

Water Wells in Yosemite Valley

The **Leidig Meadow Well** was constructed between December 1970 and February 1971. It is located in a circle formed by the “male employee’s tent platforms” about 1000 feet southwest of the Yosemite Lodge. The drill rig was unable to penetrate deeper than a boulder layer at 259 feet. Caving of the very-fine sand and silt below 55 feet caused the well to be completed to a depth of only 56 feet. The well was tested at 65 gpm for 30 hours resulting in 14 feet of drawdown.

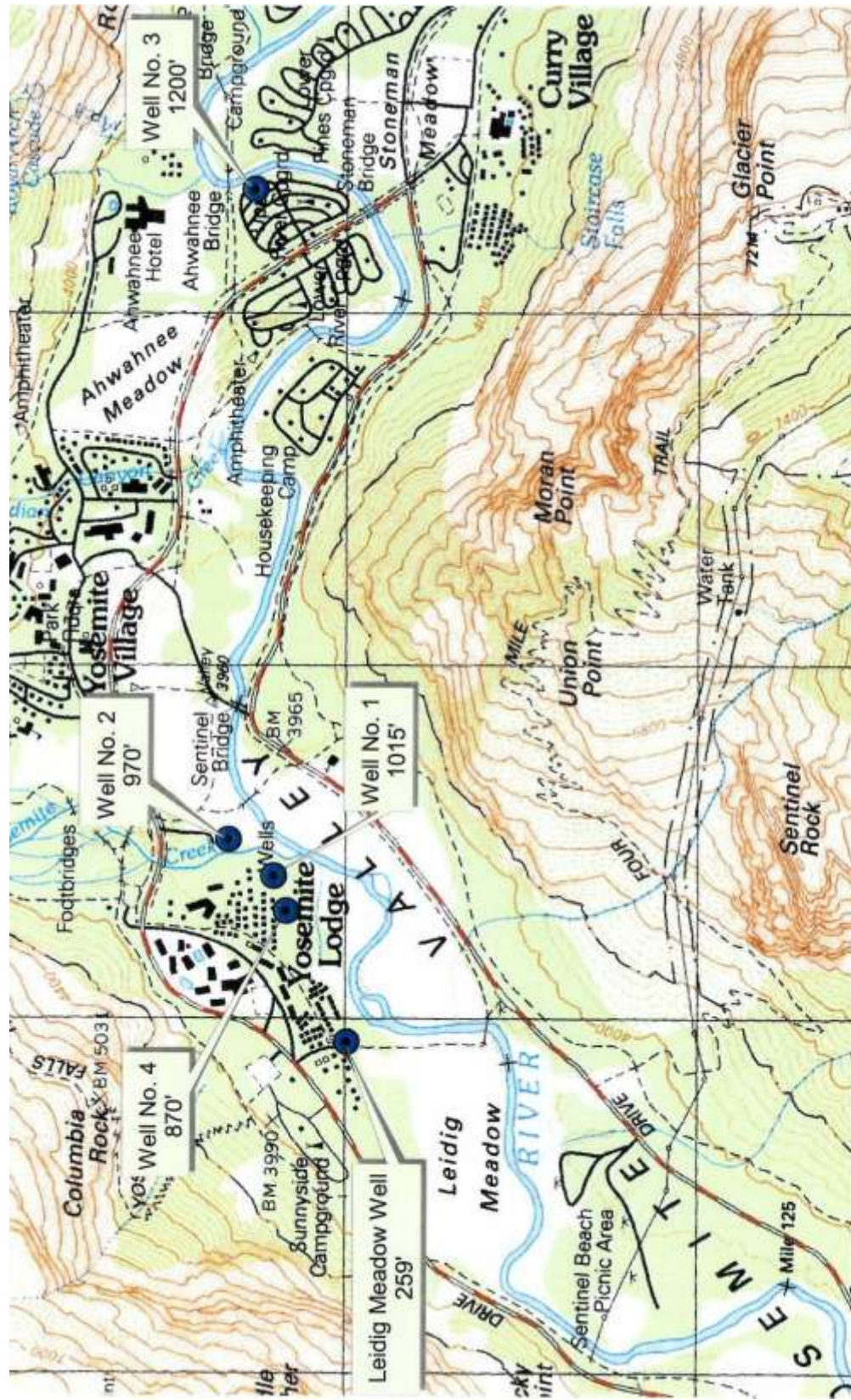
Following completion of the Leidig Meadow well, a second well was drilled to a depth of 1015 feet at a site about a half mile east of the Leidig Meadow well. This well is named **“Well No. 1”**. It is on the east side of Yosemite Creek near the confluence with the Merced River. The drillers log indicates the well was drilled almost entirely in sand, with some layers of hard rock, to a depth of 1015 feet. The well was completed to a depth of 520 feet and was test pumped at 800 gpm for 12 hours resulting in 80 feet of drawdown.

Well No. 2 is located behind (south) the Superintendent’s House, about 90 feet east of Yosemite Creek and about 90 feet south of the garage at the Supt. Residence. Work was started on the well in May 1974 and completed in February 1975. The well was drilled to a total depth of 970 feet and ended at either a “large boulder or solid granite”. The driller’s log indicates that drilling was through sand, gravel, boulders, and glacial flour to a depth of 968 feet. The well was completed with well screen and casing to a depth of 707 feet. The lower part of the well was backfilled with pea gravel. The well was test pumped at 490 gpm for 11 hours resulting in about 158 feet of drawdown.

Well No. 3 was constructed between December 1983 and April 1984. It is located in the Upper River Campground (Camp 15) in the middle of the valley between Camp Curry and the Ahwahnee Hotel. A 6-inch test well was drilled to 1200 feet, passing through clay, sand, gravel, and boulders for the entire depth. Eventually, a larger diameter hole was drilled to 500 feet and a well was completed with well screen from 110-260 feet and 375-435 feet. The well was tested at 250 gpm for 10 hours resulting in 266 feet of drawdown.

Well No. 4 was drilled in April-May 1985. It was drilled to 870 feet and was in sand and gravel for the entire depth. Well screen and casing were installed to a depth of 800 feet, presumably the lower part of the borehole was allowed to collapse or was backfilled. The well is located “near the Ranger’s House”. It was test pumped at 1200 gpm for 38 hours resulting in 40 feet of drawdown.

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Numbers are total depth drilled. All drilling was in unconsolidated alluvial & glacial sediments.

