

CHAPTER 7. WELL SPACING REQUIREMENTS

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The purpose of these well spacing requirements is to promote groundwater conservation, provide for long-term availability of groundwater resources, reduce localized depletion of groundwater, prevent interference between wells, and prevent the degradation of groundwater.

7.1 Residential Lot Sizing with On-site Sewage Facilities

(1) Wells drilled within the District must comply with Comal County regulations for on-site sewage facilities including; the minimum lot size for subdivisions or parcels of land requiring the use of on-site sewage facilities for residential development utilizing private individual wells as stated in Revisions to Comal County Subdivision Rules and Regulations Approved by Order of the Comal County Commissioners Court as amended.

7.2 Spacing from Potential Sources of Pollution

(1) All well spacing must comply with the spacing requirements of 16 Texas Administrative Code, Section §76.100, as amended. The Board may add additional permit conditions increasing the spacing requirements where necessary to meet the drawdown goals incorporated into this Rule.

- a) A well shall be located a minimum horizontal distance of 50 feet from any water-tight sewage and liquid-waste collection facility, except in the case of monitoring, dewatering, piezometer, and recovery wells which may be located where necessity dictates.
- b) A well shall be located a minimum horizontal distance of 150 feet from any concentrated sources of potential contamination such as, but not limited to, existing or proposed livestock or poultry yards, cemeteries, pesticide mixing or loading facilities, and privies, except in the case of monitoring, dewatering, piezometer, and recovery wells which may be located where necessity dictates.
- c) A well shall be located a minimum horizontal distance of 100 feet from an existing or proposed septic system absorption field, septic systems spray area, a dry litter poultry facility and 50 feet from any property line provided the well is located at the minimum horizontal distance from the sources of potential contamination.

- d) A well shall be located at a site not generally subject to flooding; provided, however, that, if a well must be placed in a flood prone area, it shall be completed as stated in Chapter 6.4(7).
- e) No well may be located within 500 feet of a sewage treatment plant, solid waste disposal site, or land irrigated by sewage plant effluent, or within 300 feet of a sewage wet well, sewage pumping station, or a drainage ditch that contains industrial waste discharges or wastes from sewage treatment systems.

7.3 Alternatives to Well Spacing Requirements

(1) The distances given for separation of wells from sources of potential contamination in Chapter 7.2, may be decreased following the fulfillment of the requirements specified in the District’s Variance Request form. A District representative will then inspect the location to verify compliance with District rules.

7.4 Spacing from Property Lines and Other Wells

(1) All new wells shall be located a minimum horizontal distance from existing wells and property lines as specified in the following Table except in instances where an original existing well is plugged in accordance with Chapter 6.9 in conjunction with a replacement well’s completion as outlined in Chapter 5.6.

(2) The District recommends any subdivision of existing tracts of land shall be done in such a fashion that new property lines shall be located no closer than the spacing requirements of this Rule from any existing or proposed water well. The distances in the chart below are set to minimize drawdown between neighboring wells.

Actual Pumping Capacity of Well as Equipped (gallons per minute)	Minimum Distance (in feet) between Existing Water Wells and the New Water Well	Distance of New Water Well from Property Lines (in feet)
Less than 17.36 gpm	100	50
17.37 gpm through <50 gpm	300	150
50 gpm through <100 gpm	750	350
100 gpm through <300 gpm	1000	500
Greater than 300 gpm	1200	700

(3) Exceptions to the distance requirements set forth in this Chapter are subject to change based on the following criteria:

- a) Areas containing multiple wells that operate continuously for long periods of time.

- b) Areas where available drawdown is limited due to partially penetrating wells, persistently lower water level elevations, or other conditions that produce limited depth of water in a well.
- c) Areas where faulting or other hydrogeologic conditions may cause more water level decline than under the assumptions implemented herein.

7.5 Public Water System Well Spacing

(1) Public Water System Wells must comply with the 150-foot sanitary control easements as required by Title 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 290.

(2) Retail water utilities and community water systems may apply to drill new wells, replacement wells, or monitor wells within the confines of a well field owned by the utility without regard for District spacing requirements if the site plan for the proposed new well and the well field has been designed by a professional engineer and has been approved by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

7.6 Geothermal Well

(1) Spacing Geothermal wells are exempt from the requirements of these Chapter 7 Rules. Refer to Chapter 6 Well Construction and Completion Standards for rules regarding geothermal well construction.

Adopted March 19, 2018 by Board Order; effective January 1, 2019.