

SOUTH FORK KINGS GSA WATER METER POLICY AND PROCEDURES

(Prepared 02/15/2026 Version 0.1)

1. Policy

It is the policy of the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SFK GSA) to collect groundwater extraction metering data from all non-domestic wells. The data will be integrated with other data being collected to track changing conditions in the Tulare Lake Subbasins to evaluate the sustainability indicators of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), chronic lowering of groundwater levels, and reductions in groundwater storage.

2. Scope

The procedures set forth in Section 3 to further the policy provided above apply to all non-domestic groundwater wells that pump more than two (2) acre-feet per year (af/y). Domestic wells are exempt from this Water Meter Policy and Procedures. Domestic wells are defined as water wells used exclusively to supply residential household needs.

3. Procedures

- A. Meter Requirements: All owners of non-domestic groundwater production wells are required to install and maintain water meters in accordance with the following specifications:
 - A.1. Flow meter (flange or saddle type) that includes both an instantaneous flow rate in gallons per minute (GPM) and volume totalizer in acre-feet (AF). Meters must be capable of remote monitoring.
 - A.2. Have a manufacturer's accuracy specification that is within +/- 3%.
 - A.3. Be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications (i.e. full pipe recommendations, appropriate upstream and downstream lengths of straight pipe for the selected meter type, etc.)
 - A.4. Meter must be registered in the SFK GSA data management system (DMS), currently WaterMark.
 - A.5. Meter Calibration and Certification: Each meter shall be tested and calibrated (or replaced) every five (5) years by an independent certified testing facility. If meter readings appear abnormal (indicator or totalizer), such meter shall be inspected, tested, and calibrated by the applicable owner within 30 days of first observing the abnormality. Certified meter calibration and testing reports shall be submitted for each meter in the DMS (WaterMark) for review and documentation.
 - A.6. Notification to SFK GSA: Well owners are required to register all wells, existing or new, in accordance with SFK GSA Well Registration Policy. Well owners must

also notify the SFK GSA once they become aware that the flowmeter is reporting errors, operating erratically or intermittently, or has been damaged in any way.

B. Meter Recording and Reporting:

B.1. Recording Schedule: Pursuant to its authority under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, the owner of any non-domestic well shall grant SFK GSA and its authorized designees access to the property for the purpose of recording the meter's totalizer reading (e.g. via a Property Access Agreement). SFK GSA will conduct such reading on a monthly basis. All data will be reported by SFK GSA into the data management system (WaterMark).

C. Existing Nonconforming Meters: Owners with existing meters that do not conform with the specifications set forth in Section 3.A. have until December 1, 2026, to replace the existing nonconforming meters with meters in compliance with Section 3.A. Notwithstanding the foregoing, owners with nonconforming meters shall comply with Sections 3.B in the interim.

D. Costs and Fees:

D.1. For each non-domestic well, applicable owners shall be responsible for all costs associated with the purchase and installation of a meter specified in Section 3.A; for maintaining, record-keeping, and calibrating of the meter(s); and for reporting to SFK GSA, unless SFK GSA establishes a funding program for one or more required meter policy components.

E. Enforcement:

E.1. The SFK GSA's enforcement of compliance with the Well Meter Policy and Procedures is imperative to ensure effective implementation. Non-domestic well owners who fail to comply with the Well Meter Policy and Procedures or who provide inaccurate data to the SFK GSA will be subject to penalties.

E.2. If a landowner fails to comply with qualified meter installation, registration, or permission for the Authority to read and report the metered data, the landowner will be billed using Land IQ data multiplied by an uncertainty factor (e.g. 1.02 or a 2% multiplier) applied to estimate the amount due. (6.1.3 of the Groundwater Extraction Allocations Policy and Procedures)

Compliance Schedule

Activity	Due Date
Notify SFK GSA of Existing Meter Specifications in WaterMark	June 1, 2026
Allow Totalizer Readings by SFK GSA	Monthly beginning June 1, 2026
Calibration Schedule	Every five (5) years starting December 1, 2026
Replace Nonconforming Meters	December 1, 2026