

Water Resources Monitoring (WRM) Program

Metering and monitoring of groundwater use and water levels is required of many well permit and use permits holders.

Metering and Monitoring Requirements for **Well** Permits

Consistent with Section 25B-12, installation of a meter and reporting of water use is required of all water wells for which an application is submitted after October 4, 2022, **except for residential wells** serving a single parcel with a total groundwater use of 2.0 acre-feet or less of water per year. Wells serving multiple parcels must have separate meters for each parcel served.

In addition to metering, monitoring of depth to groundwater is also required if the total groundwater use is greater than 5.0 acre-feet per year.

Metering and monitoring requirements are ongoing and require enrollment in Permit Sonoma's groundwater monitoring program prior to the "final" of the well permit (see [enrollment section](#) below).

Meter readings and/or depth-to-water measurements are required to be collected once each month by the well owner or operator. Data is submitted to Permit Sonoma in January of the following year through an online submittal form that is emailed to the owner or operator. If there is a change in ownership or well operator, Permit Sonoma must be informed of this change.

Metering and Monitoring Requirements for **Discretionary** Permits

Discretionary permits (e.g. use permits, design review permits, well permits that have been subject to discretionary public trust review, etc.) may have site-specific metering and monitoring requirements that were developed for that specific permit. Applicants and operators are advised to review the conditions of approval for the discretionary permit.

Typically, meter readings and/or depth-to-water measurements are required to be collected monthly or quarterly. Data is submitted to Permit Sonoma in January of the following year through an online submittal form that is emailed to the owner or operator. If there is a change in ownership or well operator, Permit Sonoma must be informed of this change.

Volunteer Groundwater Monitoring

Many individuals and organizations are interested in collecting and reporting groundwater metering and monitoring data. Volunteers may enroll and submit data into our system. The benefit of providing data is that these data will be recorded and archived and enable you to track if groundwater conditions are changing in your well. These data will also be made available publicly and to water resource managers, which will use the data to characterize and better understand the conditions of our local aquifers.

Groundwater Metering and Monitoring Enrollment

Prior to finalizing the well permit or authorizing the operation of a use permit or other permit with requirements for groundwater monitoring, Permit Sonoma requires the applicant to complete the installation of all required equipment and submit a Water Resources Monitoring Application Form. Volunteer monitors must also submit an application form.

- [PJR-147 Water Resources Monitoring Application Form](#) (PDF)

Metering and Monitoring Protocols

For more information on Permit Sonoma's groundwater monitoring program for protocols on how to meter and monitor your well, refer to:

- [Policy and Procedure 8-1-3 Groundwater Monitoring Guidelines for Water Wells](#)
- [Presentation – Permit Sonoma Groundwater Monitoring](#) (PDF)

Additional Resources

- [California Groundwater Live](#)
- [Groundwater Monitoring CASGEM Program](#)

Questions?

For questions, please email: PermitSonoma-WRM@sonomacounty.gov

Page Links

1. enrollment section - <https://permitsonoma.org/divisions/engineeringandconstruction/wellandsepticssystems/waterwells/waterwellmeteringandmonitoring/divisions/engineeringandconstruction/wellandsepticssystems/waterwells/waterwellmeteringandmonitoring>
2. PJR-147 Water Resources Monitoring Application Form - [Microsites/Permit%20Sonoma/Documents/Instructions%20and%20Forms/_PJR%20Project%20Review/PJR-147-Water-Resources-Monitoring-Application.pdf](https://permitsonoma.org/Microsites/Permit%20Sonoma/Documents/Instructions%20and%20Forms/_PJR%20Project%20Review/PJR-147-Water-Resources-Monitoring-Application.pdf)
3. Policy and Procedure 8-1-3 Groundwater Monitoring Guidelines for Water Wells - <https://permitsonoma.org/divisions/engineeringandconstruction/wellandsepticssystems/waterwells/waterwellmeteringandmonitoring/policiesandprocedures/8-1-3groundwatermonitoringguidelinesforwaterwells>
4. Presentation – Permit Sonoma Groundwater Monitoring - [Microsites/Permit%20Sonoma/Documents/Divisions/Engineering-construction/Well-Septic/Groundwater/Permit-Sonoma-Groundwater-Monitoring-presentation.pdf](https://permitsonoma.org/Microsites/Permit%20Sonoma/Documents/Divisions/Engineering-construction/Well-Septic/Groundwater/Permit-Sonoma-Groundwater-Monitoring-presentation.pdf)
5. California Groundwater Live - <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLive/>
6. Groundwater Monitoring CASGEM Program - <https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Elevation-Monitoring--CASGEM>



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Our Permit Center hours have changed to the following:

- **Walk-in Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, 7:30 AM - 11:45 AM.
- **Appointments:** Monday and Wednesday afternoons, Tuesday and Thursday all day. (Click the appointment link below for available times)
- **Friday:** Closed at 12:00 PM.

*CLOSED FROM 12 PM TO 1:30 PM MONDAY-THURSDAY FOR LUNCH

Walk-in appointments will be limited to 30 minutes to accommodate our customers. If you have questions about as-built permits, code enforcement projects, or want to submit new structure and/or grading permit submittals, we encourage scheduling appointments through our website or via [No Wait Inside](#)

(<https://login.nowaitinside.com/bookingServiceType/3xBExY7JHInhdGr5Pw7C4m6R4ZiAckw2>) to allow for additional time.

Planning & Building ([/Departments/Planning-Building.aspx](#))

County of San Luis Obispo

[Home \(/\)](#) » [New Construction \(/departments/planning-building/department-services/agriculture,-water,-and-energy/water-programs/programs-and-services/new-construction\)](#) » Wells

Wells

The County's Building and Construction Ordinance ([Title 19 Section 19.07.042 \(https://library.municode.com/ca/san_luis_obispo_county/codes/county_code?nodeId=TIT19BUCO_CH19.07PLCO_19.07.042WACOPR\)](#)) requires that all new or existing wells that serve new development that overlie or use water from the Nipomo Mesa Water Conservation Area must have a well meter installed. This requirement also applies to new development with permit application dates prior to January 1, 2022 using water from the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin Land Use Management Area. Meter installation must be verified by the County prior to building permit issuance.

Applicants should email photos of well meters once installed to

waterprograms@co.slo.ca.us with permit number in the email subject line showing the location of the meter in proximity to the well, the diameter of the pipe going into the meter, freeze protection on the section of pipe going immediately to and from the well, and the length of

straight section of pipe on either end of the meter (at least 8 times the pipe diameter, or per manufacturers specifications). Planning staff will review the photos and then sign off on the construction permit condition.

The property owners or responsible party designated by the property owner must read the water meter and record the water usage on or near the first day of the month. These records must be maintained by the property owner or responsible party and may be subject to inspection only by code enforcement pursuant to a violation investigation.

For more information on policies and fees related to wells that apply in the NMWCA or the PRGWB, please click on the links below

- [Well Standards \(https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getmedia/d446b1fd-55a9-4f0d-9a28-d3b05ac0d120/popular-mark-\(social-media\).png?lang=en-US\)](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/getmedia/d446b1fd-55a9-4f0d-9a28-d3b05ac0d120/popular-mark-(social-media).png?lang=en-US)
- [Fees \(https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Countywide-Water-Conservation-Program/PRGWB-New-Construction/Fees.aspx\)](https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Planning-Building/Agriculture,-Water,-and-Energy/Countywide-Water-Conservation-Program/PRGWB-New-Construction/Fees.aspx)



County Government Center

1055 Monterey Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

VIEW MAP

(<https://www.google.com/maps/place/1055+Monterey+St,+San+Luis+Obispo,+CA+93408>)

County Phone Directory: **805-781-5000**

(Toll free: **800-834-4636**)

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| [Privacy \(/Home/Online-Privacy,-Security,-and-Conditions-of-Use-Po\)](#)

| [SB 272 \(/home/senate-bill-no-272-\(sb-272\)-california-public-reco\)](#)

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