

Proposed Adoption of Updated Water Measurement and Reporting Regulations

Agenda Item 3
August 5, 2025



Drought Planning Unit, Division of Water Rights

A close-up, artistic photograph of a waterfall, showing the cascading water in shades of blue and white. The water is in motion, creating a sense of flow and energy. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

Agenda

- Background and Necessity
- Proposed Rulemaking
 - Public Comments
 - Summary of Changes
- Regulatory Process
- Next Steps and Timeline



Existing Regulations and the Need to Update

Regulation Background

Senate Bill 88 (2015)



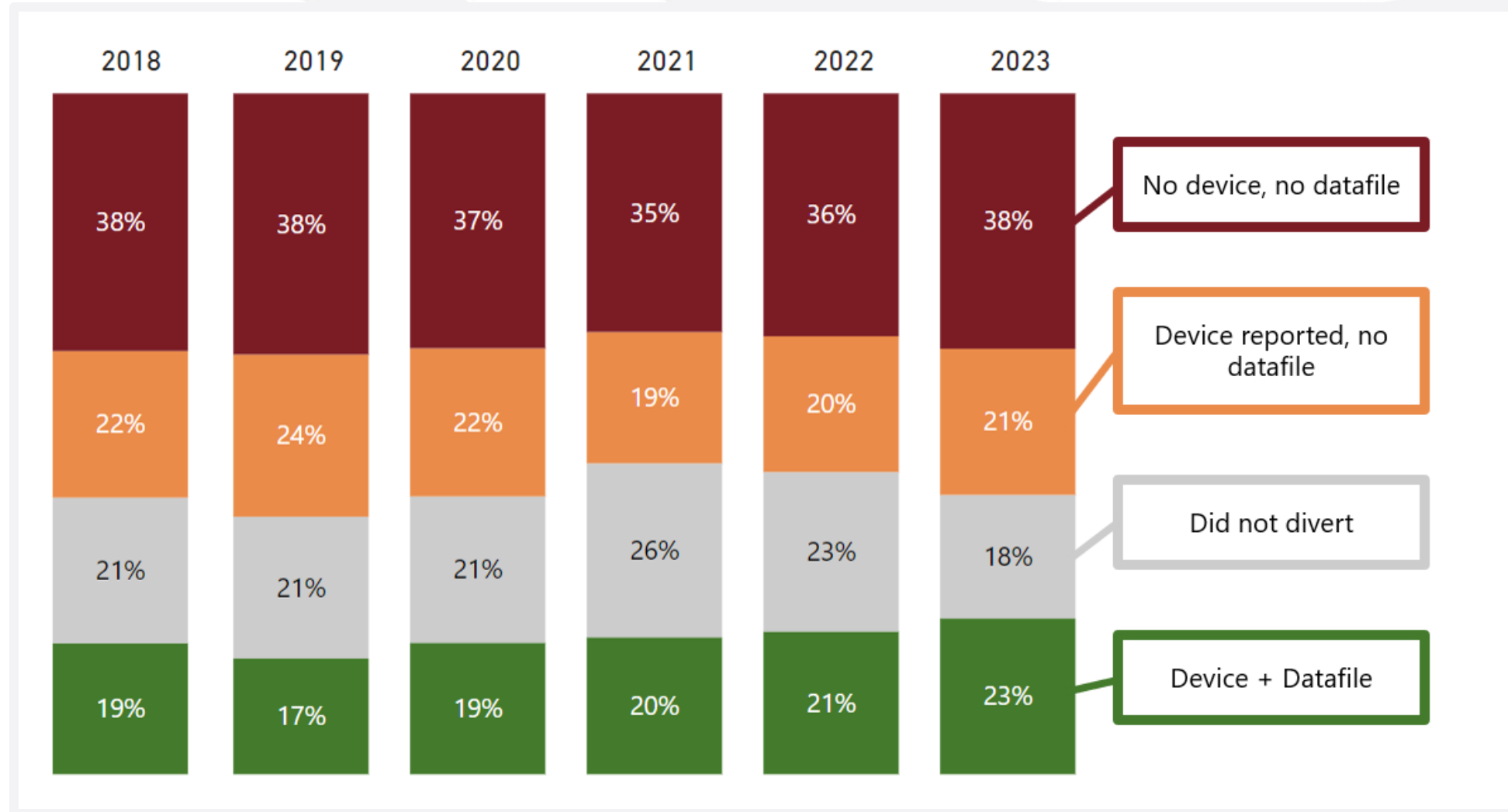
**California Code of
Regulations**

**Title 23, §§ 931-938
(2016)**

**“Ch 2.8 Measuring and
Monitoring”**

- Legislation in response to historic 2012-2016 drought
- Diversers of >10 AF/year must measure diversions and submit data
- Measurement data helps:
 - Forecast and plan for limited water supplies
 - Facilitate water transfers, petitions, new applications, flood recharge
 - Protect senior water rights

Poor Compliance Points to Lack of Clarity

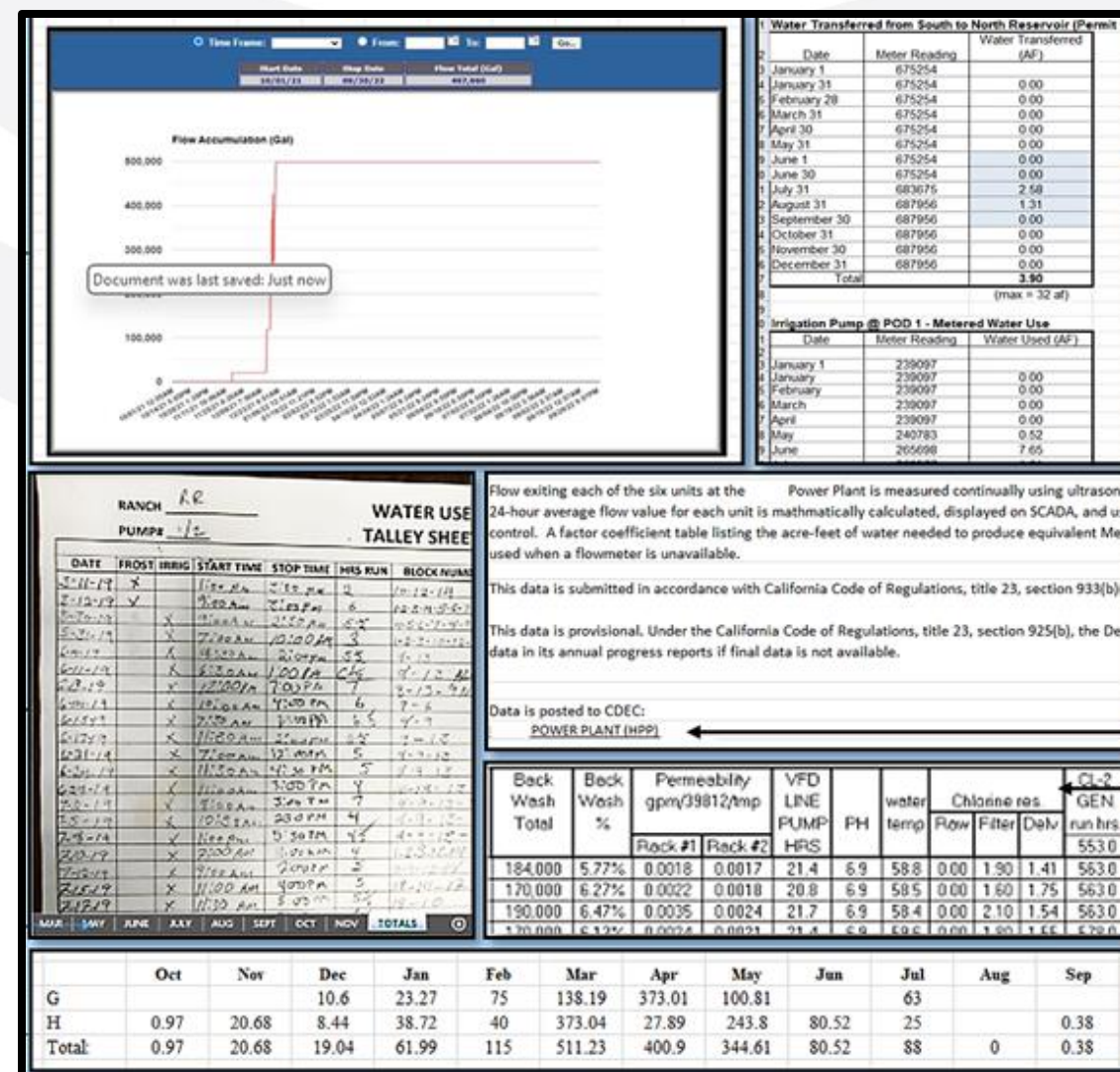


* Not including the Legal Delta

California Water Boards

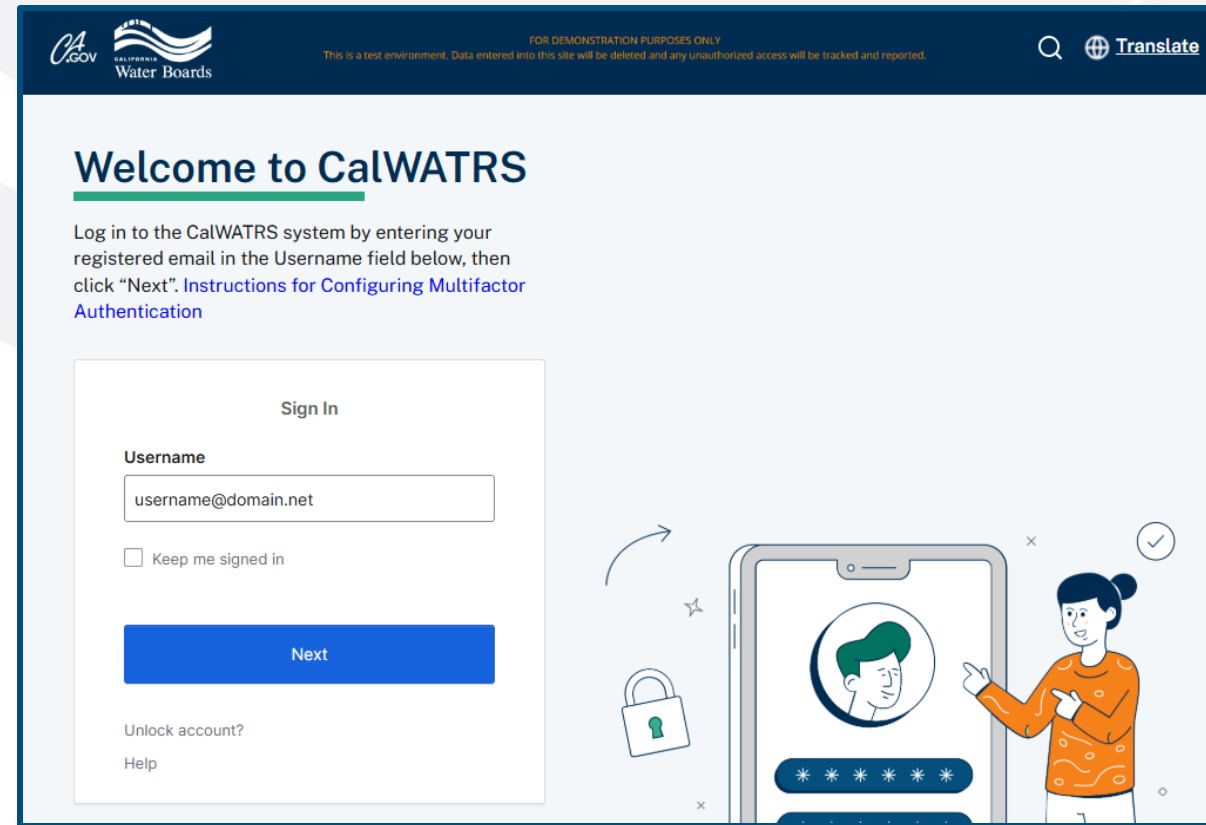
Data Quality and Usability

- Existing regulations have no data formatting requirements
- Division receives data in 1,000+ unique formats
- Difficult to interpret, impossible to efficiently and automatically incorporate into one database
- Value of data lies in its usability



CalWATRS – New Data & Reporting Platform

- Designed to better meet data and report management needs
 - Can process standardized data for easy analysis
- Will require email addresses for user registration
 - Requirement not currently reflected in reporting regulations



The screenshot shows the CalWATRS login interface. At the top, there is a header with the CA.gov logo, the California Water Boards logo, and a disclaimer: "FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. This is a test environment. Data entered into this site will be deleted and any unauthorized access will be tracked and reported." A search icon and a "Translate" button are also present. The main heading is "Welcome to CalWATRS". Below it, instructions state: "Log in to the CalWATRS system by entering your registered email in the Username field below, then click 'Next'. [Instructions for Configuring Multifactor Authentication](#)". The login form includes a "Sign In" title, a "Username" field with the placeholder "username@domain.net", a "Keep me signed in" checkbox, a blue "Next" button, and links for "Unlock account?" and "Help". To the right of the form is an illustration of a person using a smartphone for multifactor authentication, with a padlock icon and a checkmark indicating a successful login process.



Proposed Rulemaking

2025 Regulatory Milestones

February

- Notice of Proposed Action published (2/28)
- Initial Public Comment Period opened (2/28)

May - July

Two 15-day comment periods for changes made to initial proposed regulation text

August

- **Board Adoption Meeting**
- *Submit final regulation documents to Office of Administrative Law (anticipated mid August)*

April

- APA Hearing (4/16)
- Initial Public Comment Period closed (4/23)

October

Expect revised regulation to be effective

Proposed Rulemaking Package



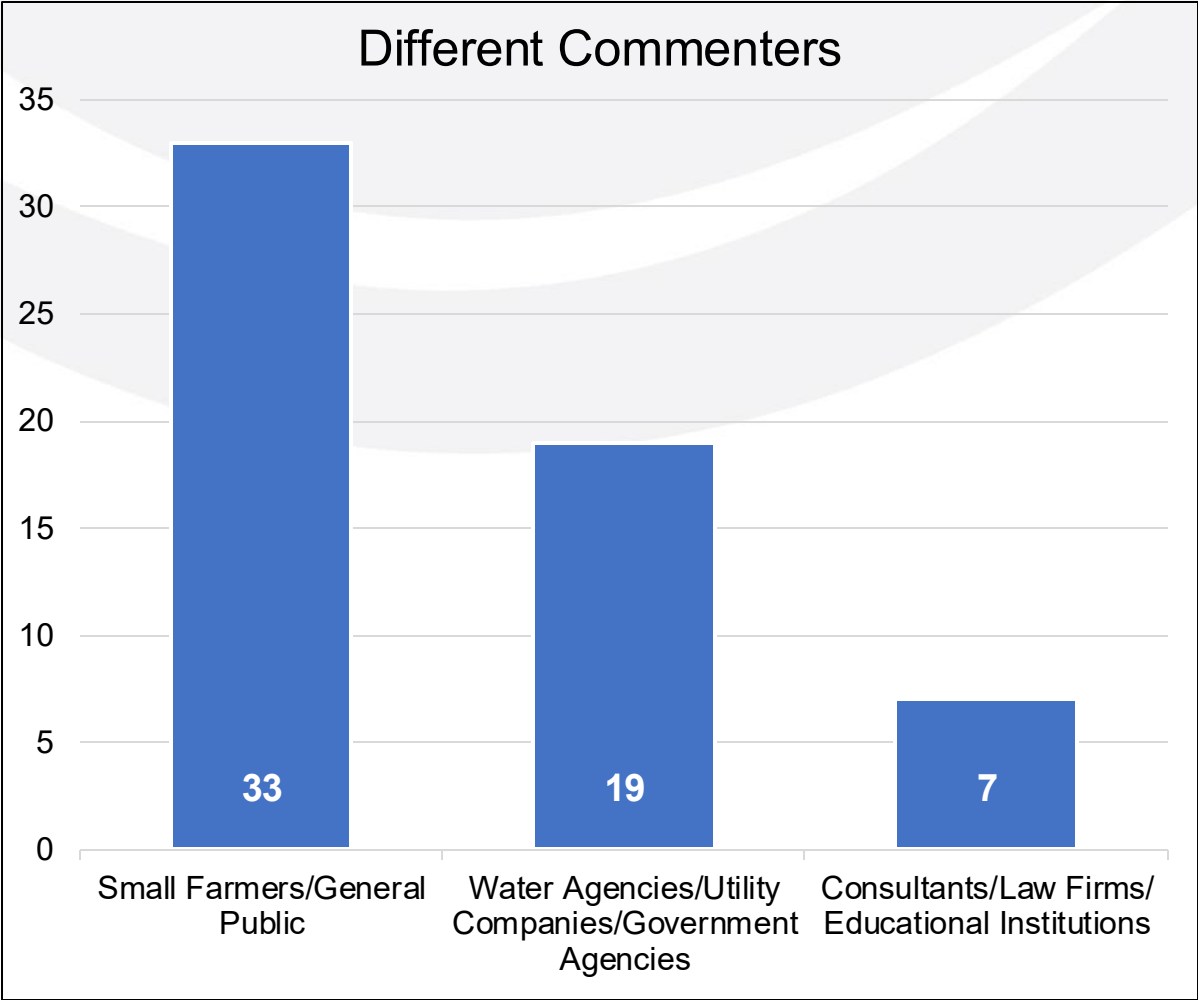
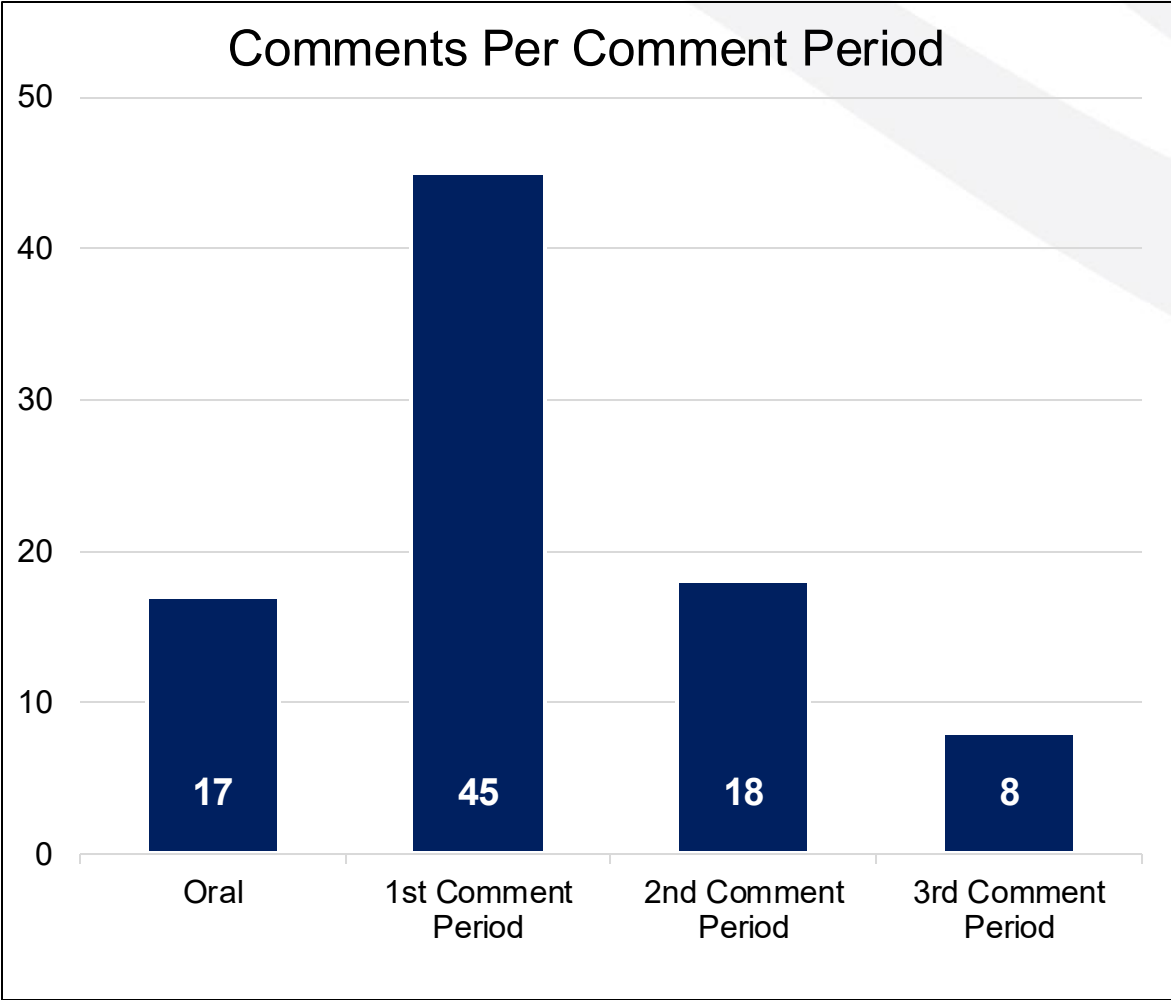
Currently available materials include:

- Proposed Regulation Text
- Summary of Proposed Changes
- Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA) with Informative Digest
- Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR)
- Economic Impact Assessment (within ISOR)

View the proposed rulemaking package and supporting materials on our Rulemaking website:

<https://bit.ly/MeasurementRulemaking>

Public Comments Statistics



Changes Made in Response to Comments

- Delayed effective dates for new data submission processes
- Expanded instructional course options for qualified individuals
- Adjusted large diversion requirements to be more feasible
- Clarified eligibility requirements and review process for alternative compliance plans
- Improved wording, clarity, and formatting

Responses to comments will be posted online in the Final Statement of Reasons

Summary of Proposed Changes

1. Restructured to improve readability
2. Refined key terms
3. Simplified requirements wherever possible
4. Added flexibility and adaptability
5. Standardized format for data submissions
6. Updated requirements:
 - a. Points of diversion
 - b. Measurement methodology
7. Email address requirement for CalWATRS
8. Aligned reporting with the water year

Restructured Regulation

Section	Title	Topic
931	Definitions	Key Terms
931.5	Authority of the Delta Watermaster	Legal Delta
932	Applicability	Who needs to measure
933	Collecting Measurement Data	What to measure
934	Measurement Methodology	How to measure
935	Submitting Measurement Data	What to submit
936	Alternative Compliance	Flexibility in requirements
937	Temporary Exemptions	Relief from requirements
938	Threshold and Schedule Adjustment	Adjustments to measurement
939	Compliance	What if you don't measure
939.1 – 939.6	Water Year 2025 Reporting	Phased implementation of requirements

Improved Clarity, Reduced Burden

Key Terms and Definitions



- Remove distinction between measuring “devices” and “methods”
- Replace “telemetry” with “large diversion” requirements
- ...*Plus more edits for clarity*

Simplified Requirements



- Exempt stockponds, most types of registrations
- Reduce measurement frequency for smallest diverters
- Limit some requirements to reservoirs > 5,000 AF

Flexibility and Adaptability



- Adjust requirements according to the cost/benefit of data
- Exemptions from requirements under certain circumstances
- Expanded ACP eligibility

Improved Diversion Data

Standardized Datafiles



- Require standardized data templates
- Ensure data can easily be ingested and analyzed

Points of Rediversion



- Measure rediversions if necessary for understanding water availability
- Avoid double-counting water

Measurement Methodology



- Describe how diversion amounts were determined from raw device output
- Location of each device must be identified

Alignment with New Systems & Programs

Require Emails for Reporting
(Ch. 2 & 2.7)



- Reporting must be on CalWATRS
- Email address ensures secure log-in
- Enhanced contact and management features

Align Groundwater Reporting
Period
(Ch. 2.7)



- Previously Jan-Dec (calendar year)
- Now Oct-Sept (water year)
- Aligns with all other reporting periods

Implementation Schedule

October 2025 (Start of WY26)

- Measure according to updated requirements
- Continue submitting large diversion data according to existing requirements

January 2026

- Report WY25 data according to existing requirements
- Register Devices
- Email Requirements
- Groundwater Recordation update

October 2026

- Begin submitting large diversion data according to updated requirements

January 2027

- Report WY26 data according to updated requirements
- Measurement Methodology
- ACP

2025

2026

2027

Water Year 2025

Water Year 2026

Water Year 2027

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March

April

May

June

July

August

Sept.

Oct.

CEQA Categorical Exemptions

Applying to reporting requirement revisions, including cases where installation of new devices may be necessary

15306: Information Collection

15301: Existing Facilities

15302: Replacement or Reconstruction

15303: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

15304: Minor Alterations to Land

Fiscal and Economic Impact

Estimated total cost to state and local agencies and governments:

- One-time costs: \$677,000 (reporting), \$1.8M (equipment)
- Recurring costs: \$314,000

Estimated total cost to individuals and businesses:

- One-time costs: \$1.5M (reporting), \$637,000 (equipment)
- Recurring costs: \$151,000

Total Statewide Impact: ~\$6.8M (Below \$10M Threshold)

Largest costs limited to largest diverters (over 10,000 acre-feet)

Next Steps and Timeline

If adopted by the Board today:

- Submit Rulemaking Record to Office of Administrative Law
 - Request October 1 early effective date

Public Outreach:

- Update guidance materials
- Virtual workshop in October 2025
- One-on-one meetings

Resources

Water Measurement and Reporting Regulation Rulemaking Webpage

<https://bit.ly/MeasurementRulemaking>



Water Measurement and Reporting Information Webpage

<https://bit.ly/MeasurementWebsite>



Contact Us:

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