

State Water Resources Control Board

March 10, 2026

Correspondence ID: «##### -###-0-#####»

«Name»

«Address»

«City», «State» «Zip»

EXAMPLE

Groundwater Extraction Reporting Requirements Under The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act

You can contact us to request information in your language:

ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

Makipag-ugnayan sa amin para humiling ng impormasyon sa iyong wika.

联系我们，以您的语言获取信息。

Entre em contato conosco para solicitar informações no seu idioma.

bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm | LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov

Why Did You Receive This Letter?

You received this letter because you own a groundwater well in the Tulare Lake Subbasin. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) designated the Tulare Lake Subbasin as "probationary" pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on April 16, 2024. Consequently, certain groundwater extractors (people who pump groundwater) in this subbasin are required to submit their annual groundwater extraction reports to the State Water Board **by May 1, 2026**. Some extractors may also need to pay a fee. The information below describes how these requirements apply to you.

Do These Requirements Apply to You?

The requirements **do not** apply to you if you meet any of the exemptions below:

- You do not own any groundwater wells in the Tulare Lake Subbasin.
- You do not own or do not have legal responsibility for the property or any properties you were contacted about. For example, if you rent a property, you are not responsible for reporting; the owner of the property is responsible for submitting an annual report.
- You are a de minimis extractor, meaning you pump no more than two acre-feet (approximately 650,000 gallons) per year for domestic (household) purposes only.
- Potential Exclusion: You extract 20 acre-feet or less per year cumulatively from all wells you own in the Tulare Lake Subbasin. This potential exclusion and the threshold for its application will be considered for adoption by the Board at its April 7, 2026, public meeting. Visit bit.ly/sgma-tulare-lake for updates on the Board's decision.

You can also see the flow chart on the last page of this letter to understand if the requirements apply to you.

If any of the exemptions above apply to you, refer to the "What to Do If You Are Exempt" section below. If you do not qualify for any of these exemptions, **the groundwater reporting requirements apply to you**. Refer to the "What to Do If You Are **Not** Exempt" section below for further details.

The reporting obligations discussed in this letter are distinct from any obligations imposed on you by your local Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What to Do If You Are Exempt (Requirements Do Not Apply)

If you are exempt from these reporting requirements, you should notify the Board by visiting our Groundwater Extraction Annual Reporting System (GEARS) at [the Board's reporting site](#) before May 1, 2026. Once you notify the Board, we will remove you from this mailing list. If you do not notify the Board, we may assume the reporting requirements apply to you and will contact you again.

What to Do If You Are Not Exempt (Reporting Requirements Apply)

If you are **not** exempt from these reporting requirements, you are required to:

- Step 1 - Track your monthly groundwater extractions (pumping),
- Step 2 - Once a year, report how much you pumped to the State Water Board, and
- Step 3 - Pay an annual groundwater fee to the Board (unless your fees are waived, see below for further details).

Step 1 - Tracking Your Groundwater Extractions

If you are not exempt from groundwater extraction reporting requirements, you are required to track your groundwater pumping from the Tulare Lake Subbasin that occurred between **July 15, 2024, and September 30, 2025**. The document titled “Options for Measuring Extraction Volumes” outlines ways you can measure your groundwater pumping: bit.ly/measure-extractions.

Special Requirements for Large Groundwater Extractors

If you extract **more than 500 acre-feet of groundwater per year** from the Tulare Lake Subbasin, beginning July 15, 2024, you were required to measure your monthly extractions using certified flow meters or one of the alternative methods identified in the State Water Board’s probationary designation resolution, with certain exceptions. Visit bit.ly/sgma-tulare-lake to learn more about this requirement.

Step 2 - Submit Two Annual Groundwater Extraction Reports

You must submit two annual groundwater extraction reports to the State Water Board by **May 1, 2026**. The first annual groundwater extraction report will be for the period of July 15, 2024, through September 30, 2024, and the second will be for the period of October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025.

System for Reporting

Submit all groundwater extraction reports through the Board’s Groundwater Extraction Annual Reporting System (GEARS): [reporting system](#).

You will need a Correspondence ID to create a GEARS account. You may have received Correspondence ID(s) that were mailed to you in 2024. Those Correspondence ID(s) should work interchangeably with the Correspondence ID in this letter. Your Correspondence ID is: «#####-###-0-#####».

Required Information

Groundwater extraction reports must include the following information:

- Well owner information
- Well location, pumping capacity, and the year pumping began
- Where the groundwater is being used and the purpose of use
- Monthly groundwater extraction volumes for July through December of 2024 and January through September of 2025

The “Groundwater Extraction Annual Reporting User Guide” provides additional information about reporting groundwater extractions in GEARS: bit.ly/GEARS-Resources.

Step 3 – Pay Annual Fees

You are required to pay an annual groundwater extraction report filing fee unless one or more of the following apply:

- You are exempt from the groundwater extraction reporting requirements described above.
- You receive a fee waiver (see below).
- The subbasin exits probation.

You may still be responsible for partial-year fees if the subbasin exits probation midyear.

After submitting your annual groundwater extraction reports, you will receive a separate fee invoice in the mail. Fees are due thirty days after the State Water Board issues an invoice. As illustrated in the table below, the fees currently include an annual base fee and a volumetric rate per acre-foot of groundwater extracted. Please note that these fees are subject to change.

An automatic late fee will be applied if you fail to submit your annual groundwater extraction reports by May 1, 2026. Should you miss this deadline, the State Water Board may conduct an investigation to determine your groundwater extraction volumes and other necessary information. The investigation would occur at your expense. Additional details regarding the current extraction fee schedule can be found on our website: bit.ly/sgma-reporting.

Fee Category (more than one may apply)	Current Fee Amount	Applicable Parties
Annual Base Fee	\$300 per well	All <i>non-exempt</i> groundwater extractions required to report extractions
Volumetric Rate	\$20 per acre-foot of groundwater pumped	
Late Fee	25% of total fee amount per month late	<i>Non-exempt</i> extractors who do not file reports by the due date

You May Not Have to Pay Fees

The State Water Board may waive extraction fees, upon request, for certain extractors.¹ Groundwater extractors may qualify for a fee waiver if they meet **any** of the following criteria:

1. You qualify as a low-income resident:
 - a. Your household income is 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level. For more details, visit U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; **or**
 - b. You are enrolled in a qualified income-based public assistance program.
2. You are a public water system or state small water system serving a disadvantaged community where the primary purpose providing water is for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.
3. You are a public school.

To qualify for a fee waiver, you must submit your annual groundwater extraction reports by May 1, 2026. When you submit your reports, GEARS will provide a link to the SGMA Fee Waiver Request Form. To expedite your request, submit the form by May 8, 2026. Fee waiver requests must be submitted no more than 30 days after the fee is due. More information on fee waivers is available at: bit.ly/sgma-reporting.

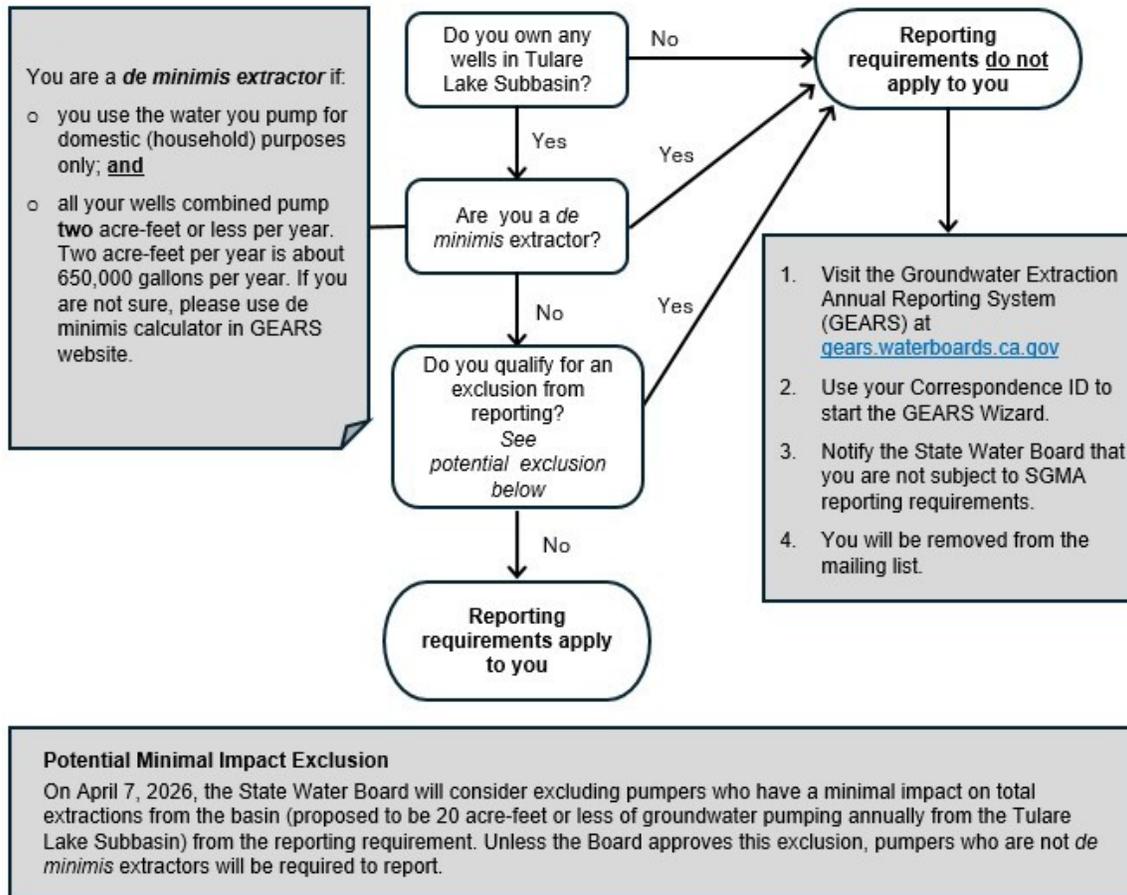
Future Extraction Reports

Extraction reports must be submitted annually while the Tulare Lake Subbasin is in probation. If the subbasin is in probation for only a portion of a year, you will only need to report your extractions for that portion of the year; reporting will not be required for

¹ Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 1044, a waiver request must be submitted to the Board within 30 days of when the fee is due for the waiver to apply to that billing and must be supported by adequate substantiation that the waiver applies.

extractions that occur after the State Water Board determines that the Tulare Lake Subbasin GSAs can manage the subbasin sustainably and ends the subbasin’s probationary status. The May 1, 2026, reporting deadline is specific to 2025 and 2026. In subsequent years, extraction reports must be submitted by February 1 every year for the preceding water year.²

“Do These Requirements Apply to Me?” Flow Chart



Need more help or have questions?

For more information about SGMA and the State Water Board’s role, visit the Water Board’s SGMA website at [Water Board online](#) or refer to the “Groundwater Extractors and State Intervention Under SGMA FAQ”: bit.ly/SGMA-pumper-FAQ.

Sign up for SGMA groundwater extraction reporting and fees and SGMA groundwater management email reminders and updates at bit.ly/SWRRCB-email-subscriptions (under State Water Board General Interests).

Visit bit.ly/GEARS-Resources for GEARs reporting resources and events.

Email us at sgma@waterboards.ca.gov or call us at (916) 322-6508.

This notice is regarding Assessor’s Parcel Number(s) (APN):

«APN»

² “Water year” means the 12-month period from October 1 through the following September 30.