

# Water Terms and Definitions

## **Augmentation Plan**

A plan for augmentation is a detailed plan, approved by a Water Court decree, which permits wells to be used in accordance with detailed terms and conditions outlined in the decree.

In more practical terms, a Plan for Augmentation usually covers a number of wells in a subdivision by using the historical consumptive use of a senior agricultural water right caused by the use of the wells. A Plan for Augmentation works like a bank account: the senior water right is retired from irrigation use, creating a credit in the stream due to the fact that the farm is no longer consuming water; and the subdivision wells each consume some water, creating debits. As long as the debits don't exceed the credits, the plan is working, but if the balance goes negative, the Water Commissioner may come knocking at the door. Usually a homeowner's association will have been created to administer the Plan for Augmentation, with power to limit water use by individual lot owners. The Protective Covenants reveals whether this is the case.

## **Acre-Foot**

The volume of water required to cover one acre of land to a depth of one foot (43560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons). A useful visualization of this is a football field from goal line to goal line covered with one foot of water.

## **Cubic Feet / Second (CFS)**

CFS is an acronym for cubic feet per second. A cubic foot per second is one cubic foot of water passing by a single point for one second. CFS is the standard unit of measure for water that is in motion, such as water flowing in rivers and streams. A flow rate of one cfs would mean that 7.48 gallons passed by a point of reference in one second or 448.8gallons of water in one minute. Over the course of 24 hours, a flow of one cfs would produce 646,317 g gallons or almost the equivalent of two acre-feet per day.

## **Consumptive Use**

Consumptive use is the amount of water that does not return to its source after it has been diverted and put to beneficial use. Not all water is physically consumed when it is diverted. Unconsumed water that returns to a water supply through a municipal, septic, or industrial wastewater system or an irrigation system's tailwater is called return flow. Return flows are then available for other downstream water users.

## **Household Well Permit**

In Stagesop this is a permit issued by the water court which permits household water use for one residential unit. No outside use is permitted. There are 480 of these available in Stagesop, one per lot. Residences with these types of wells are considered to use 1/3 Ac-Ft of water per year with 10% of that being consumptive use.

## **Domestic Well Permit**

In Stagesop this is a permit issued by the water court which permits household water use for one residential unit as well as outside use for irrigation of 1000 sq ft of land. There are 20 of these available in Stagesop. Residences with these types of wells are considered to use far more water than a household well.