

CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY

RESOLUTION NO. 2026 - 02

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED
CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY NUMBER ONE
WELL CENSUS AND REGISTRATION**

A. **WHEREAS**, effective August 28, 2019, certain entities whose boundaries overlie a portion of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin number 5-22.07 of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin identified in the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) Bulletin 118, formed a joint powers authority known as the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (the “CDMGSA”), which replaced a prior multi-agency groundwater sustainability agency. In 2026, two additional agencies joined the CDMGSA. The current 12 members of the CDMGSA are: Eagle Field Water District, Fresno Slough Water District, Mercy Springs Water District, Oro Loma Water District, Pacheco Water District, Panoche Water District, San Luis Water District, Santa Nella County Water District, Tranquillity Irrigation District, Widren Water District, the County of Fresno, and the County of Merced (each a “Member Agency”); and

B. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA is a groundwater sustainability agency (“GSA”) formed pursuant to the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency Joint Powers Agreement, as amended, and the Joint Exercise of Powers Act for the purpose of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (“SGMA”) within the Central Delta-Mendota Region of the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (“Subbasin”); and

C. **WHEREAS**, in March 2023, DWR determined the revised Subbasin GSPs to be inadequate and the GSAs in the Subbasin subsequently developed a single, unified Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSP (“D-M Subbasin GSP”), which was finalized in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior GSPs; and

D. **WHEREAS**, the D-M Subbasin GSP incorporates a Domestic Well Mitigation Program to address potential impacts to domestic and small community wells resulting from the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, requiring accurate registration and characterization of all wells within the Subbasin, including within the CDMGSA boundary; and

E. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA has the authority under the California Water Code, including but not limited to sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and the Joint Powers Agreement forming the CDMGSA, to adopt rules, regulations, and administrative policies, require registration of groundwater extraction facilities, regulate groundwater extractions, impose fees and penalties, and take any necessary and proper actions to implement SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP; and

F. **WHEREAS**, to effectively manage groundwater and implement the D-M Subbasin GSP, it is necessary for the CDMGSA to obtain accurate, consistent, and comprehensive well data through registration of all existing and new wells within its jurisdiction, including information regarding well type, location, and usage; and

G. **WHEREAS**, CDMGSA previously conducted a voluntary well registration effort and will continue to maintain and update well records to support the D-M Subbasin GSP, including monitoring, evaluation, and implementation of the Domestic Well Mitigation Program; and

H. **WHEREAS**, the CDMGSA may require inspections, metering, and reporting of groundwater use as necessary to ensure compliance with SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP, and may establish fees and penalties for non-compliance in accordance with applicable law; and

I. **WHEREAS**, on January 25, 2021, the CDMGSA adopted Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration, and is now updating such policy to better establish and achieve an accurate and comprehensive well census of all wells within its boundaries, require and enforce the registration of such wells, and allow for the imposition of fees and penalties for non-compliance; and

J. **WHEREAS**, on January 25, 2021, the CDMGSA, at a public hearing held in compliance with the California Water Code section 10730, adopted the fees identified as Exhibit “A” to the Administrative Policy Number One Well Census and Registration, which delineates the fees and penalties to be imposed upon landowners for non-compliance with the Well Census and Registration Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency finds as follows:

1. The facts stated in the Recitals above are true and correct and the Board of Directors so finds, orders, and determines.

2. The Board of Directors hereby adopts the updated Administrative Policy Number One – Well Census and Registration (“Policy”), a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit “1”** and incorporated herein by this reference. The Policy supersedes any prior well registration or census policies, including those associated with the Northern and Central Delta-Mendota Regions GSP.

3. The Policy applies to all groundwater wells located within the CDMGSA boundary, including active, inactive, abandoned, monitoring, and production wells. The Policy establishes requirements for registration, inspection, and reporting of wells, as well as fees and penalties for non-compliance.

4. The CDMGSA’s staff, consultants, and legal counsel are authorized and directed to implement the Policy in accordance with SGMA, the D-M Subbasin GSP, and all applicable legal requirements, including establishing forms, schedules, fees, and procedures necessary for administration and enforcement.

5. The CDMGSA may take all actions authorized by law, including but not limited to administrative enforcement, civil penalties, and legal action, to ensure compliance with the Policy, consistent with the authorities granted under SGMA and the D-M Subbasin GSP.

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6. If any provision of this Resolution or the Policy is held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution or Policy, which shall remain in full force and effect.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency this 26th day of March, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES:	Aragona, Barcellos, McCoy, Montgomery, Ramirez, Silva, Western
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	None
ABSENT:	Miles, Salvador, Silveira, Sloan, Wade

Aaron Barcellos, Chairman

Attest:



Taylor Blakslee, Secretary

Date: 26 March 2026

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

I, Taylor Blakslee, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY, held on the 26th day of March, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this Certificate on this 26th day of March, 2026.

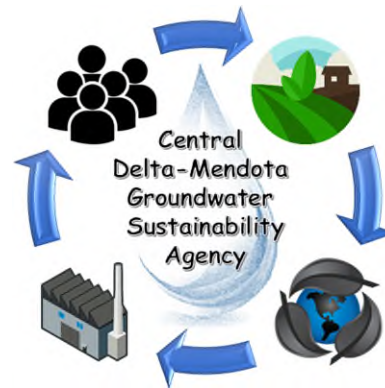


Taylor Blakslee, Secretary
Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater
Sustainability Agency

EXHIBIT “1”

Well Census and Registration Policy

CENTRAL DELTA-MENDOTA GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY



Eagle Field WD ♦ Fresno County ♦ Fresno Slough WD ♦ Merced County ♦ Mercy Springs WD ♦ Oro Loma WD ♦ Pacheco WD
♦ Panoche WD ♦ San Luis WD ♦ Santa Nella County WD ♦ Tranquillity I.D. ♦ Wdren WD

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY

NUMBER ONE

WELL CENSUS AND REGISTRATION

Adopted: January 25, 2021

Revised: March 26, 2026

POLICY STATEMENT

In order for the Central Delta-Mendota Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“CDMGSA”) to effectively administer and implement the Delta-Mendota Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (“D-M Subbasin GSP”) within its area, it is necessary for the CDMGSA to understand groundwater conditions and usage within its boundaries. To gain a better understanding, the CDMGSA must obtain and maintain accurate and comprehensive information from all users of groundwater wells within the CDMGSA’s boundaries.

The purpose of this Policy is to establish and achieve an accurate and comprehensive well census of all wells located within the CDMGSA boundary. As of March 1, 2026, all existing wells should be registered with the CDMGSA, using the form approved by the CDMGSA. Any new wells constructed after March 1, 2026, shall be registered with the CDMGSA within 30 days of the completion of drilling activities.

To provide constructive notice to the public and to ensure adoption and enforcement of this Policy is within the authorities provided by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (“SGMA”), and any amendment thereto, the CDMGSA shall adopt a resolution prior to any revisions to this Policy becoming effective.

This Policy applies to all groundwater wells, including those that are active and non-active and those that are used solely for monitoring. This Policy outlines definitions of well types, the well registration process, timing for compliance and registration, and fees for non-compliance. This Policy further supports implementation of the Domestic Well Mitigation

Program adopted as part of the D-M Subbasin GSP and requires accurate well information to evaluate and respond to impacts associated with the chronic lowering of groundwater levels.

AUTHORITY:

This Policy is adopted pursuant to the authority granted to the CDMGSA by the California Water Code, including but not limited to Sections 10725, 10725.2, 10725.6, 10725.8, 10726.2, 10726.4, 10726.5, 10730.6, and 10732, and through the Joint Powers Agreement that formed the CDMGSA, pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act.

BACKGROUND:

In 2014, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a three-bill legislative package (AB 1739, SB 1168, and SB 1319), collectively known as SGMA. SGMA required those subbasins designated by the California Department of Water Resources (“DWR”) publication, Bulletin 118, as being medium to high priority to form Groundwater Sustainability Agency (“GSAs”) by June 1, 2017, and then adopt and submit a Groundwater Sustainability Plan(s) (“GSP”) to DWR by January 31, 2020.

The CDMGSA is located within the Delta-Mendota Subbasin (Basin number 5-022.07), a high priority subbasin (the “Subbasin”). The CDMGSA is one of 21¹ separate GSAs in the Subbasin that initially developed and coordinated six independent GSPs to cover the entire Subbasin. In March 2023, DWR determined the revised GSPs to be inadequate, prompting the GSAs to develop a single, unified GSP for the Subbasin. The single D-M Subbasin GSP was fully adopted by all GSAs in the Subbasin in November 2024 and supersedes and replaces the prior coordinated GSPs.

In addition, the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs have adopted regional Pumping Reduction Plans (each a “PRP”) as part of the single D-M Subbasin GSP. The Central Delta-Mendota PRP (“Central PRP”) establishes temporary and permanent reductions in groundwater extractions during periods and in locations where groundwater levels are projected to decline below sustainability thresholds, particularly in areas identified as at risk for Chronic Lowering of Groundwater Levels (“CLGWL”). The Central PRP is designed to be implemented in coordination with the Domestic Well Mitigation Program and relies on well registration and extraction data to identify affected wells and ensure sustainable groundwater management.

Although not required by SGMA, to support Subbasin-wide coordination, the GSAs entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (“MOA”), replacing the prior Coordination Agreement. Effective December 1, 2025, the GSAs also formed the Delta-Mendota Subbasin GSAs Joint Powers Authority (“DM Authority”) to provide coordinated administrative, financial, and technical support for SGMA implementation. Concurrently,

¹ All 12 members of the CDMGSA each individually elected to have the powers of a GSA. Widren Water District and Oro Loma Water District each joined the CDMGSA in January and February 2026, respectively. So, you could also state that there are 32 GSAs in the Delta-Mendota Subbasin.

prior agreements with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority ("SLDMWA"), including the Activity Agreement and its amendments, were terminated.

Originally formed by 10 member agencies, effective August 28, 2019, the CDMGSA has expanded its membership and now consists of 12 member agencies. The CDMGSA participates in Subbasin-wide coordination through a single GSP and the DM Authority, but remains responsible for implementing SGMA within its jurisdiction.

As part of implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP, the CDMGSA is committed to developing accurate information regarding groundwater extraction, water levels above and below the Corcoran clay, and evaluating the relationship between the Subbasin and the San Joaquin River. The D-M Subbasin GSP includes a Domestic Well Mitigation Program to address impacts to domestic and small community wells caused by the chronic lowering of groundwater levels. Implementation of this program requires accurate identification, location, and characterization of wells throughout the CDMGSA.

To provide specific solutions that are not overly burdensome, the CDMGSA needs to accurately assess the condition of the aquifers and identify those areas that may be considered Undesirable Results. In order to avoid a one-size-fits-all GSA-wide solution and to reduce dependence on assumptions in calculating groundwater balance, the CDMGSA needs to obtain accurate information. This information will be used to make area-specific determinations to resolve concerns about potential Undesirable Results, such as overdraft and subsidence, in order to achieve sustainability. Use of real-time groundwater use data will reduce or eliminate the reliance on potentially conservative estimations of groundwater use and lead to more accurate groundwater modeling.

PURPOSE & PROCEDURES:

The purpose of this Policy is to obtain accurate and consistent well data information by requiring all wells within its boundaries be registered with the CDMGSA. If deemed necessary by the CDMGSA, an inspection of a registered well may be required to verify data. Previously registered wells shall remain registered; however, the CDMGSA may require updated or additional information as necessary to support implementation of the D-M Subbasin GSP and Domestic Well Mitigation Program. Owners of remaining unregistered or new wells will need to comply with the following procedures.

The CDMGSA will follow these procedures to ensure adequate information is collected for all groundwater extractions as a commitment to evaluate and develop accurate data to implement the D-M Subbasin GSP.

- 1) **Well Types** (Definitions) - With regard to groundwater well types, registration is to include all existing wells and new wells, as defined by the following:
 - Domestic Well – A well primarily used to supply water for the domestic needs of a single-family homeowner for private utilization and consumption. Domestic wells will be considered a De-Minimis extractor under SGMA if the following conditions are met:

- a. Not more than one domestic well per parcel equal to or less than 5 acres in size, or the ratio of number of domestic wells per parcel size does not exceed 1 well per 5 acres for parcels larger than 5 acres in size.
- b. The pump discharge orifice at the well head does not exceed 2 inches in diameter.
- c. Domestic well is not capable of producing a flow rate exceeding 10 gallons per minute.
- d. Domestic well's casing size does not exceed 6 inches in diameter, as identified in the well's completion report.
- e. The owner submits the well's Well Completion Report, which indicates the well type as a domestic well.

If a domestic well does not meet the above criteria, the well owner may petition the Board of Directors of the CDMGSA to designate the well as De-Minimis, based on information provided by the well owner, using reliable and verifiable metered records, that the well does not exceed two acre-feet per year of total extraction.

- Production Well – A well that is not considered a De-Minimis Well, nor a Monitoring Well, nor a Cathodic Protection Well, shall be considered a Production Well, including non-De-Minimis Domestic Wells.
 - Monitoring Well – A well that is used to (a) monitor the fluctuations in groundwater levels, (b) monitor the quality of underground waters, (c) monitor the presence or concentration of contaminants in subsurface soil and water, or (d) monitor vapors. Monitoring wells include remediation wells. Any well with a casing diameter greater than four inches will be considered a domestic or production well, unless designated as a monitoring well under the discretion of the CDMGSA.
 - Inactive or Standby Well – A well that is not routinely operated, but capable of being made operable with the placement of a pump or other appurtenances.
 - Abandoned Well – A well that has not been in use for a period of one year, unless the owner demonstrates in writing his/her/its intention to use the well again for a water supply.
 - Cathodic Protection Wells – Groundwater wells specified as cathodic protection wells on their well completion report and exclusively utilized for the purpose of providing cathodic protection will not be required to register and will not be considered by the CDMGSA for the purposes of SGMA.
- 2) **Use of Data** – Data collected through well registration and reporting will also be used to implement the D-M Subbasin GSP, including the Central PRP. The CDMGSA will identify wells subject to temporary or permanent extraction reductions and may coordinate with well owners to ensure compliance with extraction limits established under the Central PRP.

- 3) **Registration** – The owner of any groundwater well within the CDMGSA must register the well with the CDMGSA.
 - a. Registration of existing wells shall be completed within 30 days of the date this Policy is revised.
 - b. Registration of new wells shall be completed within 30 days of the completion of the drilling of such a well.
 - c. Registration of any well shall be done on a form provided by the CDMGSA.
- 4) **Notification** – The CDMGSA will provide notice of its adoption of this Policy as required by law.
- 5) **Meter Requirement** – Pursuant to the CDMGSA Well Metering Policy adopted January 23, 2023, and the Central PRP, all wells must contain a CDMGSA-approved meter installed no later than December 31, 2023. New wells are required to be registered within 30 days and have an approved meter installed prior to use. These requirements enable accurate assessment of groundwater use and the application of PRP measures in accordance with the D-M Subbasin GSP.
- 6) **Fees and Penalties for Non-Compliance** – The CDMGSA has established a fee schedule and penalty process for non-compliance. Non-compliance includes two separate penalties: (a) failing to register a well using the CDMGSA form, and (b) operating a well that has not been registered.

Fees for failure to register a well in the prescribed time will result in a quarterly fee until such time as the well is registered. Penalties for activities such as operating an unregistered well could include legal action taken to cease and desist the use. In addition, the CDMGSA may impose administrative, civil, or other remedies authorized under SGMA, including but not limited to penalties pursuant to Water Code section 10732 and collection remedies pursuant to Water Code section 10730.6. Pursuant to Resolution No. 2021-01 on January 25, 2021, the CDMGSA adopted the attached fee schedule, included herein as **Exhibit “A.”**
- 7) **GSA Issuance of Notice of Non-Compliance** – The CDMGSA will issue a notice of Non-Compliance to a well owner and, where appropriate, the applicable Member Agency for any non-compliant well that has been out of compliance for more than one quarter.
- 8) **Request for Additional Time; Penalty Waiver** – Requests for extensions shall be submitted within the compliance timeframe established by the CDMGSA. The chairman of the CDMGSA Board of Directors may grant the extension if a finding of good cause can be made. For purposes of this Policy, good causes include, but are not limited to, (a) a demonstrated undue financial hardship, or (b) factors outside the control of the owner.
- 9) **Amendment** – This Policy is subject to changes in the regular operation of the CDMGSA, as it may be revised from time to time by the Board of Directors.

- 10) **Policy Review** – This Policy shall be reviewed by the CDMGSA regularly, but in no event less than once every five (5) years or as necessary to ensure consistency with the D-M Subbasin GSP, SGMA, and applicable agreements, including the Subbasin MOA.

EXHIBIT A**Well Registration Policy Fee Schedule**

Domestic/Monitoring Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$100 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$100 per well; first day of each quarter
Non-Operational Production Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$100 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$500 per well; first day of each quarter
Non-Operational Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$100 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$500 per well; first day of each quarter
Operational Wells	
Failure to register by 4/1/21	\$1,000 per unregistered well
Continual failure to register	\$90 per day; beginning 2nd quarter
Maximum per day	\$1,800 daily fee 100% each quarter
A well owner may petition the Central Delta-Mendota GSA Board of Directors to reduce the fee if a pump test performed by a third party, demonstrates maximum flow rate using the following formula: $\$900 \times \text{max (cfs)} \times \text{days late} \times \text{quarters}/10$	