

**DRINKING WATER PROGRAM  
POLICY/PROCEDURE**

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Title:	REQUESTS TO KEEP WATER SOURCES AS IRRIGATION OR BACKUP SOURCES
Reference:	Ordinance 1999-6
Effective Date:	April 30, 2007
Supersedes:	August 2, 1999
Approved:	Drinking Water Program Manager

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**BACKGROUND:**

Ordinance 1999-6 requires that once a replacement source has been drilled, the existing source must be properly decommissioned. Requests are being made to keep these existing water supplies as irrigation sources.

**PURPOSE:**

To eliminate unused wells which are an environmental safety or public health hazard and may act as conduits for groundwater contamination.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. A site inspection is required to determine the condition and location (e.g., concrete tile, secure lid, etc.) of the well and that it is actively being used (e.g., a pump is installed and functional).
2. Results from a water sample taken within the last 12 months, showing no fecal coliform present for dug wells and spring sources and no coliform presence for drilled wells, must be submitted. In addition, results from a nitrate taken within the last 3 years must also be submitted.
3. Wells must meet all current setback requirements to drainfields, property lines, etc.
4. There cannot be any cross connection between the water line from the old source and the new source. This will require that the Health District make two inspections: One prior to the new source being drilled; and one after the water line is connected to the house to verify that no cross connection has occurred. An alternative to making the second inspection is submission of a signed statement from the well driller or plumber that no cross connection has occurred.
5. Applicants with spring sources will be informed that a surface water right is required from the Department of Ecology (DOE).
6. If 1/2 acre or more of the property is to be irrigated, an irrigation plan is required and a water right permit from DOE.