

# Protecting Your Water Well During Drought

## Monitor Your Pump

- Water levels that are low or recover slowly will make your pump cycle on and off rapidly and burn out the motor.
- Low water levels can cause submersible pumps to overheat and damage PVC drop-pipes. If your pump is rapidly cycling on and off, turn it off.
- If your pump sounds like it is sucking air, let it rest.
- When the water level drops, your well may begin to produce sand and air bubbles.
- Indications that the well may go dry include sand in the toilet tank and milky-looking tap water that clears after a short time.
- Depending on the depth of the well, you may be able to lower the pump. This procedure will require help from a licensed pump installer.

## Consider Adding Storage

- Consider adding a pumped-water storage tank if you have a low-yielding well.
- A storage tank will help meet peak demand when your water needs exceed the pump's capacity.

## For Assistance should your well run dry contact your IHS O&M Coordinator or SFC Engineer

- Redding District Office: 530-246-5339
- Arcata Field Office: 707-822-1688
- Sacramento District Office: 916-930-3960
- Ukiah Field Office: 707-462-5314 or 0451
- Clovis Field Office: 559-322-7488
- Escondido District Office: 760-735-6880/81

## Test Your Water

- Ensure your well water is tested regularly, before, during and after a drought as recommended by the US EPA.
- As the water level falls inside your well, air will enter and potentially impact the water chemistry. Oxygen may increase concentrations of naturally occurring contaminants such as arsenic. If your well normally contains low concentrations of arsenic, expect it to increase during a drought.

## Work with your neighbors to schedule heavy water use

- If everyone does laundry on Saturday, all the wells may go dry on Sunday.
- Distribute heavy water use over the week to help individual wells recover.

## Conserve Water

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Operate the dishwasher only when completely full.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Repair all leaks. A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons per day.
- Install low-flow aerators and showerheads.

