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How to Contract for Well Drilling in California

SACRAMENTO – California continues to face water shortfalls during this driest year in recorded state history. Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. [proclaimed a State of Emergency](#) and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to offset these drought conditions.

With the drought now posing health and safety concerns for families who rely on well water and businesses that need ground water resources, the Contractors State License Board ([CSLB](#)) is [expediting applications](#) for [C-57 Well Drilling](#) contractors.

To legally contract for well drilling projects in California, individuals and companies must be licensed by CSLB and possess the C-57 Well Drilling classification. Contractors that want assistance expediting process can contact CSLB's Classifications Deputy at 916.255.4118 or waterwellinfo@cslb.ca.gov.

CSLB is encouraging California ["A" General Engineering](#) contractors that are authorized to perform water supply projects (but not well drilling unless they possess a C-57 Well Drilling classification) to add the C-57 classification to their license.

CSLB also encourages well drilling contractors licensed in other states to consider working in California to help reduce its public health and safety issues. CSLB has a reciprocity agreement in place for well drillers who are licensed in Nevada, which will further expedite the California licensing process.

The California Employment Training Panel (CETP) funds job training for "emergency needs related to drinking water" in eligible counties. Employers interested in accessing this fund to train and hire additional employees under the [new pilot program](#) are encouraged to visit the CETP website.

CSLB and partner agencies – the Governor's Office of Emergency Services ([OES](#)), California Air Resources Board ([ARB](#)), Department of Water Resources ([DWR](#)), and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research ([OPR](#)) – are identifying potential bottlenecks that might slow the regulatory processes enabling well drillers to perform their trade, or for out-of-state well drillers to assist.

ARB has identified an existing process to allow drilling rigs that do not meet current air standards to operate in the state for [emergency operations](#); an ARB [fact sheet](#) explains air quality standards during a state emergency.

You are encouraged to call in to a special teleconference discussion with state agencies about well drilling regulations and expanding access to ground water:

September 12, 2014, 7:00 a.m. PDT
1-866-640-4044
Passcode: **62224**

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