

### **9.2.5 Well Closure and Transfer of Water Wells used for Oil and Gas Operations**

Any water well used to supply water for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling, exploration, or production operations for an oil and gas well permitted by the Railroad Commission of Texas shall be plugged within 180 days of the rig being removed from the property. The well owner may obtain an extension to plug the well if the well owner submits a written request to the District prior to the expiration of the 180 days. The written request must establish good cause for the extension. The District's Board has the discretion to grant the extension. Before the water well is plugged, and while the well is not in use, the well must be capped. All capped and plugged wells must meet regulatory standards adopted by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulations. The licensed well driller will submit a copy of the state plugging report to the District once it is plugged. The District employees or agents may inspect any well to insure compliance with District rules.

If the land owner wishes to keep the rig water supply well for a beneficial use, the following actions must take place before the transfer of the well can be completed:

- (1) The pump must be removed from the well casing;
- (2) The District will be notified in writing with a Transfer of Registered Well Request Form that the land owner desires to take control of the water well;
- (3) The District will inspect the well for indications of commingling of aquifers or zones down hole.
- (4) A Fee of \$200.00 at the time the inspection is requested.

If there is indication of commingling of the aquifers or zones, transfer of the water well will not be permitted and the well must be plugged as described above. If the well passes inspection, the land owner will be given an approved registration for the water well. Use of water from the well must comply with all rules and regulations of the TDLR, Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, and RCGCD rules.