

Non-*De Minimis* Groundwater Extraction Metering Program Update

Agenda Item 5.1

Santa Cruz Mid-County Groundwater Sustainability Agency

Board of Directors Meeting

September 21, 2023

Rob Swartz

Senior Planner, Regional Water Management Foundation

Background

- The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) authorizes Groundwater Sustainability Agencies (GSAs) through their Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to require meters on all private non-*de minimis* wells and reporting of annual groundwater extraction.
- SGMA authorizes GSAs to pursue civil penalties of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) plus one hundred dollars (\$100) for each additional day of non-compliance.
- The MGA GSP calls for a non-*de minimis* metering program for Basin users that:
 - Pump more than 2 acre-feet per year (AFY) in priority management zones.
 - Wells outside priority management zones that pump more than 5 AFY.



Background (continued)

- Temporary MGA Board Committee provided input on priority management zones and recommended looking at options for providing financial assistance to help offset the expense of meters for non-*de minimis* users.
- MGA was awarded a grant in May 2022 that includes implementation of a non-*de minimis* groundwater metering program, including the purchase/installation of meters and management of the program.
- MGA Board accepted a Groundwater Extraction Metering Plan in December 2022 that designated the priority management zones and called for development of a Metering Policy to require registration of applicable wells and installation of meters on those wells.



Non-*De Minimis* Groundwater Extraction Metering Program

Metering
Plan

Well
Registration
Policy

Meter
Installation
Policy

Meter
Installation

Ongoing
Reporting
(large/small
agencies,
non-*de
minimis*)



engineers | scientists | innovators

GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION METERING PLAN

SANTA CRUZ MID-COUNTY GROUNDWATER BASIN

Prepared for

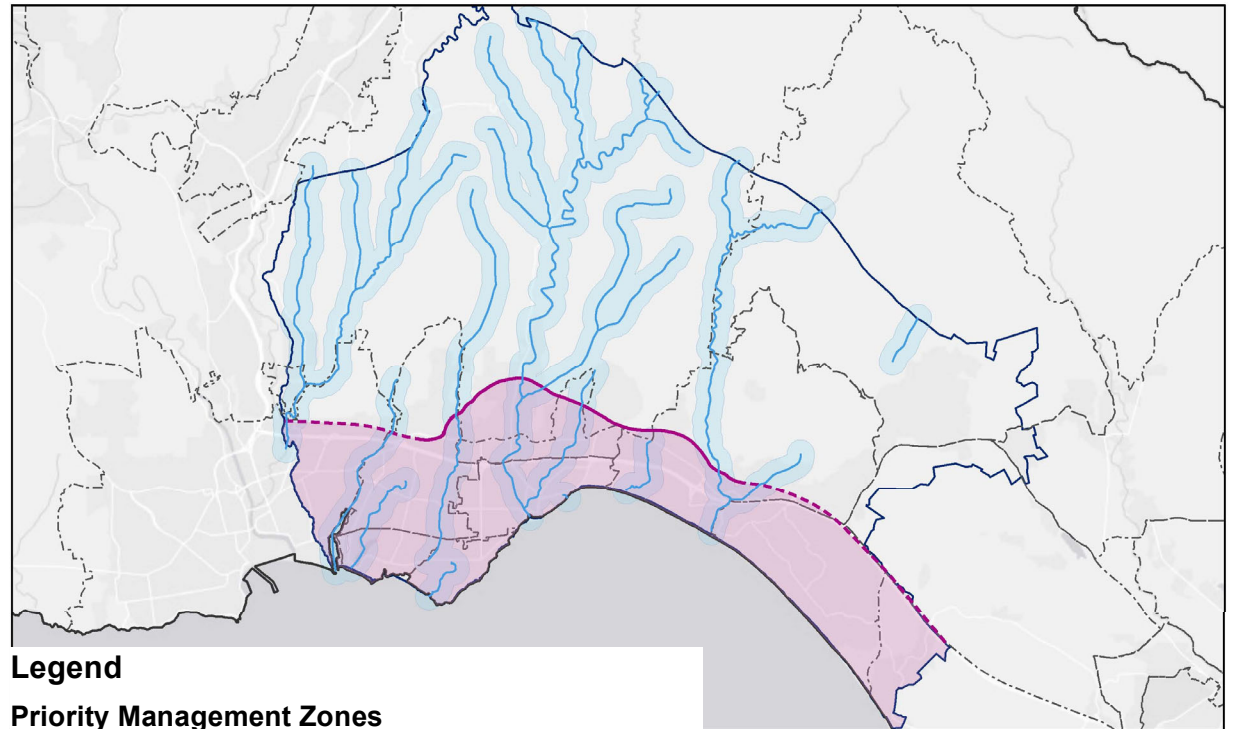
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



Project Number: WR3036

December 7, 2022



Legend

Priority Management Zones

-  Surface Water Connected to Groundwater
-  Creek 1000-foot Buffer
-  50 Feet Above Mean Sea Level Contour,
-  Groundwater Elevation in Purisima A-Unit, Fall 2005 (Figure 2-24 GSP 2019)
-  Dashed Line Indicates Extrapolated Elevations

Non-*De Minimis* Well Registration Policy

Bring to MGA Board on December 14, 2023

Applicability

- All non-*de minimis* users in Priority Management Areas
- All other users extracting more than 5 acre-feet per year in rest of Basin

Registration Period

- January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

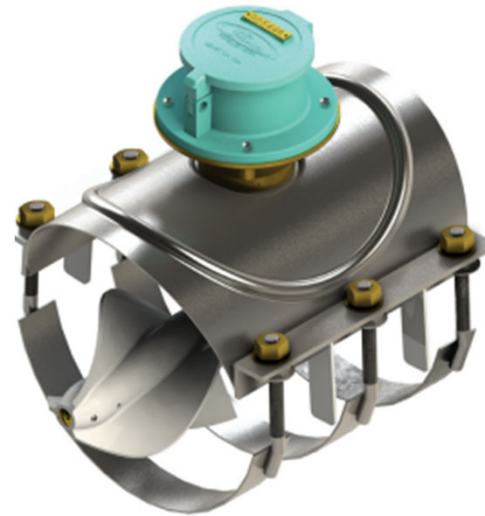
Process for follow-up to non-responses

Consequence of non-compliance

Meter Installation Considerations



¾-inch to 2-inch



6-inch to 20-inch

Incentives Options

- No reimbursement – default through SGMA
- Rebates – not allowed by current DWR Grant awarded to MGA
- Purchase meter and hire contractor to install – allowed by DWR Grant

Non-*De Minimis* Meter Installation Policy

Meter Installation Applicability

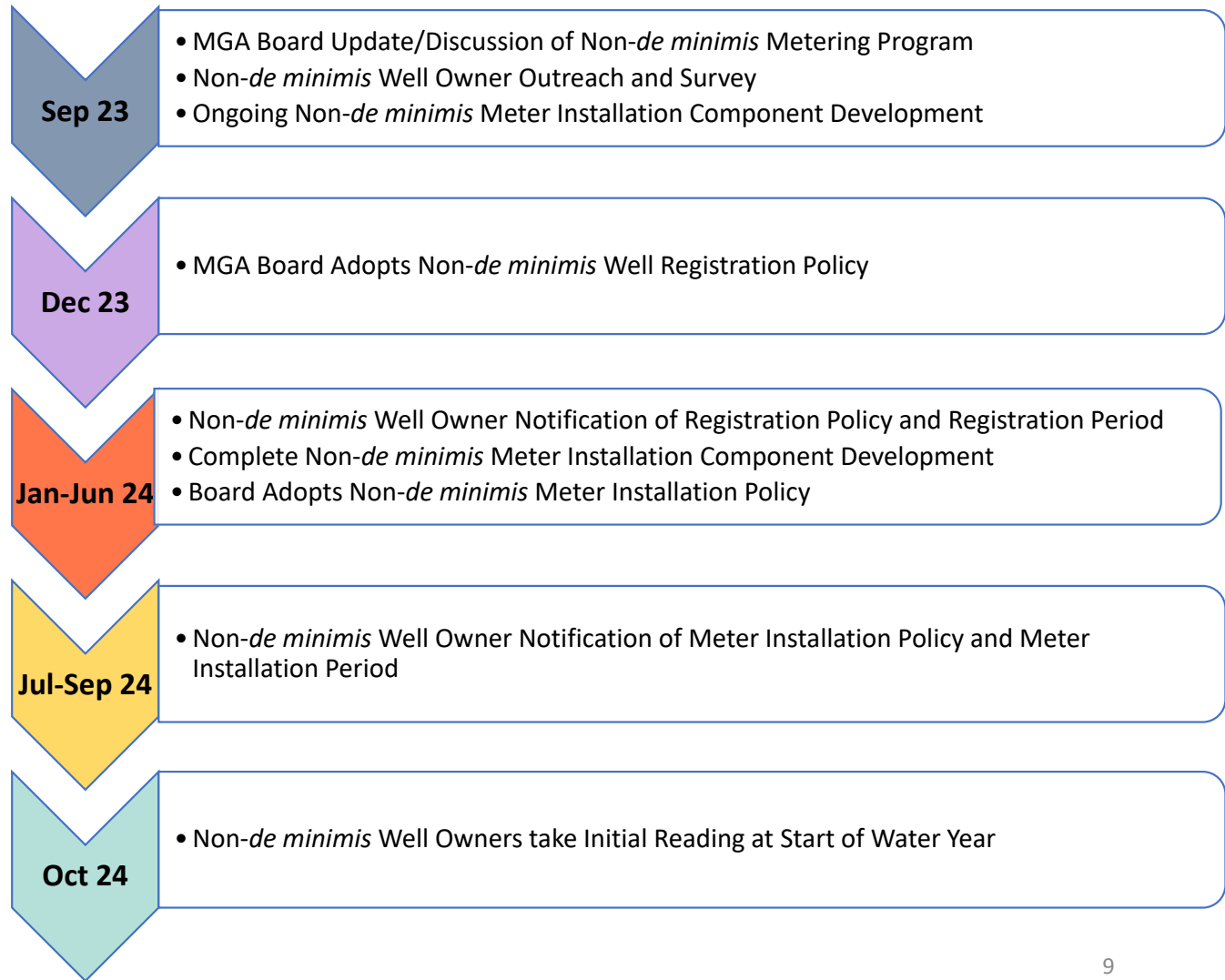
Meter Standards

Use Reporting

Consequences of Non-Compliance

Dispute Process

The Path



Questions/Discussion

