



Well, Does My Water Come From a Well?

You probably do not think about this question all the time, but we would guess that sometimes you may wonder “where does my water come from”? The Sierraville Board of Directors knows the answer, but asks itself, “Do we have enough water to meet our needs now and into the future?” The short answer is yes, we have an adequate water source, but the more important question is, how do we make sure we can deliver clean, abundant, and reliable water to our Community for years to come?

The water delivered to your home comes from a spring, which is technically from underground, but not from a well. The State of California considers Railroad Spring a ground water source (Permit #5181, License #2548). Railroad Spring was developed in 1954 and reconstructed in 1987 by Karl Kuttel. The spring is a stable year-round source that provides consistently pure and adequate water for the Community at the rate of about 200-225 gallons per minute. Water from the spring flows by gravity to a small booster pump station, (constructed in 1954, then replaced in 1998), that pumps the water via a six-inch pipeline to our water storage tank site.

SPUD completed a second storage Tank Project in the Fall of 2019. The new Tank provides redundancy in addition to increasing the maximum storage to 415,000 gallons. This is the sole source of water for the Town’s water system including fire protection.

State drinking water regulations require that Community Water Systems have a backup source of water. Our water system has no backup source. To comply with this requirement, and to strengthen the water system, SPUD is researching an alternative source for water. This source will be in the form of a new groundwater well.

A new well is in the beginning stages of planning. Finding a location as a source of supply capable of meeting regulatory standards, taking into consideration electrical availability, land acquisition, and protection from surface contaminants is all part of our research and development.

Our goal is to complete this project with financing through grant funding first, supplemented by a low interest loan, if required, in order to offset any shortfall from grants.

A new well will deliver a redundant supply during drought conditions and provide a safe drinking water source for our Community into the future.