DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OPERATIONS DIVISION

MEMORANDUM

TO: OPERATIONS DIVISION STAFF

FROM: BRUCE S. DAVIS AND GREG WALLACE

DATE: MAY 12, 1994

SUBJECT: CONVERSION OF EXPLORATION/GEOTECHNICAL WELLS AND/OR
MONITORING/PIEZOMETER WELLS TO WATER PRODUCTION WELLS.

There have been several recent requests to convert the above
mentioned wells to water production wells. This memo outlines the
official policy of the Operations and Hydrology Divisions on this
issue.

1. Effective immediately, requests for conversion of an
exploration/geotechnical well to a water production or to a
monitoring/piezometer well shall not be accepted. R12-15-801.13
defines "Exploration wells" as a well drilled in search of
gerophysical, mineralogical, or geotechnical data. This definition
limits their use to the collection of data only. Secondly, these
wells are usually not drilled in such a manner that would allow
them to meet minimum well construction standards. Third, experience
has shown that these types of wells, not being drilled specifically
as water production wells, usually have insufficient information to
provide the Department with an adequate well log and construction
information to assure aquifer integrity. Where an
exploration/geotechnical well was constructed for later entry, it
may be possible for the applicant to convert the well for water
production. These types of conversions should be discouraged for
the above reasons. However, should the applicant persist in their
desire to convert the well they must meet all the criteria listed
below in item #2.

2. Effective immediately, requests for conversion of a
monitoring/piezometer well to a water production well will be
approved subject to the following:

A. A new Notice of Intention to Drill shall be filed with the
Operations Division requesting a modification of an existing well
with payment of the required filing fee.

B. The person requesting the conversion shall demonstrate, to
the satisfaction of the Hydrology Division, that the well meets all
minimum construction standards or that all variance requests
previously granted for the well are still valid or that the well
will be reconstructed to meet minimum well construction standards.
C. The well must have been previously registered with the Department and have a unique identification number.

D. A well log for the previously drilled well shall be on file with the Department.

E. A well impact analysis will be required for any well located within an AMA with proposed capacity exceeding 35 gpm and they must have and associated water right.

F. The applicant should provide the Department with a letter indicating that he/she has discussed the conversion of the specified monitor/piezometer well with ADEQ and that the conversion of the well for consumptive use is found to be acceptable to ADEQ.

Once approved for conversion, a new well log reflecting any modifications to the well and completion report will be required to be submitted as per current rules and statutes.