



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Well Registration Program **DRAFT** Frequently Asked Questions

November 10, 2022

Key Acronyms

- Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)
- Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)
- San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SABGSA)
- San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin)

GENERAL QUESTIONS

What is the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA)?

The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was enacted in 2014 and became effective January 1, 2015. The objective of this state law is to ensure the long-term sustainable management of groundwater resources in California. SGMA requires designated medium-and high-priority groundwater basins to form locally controlled Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSA) to develop Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSP).

What is a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)?

A Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) contains an assessment of groundwater conditions in the basin, describes plans for monitoring conditions, and explains how the Groundwater Sustainability Agency will implement and measure specific actions to achieve or maintain sustainability within 20 years. The [San Antonio Creek Valley Groundwater Basin's GSP can be viewed here](#).

WELL REGISTRATION PROGRAM QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of the Well Registration Program?

The San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SABGSA) is working to position you, neighboring landowners, and all groundwater users to achieve groundwater sustainability together as mandated by California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act. With the completion of the San Antonio Creek Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) in January 2022, the SABGSA is now turning to implementation strategies. Well registration is an important first step and an essential undertaking to better manage groundwater resources for current and future uses.

As outlined in the GSP, the need for all groundwater production wells, including wells used by "de minimis" pumpers, to be registered with the SABGSA is identified as a Tier 1 Management Action and is a pre-cursor to the implementation of other projects and management actions vital to achieving sustainability. The SABGSA's Well Registration Program is intended to establish the location and type of each well located within Basin and help us gain an accurate count and a better understanding of the wells in active use.



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

Is my participation mandatory?

Yes. On December 15, 2022, SABGSA's Ordinance No. 22-001 took effect requiring that all landowners within the Basin complete a Well Registration Form – one form per well – and return it no later than March 31, 2023. Pursuant to California Water Code Section 10725.6, a Groundwater Sustainability Agency may require registration of groundwater wells, within the Agency's jurisdictional boundaries.

Is there a penalty for non-compliance?

The SABGSA is asking for your assistance and cooperation as we work together toward achieving sustainability within the Basin. In accordance with California Water Code Section 10732, the SABGSA's Board of Directors reserves the right to enact administrative or civil penalties for failure to comply.

What is the deadline for well registration?

Well Registration Forms are due no later than March 31, 2023.

How do I return the form?

Please return your form(s) to the San Antonio Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("SABGSA") by mail to P.O. Box 196, Solvang, CA 93464 or via email to admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org. A hard copy of the form and return envelope with postage was mailed to each landowner.

Can I download an electronic copy of the form?

Yes, an electronic copy of the Well Registration Form can be found at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/>

WELL REGISTRATION FORM – SECTION 2

I don't have a well on my property. Why do I need to return the Well Registration Form?

An important objective of the Well Registration Program is to fill existing gaps in the SABGSA's data set. To avoid making assumptions and eliminate uncertainty, the SABGSA is asking all landowners within the Basin—including property owners within the Los Alamos Community Services District's service area—to certify whether a well exists on their property. If you don't have a well on your property, simply fill out items 1, 2, and 5 and return the Well Registration Form. We sincerely appreciate your time and cooperation.

WELL REGISTRATION FORM – SECTION 3

What is a de minimis user/extractor?

Domestic (i.e., residential) well users generally fall within the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act's (SGMA) definition of a de minimis extractor. SGMA defines a de minimis extractor as "a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less (of groundwater) per year." (Cal. Water Code § 10721(e).) An acre-foot is enough water to cover one acre of land with one foot of water. Most private (i.e., non-commercial and non-municipal) users with domestic wells use less than two acre-feet of water per year. If your house relies on a single domestic well and you are not watering crops or large areas of landscape, it is likely that you are a de minimis extractor.



SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

How much is 2 acre-feet per year?

2 acre-feet per year = 651,703 gallons per year = 54,309 gallons per month = 1,785 gallons per day

2 acre-feet per year = 871.2 hundred cubic feet (HCF)/year = 72.60 HCF/month = 2.39 HCF/day

Irrigation: As a general rule of thumb (not necessarily applicable to all crop types or all properties), if a domestic well is being used to irrigate one acre or less for non-commercial purposes, the water use is likely less than 2 acre-feet per year.

Residential Use: Two acre-feet per year is typically enough water to supply the reasonable indoor and outdoor needs for a single-family residence. Homes and apartments with standard water efficiency measures often use $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre-feet per year. The current statewide median indoor residential water use is 48 gallons per capita per day.

I'm still not sure if I am a de minimis user/extractor. What should I do?

Please contact the SABGSA Executive Director for assistance at: admin@sanantoniobasingsa.org

WELL REGISTRATION FORM – SECTION 4

How do I find the latitude/longitude coordinates for my well location?

The SABGSA has developed written instructions for how to find the coordinates for your well location.

[Link to instructions sheet.](#) Links to a few helpful YouTube video tutorials are provided below.

How to Find GPS Longitude and Latitude Coordinates with Google Maps (Desktop only)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yOX7soSPeQ>

Using GPS Coordinates with Google Maps (Desktop and Mobile Device)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFavleiWmO8>

Finding Coordinates Using an iPhone, On-site

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hsAkUP31UiY>

Finding Coordinates Using an Android Phone, On-site

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MT4_U1MzNA

Why is SABGSA asking for information about my meter?

As outlined in the GSP, the SABGSA will eventually require metering and annual extraction reporting (except for de minimis extractors who are exempt from metering requirements). The “Well Registration and Metering Program” is identified as a Tier 1 Management Action in the GSP. Well Registration is the first step. There will be community outreach and engagement conducted prior to implementing the metering portion of the program. At this point, the SABGSA is simply trying to ascertain which wells currently have meters and what type, to help design a metering program that helps meet the practical needs of landowners while also facilitating groundwater sustainability.