

2019 FCGMA Meeting Schedules

Regular Board Meetings

Date	Time	Location
January 23	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
February 27	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
March 27	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
April 24	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
May 22	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
June 26	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
July 24	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
August 28	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
September 25	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
October 23	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room
December 4	1:30 PM	Board of Supv. Hearing Room

Operations Committee Meetings*

Date	Time	Location
January 7	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
February 4	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
March 4	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
April 1	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
May 6	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
June 3	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
July 1	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
August 5	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
October 7	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
November 4	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
December 2	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room

Executive Committee Meetings *

Date	Time	Location
February 14	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
May 9	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
August 8	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room
November 14	2:00 PM	Atlantic Conference Room

* All Committee Meetings are held on an as needed basis.

Meet Our New Staff Member



Introducing Dolores Conlin, Water Resource Compliance Specialist. Dolores will provide guidance to assist in compliance with Agency resolutions and ordinances. Her main focus will include flowmeter installations, flowmeter calibrations, AMI compliance and assisting with well registrations and reporting accuracy.

Feel free to reach out with any questions you may have regarding your compliance status or to better understand how FCGMA rules and regulations might apply to your extraction facility. Dolores can be contacted via email at dolores.conlin@ventura.org or by phone at (805) 658-4374.

FCGMA Board Members:

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

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
- Dolores Conlin, Compliance Specialist
- Alberto Boada, Agency Council
- Andrew Gschwind, Agency Council

Contact Us

800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009-1610
(805) 654-2014 FAX: (805) 654-3350
Email: FCGMA@ventura.org
Websites: www.fcgma.org or www.fcgmaonline.org



Semi-Annual Newsletter

January 2019

Volume 10 Issue 1

Groundwater Sustainability Plan Update

Revised draft Groundwater Sustainability Plans (GSPs) for the Las Posas Valley, Oxnard, and Pleasant Valley Basins are being completed. The revised draft GSPs consider public comments received on the preliminary draft GSPs and at Agency workshops and Board meetings. Groundwater modeling of baseline conditions and future scenarios to achieve sustainability is nearly complete. The modeling scenarios were developed working with the Technical Advisory Group based on direction from the Agency Board of Directors. The modeling evaluated the reductions that may be needed from current annual average pumping rates (2015 - 2017) to achieve sustainable groundwater management both with and without potential future projects.

The Agency’s consultant will present the groundwater modeling results at the January 23, 2019 Board meeting. At that meeting the Board will also discuss and consider minimum thresholds and measurable objectives based on the groundwater modeling. Once the draft GSPs are finished the Board will open a public comment period, likely in March 2019. Evening GSP workshops during the public comment period will be held by the Agency and its consultant. The GSPs then will be finalized and presented to the Board for adoption. Once adopted, the GSPs will be submitted to the California Department of Water Resources, as required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

SGMA requires the GSPs be based on the best available science, recognizing there will be data gaps and areas of uncertainty. SGMA requires that the GSPs periodically be reviewed and updated at a minimum of once every five years. These first GSPs will set the path to achieve sustainable groundwater management; the Agency will continue working to address data gaps and reduce uncertainty. The Agency will engage stakeholders and partner agencies to evaluate regional management strategies, as well as envisioning and evaluating the feasibility of water supply and infrastructure projects to limit the amount of pumping reductions needed to achieve sustainable groundwater management. Please visit www.fcgma.org for more information on GSP development.



Update on New Pumping Allocations

The Agency Board and staff worked with stakeholders throughout 2018 to develop a new pumping allocation system to replace the current Emergency Ordinance E allocation system in the Oxnard and Pleasant Valley Basins. The Board conducted public hearings and first readings of a draft ordinance at the October 24, 2018 meeting and the November 20, 2018 special meeting. After receiving public comments at these meetings, the Board directed that the draft ordinance be revised. A revised ordinance will be presented to the Board for consideration at the January 23, 2019 meeting. Pumping allocations will continue under the current Emergency Ordinance E system until such time as the Agency Board adopts a new ordinance and implementation date.

2019 Brings New Considerations for AMI

As recent drought years have reinforced, the need to manage and preserve water, arguably the most precious resource in our paradise, has been initiated with Advanced Metering Infrastructure, AMI, which is being installed throughout the Area. With the January 1, 2019 deadline for Agricultural users to have installed AMI recently passed, there are developments that both Municipal and Industrial (M&I) and Domestic (DOM) users may be interested in learning.

As referenced on the Agency website, there are multiple manufacturers and installers of AMI who are operating in the area. While the Agency cannot endorse one product over another, nor guarantee all products offered meet the requirements set forth in the AMI Ordinance and Resolution 2018-01, also referenced on the website, there is a broad spectrum of attributes for these products. If you are needing to install AMI soon, (deadlines for metered wells are M&I by October 1, 2019; Dom by October 1, 2020) there is research you can do to make sure you’re making the best decision for your needs.

AMI systems confirm your meter reading by taking a photo of the meter face (clear evidence of usage), others by an electronic pulse. Data is transmitted via satellite, others cellular. Some AMI are prone to environmental issues more than others. Many have solar panel energy systems ,while others work better with a particular brand of flowmeter, some AMI are universal. Others are small, have significant components (which is why the upgraded packages cost more). Warranties differ by manufacturer as well. The range of prices is large, depending on both the manufacturer and the system requirements you are pursuing. Note that the upgraded package could very well be cost effective for your operation, so ask questions of the manufacturers. Ranch System’s Vic Luna has been extremely busy installing AMI on Agricultural systems under the Agency’s Water Market grant, and he advises spending time considering your needs before you place the order: you may want the option of adding certain components in the future, so you will need to purchase the correct model initially, otherwise upgrading may be costly later.

While many manufacturers do their own installations, Coastal Pipco’s Chad Carter has been doing installations for both McCrometer and Wildeye. He points out it is critical during AMI installation to “visually inspect any mechanical meter for wear and tear regarding bearings because if they fail there will be (critical) problems with the electronics down the road.” Consequently, that inspection is a component of his work. Manufacturers suggest users grease their bearings every 2-3 years, but in practice that does not always occur. So, if your meter system is older, or has certain configurations, consider these aspects while making your choice of AMI.

As the Agency develops both policies and implementation of groundwater sustainability programs, the Agency will continue to learn more and pass any knowledge gained along to you. If you are interested in more background information, please see our website www.fcgma.org

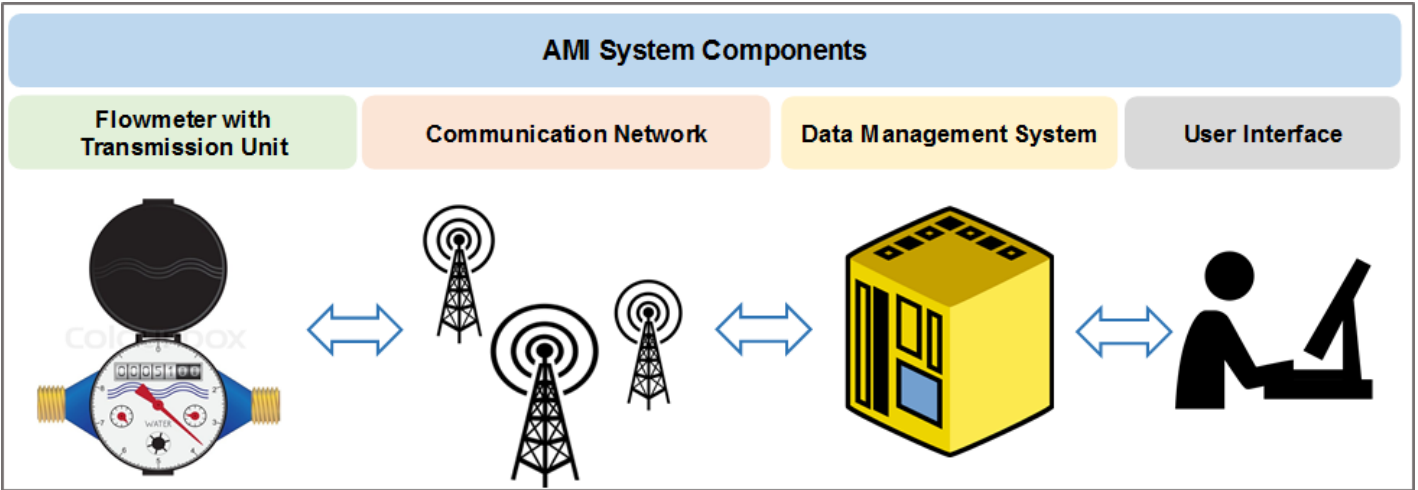


Figure 1: Typical AMI System.

Upcoming 2019 Site Visits

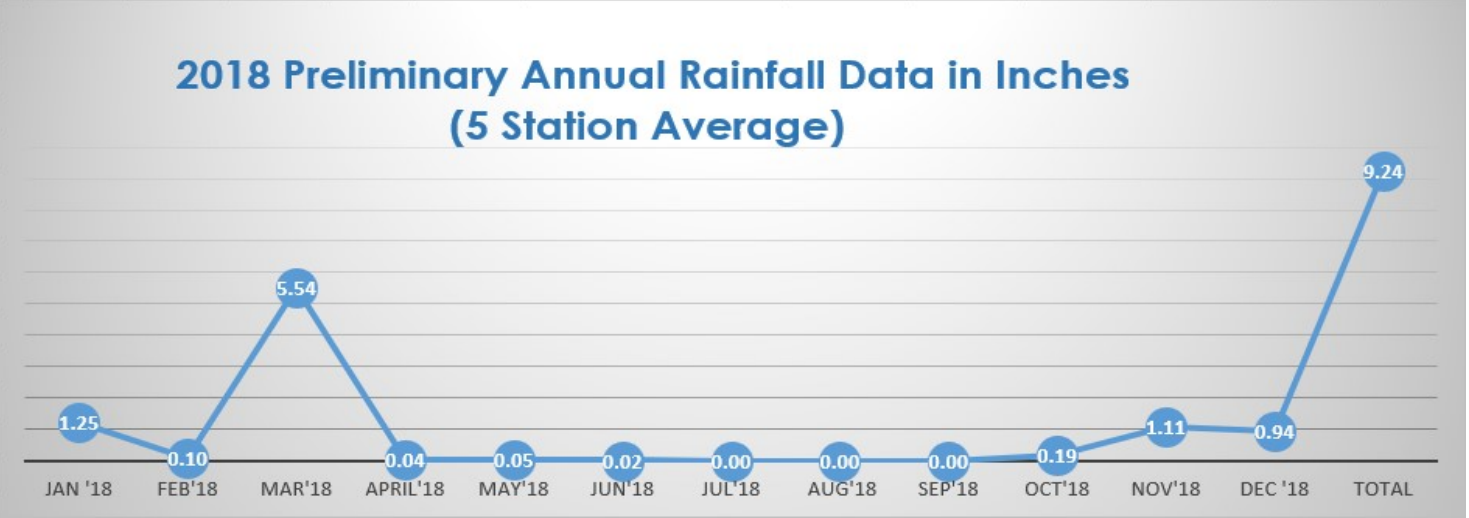
As the Agency moves forward in establishing a network of AMI, you can expect a site visit from one of our friendly Agency staff during the upcoming year. With FCGMA charting new territory in efficient and sustainable groundwater management, other local agencies throughout the state will be looking to learn from us. Therefore, it is important for the Agency to ensure the AMI transition runs as smoothly as possible, and the results from meter readings are compatible with our planning efforts. The sole purpose of a site visit is to verify accuracy of AMI installation, and do not involve your property, statements or reporting in any other way. These site visits do not authorize other entities to access your property and will only be conducted by Agency staff. At this exciting time, the Agency appreciates your patience and cooperation with our site visit process. We look forward to seeing you this year!

Water Market Pilot Workshop

The FCGMA Board approved an [ordinance extending Phase II of the Water Market Pilot](#) at the October 12, 2018 Board Meeting. Comb Codes with wells in the Oxnard basin are eligible if in compliance with all FCGMA regulations including flowmeter calibration and AMI. Over 100 wells have applied to participate in the Water Market. Water Market participants will operate under an alternate allocation system, as was the case with the earlier Water Market pilots. A workshop on the Water Market is being planned for January, for more information on the Water Market please visit the [AMI and Water Market page on the FCGMA website](#).

New Changes to Agriculture Reporting

At the December 05, 2018 meeting, the Agency Board amended Section 2.3 of the Ordinance Code for Reporting Extractions by enacting Ordinance 8.9. All Extraction Facilities will continue to report flow-metered extractions according to previous requirements and methods outlined in the Ordinance Code, and the Agency will continue to send “Semi-Annual Groundwater Extraction Statements” (SAES) to well operators twice per year. In addition to submitting SAES forms in a timely manner, as of **January 1, 2019** , each operator of an Agricultural Extraction Facility will be required to submit an automated or computer-generated report of groundwater extractions each month. Monthly extraction reports will contain the meter reading and the total extractions from each facility in acre-feet for the previous month. If you have already had your Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) installed, your monthly reporting will be done for you. However, if you are not in compliance with the AMI Ordinance yet, make sure you submit your monthly extractions before the 15th of the following month. **This should be an Email to FCGMA@ventura.org.** For more information about Ordinance 8.9 and other legislation relating to the Agency, please visit <http://www.fcgma.org/public-documents/ordinances-legislation>.



Note: Preliminary data in inches as of 12/27/2018. Data not available for VC Station 190 during Oct-Dec.