

# Help Protect our Water Supply

## You're Invited to a Public Hearing

### Quick Facts:

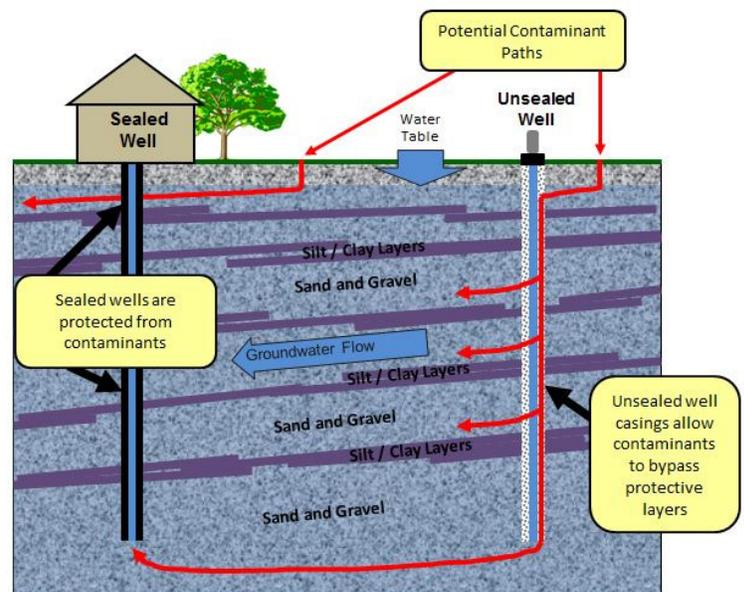
- This is an effort to preserve and protect the water supply for residents today and in the future.
- The quality and safety of Meridian's water supply are threatened by the construction of unsealed water wells.
- The City of Meridian relies solely on groundwater, diverted from 23 rigorously tested wells, to provide clean, safe drinking water to residents and businesses.
- The City seals all municipal wells to restrict water movement within the aquifer.
- Wells with unsealed casings allow waters of different pressure, temperature, and chemistry (including natural and human-introduced contaminants) to move within the aquifer system.
- Based on decades of scientific research and testing, the City of Meridian has petitioned the Idaho Department of Water Resources to designate an Area of Drilling Concern in West Ada County to require better, more responsible well drilling and abandonment practices.

June 1, 2016

6:30 p.m.

### Mountain View High School

The Idaho Department of Water Resources, at the City of Meridian's request, is holding a public hearing to discuss the designation of an Area of Drilling Concern in an area of Western Ada County that includes Meridian and portions of Kuna, Boise, and Ada County. You're invited to attend this hearing to learn about this important effort to protect the source of our drinking water supply.



# Requested Area of Drilling Concern

## FAQs

### **Q: What are the contaminants of concern?**

A: The dissolved metals uranium and arsenic are naturally occurring contaminants of concern. Human-introduced contaminants include nitrates, pesticides, herbicides as well as industrial chemicals such as perchlorethylene, and pathogens such as bacteria.

### **Q: Is the City trying to prevent people from drilling their own wells?**

A: No. The City just wants all wells constructed to meet adequate sealing standards. This will protect both the City's residents and private well owners and will preserve the groundwater resource.

### **Q: What is an "unsealed" well?**

A: An unsealed well is a well that was constructed or abandoned in a manner that leaves a space between the well casing and the side of the drilled hole called the "annular space". The City has documented the fact that, in the sedimentary geology of the Treasure Valley, wells constructed by "drill and drive" methods, which are commonly used for small domestic wells, result in an open and unsealed annular space.

### **Q: What drilling method results in a sealed well?**

A: The City has shown that mud-rotary drilling allows for proper placement of a functional well seal over the entire length of the well casing.

### **Q: Is mud-rotary drilling more expensive than other methods?**

A: Yes. Wells constructed using mud-rotary drilling are roughly 1.5 to 2 times the cost of those employing the cheapest methods, however, the City believes that the benefits to the well owner, such as avoidance of surface contaminants, longer life, and better water quality, outweigh the additional cost. More importantly, protecting our vital groundwater resource is a responsibility we all share. Our responsible actions now will ensure that safe, clean groundwater is available for future generations.

