



Fact Sheet

EMERGENCY REGULATION FOR MEASURING AND REPORTING ON THE DIVERSION OF WATER

Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Senate Bill (SB) 88 on June 24, 2015. Sections 15 through 18 of SB 88 add measurement and reporting requirements for a substantial number of diverters. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) adopted a regulation to implement the new law at its January 19, 2016 Board Meeting. The Office of Administrative Law approved this regulatory action on March 21, 2016.

The measurement requirements of the regulation apply to all water right holders who divert more than 10 acre-feet of water per year. The annual reporting requirements in the regulation apply to all statement holders as well as persons authorized to appropriate water under a permit, license, registration (small domestic, small irrigation, or livestock stockpond), or certificate for livestock stockpond use.

Information on the regulation, SB 88, and related documents are available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/measurement_regulation/

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Division of Water Rights (Division) at:

Email Address: dwr-measurement@waterboards.ca.gov
Phone Number: (916) 341-5300

Key Provisions of Regulation

Annual Water Use Reporting Requirements for Water Right Holders

All water right holders shall report on their diversion and use of water annually, beginning with reports for the 2016 diversion season. Annual water use reports for permits, licenses, registrations and stock pond certificates must be filed by April 1 of each year starting April 1, 2017 for diversions made in 2016. The annual use reports for statements shall be filed prior to July 1 of each year. All reports will continue to document diversions during the prior calendar year. The filing dates are for the annual water use reports are summarized below:

DIVERSION/STORAGE PERIOD	WATER USE REPORT DEADLINES				
	PERMITS	LICENSES	STATEMENTS	REGISTRATIONS	CERTIFICATES
2015	JULY 1, 2016	JULY 1, 2016	JULY 1, 2016	VARIES	NOT REQUIRED
2016	APRIL 1, 2017	APRIL 1, 2017	JULY 1, 2017	APRIL 1, 2017	APRIL 1, 2017

Reporting Requirements for Water Right Holders During Times of Insufficient Supply

When the amount of water available in a surface water source is not sufficient to support the needs of existing water right holders and in-stream uses, the State Water Board may require monthly or more frequent reporting in the affected areas to provide the most accurate assessment of water demand. The State Water Board will notify diverters in affected areas when additional reporting is required.



Deadline for Complying with Measurement and Reporting Requirements

The regulation provides for a phased approach to compliance. The compliance deadlines, by volume of water diverted, are shown in the table below.

Required Accuracy for Measurement and Frequency for Monitoring

SB 88 set expectations for both the accuracy of measurement devices as well as the monitoring frequency of the device. The regulation links both device accuracy and monitoring frequency to the volume categories. Larger diversions and larger reservoirs or ponds have more stringent measurement and monitoring requirements and more stringent requirements for the installation and certification of measurement devices as described in the table 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

Measurement Methods

Diversifiers may propose a measurement method, in lieu of a measuring device, to comply with measurement and accuracy requirements under the regulation. Examples of measurement methods include:

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

Alternative Compliance

A water right holder may request an alternative compliance approach when strict compliance is not feasible, would be unreasonably expensive, would unreasonably affect public trust resources, or would result in the waste or unreasonable use of water.

The Division is preparing the forms to request alternative measurement or alternative compliance. All requests must be submitted on the Division's forms. Please note; persons subject to the regulation are not allowed to claim "not locally cost effective".

Certification of Water Measurement Device

The regulation requires that the accuracy of the water measurement device be certified every five years, in accordance with the table above. The regulation calls for an initial certification with the first water use report filed after the device has been installed.