Water Rights Reporting Requirements
Goal of Question and Answer Session

- The goal of this session is to review the reporting requirements for holders of permits, licenses, statements, registrations, and certificates.
Why Measure and Report?

- The implementation of improved measurement and reporting will:
  - Improve water right administration.
  - Improve transparency of diversion records allowing all water users to more efficiently manage and use available water supplies.
  - Improve the protection of public trust resources.
Am I Required to Report?

- If you divert and use water from a surface water source such as a lake, creek, stream, or river, OR you divert water from a subterranean stream that flows in a known and definite channel, California law requires you to report your diversion and use to the State Water Board, Division of Water Rights.
Reporting Exception in Watermaster Service Areas

Water Code, § 5101: a statement of water diversion and use is not required to be filed if the diversion is any of the following:

- (d) Regulated by a watermaster appointed by the department and included in annual reports filed with a court or the board by the watermaster, which reports identify the persons who have diverted water and describe the general purposes and the place, the use, and the quantity of water that has been diverted from each source.

- (e) Included in annual reports filed with a court or the board by a watermaster appointed by a court or pursuant to statute to administer a final judgment determining rights to water, which reports identify the persons who have diverted water and give the general place of use and the quantity of water that has been diverted from each source.

- Registrations, permits, licenses, and certificates are required to measure (Wat. Code, §§ 1840, 1841).
Annual Reporting Requirements

• Water use reports shall be filed on an annual basis and shall document diversions made during the prior calendar year.
• Reports for permits, licenses, registrations (domestic, stock, and small irrigation), and stock pond certificates are due April 1.
• Reports for Statements are due July 1.
ON-LINE REPORTING

• On-line reporting is required for all water use reports.
• The Report Management System (RMS) is used by water right holders to submit the reports.
On-Line Reporting

• Four types of water use reports are currently supported by RMS:
  – Supplemental Statement of Diversion and Use
  – Report of Licensee
  – Progress Report by Permittee
  – Groundwater Extraction Notice

• Starting in 2017, the RMS will also support annual water use reports for diversions made under registrations (domestic, stock, and small irrigation) and stock pond certificates.
Annual Water Use Report - Content

• General Information on the water right.
• Monthly quantities of water directly diverted, diverted to storage, and used.
• Beneficial use of water.
• Diversion works.
• Measurement information, if required.
• Conservation information.
• Additional comments/attachments.
• Contact info for the person filing the report.
Determining Monthly Diversion Amounts

• For diversions greater than 10 acre-feet, a measurement device or method should be used by the diverter to calculate the reported monthly diversion amounts.

• The monthly diversion amounts are submitted with the annual report.

• The raw data used to calculate the monthly totals are not submitted with the annual report. The records shall be retained by the diverter for a minimum of 10 years.

• The required recording frequency depends on the amount of water diverted or stored.
Measurement Information

• Why include measurement information on the annual water use report?
  – Simplify reporting - one form for the diverter to file and update.
  – After initial data entry, the measurement information will pre-populate in future water use reports.
  – Measurement devices may be added, updated, or deleted.
Sample Input Screen - Measurement
Additional Reporting During Times of Insufficient Supply

• During times of water shortage in a watershed or sub-watershed, monthly or more frequent reporting may be required (Section 917).

• The Deputy Director for the Division of Water Rights shall notify diverters when monthly or more frequent reporting is required.

• Reports of water diversion shall be submitted electronically in accordance with a schedule approved by the Deputy Director.
Benefits, Additional Reporting During Times of Insufficient Supply

• Assure compliance with the quantity and season limitations of existing water rights
• Protect senior rights in accordance with priorities
• Provide for efficient management and use of water during times of shortage
• Improve forecasting of water demand
Water Rights Reporting Requirements

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