

## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY WELL METERING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WMAP)



### **The Well Metering Assistance Program (WMAP) provides funding to offset up to \$500 of the equipment cost of qualifying water meters**

Accurate monitoring of groundwater extraction volumes is vital to the long-term understanding, management, and sustainability of our County's groundwater resources. In accordance with California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), local Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) are in the process of developing Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP). These GSPs are basin specific and designed to achieve sustainable groundwater management. The direct measurement of groundwater pumping may be part of your basin's GSP. Direct well metering provides reliable and defensible pumping data for better decision making. Santa Barbara County Water Agency (SBCWA) has therefore developed the Well Metering Assistance Program (WMAP) to financially assist qualifying landowners with the purchase and installation of totalizer water well meters within designated groundwater basins to help meet GSP requirements. These meters are designed to measure instantaneous flow rates, and continuously sum the total amount of water pumped from the well.

### **ELIGIBILITY RULES**

WMAP funding will be provided on first-come first-serve basis to qualifying participants. Qualifying participants must meet the following criteria:

- The groundwater well installation must be located within the Department of Water Resources Bulletin 118 groundwater basin boundary in the following basins:
  - Carpinteria Groundwater Basin
  - Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin
  - Montecito Groundwater Basin
  - San Antonio River Valley Groundwater Basin
  - Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin
- Eligibility is limited to one (1) meter per applicant
- The program participant must agree to the terms and conditions summarized in the WMAP Application
- The well meter must meet guidelines, if any, established by the basin's GSA. If no guideline is provided, the calibrated meter must meet a 2% accuracy standard.

**NOTE: First-come first-served does not mean first to register their intention to seek reimbursement. First-come first-served does mean first to complete the entire process of registering, completing all paperwork, installing all meters, furnishing all necessary receipts to the Water Agency and requesting reimbursement.**

**WELL METER REQUIREMENTS IN YOUR BASIN AS OF NOVEMBER 2021**

***Please check with your GSA for any requirements related to well metering in your basin.***

**Carpinteria Groundwater Basin**

- Installation of well meters is yet to be determined by the GSA and do not currently qualify for the WMAP
- For additional information, please visit the [Carpinteria Groundwater Sustainability Agency \(GSA\)](#)

**Cuyama Valley Groundwater Basin**

- All non-de-minimis (<2 acre feet/year) groundwater users are required to install a well meter no later than December 31, 2021
- [Guidance for Meter Installation and Data Collection](#) developed by the GSA
- [Guidance on Well Meter Data Reporting](#) developed by the GSA
- [Flow Meter Installation Report](#) developed by the GSA
- For additional information, please visit the [Cuyama Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency \(GSA\)](#)

**NOTE: Meters installed after July 1, 2021, and before the implementation of the WMAP, are eligible for up to \$500 reimbursement if GSA meter standards are met and proper documentation can be provided.**

**Foothill Groundwater Basin**

- The Foothill Groundwater Basin is prioritized as a very low priority basin under SGMA and does not currently qualify for the WMAP

### **Goleta Groundwater Basin**

- The Goleta Groundwater Basin is prioritized as a very low priority basin under SMA and was adjudicated in 1994. The basin does not qualify for the WMAP

### **Montecito Groundwater Basin**

- Installation of well meters is yet to be determined by the GSA
- For additional information, please visit the [Montecito Groundwater Sustainability Agency \(GSA\)](#)

### **San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin**

- Installation of well meters is yet to be determined by the GSA
- For additional information, please visit the [San Antonio Groundwater Sustainability Agency \(GSA\)](#)

### **Santa Barbara Groundwater Basin**

- The Santa Barbara Groundwater Basin is prioritized as a very low priority basin under SGMA and does not currently qualify for the WMAP.

### **Santa Ynez River Valley Watershed Groundwater Basin**

- Installation of well meters is yet to be determined by the GSA
- For additional information, please visit the [Santa Ynez River Groundwater Sustainability Agencies \(GSA\)](#)

### **Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin**

- The Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin was adjudicated in 2008 and its management is dictated by the courts. Wells with the Santa Maria River Valley Groundwater Basin do not qualify for the WMAP

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Complete the following steps **before** installing new well meters. Meter installation must be completed within 90 days of receiving a Notice to Proceed. SBCWA will issue a check approximately 6-8 weeks after all application requirements have been met.

**Rebates are available until June 30, 2022, or until funding is depleted. Applicants will be reimbursed for the cost of the meter, not to exceed a maximum of \$500. The program may be continued each fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) and is dependent on funding.**

### **STEP 1 COMPLETE THE WELL METERING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION**

- Download and complete the [Santa Barbara County Well Metering Assistance Program \(WMA\) Application](#)
- Eligibility is limited to one (1) meter per applicant
- Submit the completed Application electronically using the widget below, email to [pwWMAInfo@countyofsb.org](mailto:pwWMAInfo@countyofsb.org), mail or deliver directly to:

County of Santa Barbara Public Works  
ATTN: Water Agency WMAP  
620 West Foster Road  
Santa Maria, CA 93455

- When a completed application is received for a qualifying meter, a *Notice to Proceed* will be provided to the applicant within 21 days of submittal.

**<INSERT DOCUMENT UPLOAD WIDGET HERE>**

### **STEP 2 APPLICANT PURCHASES THE METER**

- After receiving the Notice to Proceed the applicant can purchase the meter
- Reference GSA guidelines for meter recommendations. Some specific accuracy standards and meter types may be required.

### **STEP 3 APPLICANT INSTALLS THE METER**

- Follow manufacturer and GSA recommendations for meter installation

### **STEP 4 APPLICANT SUBMITS DOCUMENTATION TO SANTA BARBARA COUNTY WATER AGENCY**

- Documentation will consist of the following:
  1. Calibration documentation from the manufacturer
  2. Original or copy of original receipt showing meter serial number and meter cost
  3. Photo of installed meter. Water Agency may request a site visit for visual verification.
- Submit documentation electronically using the widget above, by email to [pwWMAInfo@countyofsb.org](mailto:pwWMAInfo@countyofsb.org), mail, or delivery (see STEP 1). All documentation should reference your specific rebate number.

### **STEP 5 REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENT**

- SBCWA will issue a check for up to \$500 for the approved installation within approximately 6-8 weeks of completing STEP 4

### **QUESTIONS**

**For additional information related to the Santa Barbara County Water Agency Well Metering Assistance Program (WMA), or assistance with this webpage, please contact Water Agency staff at [pwWMAInfo@countyofsb.org](mailto:pwWMAInfo@countyofsb.org)**