

Fort Ross School Water Project Success

Great News!

Fort Ross School has received formal approval from State of California water officials to complete development of a dual water source system that will provide the school a permanent and cost effective water system. The approved plan calls for the well drilled on school property in November 2008 be used as the primary water source and a well located on Erich and Sharon Lynn's property be used as a supplementary water source when needed. A State grant will pay all the costs associated with this phase of the project: design, labor, pumps, pipelines, electrical and storage.

The ravine well, located on school property, was tested and certified at 1.1 gpm. The school currently operates on approximately 600 gallons of water per day when school is in session. Consequently, the ravine well will most likely provide all the water the school needs. However, the State requires a minimum of 2 gpm. to meet State water project funding requirements so the Lynn well will help the school district meet that requirement.

Sharon and Erich Lynn made an incredibly generous offer to the school. Under the provisions of the State grant, they have offered access to their well to the school and have agreed to share a portion of the water resource from that well with the school in order to help the school meet State water project requirements. Amazingly, they have offered all of this for nothing: FREE! Our students and the greater Fort Ross community should be forever grateful for this act of kindness.

Project completion approval came after State water officials reviewed issues of concern raised by a few community members at recent school district Board of Trustees meetings. State water officials concluded that the use of the Lynn well was permissible and that the piping of water to the school did not violate any water laws.

All those involved with the water project are thrilled that the end is in sight! It has been five years of hard work and effort by many dedicated people and it will be wonderful to return to focusing full attention on the community's students and the best educational programs for them.

Submitted by:

Jim Johnson

Superintendent/Principal
Fort Ross School District