

Memorandum

October 5, 2016

FROM: Gregory J. Smith, Supervisor Water Protection & Land Use Programs

SUBJECT: Policy for Ground Source Heat Exchange Bores/Wells

Based on review of County Well Ordinance, Ground Source Heat Exchange Bores/Wells have a do not pose as significant a threat as Water Supply Wells and therefore, can have less restrictive setbacks from structures than those considered for Water Wells in both the County Well Ordinance and the County Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) Ordinance. In San Mateo County, Ground Source Heat Exchange Systems must be closed-looped systems using only water as the circulating fluid.

Therefore, as long as the backfill material for a sealed-loop Ground Source Heat Exchange Bore is equivalent to 10.5-sack sand/cement mixture (or less sand to cement), setbacks are allowed as follows:

- to any property line 5 feet
- to another Heat Exchange Bore 10 feet
- to any sewer lateral or sewer main 25 feet
- to any element of a septic system 50 feet
- to any water well 50 feet

All other water well related setbacks and permitting requirements apply.

The fee schedule for Ground Source Heat Exchange Wells has now been incorporated into the County Fee Ordinance (PE 4686 through 4692).

