which is mixed with potable water and used for a variety of purposes including the stabilization of borehole walls during drilling, the control of potential or existing high fluid pressures encountered during drilling below a water table, and to provide a seal in the annular space between the well casing and borehole wall.
- (10) “Bentonite Grout” is a fluid mixture of sodium bentonite and potable water mixed at manufacturers’ specifications to a slurry consistency that can be pumped through a pipe directly into the annular space between the casing and the borehole wall.
- (11) “Board” is the Board of Directors of the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.
- (12) “Bore or Boring” is an artificial excavation dug or drilled below the earth’s surface for exploration. (See also Drill or Drilling)

- (13) "Capped Well" is a well that is closed or capped with a covering capable of preventing surface pollutants from entering the well.
- (14) "Casing" is a watertight and manufactured slotting or manufactured screening pipe which is installed in an excavated or drilled hole, temporarily or permanently, to maintain the hole sidewalls against caving or advance the borehole.
- (15) "Cement" is a Portland or construction cement mixture of not more than seven gallons of water per 94-pound sack of dry cement.
- (16) "Completed Well" is any boring which has sealed off access of injurious waters or constituents to the well bore by utilizing proper casing and sealing annular space with cement by either positive displacement or tremie pipe methods.
- (17) "Desired Future Condition (DFC)" is defined as a quantitative description, adopted in accordance with Chapter 36.108, of the desired condition of the groundwater resources in a management area at one or more specified future times.
- (18) "Deteriorated Well" is a well, in the condition of which will cause, or is likely to cause, pollution of any groundwater in the District.
- (19) "Domestic Use" is use of groundwater by a residence (not a business or other commercial structure) to support essential domestic activity.
- (20) "Drill or Drilling" is an artificial excavation dug or drilled below the earth's surface for exploration. (see also Bore or Boring)
- (21) "Driller" is a person who bores, cores, or constructs a water well in this state.
- (22) "Drought" is a meteorological period of serious moisture (precipitation) deficiency, and a resultant reduction in spring flow and stream flow generally accompanied by an increase in demand.
- (23) "Exempt Well" as defined in HB 2407 Section 8875.106:
- a) Is used solely for domestic use or for providing water for livestock or poultry regardless of land lot size and is drilled, completed, or equipped so that it is incapable of producing more than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a day;
 - b) Is not capable of producing more than 10,000 gallons of water a day; or
 - c) Is metered and does not produce more than 10 acre-feet of water in a calendar year.
- (24) "Existing Well" is any well within the boundaries of Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District that was drilled and properly completed on or before June 17, 2015.
- (25) "Groundwater" is water percolating below the surface of the earth.
- (26) "Licensed Driller" is a person who holds a license in good standings with Water Well Pump Installers Occupations Code Title 12; as well as Practices and Trades Related to Water, Health, and Safety Chapter 1901 Administered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.
- (27) "Licensed Pump Installer" is defined as a person who holds a license in good standings with Water Well Pump Installers Occupations Code Title 12; as well as Practices and Trades Related to Water, Health, and Safety Chapter 1902 Administered by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

- (28) "Management Area" is an area designated and delineated by the Texas Water Development Board under Texas Water Code Chapter 35 as an area suitable for management of groundwater resources.
- (29) "Measuring Device" is a water meter or an alternative measuring device that is incapable of being reset, approved by the District, and designed to indicate the flow rate and cumulative amount of water withdrawn by that well.
- (30) "Meter" is a water flow measuring device that can, within +/- 5% of accuracy, measure the instantaneous rate of flow and record the amount of groundwater produced from a well during a measure of time that is incapable of being reset.
- (31) "Modeled Available Groundwater (MAG)" is the amount of water that the executive administrator determines may be produced on an average annual basis to achieve a desired future condition established under Chapter 36.108.
- (32) "Natural Gamma-Ray Log" is a gamma-ray log that records the naturally occurring radiation emitted from sediments in the well bore.
- (33) "Non-Exempt Well" is a well not exempted under District Rule Chapter 11, for which the owner is required to report pumpage volume to the District and is required to pay a fee based on the amount of groundwater produced.
- (34) "Open Meetings Law" is defined as Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.
- (35) "Packer" is a short expandable, retractable device set in a well bore to prevent upward or downward fluid movement
- (36) "Plugging" is sealing of the well bore as specified by District rule.
- (37) "Positive Displacement" is the process in which the cement, bentonite, or a combination of the two sealing materials is forced through the well casing followed by water or drilling fluids, via a mechanical pump and out through relief holes in the casing at the maximum depth of the zone to be grouted. The grout then returns under pressure to the surface through the annular space and, upon curing or setting, causes an annular seal.
- (38) "Pump Installer" is a person who installs or repairs well pumps or equipment.
- (39) "Production" is the withdrawal of groundwater by pumping or by any other method.
- (40) "Reconditioning" is the process where a well is cleaned out to original depth and the original water production is restored.
- (41) "Re-completion" is the process of bringing an existing well into compliance with District Rule Chapter 6.
- (42) "Sanitary Well Seal" is a watertight device to maintain a junction between the casing and the pump column which prohibits liquids or solutions, including water, from entering the well through the well head and potentially contaminating the well.
- (43) "State of Texas Well Report (Well Log)" are the report and log forms required by Administrative Rules of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation 16 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter §76; such recordings are done at the time of drilling showing the depth, thickness, character of the different strata penetrated, location of water-bearing strata,

depth, size, and character of casing installed, together with any other data or information required by the District.

(44) "Surface Completion" is sealing off access of undesirable water, surface material, or other potential sources of contamination to the well bore by proper casing and cementing procedures.

(45) "Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation" may be noted as TDLR

(46) "Tremie Pipe Method" is the process in which a small diameter pipe or tubing is inserted in the annular space of the well to the maximum depth of the zone to be sealed, before the grouting procedure is commenced to pump sealing material through. The tubing or pipe may be retrieved during the grouting process.

(47) "Variance" is an exception to requirements or provisions of District Rules that is granted by the District.

(48) "Waste" as defined in the Texas Water Code Chapter 36.001.8. Section 7 means any one or more of the following:

- a) Withdrawal of groundwater from a groundwater reservoir at a rate and in an amount that causes or threatens to cause intrusion into the reservoir of water unsuitable for agricultural, gardening, domestic, or stock raising purposes;
- b) The flowing or producing of wells from a groundwater reservoir if the water produced is not used for a beneficial purpose;
- c) Escape of groundwater from a groundwater reservoir to any other reservoir or geologic strata that does not contain groundwater;
- d) Pollution or harmful alteration of groundwater in a groundwater reservoir by saltwater or by other deleterious matter admitted from another stratum or from the surface of the ground;
- e) Willfully or negligently causing, suffering, or allowing groundwater to escape into any river, creek, natural watercourse, depression, lake, reservoir, drain, sewer, street, highway, road, or road ditch, or onto any land other than that of the owner of the well unless such discharge is authorized by permit, rule, or order issued by the commission under Texas Water Code Chapter, Chapter 26;
- f) Groundwater pumped for irrigation that escapes as irrigation tailwater onto land other than that of the owner of the well unless permission has been granted by the occupant of the land receiving the discharge; or
- g) For water produced from an artesian well, "waste" also has the meaning assigned by Texas Water Code Chapter 36 Section 11.205.

(49) "Water well driller" is the same as Driller.

(50) "Well" is any artificial opening or excavation in the ground to a depth greater than the top of any stratum containing groundwater

(51) "Well Log" – Same as State of Texas Well Report - an accurate record made during the boring on a form prescribed by the Water Well Drillers Rules (16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter §76), showing the depth of the well bore, thickness of the formations, character of casing installed, and any other data required by the Water Well Drillers Rules. It also includes

any special purpose well log that may be available for any given well, such as a gamma ray log, a temperature log, an electric log, or a caliper log.

(52) "Well Operator" is the person who operates a well or well system.

(53) "Well Owner" is the person who owns a possessory interest in the land upon which a well or well system is located or to be located.

(54) "Well Pumps and Equipment" is equipment and materials used to obtain water from a well, including the seals and safeguards necessary to protect the water from contamination.

(55) "Well System" is a well or group of wells tied to the same distribution system.

(56) "Withdrawal" is extracting groundwater by pumping or by any other method.

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