

Cal Water wants to build a water well station with chemical treatment in the middle of a residential area at 503 Fifth Ave in North Fair Oaks. Cal Water bought the house in 2017 and tore it down in 2019 to propose the water well station. At an information session on October 25, 2023, concerned community members asked questions but Cal Water has not answered them. Here's what we know and some concerns from the North Fair Oaks community.

This is what we know about the water well station:

- The water well station would have 2 buildings (one to cover the pump and one to cover the chemical treatment), 2 tanks, chemical treatment, and a pump.
- Drilling during construction will be very noisy.
- After construction, some tanks and equipment might still be visible.
- Cal Water plans to build a fence and plant shrubs or trees around it to hide the facilities and equipment.
- The pump noise must be under 60 decibels during the day (like an air conditioner) and under 50 decibels at night (like a refrigerator).
- In an emergency, backup generators might lead to louder noise.
- Normally, there should be no smells. There might be bad smells if there's a problem.

Possible impacts on the community and other concerns:

- There may be no direct benefit to the North Fair Oaks community.
- In an emergency, we don't know if NFO would get water from the well station before other communities.
- The amount of chemicals stored at the site might pose dangers.
- Cal Water likely chose NFO because property is cheaper and people may not fight back.
- This well station removes one house where at least one family could live.
- Water and electricity prices might go up since the cost of building the well station will be shared by all customers in this water district.
- More noise and traffic, especially during construction.
- There might be fewer parking spaces around the water well station location.
- If there's a problem, it could take a long time to fix.
- Property values may go down, especially in the areas surrounding this project.
- Drilling and water pumping could compromise the foundations of nearby homes.
- The ground could sink if they pump too much water.
- Big trucks, maintenance, and deliveries might make streets more dangerous.
- Dumping water in the streets may make them muddy and cause more problems.
- Private water wells might dry up.
- A water well station in this residential area will change the looks and perception of this area.
- We feel targeted and question Cal Water's choice of NFO to dig this water well station and not other communities this water well station will be serving.