



## SAN ANTONIO BASIN GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

### Well Metering & Extraction Reporting Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – Condensed Version for Reference February 9, 2026

The full-length FAQ document can be found at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/resources-faqs/>

**NOTE:** De minimis extractors – defined as those who extract two acre-feet or less per year solely for domestic purposes – are exempt from the SABGSA’s metering and reporting requirements provided the well is registered with the SABGSA.

#### FLOW METER SELECTION, INSTALLATION, AND CALIBRATION

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##### **What type of meter is required?**

Basin landowners/well operators have the flexibility to select the specific type of flow meter for their wells based on production capacity, budget, and other factors provided all requirements set forth in the Ordinance are met. Existing meters are subject to the same requirements.

The flow meter must be:

- Equipped with a direct reading rate-of-flow indicator showing instantaneous flow in gallons per minute or a sweep hand indicator for which rate-of-flow can be determined by timing.
- Equipped with a visual, volume-recording totalizer recorded in gallons, cubic feet, or acre-feet.
- Calibrated within an accuracy level of  $\pm 5\%$  by volume.
- Installed, operated, and maintained to the manufacturer’s specifications, instructions, and recommendations.

##### **Who can install the flow meter?**

It is at the discretion of the landowner to select a qualified individual to install the flow meter per the manufacturer’s specifications. The SABGSA recommends consulting a qualified professional to ensure appropriate meter selection, proper installation, and accurate ongoing measurement. A list of local service providers is posted on SABGSA’s website as a resource at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/resources-faqs/>.

##### **What is an acceptable method for satisfying the SABGSA’s calibration requirement for existing meters?**

Field accuracy testing and verification—performed as a non-invasive, on-site test comparing the installed flow meter’s readings to those of a calibrated reference meter—is an acceptable method for satisfying the SABGSA’s routine calibration requirement. Provided the flow meter’s verified accuracy is within the  $\pm 5\%$  standard, removal of the flow meter for laboratory or manufacturer testing is not required. Field accuracy testing and verification can often be performed as part of a pump efficiency test or as a stand-alone service. A list of local service providers is posted on SABGSA’s website as a resource at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/resources-faqs/>. Landowners and well operators are encouraged to independently verify the information provided and confirm the services offered.

##### **What is the timeline for routine flow meter calibration?**

Flow meters should be routinely calibrated per the schedule outlined in the manufacturer’s specifications. If no such schedule exists, the SABGSA requires routine calibration to be performed once every five years. If the verification error exceeds 5%, then the flow meter must be repaired, recalibrated, or replaced with a flow meter meeting the requirements outlined in Section 3C of the Ordinance.

For existing flow meters: If the manufacturer’s specifications do not include a recommended calibration schedule, the most recent calibration (field accuracy testing and verification as described above) must have occurred between April 1, 2021 and April 1, 2026.



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### FLOW METER INSTALLATION & CALIBRATION COMPLIANCE REPORTING FORM

#### **What is the deadline for flow meter installation and calibration documentation required by SABGSA?**

Landowners are required to submit the SABGSA's Flow Meter Installation and Calibration Compliance Form to document compliance for both existing flow meters and newly installed flow meters, no later than April 1, 2026. Submission of the form via email is the preferred method. To reduce reporting time, an Excel version is available, particularly for landowners with multiple wells. Electronic versions of the form (fillable PDF and Excel) are available at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/active-wells/>

### GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION / FLOW METER REPORTING

#### **How often will flow meters need to be read and recorded?**

Beginning April 1, 2026, flow meters are required to be read and recorded monthly between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

#### **When are the monthly readings due to SABGSA and how do I report them?**

Monthly flow meter readings must be reported twice per year on May 1<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> each year using the SABGSA's Groundwater Extraction / Flow Meter Reporting Form. Submission of the form via email is the preferred method. Electronic versions of the form (fillable PDF and Excel) are available at: <https://sanantoniobasingsa.org/active-wells/>

- **Extraction Reporting Period #1:**
  - Reporting Period #1 is for monthly readings taken between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month from April 2026 through September 2026.
  - Landowners must submit the SABGSA's Groundwater Extraction / Flow Meter Reporting Form for Reporting Period #1 no later than November 1, 2026.
- **Extraction Reporting Period #2:**
  - Reporting Period #2 is for monthly readings taken between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> day of each month from October 2026 through March 2027.
  - Landowners must submit the SABGSA's Groundwater Extraction / Flow Meter Reporting Form for Reporting Period #2 no later than May 1, 2027.

### INACTIVE WELL REPORTING

#### **What are the reporting requirements for inactive wells?**

By April 1, 2026, and on each November 1st thereafter, the Operator of an inactive well must submit SABGSA's Inactive Well: Intention of Future Use Form. Submission of the form via email is the preferred method. Provided the well is registered with the SABGSA and remains inactive, installation of a flow meter is not required nor are landowners required to submit SABGSA's Meter Installation & Calibration Compliance Form.

### WELL METER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

To assist with compliance costs, the County of Santa Barbara is offering a \$500 rebate for qualifying flow meters through its Well Metering Assistance Program (WMAP). Eligibility is limited to one (1) meter per applicant. Apply by June 30, 2026—funding is first-come, first-served. More information and the application can be found at: <https://www.countyofsb.org/2568/Well-Metering-Assistance-Program-WMAP>