

Know Your Water Right for Measurement Regulations

The purpose of this document is to help you determine how much water is associated with your water right or water right claim for the purpose of complying with the measurement regulations. The measurement regulations only apply to water rights or claims over a certain amount of water. In addition, the accuracy and monitoring requirements vary depending on how much water is associated with your water right.

Water rights acquired after 1914 are obtained by permits, licenses, registrations and certificates that grant and condition the right to directly divert water and/or to divert water to storage for reasonable beneficial use. The water right document (either a permit, license, or registration/certificate) details the terms of exercising the water right, including point(s) of diversion, place of use, purpose of use, and quantity and timing of diversion. Note that registrations/certificates cover small water right projects for domestic use, irrigation use and stockponds. Most registrations/certificates are for diversions of 10AF or less and are likely not subject to the measurement requirements, but you should check your record to confirm.

You can locate the water right document if you know your Water Right ID. This process is explained in the next section. If you have a permit, license, or registration/certificate, you will be able to use our Electronic Water Rights Information Management System (eWRIMS) to determine how much water is associated with your water right.

In addition, the State Water Board maintains records of water use under riparian and pre-1914 claims of right. Riparian rights and pre-1914 appropriative rights are not subject to the permitting and licensing system administered by the State Water Board. Riparian rights are conferred with the ownership of land adjacent to a watercourse and pre-1914 appropriative water rights are acquired by diverting and putting water to continuous beneficial use before 1914. If you are claiming a riparian right or pre-1914 appropriative water right, unless your diversion is watermastered, you must file a Statement of Water Diversion and Use (Statement) to the State Water Board to report your water use. A Statement is not in itself a water right but rather a statement made by the person or organization who diverted and used the water.

If you have a riparian or pre-1914 claim of right filed under a Statement of Water Diversion and Use, you will be able to use our Electronic Water Rights Information Management System (eWRIMS) to locate the Statement. You will be able to look at the data submitted by you or the person who owned the water right or water right claim before you, which may help you determine how much water is associated with your water right.

Water Right ID

A water right ID is generally one letter followed by roughly six numbers. It is used as an identifier for each water right or water right claim. Your Water Right ID is how you login to report your water usage. The first letter of the Water Right ID indicates what **type** of water right or claim of water right you have. If you know your Water Right ID, you can locate a copy of your Initial Statement or your water right permit, license, or registration. If you know your Water Right ID but do not know which type of water right you have, use Table 1 to learn more about the type of water right you have.

Table 1. Water Right ID Naming System

Water Right ID First Letter	Type of Water Right or Water Right Claim	Explanation
A	Permit or License	“A” stands for application for a water right acquired after 1914. After applying for a water right, a permit/license can be granted which authorizes the applicant to divert water pursuant to Water Code sections 1250 et.seq. More information is here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/applications/
D, L, H	Registrations – Domestic (D), Livestock (L), or Small Irrigation Use (H)	Diversions for: (1) Small Domestic Use, (2) Small Irrigation Use, and (3) Livestock Stockpond pursuant to Water Code section 1228-1229.1. More information is here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/registrations/
C	Stockpond Certificate	Diversions of 10AF or less for a stockpond if filed prior to December 31, 1997 pursuant to Water Code section 1226-1226.4
S	Pre-1914 appropriative water right claim, riparian right claim, adjudicated pre-1914 appropriative water right, adjudicated riparian right	If you do not have a permit, license or registration/certificate, you are likely reporting your water usage to the State Water Board under a Statement. Check the initial Statement (on file with the Division of Water Rights) to see what type of water right was initially claimed. More information is here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/
F	Federal Reserved Rights	These water rights are likely not applicable to you. When the federal government reserves land for a specific purpose, it is implied in that reservation of land that the federal government is reserving water rights to support the purpose of the reservation of land.
G	Groundwater Recordation	Well extractions of more than 25 acre-feet (or 10 acre-feet or more from a single source) in Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties. More information is here: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/groundwater_recordation/

If you do not know your Water Right ID

1. Use the Water Rights Web Mapping Application to locate your property. If you scroll to the location of your diversion, there should be an icon mapped with your Water Right ID:
 - <https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov//ciwqs/ewrims/EWMenuPublic.jsp>
2. Look up your water right ID using the Water Rights Record Search:
 - <https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov//ciwqs/ewrims/EWMenuPublic.jsp>
3. Speak with Division of Water Rights staff
 - (916) 341-5300

Determine How Much Water is Associated with Your Water Right Using Your Water Right ID

If you have a permit, license, certificate or registration

1. Go to the Water Rights Record Search:
<https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov//ciwqs/ewrims/EWMenuPublic.jsp>
2. Enter in your Water Right ID into the “Application ID” search field.
3. Your search result should return a table. Under the field “Face Amt” (abbreviation for Face Value amount) there should be a quantity of water in acre-feet. Your Face Value is the amount of water associated with your water right or the maximum amount of water you are allowed to divert under this one license/permit/registration.
4. You may also download your water right document by clicking the “View Document” link

If you have a Statement

You must determine in acre-feet the maximum amount of water you have historically diverted or what you intend to divert. If either of those quantities of water is over 10 acre-feet per year, then you are required to measure your water diversions.

The State Water Board has records of how much water you have reported that you have diverted. This may help you determine the maximum amount of water you have historically diverted or what you intend to divert. To see this data:

1. Go to the Water Rights Record Search:
<https://ciwqs.waterboards.ca.gov//ciwqs/ewrims/EWMenuPublic.jsp>
2. Enter in your Water Right ID into the “Application ID” search field.
3. Your search result should return a table. Click on the “View Reports” link. You can then view your reports and the previous owners reports. By adding the “Amount directly diverted” and the “Amount diverted or collected to storage” you can see how much water you reported that you diverted in a year.
4. To see reported diversion amounts prior to 2009, you can click the “View Document” button to see the paper copies the State Water Board has of your Statement filings. Depending on when your initial Statement was filed, the State Water Board annual records of your reported diversion amount may all be viewable using the method outlined in step 3.

Keep in mind, these records show reported diversion data, not necessarily measured data, and not every record is checked by State Water Board staff. Compliance with measurement regulations is based on the amount of water you have diverted, not what you report that you have diverted.

If you have multiple water rights or water right claims that divert from the same point of diversion or serve the same place of use, you must add the quantities of water under the rights and claims to determine how much water is associated with your water right.