

PAJARO VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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PVWMA NEW WELL CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

Water meter. Water meters are required at all large wells in the PVWMA area. The PVWMA has established the following specific requirements:

- *Large agricultural and commercial wells.* Metering is required at all agricultural and commercial wells producing at least 10 acre-feet/year (af/yr). A well is presumed to need metering if it serves 10 acres of orchard, 4 acres of berries or row crop, or 2.5 acres of greenhouse.
- *Large wells serving domestic purposes only.* Metering is required at all domestic wells producing at least 10 af/yr. A well serving 15 or more connections is presumed to require metering; a well serving 14 or fewer connections is presumed not to.
- *Small agricultural and commercial wells.* Metering is optional for all agricultural and commercial wells producing less than 10 af/yr.
- *Small domestic wells.* Metering is not required for this well category.

Wellhead design. The main wellhead design consideration is that the water meter must be installed within a segment of straight pipe equal in length to at least 15 times the pipe diameter. Within this straight section, there must be at least 13 times the pipe diameter upstream of the meter and 2 pipe diameters downstream. For example, if the pipe diameter is 6 inches, there must be a straight pipe run at least 90 inches long and the meter must be located at least 78 inches from the beginning of this run. The meter must also be located upstream of any junction, tap, or other water diversion point. Design requirements are described in full in the PVWMA's Flow Meter Installation Manual, which is available at no cost at the PVWMA office.

Meter installation options. There are two installation options. First, the well owner may install the water meter at the time of well construction. The owner's augmentation charge account will then be credited for the cost of the water meter plus \$300 if the installation meets all PVWMA requirements. Second, the owner may request the PVWMA to install the meter. In this case, there will be no charge to the owner provided that the wellhead has been constructed with the required straight pipe run (see above).

Non-metering penalty. Any new large well will be subject to a "Non-Metered Water Use Fee" if it is used prior to meter installation.

Small wells. The wellhead piping at small wells must provide an accessible straight segment, in case water meters are required for this category of well at a later time. The straight run requirement is the same as for large wells: it must equal at least 15 times the pipe diameter, and it must be located upstream of any junction, tap, or other water diversion point.

Well registration. The PVWMA requires that all new, existing, inactive, and destroyed wells be registered with the PVWMA. Submitting a copy of the well driller's "Well Completion Report" to the PVWMA will satisfy the registration requirement for new wells.