



OWENS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Members: Big Pine CSD — City of Bishop — County of Inyo — Indian Creek-Westridge CSD
Interested Parties: Lone Pine Paiute Shoshone Tribe – Owens Valley Committee

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OVGA Well Registration and Reporting Program Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the OVGA and why do I have to register my well with them?

The Owens Valley Groundwater Authority (OVGA) was formed for the express purpose of carrying out the requirements of the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), including, but not limited to, the development, adoption, and implementation of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). The GSP that was adopted on December 9, 2021 (<https://ovga.us/gsa-plan/>), included a program or management action to compile a more accurate understanding of the amounts and locations of groundwater extraction within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin). Subsequently, the OVGA adopted Ordinance 2022-01: *An Ordinance of the OVGA establishing the regulations and procedures for the registration of owners and users of groundwater extraction facilities within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin.*

2. What is a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP)?

GSPs are documents that describe a groundwater basin. They include quantifiable management objectives that account for the interests of beneficial groundwater uses and users and identify a group of management actions that will maintain sustainable conditions in the Basin for 20 years after plan adoption. Additional information is available on DWR's website:

<https://water.ca.gov/Programs/Groundwater-Management/SGMA-Groundwater-Management/Groundwater-Sustainability-Plans>

The GSP that was adopted on by the OVGA Board on December 9, 2021 can be viewed or downloaded at <https://ovga.us/gsa-plan/>.

3. How will my data be used?

The purpose of this registration and reporting program is to ensure that data describing the groundwater uses and conditions in the Basin are as complete and accurate as possible. These data will be used in SGMA mandated reporting to California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and included in OVGA's online database platform (<https://owens.gladata.com/>), where applicable.

4. Do I have to report my pumping every year?

Yes, OVGA Ordinance 2022-01 (Section 4) requires that: *An accurate declaration of the annual groundwater production figures and the agricultural acreage in production (if applicable) for the years with extant data and provided annually before April 1 of each year after 2022.*

5. Are there any fees associated with registering and reporting my pumping to the OVGA?

No, the OVGA has not levied a pumping fee or tax as part of the Authority's funding structure. However, under the California Water Code, OVGA does have the right to impose fees, including those on groundwater extraction (CWC §10730.(a)).

6. Do I have to register and report my pumping to the OVGA if I am a de minimus pumper and how do I determine if I am a de minimus pumper?

No, completion of the well registration and reporting form is voluntary for extractors that meet the definition of a de minimis extractor which means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes only, two acre-feet or less per year (an acre-foot is approximately 326,000 gallons) (CWC §10721(e)). Most single home residences with private wells are considered de minimis.

7. Why is it important to “compile a more accurate understanding of the amounts and locations of groundwater extraction within the Owens Valley Groundwater Basin”?

The purpose is to address a data gap regarding well locations and pumping amounts in the Owens Valley Basin (Basin). The program is necessary to complete and maintain a current database of pumping locations and amounts that will provide a more accurate and complete database and ready access to groundwater information to all beneficial users in the Basin.

8. What if I do not register or report my pumping by April 1, 2024?

Extractors other than de minimis extractors must comply with Ordinance 2022-01. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent well registration and reporting by the April 1, 2024, deadline, please contact Tim Moore, OVGA Hydrogeologist (see question 7 below for contact information).

9. Where can I find the well registration and reporting form?

The well registration form can be downloaded from the [OVGA.us](https://www.ovga.us) website and filled out electronically. Printed copies of this form are available upon request.

10. What if I can't answer all the questions on the registration form?

It is understood that all information requested on the form may not be available and a response of “unknown” may be entered. For questions or assistance in completing this form please consult [OVGA.us](https://www.ovga.us) to view a sample completed well registration form. If you have questions about the form or need help filling it out, please contact: Tim Moore, OVGA Hydrogeologist, (760) 878-8834 or tmoore@inyocounty.us.

11. How do I contact the OVGA?

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