

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

**ADOPTING A REVISED FEE SCHEDULE FOR ADMINISTERING
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT'S WELL PERMITTING AND
INSPECTIONS PROGRAM (SUPERSEDING RESOLUTION NO. 17-52)**

WHEREAS, the Valley Water Well Ordinance (Ordinance 90-1) was adopted by the Board of Directors on April 24, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 of the Valley Water Well Ordinance requires a permit for the construction, modification, or destruction of wells in Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.5 of the Valley Water Well Ordinance allows the Board to adopt well permit fees to cover Valley Water costs required for the review of well permit applications, issuance of well permits, Board hearings of appeals, and inspection and documentation of work authorized under the ordinance; and

WHEREAS, Section 1 (e) of Article XIII C of the California Constitution provides, in relevant part,

- (e) As used in this article, "tax" means any levy, charge, or exaction of any kind imposed by a local government, except the following:
 - (1) A charge imposed for a specific benefit conferred or privilege granted directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of conferring the benefit or granting the privilege.
 - (2) A charge imposed for a specific government service or product provided directly to the payor that is not provided to those not charged, and which does not exceed the reasonable costs to the local government of providing the service or product.
 - (3) A charge imposed for the reasonable regulatory costs to a local government for issuing licenses and permits, performing investigations, inspections, and audits, enforcing agricultural marketing orders, and the administrative enforcement and adjudication thereof; and

WHEREAS, Valley Water has determined that the fees specified in the attached fee schedule for Valley Water well permits, Exhibit A, reflect the reasonable costs (including employee wages, benefits, and supplies) to Valley Water in processing permit applications, inspecting permitted work, and managing data associated with permit inspections; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara Valley Water District that:

Adopting a Revised Fee Schedule for Administering Santa Clara Valley Water District's Well Permitting and Inspections Program (Superseding Resolution No. 17-52) Resolution No. 2025-

1. The Board finds that the establishment of well permit fees is statutorily exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(8).
2. The Board finds that the establishment of the well permitting and inspection fees set forth in attached Exhibit A ("Fee Schedule"), reflect the reasonable cost to Valley Water to administer its well permitting activities and do not exceed such costs.
3. The Board finds that the fees specified in the Fee Schedule are not taxes under the express provisions of Section 1(e), subsections (1), (2), and/or (3), of Article XIII C of the California Constitution.
4. The Board does hereby adopt the Fee Schedule in order to provide the services to process and issue well permits and inspect permitted work.
5. This Resolution shall take effect on January 1, 2026, and the Fee Schedule will become effective January 1, 2026.
6. Resolution No. 17-52, adopted by Valley Water on July 25, 2017, is superseded in its entirety effective December 31, 2025.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Santa Clara Valley Water District by the following vote on November 25, 2025:

AYES: Directors

NOES: Directors

ABSENT: Directors

ABSTAIN: Directors

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

TONY ESTREMER
Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

CANDICE KWOK-SMITH
Clerk, Board of Directors

EXHIBIT A COVERSHEET

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT WELL PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

No. of Pages: 1

Exhibit Attachments: None

SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Well Permit Fee Schedule

Effective: January 1, 2026

Exhibit A of Board Resolution No. 2025-

Permit Type	Permit Fee	Comment
Well Construction	\$1000 per well	Applied to all devices requiring a well construction permit
Well Destruction	\$885 per well	Applied to all devices requiring a well destruction permit
Well Reconstruction	\$550 per well	Applied to all events requiring a well reconstruction permit
Closed Loop Geothermal Heat Exchange Well System	See Below	Based on number of wells in proposed system ¹
Exploratory Boring ¹	\$475 up to 5 borings +\$85 per each additional boring	Applied per parcel.
Standby Well Permit	\$495 initial \$395 extension	For all new standby permits and permit extensions (permit void after two years)
Permit Fee Refund	70% of permit fee after permit issuance	
Additional Weekday Inspection Surcharge	\$600 construction/destruction \$400 reconstruction	Applied for additional inspection per site
Weekend Inspection Surcharge	\$3500 construction/ destruction \$2260 reconstruction	Applied for inspection per site on weekends
Holiday Inspection	\$1200 construction/ destruction \$800 reconstruction	Applied for inspection per site on holidays

Closed Loop Geothermal Heat Exchange Well Permit Fee Schedule²

Number of Wells in Proposed System	Permit Fee for construction and destruction
1 to 5	\$1,765
6 to 10	\$3,235
11 to 20	\$4,710
21 to 50	\$6,180
51 to 100	\$7,655
101 to 200	\$10,110
201 to 300	\$12,560
More than 300 ³	\$15,015

Notes:

- Exploratory Borings – For borings proposed on multiple assessor parcels, a separate boring permit is required for each assessor parcel number.
- The fees apply to both construction and destruction of Geothermal Heat Exchange Wells.
- If the number of Closed Loop Geothermal Heat Exchange Wells exceeds 30 inspections, Valley Water would bill additional Geothermal Heat Exchange Wells at a rate of \$780 per inspection day.