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## PRESS RELEASE

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### *Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District*

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **DISTRICT ANNOUNCES FUND FOR WELL PLUGGING ASSISTANCE**

The Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District (CUWCD or District) is pleased to announce its cost sharing program for plugging abandoned wells. Abandoned wells provide a direct conduit for contaminants at the surface to enter a groundwater system. This can be hazardous to neighboring landowners who have active wells in the same groundwater system. Inactive wells that are properly covered can still pose a hazard if the well casing is cracked and deteriorated. These cracks and holes allow pollutants to seep into the well cavity and infiltrate the aquifer, contaminating all water-bearing formations penetrated by the well borehole. The landowner is responsible for plugging an abandoned well and may also be held responsible for injury or pollution related to the abandoned well.

Costs to plug an abandoned well will vary depending on the type of well (hand dug vs. drilled), the diameter and depth of the well. With the District's cost sharing program, the District will pay 50% of the plugging cost, not to exceed \$1,000 for any one well. To be selected, the well must have been registered with the District prior to December 31, 2005 and must meet the State definition of "abandoned." Funds for this program are limited. Financial need will be considered in reviewing the applications.

The District will be accepting applications for this program during the months of February and March. Application forms are available on the District web site ([www.clearwaterdistrict.org](http://www.clearwaterdistrict.org)) or at the District office. Contact the District at 254-933-0120 for additional information.

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