5.15 ~~LARGE SCALE~~ SIGNIFICANT AQUIFER IMPACT GROUNDWATER PUMPING PROJECTS

(a) An entity with a groundwater production well(s) permitted in the District for any aquifer after March 23, 2026, ~~for more than~~for 1,500 to 4,000 acre-feet/year from a well or group of wells ~~prior to the production of groundwater,~~ shall install and maintain~~, prior to the production of groundwater, at least~~ one (1) monitor well ~~for every 1,500 acre-feet of annual permitted production~~. If the permitted production is more than a total of 4,000 acre-feet/year, then the entity shall install one additional monitoring well for every 3,000 acre-feet/acre/year of permitted production. The monitoring well(s) shall be within 50 feet of the subject property boundaries, the location of which are subject to approval by the District. Within 30 days following completion of the monitoring well(s), the District will record baseline static water level (BSWL) within the wells prior to permittee's commencement of groundwater production.

(b) On such Significant Aquifer Impact ~~projects~~ Projects located within the District, as described above, at the beginning of each month following initiation of groundwater pumpage, the District will record the static water level in each of the monitor wells. If at any time following the determination of the BSWL the average static level in all monitoring wells falls 50 feet below the BSWL for three (3) consecutive months, the District shall temporarily suspe\nd a pumping permit or reduce the permitted production amount until such time that the water level rises back to or above the BSWL, as a condition of the permit.

(c) If at any time during the permitted activities the average static level in all monitoring wells falls 75 feet below the BSWL, the District shall suspend the permitted pumping throughout the remainder of the permit period BSWL, as a condition of the permit.

~~(c)~~

(d) If the permitted production is in the Wilcox Aquifer and all of the sands screened are below a depth of 1,500 feet, then (b) and (c), above, apply only when the total permitted production for the entity is 4,000 acre-feet/year or more. The monitoring wells required in (a) above apply to these wells.

~~(d)~~(e) If existing permits are amended to trigger the ~~Large Scale~~ Significant Aquifer Impact ~~Groundwater Pumping~~ Project's thresholds in this rule, then the existing and amended permits for the wells/well system shall comply with this rule.

(f) This rule shall be a permit condition for qualifying wells in order to achieve the adopted Desired Future Conditions, as required by Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code.

(g) Whether a permit(s) is associated with a Significant Aquifer Impact Project shall be determined by the District. A Significant Aquifer Impact Project may include different well owners/permittees. Well owners/permittees/permit applicants may not divide a Significant Aquifer Impact Groundwater Pumping Project into smaller projects to avoid the District's Significant Aquifer Impact Groundwater Pumping Project rules.

(h) The District may require that the monitoring well(s) be equipped with automated pressure transducers that utilize cellular and satellite telemetry to transmit water level measurement data directly to the District. The pressure transducer(s) shall be calibrated for accuracy at least annually, with a calibration verification submitted to the District.

~~(e)~~

(i) This rule does not apply to a retail public water utility if the water is used to provide for its service needs within its service area within the District.

5.16 Monitoring Wells

If the District requires permittees to provide a well(s)~~(s)~~ for monitoring purposes to the District, permittees shall, at permittee's expense, install, maintain, report, and allow District access and inspection of the monitoring well(s) in accordance with the monitoring well criteria and standards adopted by the Board, which may also be adopted in a separate guidance document.

Monitoring wells shall be required for permits for power generation and/or data/computing centers, at permittee's expense, which shall be equipped with automated pressure transducers that utilize cellular and satellite telemetry to transmit water level measurement data directly to the District. The location and specifications of the monitoring well(s) shall be approved by the District. The pressure transducer(s) shall be calibrated for accuracy at least annually, with a calibration verification submitted to the District. The monitoring well(s) may also be required for water quality testing.