

Division of Water Rights  
**MEASUREMENT METHOD FORM  
 INSTRUCTIONS**



**Introduction**

Water right holders who diverts more than 10 acre-feet of water per year are required to measure the water they divert. A diverter may choose any measuring device, combination of devices, or a measurement method that meets the measurement and monitoring requirements of the regulation. A few of the measurement requirements are summarized below:

Type of Diversion (af = acre-feet)	Installation Deadline	Required Accuracy	Required Monitoring Frequency	Qualifications For Installation And Certification
Direct Diversion ≥ 1,000 af/year Storage ≥ 1000 af	January 1, 2017	10%	Hourly	Engineer/Contractor/Professional
Direct Diversion ≥ 100 af/year Storage ≥ 200 af	July 1, 2017	10%	Daily	Engineer/Contractor/Professional
Direct Diversion > 10 af/year Storage ≥ 50 af	January 1, 2018	15%	Weekly	Individual experienced with measurement and monitoring
Storage > 10 af	January 1, 2018	15%	Monthly	Individual experienced with measurement and monitoring

This document is intended to assist people with completing the Measurement Method form.

A Measurement Method is a method capable of accounting for the rate of direct diversion, rate of collection to storage, and rate of withdrawal or release from storage in lieu of installing a measurement device at each point of diversion. The regulation is flexible in the types of Measurement Methods water users may submit as long as the Measurement Method meets the required accuracy standards for measurement. Water diverters are encouraged to establish collaborative measurement on a local or regional basis.

Examples of Measurement Methods include:

- Multiple water right holders on a single surface supply may propose a collaborative measurement approach.
- A single water right holder with multiple points of diversion may propose a Measurement Method that may preclude the need to install a measurement device at each point of diversion.

If water rights covered under a Measurement Method have different requirements under Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 2.8, Section 933 of the California Code of Regulations, the Measurement Method shall meet the most stringent requirements. This is necessary to prevent conflicts and ensure that the Board receives accurate diversion and use data.

Additional information on the measurement requirements may be found on the following webpage:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/diversion\\_use/water\\_use.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/water_use.shtml)

**Specific Information on filling out the Measurement Method form is provided below.**

**Section A – Water Right Information**

This section of the form describes the information required for each water right or claimed right covered under the Measurement Method. For a method covering more than one right, attach a table containing the information each water right or claimed right.

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The following information shall be provided for each right covered by the method:

- Name
- Phone number
- Email address
- Mailing address

Check the applicable requirement for installation deadline, measurement accuracy, monitoring frequency, and qualifications of the individual responsible for installing/certifying the measurement and monitoring device.

**Section B – Information on Qualified Individual**

A Measurement Method shall be prepared by a Qualified Individual. This section of the form includes the contact information for the Qualified Individual submitting the plan. The required contact information includes name, phone number, email address, and mailing address. The Qualified Individual must also check how they are qualified to submit the measurement method.

“Qualified Individual” is defined in the regulation as:

- 1) For diversions greater than or equal to 100 acre-feet per year:
  - A) A California-registered Professional Engineer; or
  - B) A California-licensed contractor authorized by the State License Board for C-57 well drilling or C-61 Limited Specialty/D-21 Machinery and Pumps; or
  - C) A person under the supervision of a California-registered Professional Engineer and employed to install, operate, and maintain water measurement and reporting devices or methods; or
  - D) In the case of a right or a claimed right to divert by an agency of the federal government, a hydrologist or professional engineer experienced and trained in water measurement who is employed by the federal agency in that capacity.
- 2) For diversions less than 100 acre-feet per year, a person trained and experienced in water measurement and reporting. This may include the diverter or the diverter’s agent.

The Professional Engineer or Contractor License number of the Qualifying Individual must also be provided, if applicable.

**Section C – Description of Measurement Method**

**Question (1)** Briefly describe the Measurement Method.

**Question (2)** Describe how the Measurement Method will be implemented in a manner that is in compliance with the requirements of the measurement requirements (Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 2.8, Sections 933 through 934 of the California Code of Regulations). Describe what steps will be taken to ensure the Measurement Method is capable of accounting for the rate of direct diversion, rate of collection to storage, and rate of withdrawal or release from storage. The initial accuracy certification of a Measurement Method must be certified and documented by field-testing performed by an individual trained in the use of relevant field-testing equipment. The results from the field testing shall be documented in a report approved by a Qualified Individual.

**Question (3)** List all water rights covered by the Measurement Method.

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**Section D – Area Covered by the Measurement Method**

Describe the area covered by the Measurement Method. Include a description of the place of use, the beneficial use(s), and the point(s) of diversion and conveyance facilities covered by the Measurement Method. Attach maps, aerial photographs, or other renderings showing the area covered by the Method and delineating the acreage of each place of use served. For the area covered by the Method, include a list of assessor's parcel numbers and the current owner of each parcel. Attachments can be uploaded in Section H of the online form.

**Section E – Measurement and Monitoring**

For each Point of Diversion listed in the Measurement Method plan, describe how the water is measured and identify the accuracy associated with each measurement device. Describe how the overall accuracy of the plan was calculated.

**Section F – Shared Measurement (If Necessary)**

A Measurement Method based on using a shared measuring device shall include the following information:

- Description of the methodology used to apportion the volume of water delivered to each diverter covered by the Measurement Method.
- Description of the field or flow condition at each diverter's delivery point, including duration of or period of water delivery, annual water use patterns, irrigated acreage, crops planted, and on-farm irrigation system.
- Description of the consumptive use of water for each individual diverter, if available.

**Section G – Priority of Rights (If Necessary)**

For a Measurement Method covering water rights with different priority dates, describe how the Measurement Method will account for each priority of right during periods of insufficient supply. Also describe how the Measurement Method will be operated in a manner to prevent injury to other legal users of water or to public trust resources.

**Section H – Attachments**

List and describe all attachments submitted to support the Measurement Method.

**Section I – Signature and Important Information**

A Measurement Method based on using a shared measuring device shall be accompanied by a written agreement signed by each diverter covered by the Measurement Method

Each participant in a Measurement Method plan must sign the form or an "opt-in" form which must be retained by the Measurement Method manager. (Attach an excel spreadsheet listing of participants, as needed). Each Measurement Method participant shall acknowledge that the method will substantially comply with the measurement and monitoring requirements.

Each Measurement Method participant is responsible for promptly informing the Division of Water Rights or the Delta Watermaster, as appropriate, if the participant withdraws from the Method. The Method manager is responsible for promptly informing the Division of Water Rights or the Delta Watermaster, as appropriate, if the Method is modified or abandoned.

**Submitting a Measurement Method**

A diverter shall electronically submit a completed Measurement Method to the State Water Board with all required attachments. No paper forms will be accepted for filing. Submittal of the Method does not relieve the participant of the independent obligation to file an online annual Water Use Report.

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**Filing an Alternative Compliance Plan for a Measurement Method**

An Alternative Compliance Plan should only be filed for a Measurement Method if the proposed Measurement Method will not comply with one or more of the measurement or monitoring requirements of the regulation.

**What Happens after a Measurement Method is Filed?**

Division of Water Rights and Delta Watermaster staff may or may not evaluate the contents of a Measurement Method at the time of receipt. Staff will initially determine if all the information has been filled out, and accept the Measurement Method as complete or return it as incomplete. A Measurement Method may be reviewed for compliance purposes at any time or as part of a systematic audit.

A Measurement Method may remain in effect for a period not to exceed five years. A diverter may renew a Measurement Method by resubmitting it, with or without amendment, before the five year period expires. Audit criteria for Measurement Methods may change in the future due to improvements to measuring and monitoring equipment.

Diversers are required to notify the Board in writing within 30 days of finding that a Measurement Method does not meet accuracy standards. Measurement devices must be installed within 90 days if defects in a Measurement Method are not timely corrected.

**Contact Information - Reporting and Measurement**

Please contact the Division of Water Rights or the Delta Watermaster if you have any questions.

Phone Number: (916) 341-5300

Email Addresses: Reporting: [ewrims@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:ewrims@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Measurement: [dwr-measurement@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:dwr-measurement@waterboards.ca.gov)  
Delta Watermaster: [deltawatermaster@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:deltawatermaster@waterboards.ca.gov)