



## MONTEREY PENINSULA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

5 HARRIS COURT, BLDG. G  
POST OFFICE BOX 85  
MONTEREY, CA 93942-0085 • (831) 658-5600  
FAX (831) 644-9560 • <http://www.mpwmd.dst.ca.us>

Date: July 24, 2009

To: MPWMD Staff, Consultants and Interested Parties  
From: Darby Fuerst, General Manager

**SUBJECT: WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM MEMORANDUM #5 – REQUIRED  
HOURS OF TESTING FOR NON-POTABLE WATER WELLS**

This Water Distribution System (WDS) Memorandum #5 is written to clarify the required well capacity testing duration for non-potable water wells as part of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD or District) permit process for a WDS pursuant to District Rules 20, 21 and 22). Specifically, this memorandum addresses the minimum number of hours a test must be performed.

### **Background**

An earlier WDS Memorandum #2, dated September 16, 2003, stated that only eight (8) hours of testing were required (72 hours of testing recommended) for a well intended only to provide non-potable water for uses such as irrigation, swimming pools or animal use. WDS Memorandum #2 was superseded by the current *Procedures for Well Source and Pumping Impact Assessments* (dated September 2005, revised May 2006), which specifies different lengths of time for the testing depending on the hydrogeologic setting. There has been some confusion whether the testing duration in the *Procedures* applies to both potable and non-potable water wells, or whether a shorter testing duration is acceptable for non-potable water wells due to the reduced potential effect on public health if a non-potable water well fails. However, the District must consider environmental effects on the water resource system in its Findings (Rule 22-B). The volume of water for non-potable water uses, especially irrigation of large gardens, orchards or vineyards, may far exceed potable water uses on a property. Thus, the timeframes in the *Procedures* should apply to both potable and non-potable wells to enable consistent accuracy of the assessment of the environmental effect of any given well.

### **Hours of Testing Required as of July 2009**

The timeframes in the *Procedures* apply to **both** potable and non-potable water wells, unless a signed, written exception is approved by the MPWMD General Manager (or designee) in response to a written request for a shorter period, along with a justification for the request. The timeframes are:

- \* Setting #1, Carmel Valley Alluvial Aquifer – 8 hours
- \* Setting #2, Carmel Valley Upland/Other Consolidated Rock – 72 hours
- \* Setting #3, Carmel Valley Upland within 1,000 feet of Alluvium/Tributaries – 72 hours
- \* Setting #4, Seaside Groundwater Basin – 24 hours minimum, possibly more hours based on hydrogeology (check with MPWMD before test).