



Cuyama Basin Well Metering Program: Guidance on Well Meter Data Reporting

Prepared by:



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Abbreviations and Acronyms

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| CBGSA | Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency |
| DWR | California Department of Water Resources |
| GSA | Groundwater Sustainability Agency |
| GSP | Groundwater Sustainability Plan |
| SGMA | Sustainability Groundwater Management Act |

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Section 1. Introduction

The Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) has been identified by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) as subject to critical conditions of overdraft (DWR 2016). As such, in accordance with California’s Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA) was formed to develop and implement a basin-specific Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The Cuyama Basin GSP was completed and submitted to DWR in January 2020. The general purpose of the GSP is to facilitate a long-term groundwater withdrawal rate less than or equal to the sustainable yield of the Subbasin within the maximum 20-year implementation period mandated by SGMA.

The CBGSA has utilized groundwater extraction fees to promote sustainable extraction volumes of groundwater from the Basin and help fund the implementation of the GSP. Since the GSP was adopted in January 2020, groundwater pumping volumes were calculated using evapotranspiration data from remote sensing to determine estimated water use on irrigated lands, as this was the only Basin wide method for data collection available at the time. During the November 4th, 2020 Cuyama Basin Board Meeting, a motion was passed to require all non-de minimis groundwater users (a de minimis groundwater user pumps less than 2 acre-feet per year for non-commercial purposes or less than 1.5 acre-feet per year for commercial purposes) to install water measuring devices (flow meters) on all groundwater extraction wells no later than December 31, 2021.

Collection and reporting of well flow data are integral to enable proactive and adaptive management of groundwater resources and documentation of seasonal fluctuation in water demand. This data is more accurate than evapotranspiration estimates and will provide additional data for model calibration. In addition to providing an estimate of groundwater production, groundwater flow data may be used by the CBGSA in conjunction with groundwater level data to improve understanding of groundwater basin conditions. This is especially important for sustainable regional management of groundwater resources.

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for reporting flow data to the Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (CBGSA). Please see the *Cuyama Basin Well Metering Program: Guidance for Meter Installation and Data Collection* technical memorandum for more information on meter installation and how to collect meter data.

Section 2. Well Flow Meter Installation Reporting

The CBGSA will require submission of a **Well Flow Meter Installation Report** whenever a new or replacement flow meter is installed on a well, which will include information about each specific production well with an installed flow meter. Required information will include:

- Local Well Name
- State Well Number (SWN)
- Coordinate location (lat/long)
- Meter type/make/model number
- Meter serial number
- Meter units and multiplier
- Manufacturer calibration certificate/documentation (including the date of recalibration)
- Installation date
- Installer name, company name, address, contact information, license information
- Pictures of well and meter and the vicinity of the well location

- A sketch of the well location with prominent features (e.g., streets, structures, fences) and distances (if lat/long is not available).

The **Well Flow Meter Installation Report** will be required for all non-de minimis production wells currently in place by January 31, 2022. After this date, a report will be required for any new well or new meter installed within one month of installation date. Any changes or updates to the flow meters should also be reported to the CBGSA. Flow meters are not required on inactive or retired wells, however, if a well is brought back into service, a flow meter must be installed.

There are two options for reporting flow meter installation (required for each well):

1. Download the Well Flow Meter Installation Report at <https://cuyamabasin.org/resources>, and email to Taylor Blakslee at tblakslee@hgcpm.com, or via mail to CBGSA 4900 California Ave, Tower B, Suite 210, Bakersfield, CA 93309.
2. Submit the Well Flow Meter Installation Report electronically. The form can be accessed at <https://cuyamabasin.org/resources>.

Section 3. Well Flow Meter Reporting

Well flow meter data will be collected by January 31st each year for the preceding calendar year for each non-de minimis production well in the Basin using the **Well Flow Meter Reporting Template**. For model calibration and improvement purposes, the CBGSA requests that flow data be provided in **monthly** intervals to better understand the seasonal fluctuations in groundwater demands throughout the Basin.

Data reported to the CBGSA includes:

- Local Well Name
- State Well Number (SWN)
- Flow meter serial number
- Monthly flow meter reading for the volume (including units) for the calendar year with date and time of recording
- Calculated total volume (including units) for the calendar year
- Monthly photograph of the well flow meter at the time of reading showing the totalizer value

There are two options for reporting flow meter volumes (required for each well):

1. **Electronically:** Download the Well Flow Meter Reporting Template at <https://cuyamabasin.org/resources>, and submit electronically to Taylor Blakslee at tblakslee@hgcpm.com.
2. **Mail:** Download the Well Flow Meter Reporting template at <https://cuyamabasin.org/resources> and submit via mail to: Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency, 4900 California Ave, Tower B, Suite 210, Bakersfield, CA 93309.

To minimize costs associated with data collection, the GSA is relying on well operators to collect and record monthly data. Therefore, pictures of the flow meter totalizer are requested to validate flow values and should be submitted with the Well Flow Volume Reporting Template. Pictures for each month for each flow meter are preferred, but at a minimum are required annually to show the total flow volume for

the year. If submitted electronically, each picture should be labeled as “*WellProductionID_yyyy_mm.*” Example “0295_202203” would be for well 0295, for flow volumes during March of 2022.

Please note: Initial totalizer data and pictures will also be required for all flow meters at the completion of install (to show starting value) and for existing meters when monitoring begins on **January 1, 2022**. This will be the starting value to calculate total flows for each month and year, as the totalizer provides a cumulative flow value.