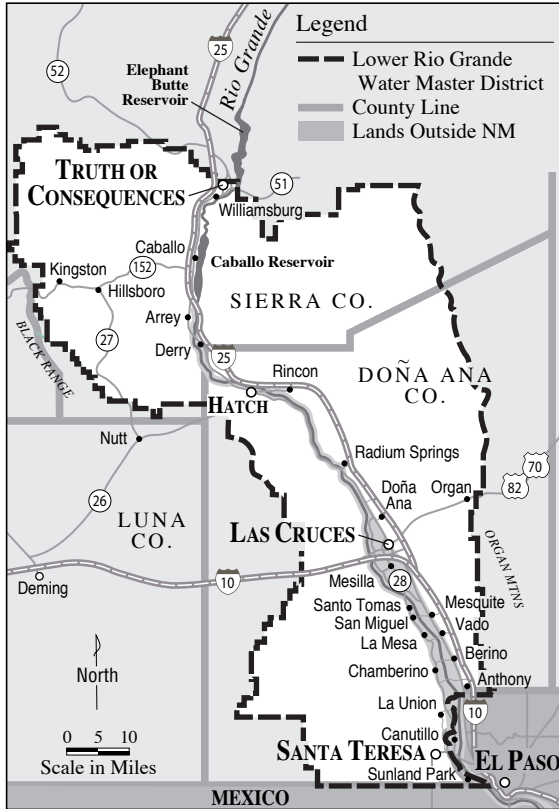


Lower Rio Grande Water Master District



If you own a well that is:

- Located in the Lower Rio Grande Water Master District (see map above)
- AND in use for any purpose other than serving a single household or watering livestock

a Metering Order issued by the New Mexico State Engineer requires you to install a flow meter. This flyer explains key features of new metering rules and where to go for more information.

Active Water Resources Management



The drought of recent years opened our eyes to the urgency of improving water resource management.

Active Water Resources Management (AWRM) comprises a set of tools that the State Engineer is implementing statewide. AWRM programs are designed to ensure senior water rights are respected, to encourage water conservation, and to pave the way for community cooperation to develop alternative means of addressing water shortages.

AWRM programs include:



Metering



Water Masters



District-Specific Rules & Regulations



Alternatives to Priority Administration

Office of the State Engineer

PO Box 25102

Santa Fe NM 87504-5102

www.ose.state.nm.us/water_info_awrm_basins_lrg_metering_info.html

11/14/05F

Well Metering Requirements

Effective March 2006



Active Water Resources Management
Lower Rio Grande District

Metering: A Vital Water Management Tool



In December 2004, the State Engineer issued an Order setting out mandatory requirements for Lower Rio Grande water right owners with groundwater wells **other than stock wells and wells serving only a single household.**

The Order requires:

- Buying, installing and maintaining a totalizing flow meter for each well
- Submitting a report of meter model, make, date of installation and other relevant facts to the Office of the State Engineer within 10 days of installation
- Reporting the volume of water pumped quarterly
- Making up any over-diversions during the next accounting year

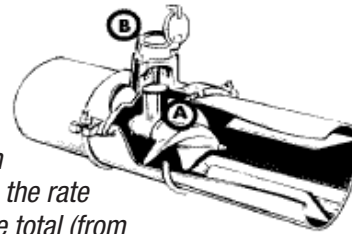
This Metering Program is key to preventing illegal use and improving conservation. It will also provide the data needed for Lower Rio Grande communities to develop voluntary means of addressing water shortages.

Installation Deadline: March 1, 2006

The Well Metering Order sets forth the basic specifications for meters. In addition, state and local guidelines have been developed that include further information on the kinds of meters that have proven effective, installation, and where to find vendors.

The cost of meters and meter installation will be borne by water right owners. In some cases, meter installation will require pipe reconfiguration or use of straightening vanes to ensure accurate measurement.

A typical flow meter: the main parts consist of a propeller (A) mounted in a short section of pipe and geared to a revolution counter (B) which records the rate of flow and the cumulative total (from "Measuring Irrigation Water With a Flow Meter Guide A-102", New Mexico State University).



The Lower Rio Grande Water Master's duties include inspection of meters and enforcement against illegal uses of water. The first Water Master was hired for the Lower Rio Grande Water Master District early in 2005. Metering Order compliance inspections will begin after March 1, 2006.

At your request and as time allows, the Water Master will inspect your well, advise you of your options for ensuring that your meter works properly and complies with the State Engineer's requirements.

More Information Is Available

Information about the metering program, meter specifications, installation guidelines, and potential vendors, among other topics, is available on the Office of the State Engineer web site or you may request that copies be mailed to you.

Go to:

www.ose.state.nm.us/water_info_awrm_basins_lrg_metering_info.html

E-mail: lrg.watermaster@state.nm.us

Or call in Las Cruces: (505) 649-1480

Refer to:

The *Metering Order* issued by the State Engineer

Groundwater Measurement Specifications, which outlines information that applies throughout the state

Groundwater Metering and Measurement Guidelines for the Lower Rio Grande

Vendor List

How to Read Your Meter

To contact the Lower Rio Grande Water Master:

*Office of the State Engineer
District Four Office
1680 Hickory Loop, #J
Las Cruces NM 88005
(505) 649-1480*