

**SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION
PROPOSED DISTRICT RULE AMENDMENTS – MAY 2021**

2.0 Definitions

“Alternative Siting Methods” – The methods prescribed under 16 TAC §76.100(b)(1)-(2), and applicable under Rule 4.2(A)-(B) of these Rules for wells proposed to be located such that the horizontal distance is (1) less than fifty feet from the nearest point on the nearest property line under Rule 4.2(A); or (2) less than the required distance from potential sources of contamination under Rule 4.2(B).

“Domestic Use” – the use of groundwater by a person or household, whether or not the person or household leases the place of use to a residential tenant on a short term or long term basis, in which a well produces groundwater for personal needs such as drinking and personal hygiene; for household purposes such as heating, cooking, sanitation, cleaning, and home office; or for other, outdoor uses such as maintaining swimming pools; watering of domestic animals kept as pets; and irrigating non-commercial landscape vegetation, gardens, or orchards. Domestic Use does not include the use of groundwater, where the primary use of the groundwater produced supports the sale of goods or services.

“Minimum Horizontal Distance” – The minimum distance allowed between a proposed well and (1) Registered Wells in the Same Aquifer Management Zone as contemplated under Rule 4.2(A); (2) the nearest point on the nearest property line as contemplated under Rule 4.2(A) of these Rules (A); or (3) potential sources of contamination as contemplated under Rule 4.2(B).

4.2 Well Spacing

Excluding those wells defined as Existing Wells under Rule 2, all wells drilled in the District after October 1, 2020, shall comply with the following well spacing rules unless such spacing is specifically exempted or expressly modified by the District.

A. Spacing Requirements

The following well spacing shall be required for proposed wells in the District:

Projected Pumping Capability of Proposed Well, in Daily Average Gallons per Minute	<u>Default Minimum Horizontal Distance Spacing Required</u> Between Proposed Well and Registered Wells in the Same Aquifer Management Zone ¹	<u>Minimum Horizontal Distance</u> Between Proposed Well and Recorded Property Lines ²
Up to 17.36 GPM	100 feet	100 (50**) feet ³
17.36 – 50 GPM	300 feet	150 feet
50 – 100 GPM	750 feet	375 feet
100 – 300 GPM	1200 feet	600 feet
> 300 GPM	1500 feet	750 feet

SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION
PROPOSED DISTRICT RULE AMENDMENTS – MAY 2021

¹ An applicant for a Well Drilling Authorization may provide, and the Board may consider, site-specific geological or hydrogeological information that supports the use of an alternative Minimum Horizontal Distance between the proposed well and registered wells in the same Aquifer Management Zone. The Board may authorize the use of an alternative Minimum Horizontal Distance between the proposed well and registered wells in the same Aquifer Management Zone, provided the site-specific geological or hydrogeological information supports a finding that the proposed well location and use will not create any unreasonable impacts. If no such site-specific geological or hydrogeological information is provided with the applicant's final application, or if the site-specific geological or hydrogeological information does not support a finding that the well's location and use will not create any unreasonable impacts, the Default Minimum Horizontal Distance applies.

² Distance indicated may include one-half of the width of a right of way of a utility, roadway, or other conveyance that forms part of the well's property line, provided it is not subject to groundwater development, but prospective well must be no less than 10 feet from that property line itself.

³ The Minimum Horizontal Distance between a proposed well and recorded property line may be reduced to 50 feet, provided (1) the Board approves the proposed well location, (2) the proposed well location complies with District Rules and applicable Texas regulations, and (3) the Applicant agrees to pressure cement the Pressure cementing of top 100 feet of annular space of the proposed well. The applicant is required to obtain authorization to reduce Minimum Horizontal Distance from a property line to 50 feet, otherwise the Minimum Horizontal Distance from the property line shall be spacing distance required is 100 feet. Where tract size prohibits compliance with the Minimum Horizontal Distance of 50 feet, the Alternative Siting Methods prescribed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation under 16 TAC §76.100(b)(2) shall apply.

These spacing requirements are in addition to well siting standards in the rules of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation at 16 TAC §76.100, ~~with the more stringent (i.e., larger distance) requirement governing spacing if the rules differ.~~ Where 16 TAC §76.100 spacing requirements are in conflict with the District's spacing requirements as prescribed under this rule, the District's spacing requirements shall prevail.

Any prospective subdivision ~~of existing tracts of land~~ that proposes to use New Wells as a water supply shall ensure that new property lines are located in a manner that complies with after considering the spacing requirements of this Rule ~~with respect to any previously installed or proposed well.~~

~~New wells drilled solely to replace previously installed wells do not have to meet the spacing requirements between the original well and the new well but the replacement well~~ The spacing requirements of this rule applicable to the distance between registered wells and proposed wells in the same Aquifer Management Zone do not apply to the distance between a Replacement Well and the original well being replaced, provided however that the Replacement Well must be located within 50 feet of the original well. All Replacement Wells must adhere to the spacing requirements and standards of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (in as set forth under Texas Administrative Code §76.100).

**SOUTHWESTERN TRAVIS COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION
PROPOSED DISTRICT RULE AMENDMENTS – MAY 2021**

B. Spacing from Potential Sources of Contamination

All new wells must comply with the distances given for separation of wells from sources of potential contamination ~~in the Water Well Drillers Rules,~~ as provided in 16 Texas Administrative Code §76.1000(a)(1)-(4). Where tract size and location prohibits compliance with the Minimum Horizontal Distances listed in this Subsection, the Alternative Siting Methods prescribed by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation under 16 TAC §76.100(b)(1) shall apply.

(3) A proposed new well shall be located a minimum horizontal distance of 100 feet from an existing or proposed septic system absorption field, septic systems spray area, or a dry litter poultry facility, ~~and at least 50 feet from any property line provided the well is located at the minimum horizontal distance from the sources of potential contamination.~~