

# DIABLO WATER DISTRICT

## REGULATION NO. 10

### Groundwater Sustainability and Protection

#### Section I. Purpose and Authority

- A. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (2014) and subsequent amendments to California Water Code.
- B. The purpose of this regulation is to balance and protect the interest of all that rely on a sustainable groundwater aquifer.

#### Section II. Applicability

- A. All groundwater extraction wells except residential wells; and/or
- B. New developments of 50 residential dwelling units (or equivalent).

#### Section III. Requirements

- A. New Development
  - 1. Shall install groundwater monitoring well(s)\* to be cited by the District per the following table:

Residential Dwelling Units (or equivalent)	Number of groundwater monitoring well(s)*
50 – 250	1
251 – 500	2
501 – 999	3
1000 +	To be determined by District Staff

*\*Monitoring wells are to be deeded to the District as part of the Facilities Installation Agreement.*

2. Irrigation water for parks, street medians, and other public landscaping that is proposed to be irrigated with groundwater or potable water shall:

- (a) Connect to the District's alternative water supply main lines;  
or
- (b) Connect to the District's recycled water supply main lines; or
- (c) If neither of the above are feasible, then the installed well shall be deeded to the District as part of the Facilities Installation Agreement.

B. Well Design Criteria

1. New wells are to be designed and installed with remote monitoring groundwater elevation equipment.

2. New wells that propose to extract more than 1 million gallons per month shall:

- (a) Perform successful groundwater sustainability test pumping, subject to District approval, prior to operating the well; or
- (b) Engage the District to run the District's most current groundwater hydraulic model that includes the proposed well and consumption. Groundwater hydraulic model will be a fee for service requested.

3. New wells that propose to extract more than 5 million gallons per month shall:

- (a) If the District determines recycled water is not a feasible option, then successful groundwater sustainability test pumping must occur, subject to District approval, prior to operating the well; or
- (b) Engage the District to run the District's most current groundwater hydraulic model that includes the proposed well and consumption. Groundwater hydraulic model will be a fee for service requested.

**Section IV. Groundwater Monitoring and Data Transparency**

- A. All new, non-residential wells shall grant the District access to their remote monitoring data network for groundwater elevation data.
- B. All new and existing public agency groundwater wells shall:
  - 1. Meter and report to the District volume of groundwater extractions monthly.
  - 2. Monitor bi-annual groundwater elevations at their wells.
  - 3. Perform water quality testing of their wells regardless of the end use of the water for: TDS, salinity, chlorides, iron, manganese, nitrates, and arsenic.
    - (a) Semi-annual testing for 3 years
    - (b) Annual testing for 2 additional years
    - (c) Bi-annual testing in perpetuity

- (d) Should changes in water quality be noted, then a location may be placed on a custom monitoring routine as determined by the District.

**Section V. New/Repurposed/Rehabilitated Natural Gas, Oil, and Resource Extraction or Injection Wells.**

- A. In alignment with the District’s mission to be environmentally responsible stewards of the water resources in our care for the benefit of our community, the District seeks to safeguard the drinking water aquifer from potential impacts of resource extraction wells.
- B. At the District’s direction, via the CEQA process, all new natural gas, oil, and resource extraction or injection wells will require the installation of monitoring wells to protect the drinking water aquifer.
  - 1. The number of monitoring wells, depths, and locations will be solely determined by the District.
  - 2. Monitoring well(s) shall be drilled prior to productions wells to enable the collection of baseline data.
  - 3. The testing frequency and constituents being tested for will be determined by the District based on the specifics (depth, flow, resource being extracted, etc.) of each well.
  - 4. The District shall be provided access to the monitoring well data.

5. At any time, should a monitoring well detect constituents consistent with a potential leak from the production well, the production wells shall be shut down immediately.
6. The cost associated with remediating the drinking water aquifer shall be solely borne by the owner/operator of the extraction well.
7. This cost shall include any lost water production and damage to the drinking water aquifer that the District experiences.
8. If a leak is confirmed in the extraction well, a separate firm (approved by the District) that specializes in remediation and mitigation shall be engaged by the owner/operator of the extraction well to perform all required work.

**Section VI. Voluntary Consolidation of Existing Small Water Systems**

- A. The District will prioritize working with small water systems that are experiencing water quality issues.
  1. Initial efforts will include seeking grant funds to facilitate a consolidation feasibility study.
  2. Long-term efforts may include up to and including seeking grant funds for the construction of District facilities to reach to small water systems and voluntary consolidation.