



# DESTROYING A WELL IN FRESNO COUNTY

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH DIVISION**

**FRESNO COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**



**TOM FULLER**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST**

# What does the Environmental Health Department Do?

Our Mandate is to protect the health of the citizens of Fresno County

Our job is to make sure that what you eat, breathe, touch and drink doesn't hurt you.

# Environmental Health Programs:

Consumer  
Food

Solid Waste

Body Art

Substandard  
housing

Vector Control

Institutional  
Health

Emergency  
Response

Animal  
Control

Hazmat/CUPA

Liquid Waste

Recreational  
Health

Lead Hazard  
Control

Land Use

Organized  
Camps

Water  
Surveillance

Milk  
Inspections

# The Water Surveillance Program

## WELL PERMITTING

DOMESTIC WELLS

AG WELLS

INDUSTRIAL WELLS

CATHODIC PROTECTION WELLS

MONITORING WELLS

SOIL BORINGS

WELL DESTRUCTIONS

## STATE SMALL WATER SYSTEMS

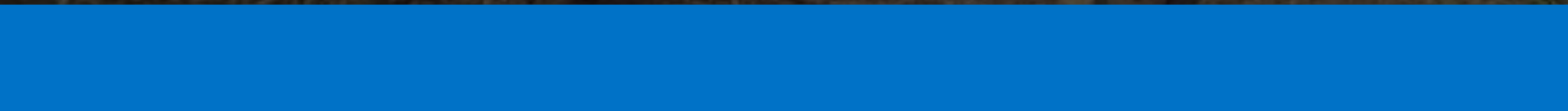
SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

TESTING FOR WATER QUALITY AND POTABILITY





# WELL DESTRUCTIONS





# What is a well destruction?

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- The process used to permanently close wells that will no longer be used.





# COMMON REASONS FOR DESTROYING A WELL

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- **The well fails to provide safe and healthy water.**
- **The well doesn't produce enough or goes dry.**
- **The well is no longer needed.**
- **The property where the well is found is being repurposed.**
- **The availability of a municipal water system.**



# According to California State Water Well Standards:

“A well that is no longer useful must be destroyed.”



- residential wells
- agricultural wells
- industrial wells
- monitoring wells
- test / exploratory wells
- cathodic protection wells
- soil borings
- oil wells

# *The benefits to properly destroying a well:*

## 1) Safety



50 foot well, 35 year old, survived



35 foot well, 6 year old, survived



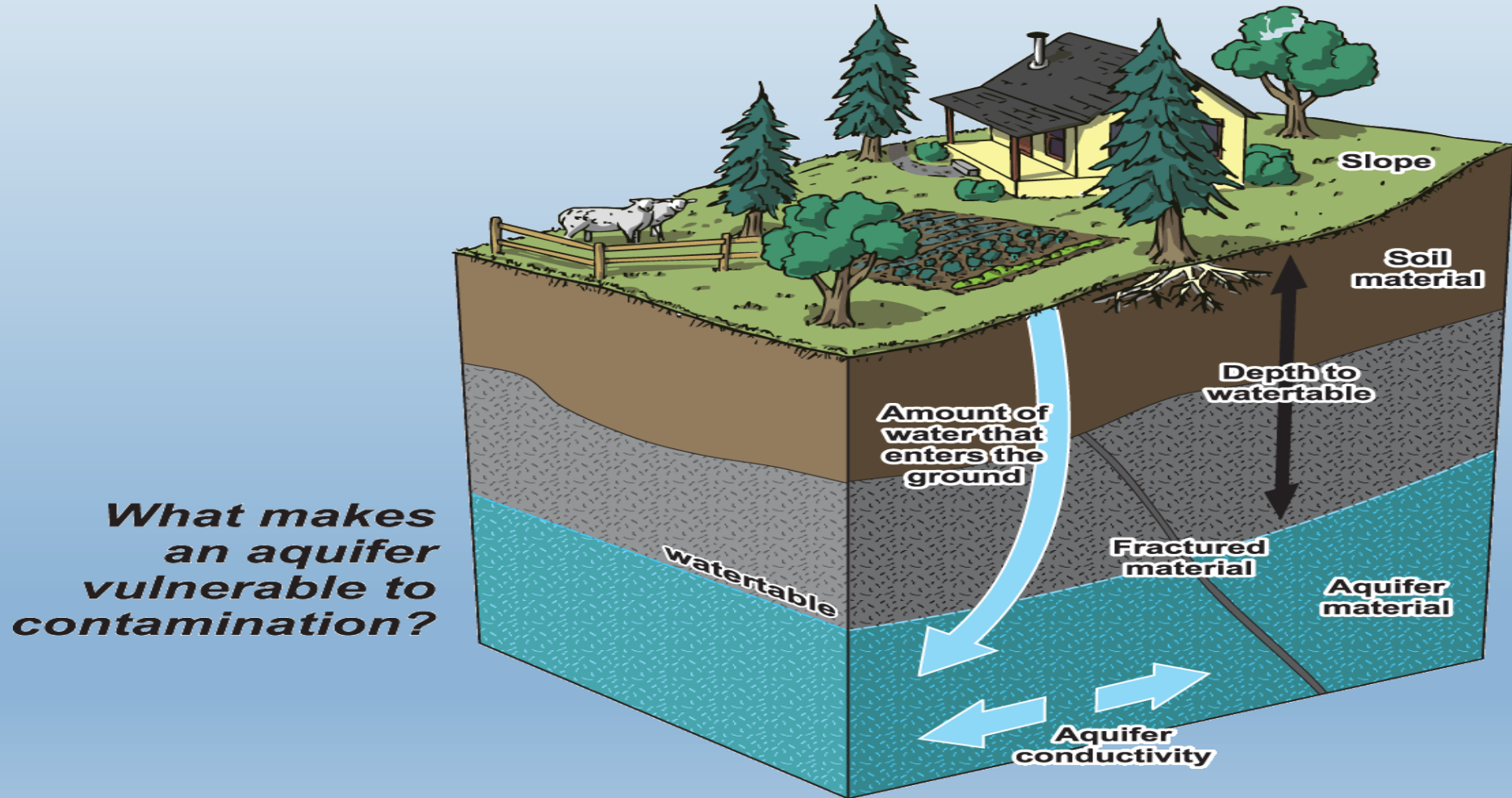
60 foot well, 7 year old boy, survived

**LIABILITY**

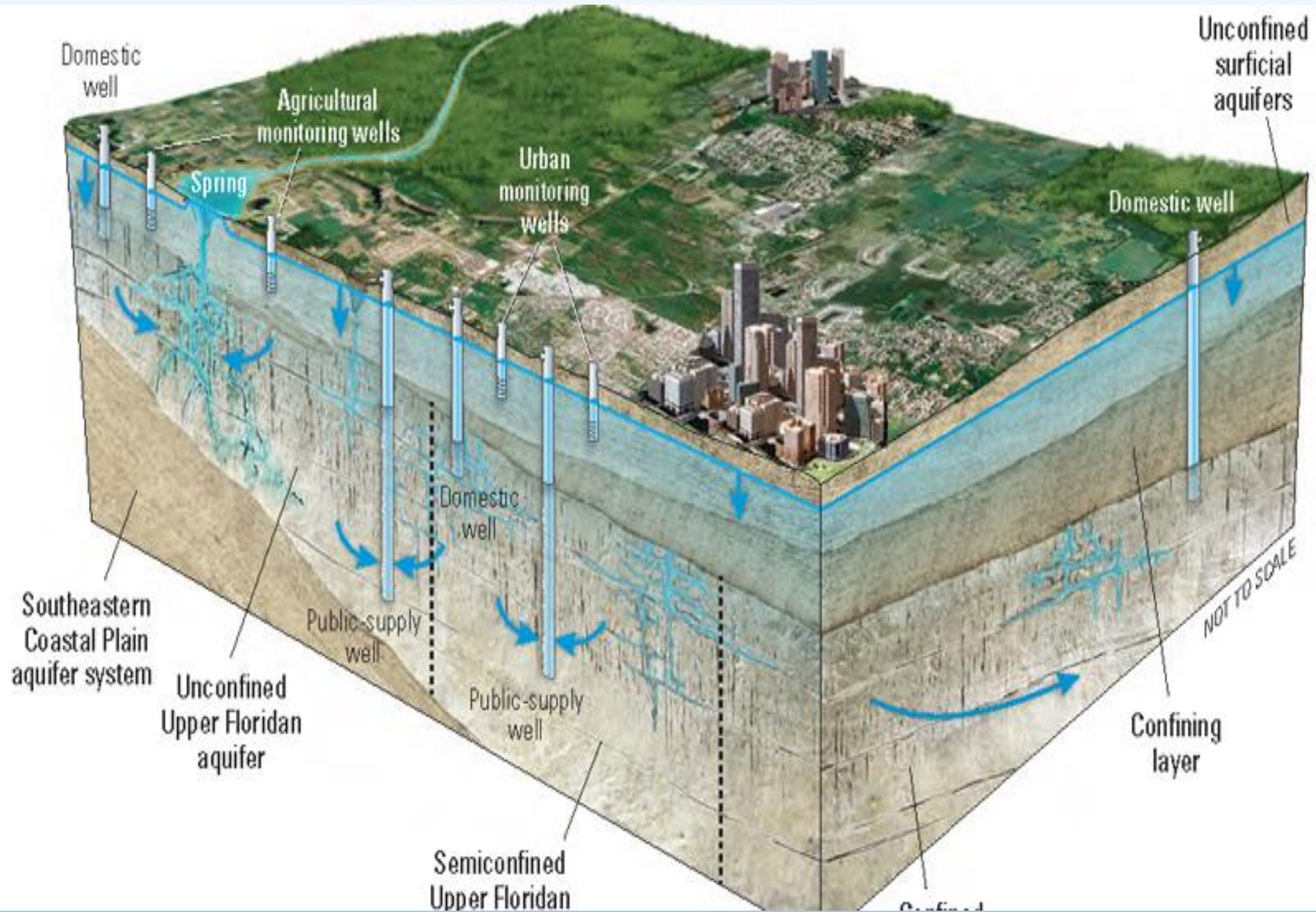


# *The benefits to properly destroying a well:*

## 2) Protection of your water supply.







# The benefits to properly destroying a well:

## 3) It's the law.

https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Wells/Well-Standards/Combined-Well-Standards/Water-Destruction

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### Part III. Destruction of Water Wells

#### Section 20. Purpose of Destruction

**Part III. Destruction of Water Wells**

**Section 20. Purpose of Destruction**

A well that is no longer useful (See Note 1) (including exploration and test holes) must be destroyed in order to:

- 1. Assure that the groundwater supply is protected and preserved for further use.
- 2. Eliminate the potential physical hazard.

**Section 20 Notes:**

1. Very often wells are prematurely abandoned and destroyed. However, proper maintenance will ensure that they will continue to produce for many years. The maintenance program should include regular measurement of the water level (depth to

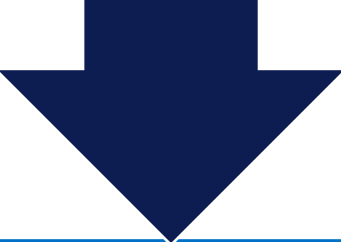
### Quick Links

- [Bulletin 74-81 Introduction](#)
- [Bulletin 74-90 Introduction](#)
- [Part I. General, Water Well Standards](#)
- [Part II. Water Well Construction](#)
- [Part III. Destruction of Water Wells](#)
- [Monitoring Well Standards, Introduction](#)
- [Part I. Monitoring Well Standards, General](#)
- [Part II. Monitoring Well Construction](#)
- [Part III. Destruction of Monitoring Wells](#)
- [Cathodic Protection Well](#)

# What are the requirements to properly destroy a well?

1) You must use a licensed contractor.

C-57 Well Drilling Contractor's License



2) The contractor must get a well destruction permit from the County.




# What is the process to properly destroy a well?

1. Hire a C-57 licensed contractor



# 2. Get a permit from Environmental Health


 Telephone: (559) 600-3357 Fax: (559) 455-4646 Website: www.tcdph.org/water  
 Email: EnvironmentalHealth@fresnocountyca.gov  
**PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT, DEEPEN, DESTROY, RECONDITION, OR REPAIR A WELL**

08/21/2022      10/11/2022  
 Application Date      Estimated Start Date  
 T 155      R 13E      S 26  
 APN 027180105  
 GPS: Lat 36.59246      Long -120.52359  
 Contractor Gregory Drilling, Inc.  
 License # 1007649  
 Phone 5305656289  
 Email ken@gregorydrilling.com  
 Job Address/Location CA      Parcel Size 80  
 Owner Name PG&E      Owner Phone 925-493-9105  
 Owner Address 6121 Bollinger Canyon RD

EH OFFICE USE ONLY		
Well Permit #	WELL10076451	
FA #	CT	
Corcoran Clay Depth:	850	Ft
(see Special Corcoran Clay Annular Seal Requirements on attachment)		
Well Location in Flood Zone	Zone:	
(Extend Casing above known flood level: Flood Elevation Certificate required to be submitted to the Fresno Co. Public Works. Dept. prior to approval of the well electrical permit.)		
Approved	Monique Roberts	Date 10/24/2022

<b>1. Type of Work</b> New Well <b>2. Type of Well</b> Casing Driven <b>3. Intended Use</b> Cathodic <b>Reason for Destruction:</b> Anode Bed is being Deactivated	<b>4. Well Construction</b> Well Casing: Material PVC Casing Diameter (in) 2" Gauge SCH 40 Conductor Casing: Material NA Conductor Diameter (in) NA Depth (ft) NA Angular Seal* Depth & Thickness (ft) (in) 100 3" Borehole Diameter (in) 8.25 Gravel Pack Yes Anticipated Total Well Depth (ft) 300 Anticipated Perforation Depth(s) (ft) 100-300'
<b>5. Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Name:</b> Westlands GSA	<b>7. Sealing Material/Seal Placement Method</b> Seal Material Neut Cement Seal Placement Pumped
<b>6. Well Destruction</b> Type N/A Well Diameter (in) NA Total Depth (ft) NA Depth to Water (ft) NA Seal Depth (ft) NA Casing Perforated (ft) NA Casing cut off NA Ft Below Grade (0ft max allowed) Oil lubricated pump (Any oil in the well shall be removed and properly disposed of prior to destruction) N/A	<b>8. Setbacks</b> All setbacks exceed 300 Feet Yes      Other Wells (ft) NA      Property Line (ft) NA Leach Lines (ft) NA      Septic Tank (ft) NA      Cesspool (ft) NA      Seepage Pits (ft) NA Sewer Lines (ft) NA      Animal/Fowl Exposure (ft) NA      Designated Sewage Replacement Area (ft) NA Flood Control Basins/ Canals (ft) NA      Waste Water Disposal Ponds (ft) NA      Lakes/Streams (ft) NA
<b>9. FEE</b> \$769.00 New Well PAYMENT METHOD: WEB I hereby certify that the information described herein is correct. I understand that all work is to be done in accordance with the California Well Standards Ordinance and the conditions of this permit application, including any conditions which are added by the Environmental Health Division upon review of this application and issuance of the permit. I certify that I have a current C-57 Contractor's License and, if I employ workers, a current certificate of Workers' Compensation Insurance. I further understand that any permit issued pursuant to this application is subject to such further conditions as maybe deemed necessary to ensure compliance with the Ordinance. <b>Note: This permit is non-transferable and is valid for 180 days.</b>	
<b>10. CONTRACTOR SIGNATURE:</b> Gregory Drilling, Inc	<b>11. DATE:</b> 08/21/2022

\*Contact Environmental Health at least 48 hours before you plan to pour the annular seal.

Who applies for a permit?  
The contractor

What does a destruction permit cost?

\$518



3. Remove from the well anything that could be an obstruction: plumbing, debris, oil, etc.



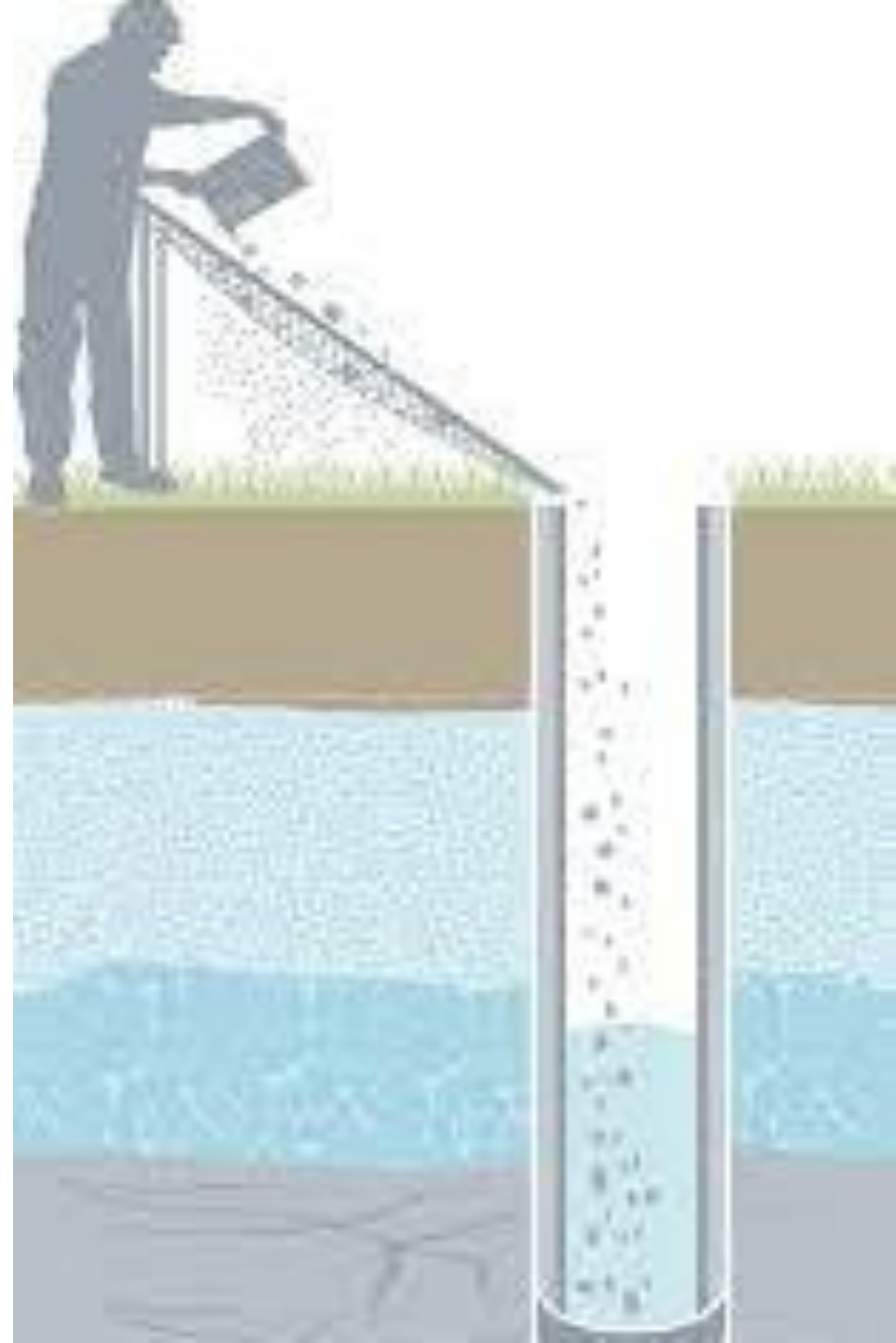




- 4. Excavate around the old well casing
- When possible, excavate around the casing of the well to be abandoned and cut off the casing about 6 feet below the ground surface.
- When excavating may damage surrounding structures, this step is not required.

5. Fill old well with non-organic material such as sand, dirt, or clay up to a **MINIMUM 20 feet** below the ground surface.

**Note: Wells that penetrate multiple aquifers will require special destruction techniques**







6. Install the **seal** – a plug of impermeable material that fills in the top 20 feet of the hole

### Approved **Sealing Material:**

1) Bentonite clay chips

-may be used when there is no water in the hole)

2) Cement or concrete





# Inspection of the well destruction



To assure that the well is destroyed in such a way as to protect the aquifer:



An inspector from Environmental Health must be on hand when the seal is placed.



The contractor is responsible for setting up an appointment with an inspector.



The inspector will verify that the seal depth and material are correct before the seal may be installed.

## 6. Install the seal

### Sealing Methods:

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- Option #1 Free fall is permitted when:
- a. the hole is less than 30 feet deep
  - and**
  - b. There is no water in the hole.





## Sealing Method:

- Option #2. Pumping the cement.
- Use a tremie pipe to install the sealing material from the bottom up.







7. Fill the well with sealing material until it forms a mushroom cap on the top of the old casing.

- If bentonite clay chips were used, hydrate until saturated.



# What is the process to properly destroy a well?

8. Refill the excavation and return site to original conditions.

# What if I want to keep an unused well for possible use in the future?

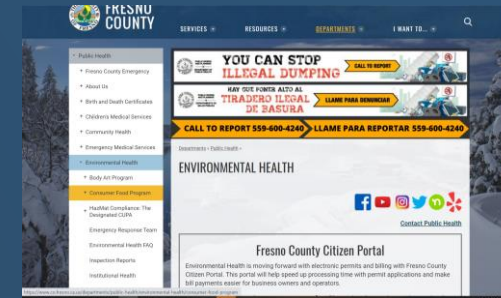
## Requirements to maintain an unused well:

- 1) The well can have no defects which could affect the water quality in the well or the aquifer that it penetrates.
- 2) The well must be covered with a locked watertight cap or other means of securement.
- 3) The well must be marked so that it can be clearly seen.
- 4) The area surrounding the well must be kept clear of brush or debris
- 5) An abandoned well shall not be used for the disposal of any liquid or solid waste.



QUESTIONS?

For further information  
please visit our website.



Contact information:

Tom Fuller

(559) 600-3357

[tfuller@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:tfuller@fresnocountyca.gov)