

# FAYETTE COUNTY GROUNDWATER DISTRICT

## MAY 4, 2026 APPROVED RULES SUMMARY FOR WELL DRILLERS

A registration form must be filed with the District prior to drilling an exempt well.

The driller of any water well within the District shall keep accurate drillers' logs, and copies of drillers' logs shall be filed by the driller with the District within thirty (30) calendar days after such drilling is complete.

### **RULE 6.2 EXEMPT WELLS**

**Exempt Wells** that require registration prior to drilling are:

- (1) a well that does not produce more than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a day registered prior to May 4, 2026
- (2) a well used solely for domestic use or for providing water for livestock or poultry, if the well is:

**(A) located or to be located on a tract of land larger than 10 acres; and**

**(B) drilled, completed, or equipped so that it is incapable of producing more than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a day; with only one exempt well for every ten (10) acres.**

(2) an oil or gas rig supply well permitted by the Railroad Commission of Texas provided that the person holding the permit is responsible for drilling and operating the water well and the water well is located on the same lease or field associated with the drilling rig; or

(3) a mining well authorized under a permit issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas under Chapter 134, Natural Resources Code, or for production from the well to the extent the withdrawals are required for mining activities regardless of any subsequent use of the water; or.

(4) a well drilled for temporary use to supply water for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling a groundwater production well permitted by the District. This exemption may not exceed 180 days. The District may grant an extension of the exemption until the well is complete.

b. The District may cancel a previously granted exemption, and may require an operating permit for or restrict production from a well and assess any applicable fees if:

- (1) If the well is reworked or reequipped in such a way that the well produces more than 25,000 gallons per day;
- (2) the groundwater withdrawals that were exempted under Subsection (a)(2) are no longer used solely as a rig supply water well for an oil or gas well permitted by the Railroad Commission of Texas; or

### **RULE 8.1 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PRODUCTION**

In order to accomplish the purposes of Texas Water Code Chapter 36, and achieve the stated purposes and goals of the District, including managing the aquifers and the adopted Desired Future Conditions of the aquifers, the Board reserves the right to establish any production limits necessary on new or existing permits.

Excluding wells operated pursuant to a valid Existing and Historic Use Permit, **in no event may a well or well system be operated such that the total annual production exceeds two acre-feet of water per contiguous acre owned or operated**, or and for which a person can show ownership or possession of groundwater rights, per year. Specific production limitations will be set as a condition of the granted well operating permit.

**Permitted Instantaneous Production Limit for Smaller Tracts (1) Any water well registration submitted to the District after May 4, 2026, for a tract of land less than ten (10) acres OR used to supply water for a subdivision of land for which a plat approval is required by Chapter 232, Local Government Code,**

(1) Is limited to one well on the property. The capability of the production from the well shall not exceed the gallons per minute (GPM) in the following table.

(2) If required, devices used to limit the production capacity of a water well shall be tamper resistant, permanent, and installed in a manner that is compliant with all local, state, and federal regulations.

(3) The District may, at any reasonable time, verify the production capacity of the water well.

(4) No flow metering device shall be required to measure production from any domestic, or livestock well on tracts of land smaller than ten (10) acres.

<b>Tract Size (must be contiguous)</b>	<b>Installed/Verified Instantaneous Pump Capability Limit</b>
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<b>6 &lt; 10 acres</b>	<b>15 gpm limit</b>
<b>2 &lt; 6 acres</b>	<b>13 gpm limit</b>
<b>&lt; 2 acres</b>	<b>10 gpm limit</b>

**RULE 8.2 LARGE SCALE GROUNDWATER PUMPING PROJECTS**

An entity with permitted groundwater pumping wells located within the District capable of yielding greater than 5,000 acre/feet of groundwater annually from 2,500 acres or more of contiguous property shall, prior to the production of groundwater, the entity shall install and maintain at least three (3) monitor wells within 50 feet of the subject property boundaries, the location of which are subject to approval by the District. Within 30 days following completion of the monitoring wells and prior to production from the well(s), the District will record two or more baseline static water levels (BSWL).

An entity with two or more groundwater pumping well fields located within the District within a ten (10) mile radius of each other, and combined are capable of yielding greater than 7,500 acre/feet of groundwater annually. Prior to the production groundwater, the entity shall install and maintain at least two (2) monitor wells on each of the properties, within 50 feet of each of the subject property boundaries, the location of which are subject to approval by the District. Within 30 days following completion of the monitoring wells, the District will record a baseline static water level (BSWL) within the wells at each of the various properties.

On such projects located within the District, as described above, at the beginning of each month following initiation of groundwater pumpage, the District will record the static water level in each of the monitor wells. If at any time following the determination of the BSWL the average static level in all monitoring wells falls 50 feet below the BSWL for three (3) consecutive months, the District may temporarily suspend a pumping permit or reduce the permitted production amount until such time that the water level rises back to or above the BSWL.

If at any time during the permitted activities the average static level in all monitoring wells falls 75 feet below the BSWL, the District may suspend the permitted pumping throughout the remainder of the permit period.

Water well drillers, who shall be licensed by the State of Texas, must indicate the method of completion performed on an accurate and fully completed State of Texas Well Report form, which shall be submitted to the District not later than the 60th day after the date of the completion or cessation of drilling, deepening, or otherwise altering the well. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board or state law, wells must be completed in accordance with all applicable State and local standards, including but not limited to 30 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 290 (Rules for Public Drinking Water) and 16 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 76 (Rules for Water Well Drillers and Water Well Pump Installers).

**Well drillers, pump installers, and/or well owners are required to submit a District Pump Installation Report upon completion or cessation or drilling, or otherwise modifying of a well that accurately reflects the pump settings on the well. The accurate and fully completed Pump Installation Report shall be submitted by the pump installer with the above-required State Well Report or within sixty (60) days of pump alteration to any groundwater well by driller, pump installer, or well owner and shall be completed on a District-approved form.**

Water well drillers shall indicate the method of completion performed on the Well Report (TDLR Form #001 WWD, Section 10, Surface Completion).

### **RULE 13.5 INSPECTION PORT TECHNICAL COMPLETION REQUIREMENT**

**All new wells drilled after May 4, 2026, shall be equipped with a watertight sanitary well seal with a 1/2" or larger interior diameter inspection port, located on top of the well seal which allows for free access to the water table for the purpose of water level measurement and disinfection. Any well presently not equipped shall in the future be so equipped when that well is serviced. On those wells with odd sized casing, which cannot be fitted with a factory made watertight sanitary well seal, the completion must be done in a manner that will prevent any pollutants (waste, insects, chemicals, etc.) from entering the well.**

**PLEASE NOTE THE REGISTRATION FORM HAS CHANGED AND REQUIRES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE NEW RULE.**

**A DISTRICT PUMP INSTALLATION REPORT, WHICH IS INCLUDED, IS NOW REQUIRED TO BE FILED WITH THE DISTRICT ALONG WITH THE WELL REPORT.**