

## 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.

اتصل بنا لطلب معلومات بلغتك.

Entre em contato conosco para solicitar informações no seu idioma.

[bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm](https://bit.ly/LanguageAccessForm) | [LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:LanguageServices@waterboards.ca.gov)

### Why Did You Receive This Letter?

You received this letter because you own a groundwater well in the Tule Subbasin. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board or Board) designated the Tule Subbasin as "probationary" pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on September 17, 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 Tule 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.
- You extract groundwater only within the boundaries of Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or Kern-Tulare Water District GSA and you comply with your GSA's groundwater management requirements. Identify your GSA here [bit.ly/my-gsa](https://bit.ly/my-gsa).
- Potential Exclusion: You extract 20 acre-feet or less per year cumulatively from all wells you own in the Tule 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-tule](https://bit.ly/sgma-tule) 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.

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

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

### **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 Tule Subbasin that occurred between **January 1, and December 31, 2025**. The document titled "Options for Measuring Extraction Volumes" outlines ways you can measure your groundwater pumping: [bit.ly/measure-extractions](http://bit.ly/measure-extractions).

#### [Special Requirements for Large Groundwater Extractors](#)

If you extract **more than 500 acre-feet of groundwater per year** from the Tule Subbasin, beginning March 1, 2025, you were required to measure your extractions using certified flow meters or one of the alternative methods identified in the State Water Board's probationary designation resolution. Visit [bit.ly/sqma-tule](http://bit.ly/sqma-tule) to learn more about this requirement.

### **Step 2 - Submit Your Annual Groundwater Extraction Report**

You must submit an annual groundwater extraction report to the State Water Board by **May 1, 2026**, for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 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 January through December 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 report, 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/sigma-reporting](https://bit.ly/sigma-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 extractors 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.<sup>1</sup> 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](https://www.hhs.gov); **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 report by May 1, 2026. When you submit your report, 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/sigma-reporting](https://bit.ly/sigma-reporting).

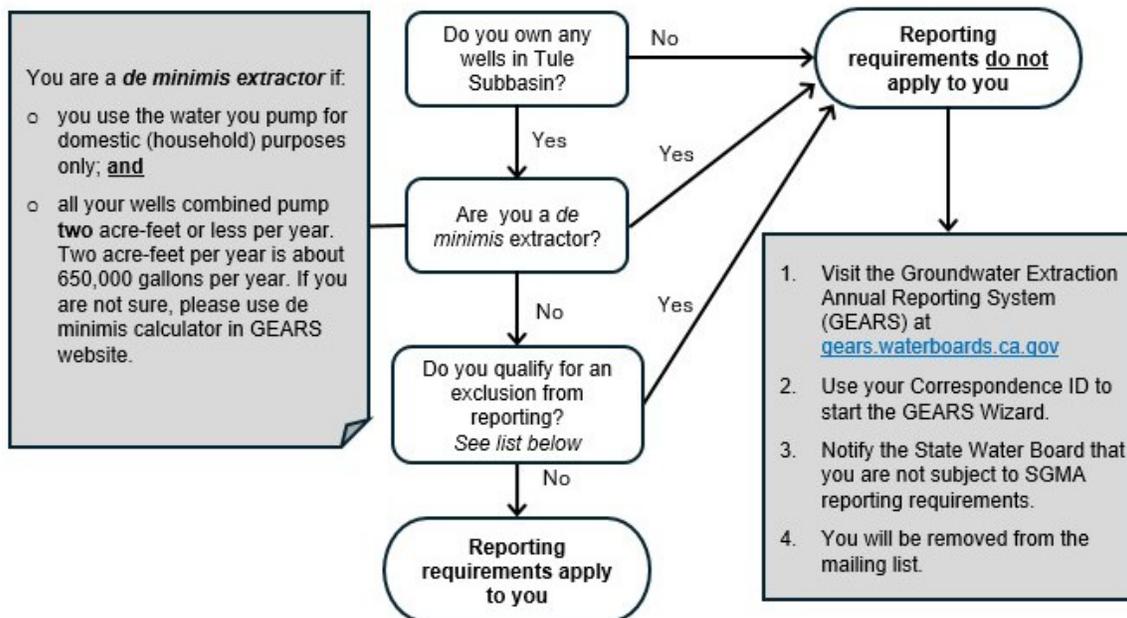
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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to the California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 1044, a waiver request must be submitted to the Board within 30 days of when the fee is due for the waiver to apply to that billing and must be supported by adequate substantiation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

## Future Extraction Reports

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

### “Do These Requirements Apply to Me?” Flow Chart



**GSA Exclusion**  
Applies if you extract groundwater only within the boundaries of Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) or Kern-Tulare Water District GSA, and you comply with your GSA’s groundwater management requirements.

**Potential Minimal Impact Exclusion**  
On April 7, 2026, the State Water Board will consider excluding pumpers who have a minimal impact on total extractions from the basin (proposed to be 20 acre-feet or less of groundwater pumping annually from the Tule Subbasin) from the reporting requirement. Unless the Board approves this exclusion, pumpers who do not meet another identified exclusion will be required to report.

## 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](http://bit.ly/SGMA-pumper-FAQ).

Sign up for SGMA Groundwater Extraction Reporting and Fees and SGMA Groundwater Management email updates at [bit.ly/SWRCEB-email-subscriptions](http://bit.ly/SWRCEB-email-subscriptions) (under State Water Board General Interests).

Visit [bit.ly/GEARS-Resources](http://bit.ly/GEARS-Resources) for GEARs reporting resources and events.

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

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

«APN»

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