

Helping Water Rights Owners Comply with CA Water Diversion Reporting Requirements

What

All water right holders who have previously diverted or intend to divert more than 10 acre-feet per year (riparian and pre-1914 claims), or are authorized to divert more than 10 acre-feet per year under a permit, license, or registration, are required to measure the water they divert.

Senate Bill 88 was passed by the CA Legislature and implemented in 2017. This bill included in it a requirement that diversion or storage in excess of 100 acre foot annually required the services of an appropriately licensed contractor or engineer design and install the measurement device.

Failure to file a statement may subject you to civil liabilities that carry a maximum fine of \$1,000 plus \$500 for each day the violation continues after 30 days of the State Water Board notifying water right owner of the violation.

In 2017 Assemblyman Bigelow introduced legislation (Assembly Bill 589) that amended Senate Bill 88 that provided *any diverter, as defined, who has completed an instructional course regarding the devices or measurement method administered by the University of California Cooperative Extension, including passage of a proficiency test before the completion of the course, to be considered a qualified individual when installing and maintaining devices or implementing methods of measurement that were taught in the course for the diverter's diversion.* This bill was supported by the University of California

So What:

Since March of 2018 Khaled Bali, Daniele Zacaria, Allan Fulton and Larry Forero have provided this training across the state. The legislation requires *the University of California Cooperative Extension and the board shall develop the curriculum of the course and the proficiency test. The University of California Cooperative Extension and the board shall ensure the course curriculum and the proficiency test do not conflict with any state licensing acts.* The course includes six units that participants work through at each session.

The course is offered through local UC ANR County UCCE offices. Once the date is established for the local course, the local office handles local arrangements, collects the fee (typically \$25) and assures the printed material is prepared and available for participants. At the end of the training a certificate of completion is provided to each participant that they upload to the CA State Water Resources Control Board website when they report their diversion. To date nearly 1200 individuals have attended the course.

Now what?

In 2018 the Water Measurement Training Group provided 12 trainings across CA. The intent was to get the trainings out quickly across a broad geographic area so water rights owners could take advantage of the course to become a "Qualified Individual" with regard to design and installation of measurement devices. In 2019 fewer trainings have been offered (three to date with two trainings being offered in

Santa Rosa and Ukiah on 11/12/2019). If you feel there is a need for the training in your community, please contact Larry Forero at 530-224-4900 or lcforero@ucanr to work out a date.