

Reporting, Measuring, and Planning Requirements FOR ALL WATER USERS

2023
UPDATE

California Water Rights

(Water Commission Act, 1913; SB X7-8, 2009; SB 88, 2016)

- Any individual or entity who takes water from a lake, river, stream, or creek for a beneficial use requires a water right to do so.
- California's water right system is a priority system based on the understanding that water may not be available to all water right holders during dry periods.

Water Right Reporting

(Water Commission Act, 1913; SB X7-8, 2009; SB 88, 2016; SB 155, 2021)

- Annual water right reports must be submitted electronically by all water right holders to the SWRCB by February 1 of each year.
- The annual reports are to include monthly diversion and use quantities for the prior water year (October 1 – September 30).
- The SWRCB may require more frequent reporting requirements during times of water shortage.

Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

(AB 1739, SB 1168, and SB 1319, 2014)

- Locally formed Groundwater Sustainability Agencies are required to prepare and adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2022.
- Measuring, monitoring, and management actions will be undertaken thereafter with a report due by April 1 of each year and plan updates every five years.

Drinking Water Annual Report

(SB 1360, 1996)

- Public water systems are required to submit an electronic annual report to the SWRCB, Division of Drinking Water around mid-May of each year.

Measurement of Diversion and Use

(SB 88, 2016)

- Water right holders who divert or are authorized to divert more than 10 AF per year are required to measure their surface water diversions.
- Measurement options include Measurement Methods and Alternative Compliance Plans which are described on the SWRCB's Website (see **Resources** section for link).
- The measurement equipment must meet certain accuracy standards and data must be recorded at a specified frequency (see **Table 1**).
- The installation and accuracy of the measurement device must be documented by a Qualified Individual.

Table 1. Measurement Thresholds and Requirements

Direct Diversion	Storage	Required Accuracy of Device	Required Monitoring Frequency	Telemetry
≥ 1,000 AF/year	≥ 1,000 AF	Installed before 1/1/16: 15%	Hourly	Diverter who diverts: > 10,000 AF annually > 30 CFS by direct diversion during Jun. through Sept. 30 > 10,000 AF capacity of pond/reservoir In certain areas (see Measurement Regulation)
≥ 100 AF/year	≥ 200 AF	Installed after 1/1/16: 10%	Daily	
	≥ 100 AF	15%	Weekly	
> 10 AF/year	≥ 50 AF			
	> 10 AF		Monthly	

CASGEM Monitoring and Reporting

(SB X7-6, 2009)

- Designated CASGEM Monitoring Entities collect groundwater elevation measurements and report the data online on a semi-annual basis.

Federal Water Management Plans

(PL 102-575, 1992)

- Water supply contract holders must prepare and submit a WMP pursuant to CVPIA requirements – those who receive less than 2,000 AF for agricultural or urban purposes or irrigate less 2,000 acres of land are exempt.
- The CVPIA criteria requires implementation of five “non-exemptible” Best Management Practices.
- A guidebook is provided by Reclamation to assist water supply contract holders with preparing a WMP.
- WMPs are to be updated every five years and submitted to Reclamation.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program

(AB 390, 1999)

- Property owners of irrigated agricultural lands must comply with Waste Discharge Requirements as an individual or through participation in a coalition group.
- The Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition and California Rice Commission Coalition assist growers in the Sacramento basin through surface water and groundwater quality monitoring.

Agricultural Aggregated Farm-Gate Delivery Report

(AB 1404, 2007; AB 1668, 2018)

- Agricultural water suppliers delivering 2,000 AF per year or serving 2,000 or more acres must submit an Agricultural Aggregated Farm-Gate Delivery Report.
- The reports must be submitted electronically by April 1 of each year and are to include monthly or bimonthly aggregated farm-gate delivery quantities organized by groundwater basin/sub-basin number.

State Water Management Plans

(SB X7-7, 2009; AB 1668, 2018)

- Agricultural water suppliers providing water to more than 25,000 acres (excluding recycled water deliveries) must prepare and submit an AWMP.
- The criteria require implementation of turnout level measurement and volumetric pricing of water deliveries.
- AWMPs must include an annual water budget based on all inflow and outflow components of the service area, an identification of water management objectives based on the budget, and quantification of water use efficiency within the service area.
- AWMPs must include a drought plan that describes the actions of the water supplier related to drought preparedness and management of water supplies and allocations during drought conditions.
- Urban water suppliers who provide over 3,000 AF per year or serve more than 3,000 urban connections must prepare and submit an UWMP.
- Urban water suppliers are required to assess the reliability of water sources over a 20-year planning time frame, describe management measures and water shortage contingency plans, and discuss the use and planned use of recycled water.
- Guidebooks are provided by DWR to assist water suppliers with preparing a UWMP.
- UWMPs are to be updated every five years and submitted electronically to DWR.

Resources

- [Water Division and Use Reporting](#)
- [Water Measurement Regulations](#)
- [Water Use Efficiency/Water Management Plans](#)

For Questions Please Contact:

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