



Community and Economic Development Environmental Health Division

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NOTICE TO POTENTIAL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM APPLICANTS

Senate Bill No. 1263 Compliance

Senate Bill No. 1263 (SB1263) became effective on **January 1, 2017**. The bill was promulgated to address an increasing State-wide issue of existing Public Water Systems (PWSs) becoming unsustainable because of the lack of the capacity in the areas of Technical, Managerial and Financial (TMF) Capacity. The intent of the bill is to encourage the consolidation of the PWSs where there is a feasible alternative, and to discourage or prohibit the creation of new PWSs that will become unsustainable.

As a result of the bill, the application process to own a PWS has changed significantly. Specifically, the bill requires a submittal of a **Preliminary Water System Technical Report** to the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) for review and approval at least **6 months** before initiating construction of any water related improvement. By definition, a water related improvement includes, but not limited to, a water pipe, a water pump, or drinking water infrastructure. A well for a PWS is considered a drinking water infrastructure.

Therefore, Madera County Environmental Health (MCEH) cannot issue a new public water well construction permit OR allow the use of an existing well if the well is identified to be the source for the new Public Water System. In order for MCEH to move forward with the proposed development, approval of the Preliminary Water System Technical Report shall be submitted to DDW and MCEH with concurrence from DDW. To expedite the public water well construction permitting process or building permit, you are strongly encouraged to submit the Preliminary Water System Technical Report ASAP, i.e. at the project planning stage to both agencies.

The following information is provided to assist you to understand the requirements of SB1263.

1. For SB1263, click [here](#).
2. For SB1263 FAQ, click [here](#).
3. For SB 1263 Preliminary Technical Report Guide, click [here](#).
4. For a handout on "What is a Public Water System", click [here](#).

cc: Kassy Chauhan, P.E
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