

ORDINANCE NO. 75-8

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA, REGULATING
WATER WELLS AND WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIDGECREST, CALIFORNIA, DOES ORDAIN
AS FOLLOWS:

ARTICLE I. WATER WELL AND WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS - REGULATION PURPOSES.

Section 1. PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

The water well and water supply system regulations as set forth in this ordinance are hereby adopted to preserve, protect and promote the health, convenience, prosperity and general welfare of the public and to comply with the provisions of State Law.

ARTICLE II. DEFINITIONS.

Section 1. "PERSON" includes all persons, firms, corporations, or associations of persons.

Section 2. "USER" means any person using water for domestic purposes, except any person processing water or selling, serving, furnishing, or supplying water to the public in any manner.

Section 3. "PURVEYOR" is any person that furnishes or supplies domestic water to users from any source. This includes serving a minimum of two (2) connections and a maximum of 199 connections. It also may include those persons required to be licensed by the County of Kern that supply domestic water for public use or use their own water supply in the operation of their business.

Section 4. "FURNISH" or supply has its usual meaning.

Section 5. "HEALTH OFFICER", unless otherwise modified, means the Health Officer of Kern County, his medical deputies, his Sanitarians, or his duly authorized representatives.

Section 6. "WATER SYSTEM" consists of the utility system and the customer system.

Section 7. "UTILITY SYSTEM" consists of the source facilities, treatment facilities and the distribution system, and shall include all other facilities of the water system under the complete control of the utility, up to the point where the customer's system begins.

Section 8. "CUSTOMER SYSTEM" includes those parts of the facilities beyond the termination of the utility distribution system which are used in conveying utility delivered domestic water to points of use.

Section 9. "SOURCE FACILITIES" includes all components of the facilities used in the production, treatment, storage, and delivery of water to the distribution system.

Section 10. "DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM" includes the facilities and conduits used for the delivery of water from the source to the customer's system.

Section 11. "CROSS-CONNECTION" means any unprotected connection between any part of a water system used or intended to supply water for domestic purposes and any source or system containing water or other substance that is not or cannot be approved as safe, pure, wholesome, and potable for human consumption.

Section 12. "APPROVED WATER SUPPLY" means any water supply approved as safe, pure, wholesome and potable by the Health Officer or the California Department of Public Health.

Section 13. "WELL OR WATER WELL" means any artificial excavation constructed by any method for the purpose of extracting water from, or injecting water into the underground.

Section 14. "ABANDONED WELL" means a well whose original purpose and use has been permanently discontinued or which is in such a state of disrepair that its original purpose cannot be reasonably achieved.

ARTICLE III. DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY WELL.

Section 1. PERMIT

No person as principal, servant, agent or employee shall dig, drill, bore or drive a well that is to be used for domestic purposes without having a valid unrevoked or unsuspended permit to do so from the City of Ridgecrest.

Section 2. APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

Every person proposing to dig, drill, bore or drive any water well that is to be used for domestic purposes shall, before commencing, apply to the City of Ridgecrest for a permit to do so. The application shall be accompanied by a well site plan.

Section 3. APPROVAL OF WELL SITE PLAN

Before the permit will be issued the well site plan must be approved by the Health Officer, the City Planning Commission and the City Council.

Section 4. APPROVAL OF PERMIT

Upon approval of the well site plan by the Health Officer the City Planning Commission and the City Council, together with the applicant holding a valid water well-drillers Contractors' License, the City of Ridgecrest shall issue the said permit to applicant.

Section 4. EXPIRATION OF PERMIT

The permit shall expire on the ninetieth (90) calendar day after date of issuance if the work has not been started and reasonable progress toward completion is not maintained, except that the Health Officer may extend the expiration date of permit when delay is warranted.

Section 5. GENERAL LOCATION OF WATER WELL

It shall be unlawful for any person to drill, dig, excavate, or bore any water well in any location in which sources of pollution or contamination are known to exist at such location whereby such water may become contaminated or polluted when the well is properly constructed and maintained. All wells shall be located an adequate horizontal distance from potential sources of contamination and pollution:

Individual and Community Supply Well

Sewer, water tight septic tank or pit privy	50 feet
Subsurface sewage leaching field	100 feet
Cesspool or seepage pit	150 feet
Animals or fowls kept	25 feet

In addition, no well shall be located closer than 150 feet to a property line.

Where adverse or special hazards are involved, the above distances shall be increased or special means of protection, particularly in the construction of the well, shall be provided as determined by the Health Officer.

Section 6. WELL CONSTRUCTION

A well shall be constructed in accordance with the standards hereinafter set forth:

(a) Open bottom well. The well casing shall be driven through the alluvial or colluvial materials and landed not less than one (1) foot into the impervious layer above and nearest to that aquifer which will produce a safe and potable water supply. Any space between the casing and the hole shall be filled in accordance with directions given in Section 9 of Part 2 of the California State Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 74.

(b) Perforated casing well, not gravel packed. The uppermost perforations in the casing of a well constructed without gravel packing shall be not less than 50 feet below the ground surface, except as hereinafter provided. For shallow wells, having a depth of 65 feet or less, the perforations shall be kept below an impervious layer, wherever possible. Only the bottom 25 percent of the casing of such a well shall be perforated, except with the consent and approval of the Health Officer after submission to him of sufficient evidence that the well will not be polluted or contaminated. Conformance to Section 9 of Part 2 of the State of California Water Resources Bulletin No. 74 is a requirement of this item.

(c) Perforated casing well, gravel packed. The hole for a gravel packed well shall be drilled not less than six (6) inches greater in diameter than that of the well casing. A conductor pipe of the same material as the well casing may be inserted to a depth not less than 50 feet below the ground surface. If a shallow aquifer containing deleterious water is present, the conductor pipe shall pass completely through such aquifer. The well casing shall be inserted and centered. The annular space between the conductor pipe and the well casing shall be filled to the surface with clean, washed gravel and a water tight seal inserted between the conductor pipe and the well casing at the surface. The outer annular space between the conductor pipe and the side of the hole shall be filled in accordance with Section 9 of Part 2 of the California State Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 74. If a conductor pipe is not used, the gravel shall extend to an elevation not less than 50 feet below the ground surface. The annular space between the casing and the hole shall be filled to the surface with an impervious inorganic material. A gravel fill pipe may be inserted and provided with a water tight seal at the top.

(d) Well in rock. The casing shall be carried down through the alluvial or colluvial material and decomposed rock into the underlying solid rock. The annular space between the casing and the drilled hole shall be filled as outlined in Section 9 of the California State Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 74.

(e) Well casing. The well casing material shall be new and a minimum of 12-gauge high tensile well casing steel or mild steel with a minimum thickness of 3/16 inch. The well casing shall extend not less than six (6) inches above the ground level. All joints above the producing aquifer shall be water tight. At the time of completion of the well, the well driller shall seal the top of the casing with a weather-proof plate or cap, securely fastened in place.

Section 7. SURFACE WATER CONTROL.

All surface water shall be properly diverted away from site during construction or repairs. Where a well is developed by pumping prior to pump installation, precautions shall be taken to prevent the entry of sand or other foreign material into any sanitary or storm sewer system. Disposal of this water shall be made in such a manner so as not to flood adjacent property or constitute a public nuisance.

Section 8. WATER WELL SEALING.

All water wells hereafter drilled, dug, excavated or bored shall be provided with: A water tight reinforced concrete slab of minimum thickness of six (6) inches, slab to be a minimum four (4) inches above ground level at well site, and shall extend horizontally at least three (3) feet from the center of the well casing in all directions, the concrete slab shall adequately slope so as to drain water away from the well casing. Where deviation from this pattern of construction would serve a practical purpose, without lessening well protection, the Health Officer may approve this variance.

Section 9. PUMPS AND PUMP MOTORS

For pumps or pump motors installed above the well casing, the pump or motor shall be mounted on a concrete slab constructed around the well casing and sealed thereto, the top of which is at least four (4) inches above the ground level at the well site.

Section 10. SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS

A submersible type pump may be installed with subsurface discharge and access when all subsurface entrances to the well or casing, other than into the aquifer, are effectively sealed, the enclosure is designed and constructed to exclude surface water or drainage, the area around the casing is provided with effective drainage and other protective features are provided which the Health Officer determines will effectively prevent contamination or pollution from entering the well or the aquifer.

Section 11. SAMPLE SPIGOT

Provide sample spigot on pump discharge line as close to pump as practical and on the pump side of the check valve.

Section 12. CHECK VALVE

Provide check valve on pump discharge line as near pump as possible.

Section 13. WATER WELL SANITIZATION PIPE

All domestic water wells shall be provided with a pipe or other effective means through which chlorine or other disinfecting agents may be introduced directly into the well. The pipe, if provided, shall be extended to a height equal to the pump slab or at least four (4) inches above the finished grade, shall be kept sealed and shall be provided with a threaded or equivalently secure cap. Equivalent protection for excluding contamination from the well shall be provided for subsurface pump discharge installations. If an air relief vent is used, it shall terminate downward and be screened and protected against the possibility of contaminating material entering the vent (16 mesh screen).

Section 14. DISINFECTION OF WATER WELLS

Every new, repaired or reconstructed domestic water well, after completion of construction, repair or reconstruction, and before being placed in service, shall be thoroughly cleaned of all foreign substances. The well, including the gravel used in gravel-packed wells, the pump, and all portions of equipment coming in contact with well water shall be disinfected with a solution containing at least fifty (50) parts per million available chlorine, which shall remain in the well for a period of at least twenty-four (24) hours or by an equivalent method of disinfection satisfactory to the Health Officer, and such procedure shall be repeated, as necessary, to produce water meeting bacteriological standards as set forth in the United States Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards.

Section 15. WATER STANDARDS

(a) Water from all new wells shall be tested, both bacteriologically and chemically by a State certified laboratory and shall comply with the United States Public Health Service Drinking Water Standards as well as any other standards established by the Health Officer. Water from reconstructed wells shall be tested bacteriologically and meet the same standards as new wells. When deemed necessary, by the Health Officer, reconstructed wells shall be tested chemically and shall meet the same standards as new wells. Chemical and bacteriological tests shall be the responsibility of the owner.

(b) Newly constructed or repaired wells, distribution systems, pumps and source shall be adequately chlorinated, with a chlorine solution of at least fifty (50) parts per million of available chlorine and held for at least eight (8) hours, following construction or repair work.

Section 16. APPROVAL BY HEALTH OFFICER

No water from a new or reconstructed well shall be used for domestic purposes until the well is given final approval by the Health Officer or his representatives.

Section 17. WELL ABANDONMENT

At the time of removal of a pump from and with intent to abandon said well, the casing shall be sealed at the surface and shall be maintained so that it will not be a hazard to health or safety. It shall be unlawful to use an abandoned well for the disposal of any waste material. If an abandoned well is found by the Health Officer to be a hazard to health or safety it shall be destroyed by the owner. All abandoned water wells when being abandoned by a person, firm or corporation, shall have the water strata sealed off by the use of an approved material, filled in with a like soil of the adjacent area as shown by the geological log of the water well, and the last 50 feet of the water well cemented off in a manner approved by the Health Department. The method and procedure of well abandonment shall be done in accordance with the recommendations outlined in Sections 22 and 23 of the California State Department of Water Resources Bulletin No. 74.

Section 18. ADMINISTRATIVE VARIANCE

The City of Ridgecrest may grant an Administrative Variance to the provisions of this Ordinance where evidence is submitted that a modification of the well construction, pump installation, or well abandonment standards, as provided herein, will not endanger the health or safety of the consumer of the water or the public generally and strict compliance would be unreasonable in view of all the circumstances.

ARTICLE IV. DOMESTIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS.

Section 1. PERMITS

No person shall furnish or supply water to a user for domestic purposes from any sources, unless he or she first files a written application to do so with the City of Ridgecrest and receives and possesses a valid, unrevoked, unsuspended permit as provided herein.

Section 2. INVESTIGATIONS

Upon receipt of application for a permit by the City, the Health Officer shall make a thorough investigation of the proposed or existing utility system and all other circumstances and conditions which he deems material and shall make a recommendation to the City Council of the City of Ridgecrest to approve or deny the said permit.

Section 3. ALTERATIONS

The Health Officer may order such repairs, alterations, or additions to the proposed or the existing system as will ensure that the water furnished or supplied shall at all times be pure, wholesome, potable and continuous and without danger to the lives or health of human beings before making said recommendation to the said Council.

Section 4. PERMIT

The City Council of the City of Ridgecrest, upon receiving the application and the recommendation of the Health Officer shall either approve the permit, deny the permit or approve a temporary permit.

Section 5. TEMPORARY PERMIT

When it is in the public's best interest and where no health hazard exists, the City Council may grant a temporary domestic water purveying permit. This temporary permit is to be for a specified period of time not to exceed one year. It is to be issued for the purpose of giving the Health Officer or other investigating agency as be authorized by the City Council additional time to process those permit applications where water quality or questionable features of the system need detailed study or where applicant needs time to make minor corrections, additions or modifications, or where new construction needs to be completed. On or before the expiration date of the temporary permit the City Council shall approve or deny the regular permit.

Section 6. MODIFICATIONS

No person shall make major modifications or changes in their water supply system until they first file a petition to do so and then receive an amended permit from the City of Ridgecrest authorizing the modification.

Section 7. REPORTS

The Health Officer may require any permit holder or applicant to make a complete report on the condition and operation of the plant, works, system, or water supply owned, operated or contracted for by him. The report shall be made by some qualified person acceptable to the Health Officer at the sole cost and expense of the permit holder or applicant.

Section 8. BACK-FLOW PREVENTION

Every person furnishing or supplying water to users shall by methods approved by the Health Officer prevent water from unapproved sources, or any other substance from entering the domestic water system.

Section 9. DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

All facilities of the utility system shall be designed and constructed to withstand, with ample safety factors, the physical stresses to which they will be subjected and shall be free from structural or sanitary hazards. All water supply systems shall be so constructed that they have an adequate capacity to continuously supply pure, wholesome, safe and potable water.

Section 10. SOURCE FACILITIES

All water sources used for domestic water supply must have the approval of the Health Officer.

Section 11. TREATMENT

Water which is not obtained from an approved natural source free from pollution, shall not be delivered for domestic use unless it is adequately purified or adequately disinfected by artificial treatment to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the United States Public Health Service and the Water Ordinances of the State of California.

Section 12. DISTRIBUTION RESERVOIRS

Distribution Reservoirs must be adequately protected against contamination. They must be constructed of durable material and have suitable provisions for draining, cleaning and aeration.

Section 13. DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

(a) Pressure-Quantity: The distribution system shall be of adequate size and so designed in conjunction with related facilities to maintain a minimum water pressure of 20 pounds per square inch at every point during periods of maximum normal demand. The quantity of water delivered to the distribution system shall be sufficient to supply adequately, dependably and safely the total requirements of all customers under maximum consumption.

(b) Flushing: Dead end runs shall be provided with means of flushing.

(c) Materials: Materials used in distribution system shall be able to withstand with ample safety factors all internal and external forces to which they may be subjected.

(d) Back-Flow Protection: Each service connection from a public water system for supplying water to premises having an auxiliary water supply, shall be protected against back-flow of water from the premises into the public water system, as provided in Section 8, unless the auxiliary water supply is accepted as an additional source by the water purveyor, and is approved by the Health Officer.

(e) Fire Hydrants: Fire hydrants shall conform to requirements of proper local authority.

(f) Location of Pipes: To conform to Uniform Plumbing Code.

(g) Disinfection of Pipes: All pipes or conduits, before being placed in service, shall be completely disinfected in accordance

with the American Water Works Association Procedures for Disinfecting Water Mains.

(h) Marking of Pipes: Where the premises contain dual or multiple water systems and piping, the exposed portions of pipes shall be painted, branded, or marked at sufficient intervals to distinguish which is safe for human consumption.

Section 14. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

(a) Personnel: All personnel responsible for operation and maintenance shall have sufficient experience and training to qualify them to properly perform the duties required. Specially designated personnel shall be available for call during nights, Sundays, and holidays to meet emergencies.

(b) Maps and Records: Complete and up-to-date maps of the utility system shall be maintained. Complete and up-to-date records shall be kept showing results of bacteriological and chemical analyses of water, and such other data as may be required by the Health Officer.

(c) Maintenance: Facilities and equipment of the utility shall be kept clean and in good working condition.

(d) Leaks shall be repaired without undue delay.

(e) Equipment: Proper equipment, tools, and repair parts shall be available in good condition for all types of emergency repairs.

ARTICLE V. GENERAL.

Section 1. TESTS

Water from domestic water purveying systems shall be bacteriologically and chemically tested by a California State approved laboratory, on a scheduled basis. This schedule is to be determined by the Health Officer.

Section 2. INSPECTION OF DOMESTIC WELL

Before a domestic water well serving only one user is to be used as a part of a domestic water purveying source it must first have Health Department inspection and be in compliance with the requirements of this ordinance.

Section 3. INSPECTION OF AGRICULTURAL WELL

Before an agricultural well is to be used as a part of a domestic water purveying source it must first have Health Department inspection and be in compliance with the requirements of this ordinance.

Section 4. INSPECTION OF COMMERCIAL WATER HAULER EQUIPMENT

Before hauling domestic water a commercial hauler must first register his name and business location and have his equipment inspected and approved by the Health Officer or his representative.

Section 5. REGISTRATION OF WELL DRILLERS

All parties engaging in the drilling, digging or boring of domestic water wells in the City of Ridgecrest must first register with the City of Ridgecrest.

Section 6. LOG OF WATER WELL

Any person who has drilled, dug, excavated, or bored a water well shall, within thirty (30) days after completion of the drilling, digging, excavation, or boring of such water well, furnish the Health Officer with a complete log of such water well. This log shall include the type of casing, the depth of the well, the number and location of the perforations in the casing and any other data required by the Health Officer. A copy of the log providing such information submitted to State agencies shall satisfy this requirement.

Section 7. DISPOSAL WELLS

(a) The disposal water shall not cause the temperature of the adjacent ground water to increase more than 8 degrees Fahrenheit.

(b) The discharge shall not contain toxic materials or other substances which will alter the existing ground water quality in the disposal area to become contaminated.

(c) The discharge shall not cause a public nuisance.

(d) A sampling tap shall be installed at the disposal well site in such manner that water, representative of the water entering the well, may be withdrawn for laboratory analysis.

Section 8. SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF PERMITS

Any permit issued may be revoked or suspended by the Health Officer at any time if he determines that the water being supplied or furnished by the permittee is or may become impure, unwholesome, or unpotable or endangers or will endanger the lives or health of human beings.

Section 9. HEARING

Any person whose application for a permit has been suspended, denied or revoked may apply to the Ridgecrest City Council for a hearing. Notice of the hearing shall be given the applicant not less than five (5) days prior to such hearing, either by registered mail, or in the manner required for the service of summons in civil actions. At the time and place set for the hearing, the Ridgecrest City Council will give the applicant and other interested persons an adequate opportunity to present any facts pertinent to the matter at hand. The Ridgecrest City Council may place any person involved in the matter, including the applicant, under oath. The Ridgecrest City Council may, when it deems it necessary, continue any hearing by setting a new time and place and by giving notice to the applicant of such action. At the close of the hearing, or at any time within ten (10) days thereafter, the Ridgecrest City Council will order such disposition of the application or permit as it has determined to be proper and will make such disposition known to the applicant.

Section 10. PUNISHMENT

Violation of any section of this ordinance is a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine of not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00 or by punishment of both a fine or imprisonment in the county jail not to exceed six months.

Section 11. INSPECTION

The Health Officer and his inspectors may at any and all reasonable times enter any and all places, property, enclosures, and structures for the purpose of making examinations and investigations to determine whether any provision of this ordinance is being violated.

Section 12. URGENCY ORDINANCE

This ordinance is passed as an urgency ordinance. The facts of the urgency are that the City of Ridgecrest does not have any ordinance regulating the drilling and establishment of water wells within the City, thereby constituting a possible source of contaminants or pollutants endangering the health and safety of the general public.

Section 13. CERTIFICATION

The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this ordinance and cause the same to be published as required by law.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 7th day of May, 1975, by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Shacklett, Councilwoman Green,
Councilmen Mettenburg and Wilson.

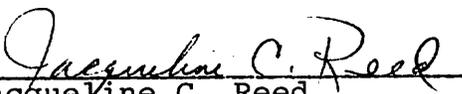
NOES: None.

ABSENT: Councilman Edwards.



Rex E. Shacklett, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jacqueline C. Reed
Assistant City Clerk