

# Water Well Construction Rulemaking Workshop

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St. Johns River  
Water Management District



# SJRWMD WWC Program Mission Statement

**“To protect the groundwater resource through the consistent interpretation and enforcement of well construction, repair and abandonment regulations”**

**Chapter 373.302, F.S., Legislative findings.**— The Legislature recognizes that the practice of constructing, repairing, and abandoning water wells, if conducted by incompetent contractors, is potentially threatening to the health of the public and to the environment. The Legislature finds that a threat to the public and the environment exists if water resources become contaminated as a result of wells drilled by incompetent or dishonest contractors, and that to prevent contamination, it is necessary to regulate the construction, repair, and abandonment of wells, and the persons and businesses responsible therefor.



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# Proposed Changes to Chapter 40C-1

- Removal of references to Chapter 40C-5 F.A.C.
- Update, clarify, or simplify criteria (and delegation) for variances from water well construction requirements



# Proposed Changes to Chapter 40C-2

- Delete reference to Statewide Multipurpose Hazardous Waste Facility Siting Act
- Conform permitting condition rule requiring a permanent Identification tag at each withdrawal facility.
- Update address of one Service Center



# Proposed Changes to Chapter 40C-3

- Update/clarify delegation agreements
- Update/clarify forms and publications incorporated by reference
- Removal of references to Chapters 40C-5, and 62-671 F.A.C.
- Allow persons demonstrating sufficient legal control of a property to install wells by permit



# Proposed Changes to Chapter 40C-3 Cont

- Update/clarify conditions for issuance of permit and clarify duration of permit.
- Update inspection criteria and delete District offer to sell water well tags.
- Add maps and references for Picketville and Fairbanks SCCA.
- Amend/clarify grouting and sealing rule on jetted wells, monitoring wells and use of bentonite chips in abandonments.
- Clarify water well contractor's and property owner's responsibilities for uncomplete or unsuitable wells.



# Well Permitting and Local Delegation

- District Water Well Construction program started in 1984
- District well construction rules are part of Chapter 40C-3 F.A.C.
- District currently permits most wells:
  - Six inches or greater in diameter
  - Wells located in Chapter 62-524 , F.A.C, groundwater contamination delineated areas (“62-524 wells”).
  - Earth-Coupled geothermal wells.
- District issues approximately 250 well construction permits per year.
- District delegates permitting of most other wells less than 6-inches in diameter to local government entities.
- Delegated local programs issue approximately 10,000 well permits per year.



# Well Permitting Local Delegations

- Delegate to some entities the ability to permit 62-524.
- Delegate to some entities the ability to perform compliance and enforcement (instead of relying on the District).
- New water well construction permitting delegations with Alachua, Seminole, and St Johns Counties.
- Delegate well construction permitting in seven square miles of Bradford County to the Suwannee River Water Management District.



# Delegation Agreement Updates

	Compliance/ enforcement	Grant limited variances	Regulate 62-524 wells	Regulate >6" wells
<b>Alachua</b>	Compliance only	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Bradford</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes (but no 62-524 wells)	Yes
<b>Brevard</b>	Compliance only	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Jacksonville</b>	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Indian River</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Marion</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Osceola</b>	Compliance only	No	Yes	No
<b>Seminole</b>	Compliance only	No	Yes	No
<b>St. Johns</b>	Compliance only	No	No	No



# Rulemaking – Next Steps

- February 25, 2026 -- deadline for public comments
- March 10, 2026-- staff tentatively plan to request authorization from Governing Board to publish Notices of Proposed Rule to complete rulemaking



# Rulemaking - Public Comments

Please submit any public comments by email to Tom Mayton at:

[tmayton@sjrwmd.com](mailto:tmayton@sjrwmd.com)

**By February 25, 2026**

QUESTIONS?



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