

PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I have a small public water system?

There are three types of public water systems:

- Community Water System – A small public water system that has 15 to 199 service connections used by year-long residents, or regularly serves at least 25 year-long residents. Water systems that have 200 or more service connections used by year-long residents are considered large public water systems and are regulated by the [State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking water](#). An example of a Community water system would be a community with residential homes served by a single water system.
- Non-Transient Non-Community Water System – A small public water system that is not a Community water system and regularly serves at least the same 25 people during 6 months out of the year. An example would be a school or workplace.
- Transient Non-Community Water System – A Non-Community public water system that serves at least 25 people 60 days out of the year. An example would be a campground or park.
- See the [Classification of water systems](#) for more information.

What if I have between 5 to 14 connections?

The water system would be considered a State Small Water System – a water system that has 5-14 residential service connections, and does not regularly serve potable water to more than 25 individuals for more than 60 days out of the year. An example would be a small residential community with 5 homes served by a single water supply. Contact Nevada County Environmental Health for permitting requirements at (530) 265-1222 Ext. 3.

What is needed to apply for a new public water system?

- [A Preliminary Technical Report](#) shall be submitted to Nevada County Environmental Health and The State Water Resources Control Board-Division of Drinking Water [District Engineer for Nevada County](#) **six (6) months prior to doing any water related construction.**
- Hire a CA licensed well driller to submit an application to drill a Class II well to Nevada County Environmental Health along with any applicable fees. The application should include a well site control zone with all required setbacks, design plans and specification sheets and documentation for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

- Apply for a major water plan check and submit the following documents , along with the applicable fees:
 - ☐ Design drawings of proposed facilities drawn to scale, showing location, size, and construction material.
 - ☐ The estimated Max Day Demand (MDD) and Peak Hourly Demand (PHD).
 - ☐ A source water assessment and description of each source of water proposed for use.
 - ☐ Information that demonstrates how the system proposes to reliably meet four hours of PHD using available source capacity and distribution reservoirs.
 - ☐ [Technical, Managerial and Financial \(TMF\) Capacity Assessment](#).
 - ☐ Well completion report.
 - ☐ [Bacteriological Sample Site Plan](#) and [Emergency Notification Plan](#).
 - ☐ Bacteriological and Chemical water quality tests as per CCR Title 22.
 - ☐ As-built plans and water system data sheets.
- Well Capacity Test:
 - ☐ Determine well capacity by one of the following methods:
 - ❖ Submit a report proposing well capacity based on well tests and the evaluation and management of the aquifer from which the well draws water (CCR Title 22 Section 64554(g)(1).
 - ❖ Conduct a 72-hour well capacity test during the months of August – October as per CCR Title 22 Section #64554(g)(2)(A,C). The well capacity shall be twenty five percent of the pumping rate at the end of the completed test.
 - ❖ Conduct a 10 day well capacity test during the months of August – October as per CCR Title 22 Section #64554(g)(2)(B,C). The well capacity shall be fifty percent of the pumping rate at the end of the completed test.
- Apply for the State Domestic Drinking Water Permit, Annual Environmental Health Certificate of Operation and pay all applicable fees.

What are the well construction requirements for a Class II well?

- The well must be constructed in accordance with the public water system well requirements in California Department of Water Resources Bulletins 74-81 and 74-90. Construction features must include, but are not limited to the following:
 - ☐ Minimum of a 50 ft. annular surface seal extending at least 5 ft. into a consolidated layer. The Annular seal must have a minimum radial thickness of 3 inches.
 - ☐ Installation of a casing vent and air release vent.
 - ☐ Installation of a check valve downstream of the well head sample site.
 - ☐ All equipment and materials must be NSF approved.
- Be constructed in accordance with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Standard A100-06 (Water Wells).
- Be installed as per requirements in CCR Title 22 Section # 64560(c) (3) (A-E).
- The well must have a flow meter installed between the source and the entry point to the distribution system.

What water quality testing has to be completed for my water system?

Water quality testing varies depending on the type of water system. Contact Nevada County Environmental Health for a current water quality monitoring schedule.

How do I obtain a waiver for synthetic organic chemical monitoring?

A waiver for synthetic organic chemical monitoring may be requested if initial sampling has demonstrated that there were no synthetic organic chemicals detected in the water supply and that there is no historical record of the use or manufacture of organic chemicals in the area for the past 10 years. A waiver request with supplemental documentation demonstrating no historic use has to be submitted for approval every year that the synthetic organic chemicals are required.

What are Consumer Confidence Reports?

A Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is required for all Community and Non-Transient / Non-Community water systems. The CCR is an annual water quality report prepared by the water system for distribution to their customers. The CCR includes information on the source water, the levels of any detected contaminants, any associated health effects, and compliance with drinking water regulations. The CCR is required to be distributed to each customer annually by July 1st and a copy of the CCR and the Certification form shall be submitted to Nevada County Environmental Health by October 1st.

How do I change ownership of a public water system?

- All components of the water system shall be brought up to current regulations with a change in ownership.
- **The following documents shall be submitted along with any applicable fees:**
 - ☐ A project description along with the estimated MDD and PHD.
 - ☐ A source water assessment and description of each source of water if not already completed by previous owner.
 - ☐ [Technical, Managerial and Financial \(TMF\) Capacity Assessment](#).
 - ☐ [Bacteriological Sample Site Plan](#) and [Emergency Notification Plan](#).
- Apply for the State Domestic Drinking Water Permit amendment, Annual Environmental Health Certificate of Operation and pay all applicable fees.