



County of Yolo

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

Environmental Health

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Yolo County Code pertinent to Water Well Abandonment

1. Yolo County Code Section 6-8.401.5

A well is considered “abandoned” when it has not been used for a period of one year, unless the owner can demonstrate his intention to use the well again for supplying water or another associated purpose (such as an observation well or injection well). The well shall then be considered “inactive”.

2. Yolo County Code Section 6-8.401.5

A well is considered “inactive” well shall be properly maintained as below:

- (a) The well has no defects which will allow the impairment of quality of water in the well or in the water-bearing formations penetrated;
- (b) The well is covered such that the cover is watertight and cannot be removed, except with the aid of equipment or the use of a tool;
- (c) The well is marked so that it can be clearly seen; and
- (d) The area surrounding the area is kept clear of brush or debris. If the pump has been removed for repair or replacement, the well shall not be considered “abandoned”. During the repair period, the well shall be adequately covered to prevent injuries to people and to prevent the entrance of undesirable water or foreign matter.

2. Yolo County Code Section 6-8. 1011.

Abandoned wells shall be destroyed within one hundred twenty (120) days after notification by the enforcement officer that it has been established that the well is abandoned and directing that the well be destroyed. The destruction shall be done by the owner thereof in the following manner:

- (a) The well shall be filled with silt, clay, neat cement, cement grout or concrete to approximately twenty (20’) feet from the surface. For gravel envelope well, additional measures for sealing may be directed where the commingling of water from the various strata may be a problem.
- (b) Neat cement, cement grout or concrete shall be placed from approximately twenty (20’) feet to within ten (10’) feet, and not higher than three (3’) feet from the surface.
- (c) The top three (3’) feet to ten (10’) feet of the well shall be cut off and a plate welded or sealed on the stub.
- (d) The excavation shall be backfilled with native material.