



Westside District Water Authority GSA

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WESTSIDE DISTRICT WATER AUTHORITY GSA

Well Registration Management Action

PURPOSE

The Westside District Water Authority (WDWA) Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Board of Directors (Board) recognizes the critical importance of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) and achieving sustainable groundwater management. The Board recognizes that naturally degraded water quality within WDWA GSA's boundaries limits the beneficial use of groundwater for agricultural and municipal beneficial uses. However, to enhance WDWA GSA's capacity for informed decision-making regarding groundwater management, the WDWA GSA Board of Directors adopted the following "*Well Registration Management Action*" (Management Action) at the February 20, 2024 WDWA GSA Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors. This Management Action requires WDWA GSA to implement a comprehensive well inventory assessment within the GSA's boundaries within sixty days of adoption. The management action is driven by the necessity to systematically catalogue and analyze data across the GSA to gain a deeper understanding of groundwater use patterns and to address existing data gaps.

1. Well Registration

a. New or Replacement Groundwater Extraction Facilities

Any groundwater extraction facility constructed after implementation of this management action shall be registered with WDWA GSA within thirty days of completion of construction. All new groundwater extraction facilities registered with the WDWA GSA, excluding those groundwater extraction facilities used solely by *de minimis*¹ users, shall install a flowmeter at the time of construction. While *de minimis* users are not required to install a flowmeter, *de minimis* users shall comply with the well registration requirements of this Policy.

To register a groundwater extraction facility with WDWA GSA, the owner of such facility shall provide all the following information to WDWA GSA using WDWA GSA's registration form.

- Name, mailing address, phone number, and email of the legal owner(s) of the land upon which the groundwater extraction facility is located.
- Name, mailing address, phone number, and email of a designated contact person.
- Well Completion Report, filed with the Department of Water Resources, pursuant to California Water Code section 13751 and construction information about the groundwater extraction facility, including total depth of the well casing, size of the well casing, and location or depth of perforations.
- Information on the size of the groundwater extraction facility, including pump size (horsepower) and pump test information or estimated pumping capacity.
- Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates, assessor's parcel number (APN), and state well number of the groundwater water extraction facility.
- If conducted, a copy of any water quality analyses related to the groundwater extraction facility.
- If applicable, information on the type of installed flowmeter.

i. Requirement to allow New Extraction Facilities as Monitoring Wells

¹ A "*de minimis* extractor" is a person who extracts, for domestic purposes only, two acre-feet or less per year. (California Water Code Section 10721d)

Any landowner who undertakes the construction of a new groundwater extraction facility is required to allow WDWA GSA to utilize the new groundwater extraction facility as a Representative Monitoring Well (RMW) for the following regulatory programs: SGMA, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP), and/or Central Valley Salinity Alternatives for Long-Term Sustainability (CV-SALTS). WDWA GSA will work with the landowner to find a mutually agreeable time to obtain samples from the groundwater extraction facility that does not cause undue burden to farming operations. Any samples obtained by WDWA GSA shall be collected at no direct cost to the landowner.

ii. Penalty for Failure to Register

Any landowner who fails to register a new groundwater extraction facility pursuant to this Policy within thirty days of construction, shall be subject to a penalty, as authorized by SGMA and determined by WDWA GSA's Board of Directors.

b. Existing Groundwater Extraction Facilities

All existing groundwater extraction facilities shall be registered with WDWA GSA no later than sixty days after the implementation of this Policy. To the extent feasible, landowners shall also register existing groundwater extraction facilities that are known to have been abandoned on their property.

To register an existing groundwater extraction facility with WDWA GSA, the owner of such facility shall provide all the following information to WDWA GSA using WDWA GSA's registration form.

- Name, mailing address, phone number, and email of the legal owner(s) of the land upon which the extraction facility is located.
- Name, mailing address, phone number, and email of a designated contact person.
- GPS coordinates, APN, and state well number of the water extraction facility.
- Status of the well (active, inactive/inoperable, or abandoned).

The owner of an existing groundwater extraction facility shall also provide to WDWA GSA, to the best of their knowledge, the following:

- Well Completion Report, filed with the Department of Water Resources, pursuant to California Water Code section 13751, or if not available, construction information about the extraction facility, including total depth of the well casing, size of the well casing, and location or depth of perforations.

- Information on the size of the groundwater extraction facility, including pump size (horsepower) and pump test information or estimated pumping capacity.
- If conducted, a copy of any water quality analyses related to the extraction facility.
- Information on the type of installed flowmeter (if applicable).

c. Change in Landowner

Landowners acquiring new property with overlying groundwater extraction facilities shall provide updated landowner and contact person information to WDWA GSA within sixty days of property purchase closing date.

d. Well Modifications

If a groundwater extraction facility is modified to change use, depth, perforated intervals, or extraction volume capacity, the owner of such facility shall notify WDWA GSA and provide information regarding the modifications made within thirty days of modification completion.

e. Well Abandonment

If a groundwater extraction facility is abandoned, the owner of such abandoned facility shall notify WDWA GSA and shall provide a copy of the Kern County Public Health destruction permit within sixty days of receipt.

f. Application of Other Rules, Regulations, or Policies

The requirements set forth in this Policy are in addition to any and all rules, regulations, and policies imposed by the Kern County Public Health Department or any other regulatory body with jurisdiction over the subject-matter set forth herein.

g. Exemptions

Due to their inability to increase net extraction of groundwater, facilities not used for groundwater extraction are exempt from this Policy. Examples of facilities include, but are not limited to, oil and gas extraction and injection wells, monitoring wells, and test borings.

Section 2: Changes in Well Status

In addition to maintaining a comprehensive inventory of all groundwater extraction facilities within WDWA GSA, it is important to collect accurate and up-to-date information on the operational status of each groundwater extraction facility within WDWA GSA's boundaries,

including whether those facilities are actively being used, are inactive, or inoperable, or have been abandoned. Therefore, annually, WDWA GSA shall issue a request for information regarding the operational status of each groundwater extraction facility within its boundaries to the designated contact person using the information provided at the time of well registration. It is the landowner's responsibility to inform WDWA GSA of any changes to the landowner's designated contact person.

Section 3: Amendment of this Policy

The Board reserves the right to amend this Policy at any duly noticed meeting of the WDWA GSA Board of Directors.