

**EMERGENCY GROUNDWATER WELLS AT  
OAKMONT TREATMENT PLANT AND SPEERS ROAD  
May 3, 2017**

## **FAQ SHEET**

**Q: Why is an Emergency Groundwater Well Important?**

**A:** In the case of a major disaster, such as an earthquake or contamination spill in our rivers or lakes, the City of Santa Rosa needs to be able to supply water to meet health and safety standards to our residential customers, hospitals, schools, nursing facilities and businesses.

**Q: How often will the well be operated?**

**A:** An emergency well can only be operated for a maximum of 15 days a year, and only during an emergency. This would allow for repairs to reconnect to Sonoma County Water Agency lines.

**Q: Are there any other times than during an emergency when the well will be operated?**

**A:** For typical maintenance, the pump would need to be exercised for approximately a half hour each month. Once a year, the radio system and electrical system would need to be checked to verify everything is in working conditions.

**Q: What will determine if an Emergency Well will be installed?**

**A:** This work includes drilling a pilot bore hole and collecting data on the underlying soils and gravels in the aquifer to determine the viability of developing an emergency well. If the data shows that this is a good location for an emergency well, then the pilot bore hole will be enlarged and an emergency well will be installed. If the information shows that the location is not feasible for an emergency well but proves to be a good data point for future monitoring efforts as part of the groundwater master plan, a monitoring well will be installed. A monitoring well is used to test groundwater quality and measure water levels in the aquifer but is not used to produce water. If the site does not support the conditions for either an emergency well or a monitoring well, the bore hole will be destroyed.

If an emergency well is constructed, the well would be connected to the water and sewer systems. A building to house the well, pump and the chlorination system would be constructed in the future (Summer/Fall 2018).

**Q: What is the Project schedule?**

**A:** The design for drilling the pilot bore holes has been completed. The anticipated schedule for construction is as follows:

- Bid Opening: May/June 2017
- Begin Construction: August 2017
- End Construction: December 2017

Normal hours of operation will be from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. However, drilling operations and pump testing may require nighttime work. Advanced notice will be provided at least 24 hours prior to the start of the operation.

**Q: Will the Emergency Groundwater Well reduce the amount of water available in my well?**

**A:** The proposed emergency well would only be operated during an emergency event and would only be operated for a maximum of 15 days a year. The well will be installed to a depth of 600' drawing the water from a deeper location than the surrounding neighborhood wells. It is not anticipated that the well would affect the supply of the neighborhood wells.

**Q: How are locations selected as a potential Emergency Groundwater Well sites?**

**A:** Locations for wells are identified and ranked based on the following criteria:

- Groundwater bearing potential and recharge capacity
- If the property is City Owned or Vacant
- Proximity to existing water and sewer mains

**Q: What is the Groundwater Master Plan?**

**A:** The groundwater master plan was developed to provide a strategy for effectively managing the groundwater resources within our groundwater basin by integrating groundwater and surface water protection and management with conservation and reuse. This will enhance recharge strategies to increase water supply reliability and sustainability. The Groundwater Master Plan includes:

- Recommendations for an emergency groundwater supply plan;
- Development of a key well monitoring network;
- Conceptual evaluation of aquifer storage and recovery;
- Recommended groundwater policies designed to guide the future role of groundwater and promote balanced use and sustainability for the groundwater resources available to the City;
- Identified specific groundwater projects and programs based on these recommended policies.

**Q: What will the noise impacts be while drilling the pilot borehole?**

**A:** A sound wall will be constructed around the drilling site to minimize the noise from drilling operations to 60 dBa during the daytime hours and 50 dBa during the nighttime hours. A refrigerator or light traffic is an example of a noise level at 50 dBa and an air conditioner is an example of 60 dBa. Additionally, the contractor will be required to use equipment equipped with mufflers and other technology that reduces noise levels and prohibit unnecessary idling. Noise levels will be monitored throughout the project and a designated City contact will be provided to address any neighborhood concerns.

**Q: How can I stay informed about construction activity and project status?**

**A:** Staying informed about the progress of this project is easy. Go to: <http://srcity.org/CIP>. Search the *List of Capital Projects* for Project ID# 2083