



# County of San Diego

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DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH  
LAND AND WATER QUALITY DIVISION  
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## Is A Permit Required For Your Subsurface Work?

If you are proposing to make a test or exploratory hole in the ground (monitoring well, boring, soil vapor probe), you may need to get a permit from the Monitoring Well Program. A test or exploratory hole is an excavation used for determining the nature of underground geological or hydrological conditions, whether by seismic investigation, direct observation or any other means pursuant to the County Well Ordinance (Section 67.402). This includes subsurface investigations for contamination and geotechnical information<sup>1</sup>.

Please use the questions below to determine if your project will require a permit and feel free to contact the Monitoring Well Program (MWP) if additional clarification is needed at 858-505-6688 or at [MonitoringWells.DEH@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:MonitoringWells.DEH@sdcounty.ca.gov).

Will your test or exploratory hole exceed more than twenty feet in depth?

**Yes** Then you need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.  
**No** Then go to the next question.

Will your test or exploratory hole encounter groundwater?

**Yes** Then you need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.  
**No** Then go to the next question.

Will your test or exploratory hole remain open for more than twenty-four hours *and* come within five feet of known/anticipated groundwater?

**Yes** Then you need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.  
**No** Then you don't need a permit from the Monitoring Well Program.

## What if you encounter unexpected conditions in the field?

If you unexpectedly encounter groundwater or leave the hole open for more than 24 hours, **you must immediately** call the Monitoring Well Desk at **858-505-6688** to determine if a permit is necessary.

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<sup>1</sup> This does not include trenching or construction dewatering wells.