

Message From Marsha



June 2, 2008

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE WELL OWNERSHIP

Many of the property owners in House District 19 own ground water wells as their primary source for water. According to the Colorado 2006 Cumulative Yearly Statistics, the Colorado Division of Water Resources has recorded over 107,353 residential wells, 51,558 household wells, 15,009 livestock wells and 21,895 irrigation wells. The Division has over 238,183 documented wells ranging from residential to commercial, agriculture to municipal and many other types of uses. El Paso County is home to over 17,028 recorded wells, more ground water wells than any other county in the state.

The Colorado Division of Water Resources has determined that the current data concerning well ownership is inadequate, and that current and accurate data is necessary for the state to notify well owners of any health, safety, water right or stewardship issues pertaining to their ground water well. Issues such as determining water rights, ground water contamination, water quality and quantity require immediate attention, which requires accurate well ownership data.

To protect property owners that use ground water well as their primary source of water, and to update the Divisions records, HB1014 was signed into law by the governor on March 26, 2008. This bill sponsored by myself and Senator Gordon (D), allows for the timely and accurate update of well ownership records with any affected residential home purchase

Effective January 1, 2009, HB1014 allows closing companies to work directly with the buyers of the residential property in preparing the "Well Ownership Application". Within 60 days after the closing of the property, closing companies are required to forward the information to the Division of Water Resources. Currently there is no charge from the Division of Water Resources to process the application.

If property owners are interested in updating their well ownership or address please refer to <http://water.state.co.us/pubs/forms/gws-11.pdf> or contact the Division of Water Resources at 303-866-3581. Additional information regarding well ownership can be located at <http://www.water.state.co.us>. If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at MarshaLooper@gmail.com, WWW.GOMARSHA.ORG or 238-5600. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and protect our water resources!

Respectfully,

Marsha Looper,

*Colorado State Representative HD # 19
Ag., Livestock & Natural Resources Committee
State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee*