

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE DRAFT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the groundwater extraction fee?

The purpose of the groundwater extraction fee is to generate revenue to cover the costs incurred by the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (Groundwater Authority) to develop and adopt a Groundwater Sustainability Plan along with associated and necessary tasks related to Groundwater Sustainability Plan development, in accordance with the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act regulations.

2. What grants the authority for groundwater extraction fees?

California Water Code Section 10730, enacted through the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, grants Groundwater Sustainability Agencies, such as the Groundwater Authority, the authority to impose a groundwater extraction fee. Pursuant to Section 10730(a), the fees may be used “to fund the costs of a groundwater sustainability program, including, but not limited to, preparation, adoption, and amendment of a groundwater sustainability plan, and investigations, inspections, compliance assistance, enforcement, and program administration, including a prudent reserve.”

3. Are there penalties for non-compliance?

As prescribed by California Water Code section 10730.6, if groundwater extractor knowingly fails to pay the groundwater extraction fee within thirty (30) days of it becoming due, it is delinquent and the owner and operator shall be liable to the Authority for interest at a rate of one (1) percent per month on the delinquent amount of the Groundwater Extraction Fee and a ten (10) percent penalty on the delinquent amount. Additionally, anyone that violates the ordinance or resolution establishing the groundwater extraction fee shall be subject to possible civil penalties and civil action by the Groundwater Authority.

4. How much is the fee?

The amount of the fee will be \$35 for each acre foot of water produced in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin administered as \$3.50 per tenth (.10) of an acre foot. The fee may be adjusted after the Indian Wells Valley Water District considers delaying credit for the advance of funds until after the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is developed and implemented and a permanent fee is established.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

5. How was the fee rate determined?

The formula for determining the fee is the amount required to be funded by the groundwater extraction fee, divided by the fee period, divided by the average monthly groundwater pumping volume. The amount of funds required to be funded by the groundwater extraction fee (\$1,522,384) are the costs to develop and adopt the Groundwater Sustainability Plan not covered by grant money, member agency contributions, or in-kind services. The fee period is estimated to be 24 months. The average monthly groundwater pumping volume is the total annual 2016 pumping (the most recent estimate of annual pumping available), as reported by the Indian Wells Valley Cooperative Groundwater Management Group, reduced by the volume of groundwater pumped by the U.S. Navy and private wells (21,600 acre feet), and then divided by 12 months.

6. When does the groundwater extraction fee go in effect and for how long?

The ordinance and resolution establishing the fee is intended to be adopted on June 21, 2018 at the Groundwater Authority Board Meeting. The ordinance goes into effect 30 days after that date on July 21, 2018. The first month of groundwater production to be subject to the groundwater extraction fee will be August 2018. The fee period is estimated to be 24 months but could be reduced or extended depending on actual groundwater production recorded.

7. What wells/owners/pumpers are exempt from the fee?

All groundwater pumpers are subject to the groundwater extraction fee except for the following: federal entities (U.S. Navy and United States Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management) and de minimis extractors. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act exempts federal agencies from the requirements of the Act and prohibits the imposition of fees on de minimis extractors unless regulated pursuant to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act.

8. How is de minimis defined in the California Water Code and for this fee?

“De minimis extractor” means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year (California Water Code Section 10721(e)). “Person” for the purposes of this groundwater extraction fee is any owner of a well in the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

9. What if the 2016 pumping estimates do not reflect future groundwater production? Will the fee change?

The 2016 annual pumping data was used as a guide to determine the volumetric pumping fee. If 2018 and 2019 annual groundwater production are greater than 2016 estimates, the fees will generate the required funds (\$1,522,384) in less than 24 months. If this occurs, the fee period will be reduced. Conversely, if 2018 and 2019 annual groundwater production is less than 2016 estimates, the fees will require more than 24 months to generate the required funds (\$1,522,384). If this occurs, the fee period may be extended or the fee may be increased.

10. Must all wells be identified in the Basin before a fee can be administered?

The best currently available records from the Counties of Kern, San Bernardino, and Inyo were used to develop draft lists of wells potentially subject to the fee. The Groundwater Authority will require all groundwater producers not exempt from the groundwater extraction fee to register their wells by July 23, 2018 prior to the first month groundwater production is subject to the groundwater extraction fee.

11. How will groundwater production be recorded and fees administered?

All well owners will be required to register their wells with the Groundwater Authority. Groundwater producers subject to the groundwater extraction fee will be required to self-report their monthly production data to the Groundwater Authority along with submitting the associated monthly fees.

12. What if I do not have a meter on my well?

The Groundwater Authority, through the Water Resources Manager, will coordinate with well owners to develop alternative methods for determining groundwater production for those wells without meters. After the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is adopted, all wells in the Indian Wells Valley will be required to have water meters installed.

13. What is the average domestic water use in the area?

Households within the Indian Wells Valley Water District typically use 0.7 acre-feet per year of potable water.

14. Who can I talk to with additional questions?

Technical questions can be directed to Steve Johnson, Groundwater Authority Water Resources Manager at stevej@stetsonengineers.com.

Legal questions can be directed to Keith Lemieux, Groundwater Authority Legal Counsel at klemieux@omlowlaw.com.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

DRAFT MONTHLY REPORT FORM GROUNDWATER EXTRACTION FEE

GENERAL INFORMATION

Completed forms should be mailed or delivered to:
Indian Wells Valley Water Authority
P.O. Box 1329
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1329

Please make checks payable to:
Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority

For questions or assistance completing this form: Please consult the IWVGA website to view a sample monthly report form at: <https://iwvga.org/>. Further inquiries can be direct to: Ron Strand, IWVGA Acting General Manager at (760) 499-5002 or rstrand@ridgecrest-ca.gov.

THIS REPORT FORM AND PAYMENT ARE DUE NO LATER THAN THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH OF THE SECOND READING.

As prescribed by California Water Code section 10730.6, if a Groundwater Extractor knowingly fails to pay the Groundwater Extraction Fee for their Groundwater Extraction Facility within thirty (30) days of it becoming due, it is delinquent and the owner and operator shall be liable to the Authority for interest at a rate of one (1) percent per month on the delinquent amount of the Groundwater Extraction Fee and a ten (10) percent penalty on the delinquent amount of the Groundwater Extraction Fee.

Please write legibly in ink.

ACCOUNT INFORMATION (NOTE- THIS SECTION MAY BE PREFILLED)

1 Name:	
2 Address:	
3 Well Number:	
4 Parcel Number:	
5 Billing Period:	to

WATER USE DETERMINATION

If you have a water meter, use Method A. If you do not have a water meter, but you do have a dedicated electrical meter on your well(s), use Method B. If you do not have a water meter and you do not have a dedicated electrical meter, use Method C, Method D, or Method E (or a combination of Method C and Method D and Method E if the well is used for a combination of agricultural, domestic, and commercial/industrial uses).

Method A - Water Meter

6 1st Water Meter Reading - 1st of Month	
7 2nd Water Meter Reading - 1st of Following Month	
8 Monthly Water Usage	

Instructions: Subtract Line 6 from Line 7.

9 Check Box with Units of Water Meter

		Unit	Coefficient
10	☐	Gallons	32,585.1
11	☐	100s of Gallons	325.851
12	☐	1,000s of Gallons	32.5851
13	☐	Cubic Feet (ft ³)	4,356
14	☐	HCF (hundred ft ³)	43.56

15 Monthly Water Usage (10ths of acre-feet)

Instructions: Divide Line 8 by Coefficient of Checked Box in Line 10 to Line 14. Round to 3 decimal places (3 places to the right of the decimal point).

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Method B - Electrical Meter

16 1st Water Meter Reading - 1st of Month _____

17 2nd Water Meter Reading - 1st of Following Month _____

18 Monthly Electrical Usage (KwH) _____

Instructions: Subtract Line 16 from Line 17.

19 Check Box of Water Depth Zone (Consult map included with this form to determine in what Water Depth Zone your well is located.)

		Zone	Coefficient (TBD)
20	☐	1	
21	☐	2	
22	☐	3	
23	☐	4	
24	☐	5	

25 Monthly Water Usage (10ths of acre-feet)

Instructions: Divide Line 18 by Coefficient of Checked Box in Line 20 to Line 24. Round to 3 decimal places (3 places to the right of the decimal point).

Method C - Agricultural Use Estimates

26 Check All Applicable Crops

Instructions: Identify acres for each applicable crop in "Acreage" column. In the "Total" column, multiply "Acreage" by Coefficient for appropriate season. Round to 3 decimal places (3 places to the right of the decimal point).

	Crop	Acreage	Coefficient (TBD)	Total
27	☐ Alfalfa	_____	Jan, Feb, or March: _____ April, May or June: _____ July, Aug, or Sept: _____ Oct, Nov, or Dec: _____	_____
28	☐ Pistachios	_____	Jan, Feb, or March: _____ April, May or June: _____ July, Aug, or Sept: _____ Oct, Nov, or Dec: _____	_____
29	☐ Almonds	_____	Jan, Feb, or March: _____ April, May or June: _____ July, Aug, or Sept: _____ Oct, Nov, or Dec: _____	_____
30	☐ Other	_____	_____	_____

31 Monthly Water Usage (10ths of acre-feet)

Instructions: Add "Total" column from Line 27, Line 28, and Line 29. Round to 3 decimal places (3 places to the right of the decimal point).

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

Method D - Domestic Use Estimates

32 Number of people in household _____

33 Coefficient 0.193

34 Monthly Water Usage (10ths of acre-feet) _____

Instructions: Multiply Line 32 by Coefficient in Line 33. Round to 3 decimal places (3 places to the right of the decimal point).

Method E - Commercial/Industrial Use Estimates

35 Provide method of estimation. _____

36 Monthly Water Usage (10ths of acre-feet) _____

BILLING DETERMINATION

37 Monthly Water Usage (10ths of acre-feet) _____

Instructions: Add Lines 15, 25, 31, 34, and 36. Round to 3 decimal places (3 places to the right of the decimal point).

38 Extraction Fee (\$/10th acre-foot) \$3.5

39 TOTAL MONTHLY BILL _____

Instructions: Multiply Line 37 by Extraction Fee in Line 38. Round to nearest cent.

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

DRAFT WELL REGISTRATION FORM

(Use one (1) form for each well)

General Information

All Groundwater Wells within the boundaries of the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Basin must be registered with the Indian Wells Valley Groundwater Authority (Authority) by the owner or operator no later than July 23, 2018. Exception: Groundwater Wells that are used solely by a De Minimis Extractor (less than 2 acre-feet per year for domestic purposes) must register with the Authority no later October 1, 2018.

Completed forms should be mailed or delivered to:

Indian Wells Valley Water Authority
P.O. Box 1329
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1329

For questions or assistance registering your well and/or completing this form: Please consult the IWVGA website to view a sample well registration form at: <https://iwvga.org/>. Further inquiries can be direct to: Ron Strand, IWVGA Acting General Manager at (760) 499-5002 or rstrand@ridgecrest-ca.gov.

Failure to Register: Groundwater Wells are prohibited from pumping groundwater if they are not registered by the applicable date above and said prohibition shall continue until the Groundwater Well is registered with the Authority.

1. Well Owner Information

a. Primary contact person

Name: _____

Address: _____

Business Phone No: _____

Home /Cell Phone No: _____ / _____

Email Contact(s): _____

Best Time of Day to Contact: _____ AM / PM (circle one)

b. Additional Contact(s)

☐ Check this box if same information as Well Owner above.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Business Phone No: _____

Home /Cell Phone No: _____ / _____

Email Contact(s): _____

Best Time of Day to Contact: _____ AM / PM (circle one)

(Please see reverse side for continuation of form)

2. Well Information

County Permit Number: _____

Other Well Name/Identification Number(s): _____

Well Age: _____

Well Depth: _____ Diameter (inches): _____

Well Pump Data:

Manufacturer: _____

Model No.: _____

Size/horsepower: _____

Pumping Total Dynamic Head: _____

Water Meter Data:

☐ Check this box if the well has a water meter.

Manufacturer: _____

Model No.: _____

Size (inches): _____

Recording Units:

Gallons: _____

Cubic feet: _____

Date/Water Meter Reading: _____ / _____

Electrical Meter Data:

☐ Check this box if the well has an electrical meter exclusively for the well.

Provide depth to water information, if available? _____

Description of Where Well is Located on Property _____

3. Water Use Information (Provide information on all categories that apply)

Water is used for:

☐ In-house: _____

☐ Landscape/Garden: _____

☐ Agriculture:

Acres: _____

Crop type: _____

☐ Commercial/Industrial: _____

☐ Other/Combination (Specify Use): _____

My Estimated Average Monthly/Annual Water Use is: _____

(Please Provide Method of Determining Water Use Below)

☐ Please Check if you Need Assistance to Determine Monthly Water Use