

State Water Resources Control Board

October 4, 2024

Correspondence ID: «Mailing»

«OWNER_FIRST» «OWNER_LAST»
«CO» «CARE_OF»
«ADDRESS» «UNIT» «UNIT_NUMBER»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP» «Dash» «ZIP4»

NOTICE OF GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT (SGMA)

Contact us to request information in your language:

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

Entre em contato conosco para solicitar informações no seu idioma.

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

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

You may be required to track your groundwater extractions starting January 1, 2025, and to report those extractions to the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) by February 1, 2026, pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). This notice will help you take steps now so you can most easily meet your extraction reporting responsibilities later.

The Purpose of This Notice

This notice explains new obligations for groundwater well owners in the Tule Subbasin, which the State Water Board designated as “probationary” under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) on September 17, 2024. Groundwater extractors (people who pump groundwater) within this subbasin are required to track their groundwater extractions starting January 1, 2025, and submit annual groundwater extraction reports to the State Water Board by February 1, 2026, unless they are *de minimis* extractors or fall under exclusions applied to extractions within the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency or the Kern-Tulare Water District Groundwater Sustainability Agency. A *de minimis* extractor is a well owner who pumps a total of two acre-feet or less of groundwater per year for domestic purposes only.

Groundwater extractors who pump more than 500 acre-feet of groundwater per year from this subbasin will need to install and use certified flow meters on their wells or use

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

one of the alternative methods identified in the State Water Board's probationary designation. See bit.ly/sgma-tule for more information.

Background

Groundwater extraction reporting is required in some situations under SGMA. One of these situations is when the State Water Board designates a subbasin as probationary, which can only occur when local efforts to sustainably manage groundwater are failing. With few exceptions, anyone who pumps groundwater in a probationary subbasin must track their monthly groundwater extractions, submit reports, and pay fees to the State Water Board each year while the subbasin is in probation or subject to a State Water Board interim management plan.

Please see the following section to determine if you are exempt from reporting extractions and paying fees. These obligations are separate from any obligations imposed on you by your Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). If the State Water Board eventually develops an interim management plan for a probationary subbasin, it may use reported groundwater extraction values to assist in development of the interim plan.

For more information about SGMA and the State Water Board's role, please visit our SGMA website at <https://waterboards.ca.gov/sgma> or refer to the "Groundwater Pumpers and State Intervention under SGMA FAQ" bit.ly/SGMA-pumper-FAQ.

How to Determine if You Are Exempt from Extraction Reporting Requirements

You are not subject to SGMA reporting requirements if any of these situations applies to you:

1. You extract groundwater within the boundaries of the Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District GSA or Kern-Tulare Water District GSA, are subject to the management actions of one of those GSAs, and are in compliance with those management actions. You can find the name of your GSA here: bit.ly/my-gsa
2. You do not own any groundwater wells in the Tule Subbasin.
3. You are a *de minimis* extractor, meaning you own one or more groundwater well in the Tule Subbasin, *but*:
 - you use the water you pump for domestic (household) purposes only; *and*
 - all your wells combined pump two acre-feet or less per year.

If you received this notice and do not have a well in the Tule Subbasin or are a *de minimis* extractor, please visit the Groundwater Extraction Annual Reporting System (GEARS) at gears.waterboards.ca.gov to notify the State Water Board that you are not subject to SGMA reporting requirements. There is no fee to notify the Board that you are exempt; once you notify the Board, you will be removed from the mailing list and will not need to report your exemption in the future. Otherwise, the Board may assume that you are subject to groundwater extraction reporting requirements and fees.

How to Begin Tracking Your Groundwater Extractions

You will need to track your monthly groundwater extraction volumes for reporting to the State Water Board beginning **January 1, 2025**. SGMA requires that extraction volumes be measured by a device or method satisfactory to the State Water Board. Please refer to the document called “Options for Measuring Extraction Volumes,” which describes approaches for measuring extraction volumes: bit.ly/measure-extractions

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you extract **more than 500 acre-feet of groundwater per year** from the Tule Subbasin, you must begin measuring your groundwater extractions beginning January 1, 2025, using any device or method satisfactory to the State Water Board, and in addition must use a certified flow meters or one of the alternative methods identified in the State Water Board’s probationary designation resolution to measure your extractions **starting March 1, 2025**, with certain exceptions. Visit bit.ly/sgma-tule to learn more about this requirement.

How to Submit Your Annual Groundwater Extraction Report and Pay Fees

You will need to submit an annual groundwater extraction report to the State Water Board by **February 1, 2026**, and every year afterwards for the portion of the year that the basin is in probationary status, until the State Water Board determines that the Tule GSAs can manage the subbasin sustainably and removes the subbasin’s probationary status.

System for Reporting

All groundwater extraction reports must be submitted via the Groundwater Extraction Annual Reporting System (GEARS): gears.waterboards.ca.gov.

You will need a Correspondence ID to create a GEARS account. Your Correspondence ID is: «Mailing».

Required Information

Groundwater extraction reports must include the following information:

- well owner information.
- well location and pumping capacity.
- the year pumping began.
- where the groundwater is being used and the purpose of use.
- monthly groundwater extraction volumes for the previous water year.¹

Please refer to the enclosed “Groundwater Extraction Report Quick Guide,” which provides additional information about reporting groundwater extractions in GEARS.

Extraction Fees

You are required to pay an annual groundwater extraction fee when submitting a groundwater extraction report with the State Water Board, unless you are exempt, as described above, or unless you receive a fee waiver.

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

After you file your groundwater extraction report, you will receive a separate invoice in the mail. Fees are due thirty days after the State Water Board mails an invoice, or April 1, whichever is later. The extraction fee includes an annual base fee, a fee per acre-foot of groundwater extracted, and an automatic late fee if reports are not submitted by the due date. If reports are not submitted on time, the Board may investigate and determine, at your expense, your groundwater extraction volumes and other information required to be reported. If you are late reporting, you will receive 60 days' notice and an opportunity to report without penalty. Extraction fees are required annually after each submittal of a groundwater extraction report until the probationary subbasin exits state intervention.

More information regarding the current fee schedule can be found on the State Water Board's website: bit.ly/sgma-reporting.

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

Your Fees May Be Waived (Not Required) Even If You Are Required to Report

The State Water Board may waive fee requirements for you, upon request, pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 1044. Groundwater extractors who meet any of the following criteria may be eligible for a fee waiver:

1. You are an extractor who meets the definition of a low-income resident:
 - a. Your household income is 200 percent or less of the federal poverty level; 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 of providing water is for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes.
3. You are a public school.

To be eligible for a fee waiver, you must submit your annual groundwater extraction report by **February 1, 2026**. Additional fee waiver guidance is forthcoming and will be posted on the State Water Board's website.

If you have questions regarding any of the information in this notice, please contact State Water Board staff by email at sgma@waterboards.ca.gov or by phone at **(916) 322-6508**.

zAddressee

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[zDate]

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

Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (APN) this notice is regarding:

[INSERT PARCEL #]