

South Fork Kings GSA Water Meter Policy and Procedures

1 Policy

It is the policy of the South Fork Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SFK GSA) to collect groundwater extraction metering data from any wells pumping over 2 acre-feet per water year. The meter data will be integrated with other information being collected to track changing conditions in the Tulare Lake Subbasin. This data will help SFK GSA evaluate the sustainability indicators described in the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA): chronic lowering of groundwater levels, reductions in groundwater storage, and subsidence.

2 Scope

The meter requirements set in this policy apply to any groundwater wells that pump more than 2 acre-feet per year. Domestic wells are exempt from this policy and are defined as water wells used exclusively to supply residential household needs.

In addition, a single meter is acceptable for multiple wells that are manifolded together, barring any diversions upstream of the meter. The landowner may be required to report where the manifolded water is applied.

3 Meter Requirements

Owners of non-domestic groundwater production wells shall install, operate, and maintain water meters in accordance with the following requirements.

3.1 Meter Capability

Each well shall be equipped with a flow meter capable of measuring

- instantaneous flow rate in gallons per minute or cubic feet per second; and
- cumulative volume through a totalizer reported in acre-feet.

3.2 Accuracy Standard

Meters shall have a manufacturer-specified accuracy of ± 3 percent (or better) over the expected operating flow range.

3.3 Installation Requirements

Meters shall be installed in strict accordance with the manufacturer's specifications, including but not limited to

- full pipe flow conditions, as applicable; and
- required upstream and downstream straight pipe lengths for the selected meter type.

3.4 Location on Discharge Line

The meter shall be installed as the first component on the well discharge line. No branching, distribution, or diversion piping shall be installed upstream of the meter.

3.5 Registration in Data Management System

Meters shall be registered in the SFK GSA data management system (DMS), currently Watermark.

3.6 Meter Testing, Calibration, and Certification

Each meter shall be tested and calibrated, or replaced, at least once every five years by an independent, certified testing facility or contractor.

Certified meter testing and calibration reports shall be submitted to the SFK GSA through the DMS (Watermark) for review and recordkeeping.

3.7 Remote Monitoring Capability

Meters capable of remote data collection and transmission are strongly recommended, as such capability may be required in the future.

4 Implementation Schedule

The schedule to comply with the installation of meters is presented in the Table below. The schedule was prepared to allow adequate time for well owners to obtain and install meters before enforcement of the groundwater pumping allocations begin.

Meter Installation Schedule	
Activity	Due Date
Install meters on Wells Exporting Water out of the SFK GSA	Comply with SFK GSA Export Policy
Install meters on C-Zone wells (screened below the Cocoran Clay)	October 1, 2026
Install meters on B-Zone wells (screened between 100 ft bgs and to top of Corcoran Clay)	October 1, 2026
Install meters on A-Zone wells (screened to 100 feet bgs)	October 1, 2027

5 Meter Recording and Reporting: Schedule and Access

Pursuant to its authority under the SGMA, the owner of any groundwater production well shall grant the SFK GSA and its authorized designees reasonable access to the property for the purpose of recording meter totalizer readings, inspecting meters, and verifying compliance with this policy (e.g., via a Property Access Agreement).

Beginning October 1, 2026, well owners shall submit meter totalizer volumes monthly, no later than the fifteenth day of the following month, using the SFK GSA DMS, currently Watermark.

At the discretion of the SFK GSA, meter readings may also be collected directly by SFK GSA staff or its authorized representatives. Metered extraction data, whether submitted by the well owner or collected by SFK GSA, shall be entered and maintained in the DMS (Watermark) as the official record.

5.1 Notification to the GSA

If meter readings appear abnormal or inconsistent (including indicator or totalizer issues), the well owner shall inspect, test, and calibrate or replace the meter within 30 days of first observing the condition.

In addition, well owners shall notify the SFK GSA within thirty days if they become aware that a meter

- is reporting erroneous data,
- is operating intermittently and/or erratically, or
- has been damaged or otherwise compromised.

6 Existing Nonconforming Meters

Owners of wells with existing meters that do not conform to the specifications set forth in Section 3 (Meter Requirements) shall replace such meters with compliant meters no later than October 1, 2026.

Alternatively, owners of wells with existing meters are given the option to provide third party certification that their existing meter conforms to the accuracy standard requirements set forth in Section 3 (Meter Requirements).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, owners with nonconforming meters shall comply with the applicable meter recording, reporting, access, and enforcement provisions of Sections 5 during the interim period prior to replacement.

7 Costs and Fees: Owner Responsibility

For each non-domestic well, the applicable owner shall be responsible for any costs associated with

- purchasing and installing meters that meet the requirements of this policy;
- operating, maintaining, testing, calibrating, and replacing meters, as required;

- recordkeeping and reporting meter data to the SFK GSA; and
- providing access for inspection, verification, and data collection.

These obligations shall apply unless and until the SFK GSA establishes a funding, rebate, or cost-sharing program for one or more components of this policy.

8 Export Wells

Wells that have been identified as *Export Wells* under the SFK GSA Export Policy must comply with metering requirements of that policy.

9 Enforcement

Enforcement of this policy is necessary to ensure accurate groundwater extraction accounting and effective implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Owners of non-domestic wells who fail to comply with the requirements of this policy, or who submit materially inaccurate or misleading data, shall be subject to enforcement actions and penalties as authorized by law and by SFK GSA policies.

9.1 Alternative Volumetric Estimation for Noncompliance

If a landowner fails to comply with required meter installation, meter registration, data reporting, or property access for meter reading or verification, the SFK GSA may estimate groundwater extraction volumes for billing and compliance purposes using Land IQ data multiplied by an uncertainty factor (e.g., a 1.02 multiplier representing a 5% uncertainty adjustment), consistent with Section 6.1.3 of the *Groundwater Extraction Allocations Policy and Procedures*, as amended.

9.2 Access for Reading and Inspection

Pursuant to its authority under SGMA, owners of non-domestic wells shall grant SFK GSA and its authorized designees access to the property for the purposes of

- recording meter totalizer readings;
- inspecting meters and associated appurtenances; and
- verifying compliance with this policy.

Such access may be secured through a Property Access Agreement or other legally permissible mechanism.