

Meet Our New Staff Member

Introducing Jodi Switzer, Water Resources Compliance Specialist. Jodi will provide guidance to well owners and operators to ensure compliance with FCGMA ordinances and resolutions. Her main focus will include flowmeter installations, flowmeter calibrations, AMI requirements, well registrations, and reporting accuracy. Jodi has over 8 years experience working with a variety of facility owners and operators to implement regulatory compliance programs. Feel free to reach out with any questions you might have regarding your compliance status or to better understand how FCGMA’s rules and regulations might apply to your extraction facility. Jodi can be contacted via email at jodi.switzer@ventura.org or by phone at (805) 654-2064.



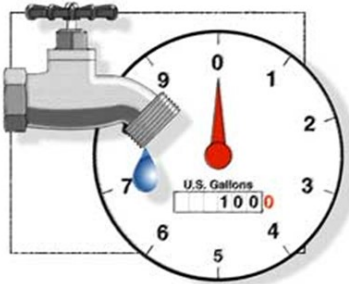
Flowmeters

Accurate flowmeter readings are very important for groundwater management. For that reason, flowmeter calibration tests are required at least **every three (3) years**, in accordance with Resolution 2008-04. For more information see www.fcgma.org/faqs/91-flowmeter-faqs.

A **Flowmeter Update Form** must be submitted to the Agency within 30 days of new installation, repair or replacement of a flowmeter including:

- 1) **Calibration** Test Report
- 2) Individual **Photos** of Flowmeter:
 - FACE
 - SERIAL NUMBER, and
 - INSTALLATION
- 3) **Invoice** or **Work Order** of new installation

You can view your account and flowmeter data at www.fcgmaonline.org. For additional information email fcgma@ventura.org or call (805) 654-2064.



FCGMA Board Members:

- Eugene F. West, Chair
- David Borchard, Vice Chair
- Steve Bennett
- Charlotte Craven

FCGMA Staff:

- Jeff Pratt, Executive Officer
- Glenn Shephard, Assistant Executive Officer
- Arne Anselm, Deputy Director
- Kimball Loeb, Groundwater Manager
- Kathleen Riedel, Groundwater Specialist
- Keely Royas, Clerk of the Board
- Kathy Jones, Business Process Coordinator
- Jodi Switzer, Compliance Specialist
- Alberto Boada, Agency Counsel

Contact Us

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Semi-Annual Newsletter

July 2018

Volume 9 Issue 2

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Development

The public comment period for the preliminary draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Las Posas Valley, Oxnard, and Pleasant Valley Basins closed on April 3, 2018. The Agency held two evening public workshops and two Board workshops in February and March. The Agency received 28 comment letters, which provide excellent stakeholder input into continued development of the GSPs.

The Board, at its June 20, 2018 meeting, approved a revised schedule and amended scope of work to complete development of the GSPs. The schedule is for the revised draft GSPs to be ready for the Board to consider opening a 60-day public comment period at the February 27, 2019 meeting, and consider adoption of the final GSPs at the July 24, 2019 meeting. Please visit www.fcgma.org for more information on GSP development.

UPCOMING 2018 BOARD MEETINGS

July 25
September 26
October 24

Board of Supervisors
Hearing Room 1:30 p.m.

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

July 25
Check FCGMA.org for workshop location and time

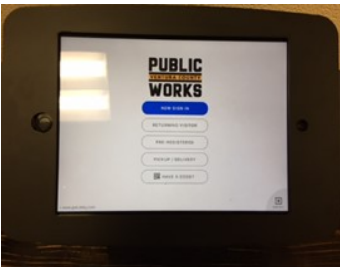
New Pumping Allocation Systems

At the June 20, 2018 meeting, the Agency Board directed that the current Ordinance E pumping allocation system continue through at least December 31, 2018. The Agency will continue working with stakeholders to develop new pumping allocation systems, for possible implementation beginning January 1, 2019.

The Board directed staff to continue review and analysis of the Las Posas Users Group proposal for the purpose of developing an allocation ordinance for the Las Posas Valley Basin. The Board scheduled a workshop on July 25, 2018, at 9:00 am to consider proposals for a new allocation system in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins.

iLobby Visitor Check In

The Hall of Administration building located at the Ventura County Government Center has implemented new security procedures, limiting office access to employees only. Visitors are asked to use the newly installed iLobby visitor check-in system located outside the FCGMA/Watershed Protection District Lobby to alert staff to your arrival.



IAI Reporting

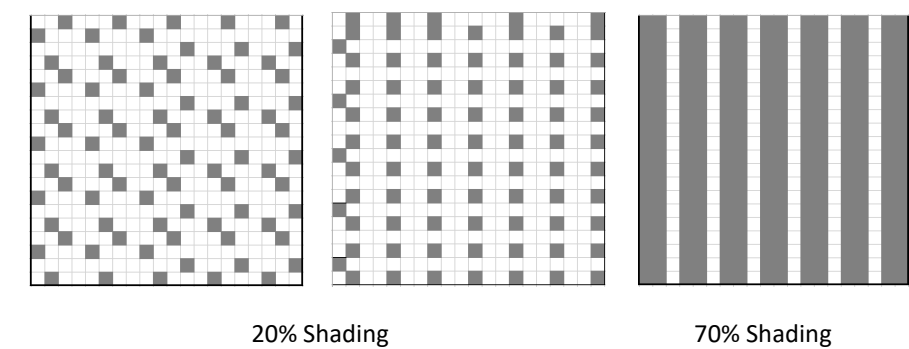
Per Emergency Ordinance E, all agricultural (AG) well operators/owners are required to submit an **Irrigation Allowance Index (IAI) Application** for Crop Year 2017/2018 in order to establish a water allocation. The application is due with the 2018-1 Semi-Annual Extraction Statement. **All water used to irrigate crops must be reported. This includes any and all water received from a water purveyor (e.g., PVCWD, UWCD, WWD, ZONE) or a neighbor.** An aerial map(s) that shows the location of your well(s) and irrigated acres by crop must be submitted with the application. The irrigated acreage value is a critical component to the IAI calculation. Crop Year 2017/2018 Year Type is **DRY.**, which will be included on your IAI Application.

If you have not submitted an IAI Application before, resources, examples, and a step-by-step guide, are available online at: <http://www.fcgma.org/info-for-irrigation-allowance-index-training-videos/general-information>.

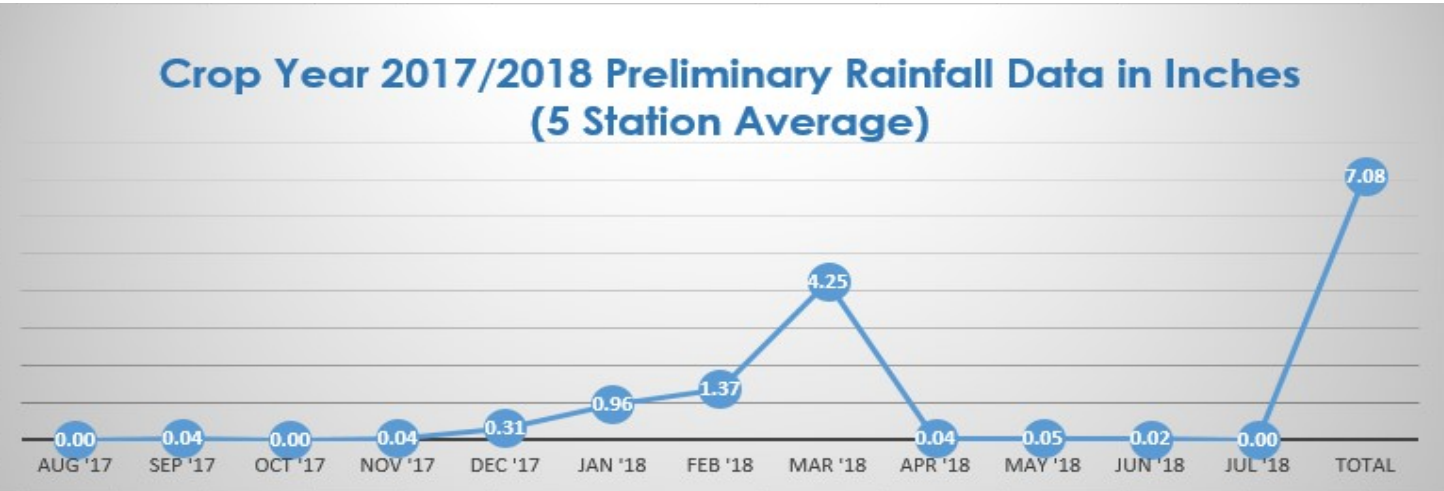


Examples of Ground Shading to Aide in IAI Reporting

The annual Irrigation Allowance for Avocado, Blueberry and Citrus (tree and bush crops), which is used to calculate the annual Efficiency Allocation, varies depending upon the extent of leaf canopy in vertical aerial view equated to ground shading (at noon). For the annual crops of Avocado, Blueberries and Citrus, ground shading categories are less than 20 percent (<20%), 20 to 70 percent (20 – 70%), and greater than 70 percent (>70%). It is important to correctly report ground shading of the crop. When not reported correctly, it appears that the crop can flourish with less water and that the Irrigation Allowances are far too generous. Modification of the Irrigation Allowances may be considered. Below are diagrams illustrating different percentages of shading.



Rainfall Data



Note: Preliminary data in inches as of 6/25/2018. June and July data is to be determined.

Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

The FCGMA Board has adopted an ordinance requiring AMI on all metered wells. (AMI is an integrated system for communicating information on well operations and other sensors for improved irrigation efficiencies.) The ordinance first applies to active agricultural wells with a December 31, 2018, deadline for AMI installation. M&I wells will have until October 1, 2019, and all other metered wells October 1, 2020. The ordinance was drafted to make it easy for systems that already installed AMI or SCADA to comply. AMI will improve the accuracy of the data reported to the GMA, data which will be used to refine sustainable yield estimates for future GSP updates.

AMI, and the optional features, can improve operations and save water and money. AMI can be connected to weather stations to better understand water demands. Soil moisture probes can prevent the loss of water and fertilizer draining past the root zone. Through a web interface AMI can also be set up to remotely observe and operate pumps and valves.

Grant funding is available for agricultural wells to install AMI. Incentives up to \$2000 per well are currently available to well owners who need to have AMI installed. To be eligible, your well must be in compliance with all GMA regulations including calibration, and have no unpaid fees or fines. To review your well’s compliance status please log into <https://www.fcgmaonline.org/Logon/Logon.aspx>.

Do not delay, this incentive is only available to the next 200 approved wells. To apply online please visit <http://fcgma.org/forms/registration>



Farmers and public officials celebrated the launch of the first AMI equipment installation during a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 12, 2018.



Water Market Pilot Program Update

Agricultural owners in the Oxnard basin may participate in the Pilot Water Market and be eligible for \$500 per well on the installation of AMI, in addition to the \$2000 available through the grant above. The pilot program will run through the 2017-18 water year and end September 30, 2018. To be eligible, a participant must have installed the designated AMI telemetry on all extraction facilities within a CombCode, have had no surcharges in the 14/15 water year, and be in compliance with all FCGMA ordinances and regulations with no unpaid fees or fines. Eligibility is subject to FCGMA approval. To review your well’s compliance status please log into <https://www.fcgmaonline.org/Logon/Logon.aspx>.

For more information see the Water Market Pilot Rules and Regulations at <http://fcgma.org/images/WMPilot-RulesRegs-Phase2>.