

REFERENCE TITLE: groundwater pumping; measuring; reporting

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-sixth Legislature
Second Regular Session
2024

SB 1246

Introduced by
Senators Sundareshan: Alston, Bravo, Burch, Diaz, Epstein, Fernandez,
Gabaldón, Gonzales, Hatathlie, Hernandez, Marsh, Mendez, Miranda;
Representatives De Los Santos, Gutierrez, Mathis, Villegas

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTIONS 45-604, 45-632 AND 45-2602, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES;
RELATING TO THE GROUNDWATER CODE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 45-604, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 45-604. Water measuring devices

5 A. Except as provided in subsections B, C, ~~and~~ D AND E of this
6 section, a person who withdraws groundwater from a nonexempt well in an
7 active management area or an irrigation non-expansion area, a person who
8 withdraws water from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT well in the Santa Cruz active
9 management area, ~~or~~ a person who withdraws groundwater for transportation
10 to an initial active management area pursuant to article 8.1 of this
11 chapter OR A PERSON WHO WITHDRAWS GROUNDWATER FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL UNDER
12 ANY OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES AND IN ANY OTHER LOCATION shall use a water
13 measuring device approved by the director.

14 B. A person who holds a type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right
15 or a groundwater withdrawal permit in the amount of ten or fewer acre-feet
16 per year is not required to use a water measuring device to measure
17 withdrawals pursuant to that grandfathered right or groundwater withdrawal
18 permit unless the person holds more than one such right or permit in the
19 aggregate amount of more than ten acre-feet per year and withdraws more
20 than ten acre-feet of groundwater per year pursuant to those rights or
21 permits from one well.

22 C. In an irrigation non-expansion area:

23 1. A person who withdraws ten or fewer acre-feet of groundwater per
24 year from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT well for a non-irrigation use is not
25 required to use a water measuring device to measure withdrawals from that
26 well.

27 2. A person who withdraws groundwater from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT
28 well for an irrigation use is not required to use a water measuring device
29 to measure withdrawals from that well if both of the following apply:

30 (a) Groundwater withdrawn from the well for an irrigation use is
31 used only on land that is owned by a person who has the right under
32 section 45-437 to irrigate ten or fewer contiguous acres at the place of
33 the use.

34 (b) Groundwater withdrawn from the well is not used on land that is
35 part of an integrated farming operation.

36 D. In an active management area, a person, other than an irrigation
37 district, who withdraws groundwater from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT well for
38 use pursuant to an irrigation grandfathered right that is appurtenant to
39 ten or fewer irrigation acres is not required to use a water measuring
40 device to measure withdrawals from that well unless groundwater withdrawn
41 from the well is also used pursuant to either a service area right
42 pursuant to article 6 of this chapter or a grandfathered groundwater right
43 other than an irrigation grandfathered right that is appurtenant to
44 irrigation acres that are exempt from irrigation water duties pursuant to
45 section 45-563.02.

1 E. FOR A NONEXEMPT WELL OTHER THAN A NONEXEMPT WELL PRESCRIBED BY
2 SUBSECTIONS B, C AND D OF THIS SECTION:

3 1. A PERSON WHO WITHDRAWS TEN OR FEWER ACRE-FEET OF GROUNDWATER PER
4 YEAR FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL FOR A NON-IRRIGATION USE IS NOT REQUIRED TO USE
5 A WATER MEASURING DEVICE TO MEASURE WITHDRAWALS FROM THAT WELL.

6 2. A PERSON WHO WITHDRAWS GROUNDWATER FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL FOR AN
7 IRRIGATION USE IS NOT REQUIRED TO USE A WATER MEASURING DEVICE TO MEASURE
8 WITHDRAWALS FROM THAT WELL IF BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

9 (a) GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWN FROM THE WELL FOR AN IRRIGATION USE IS
10 USED ONLY ON LAND THAT IS OWNED BY A PERSON WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO IRRIGATE
11 TEN OR FEWER CONTIGUOUS ACRES AT THE PLACE OF THE USE.

12 (b) GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWN FROM THE WELL IS NOT USED ON LAND THAT IS
13 PART OF AN INTEGRATED FARMING OPERATION.

14 ~~F.~~ F. The director shall adopt rules setting forth the
15 requirements and specifications for water measuring devices.

16 Sec. 2. Section 45-632, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
17 read:

18 45-632. Records and annual report of groundwater pumping,
19 transportation and use; penalty

20 A. Each person who is required to file an annual report under this
21 section or who files an annual report under subsection E of this section
22 shall maintain current accurate records of the person's withdrawals,
23 transportation, deliveries and use of groundwater and, in the Santa Cruz
24 active management area, current accurate records of the person's
25 withdrawals, deliveries and use of all water withdrawn from a well, as
26 prescribed by the director under subsection ~~P~~ Q of this section.

27 B. Except as provided in subsections C and D of this section, an
28 annual report shall be filed with the director by each person who:

29 1. Owns or leases a right under this chapter to withdraw, receive
30 or use groundwater in an active management area, unless a report is filed
31 for that person by an irrigation district under subsection E of this
32 section or by another person in a form acceptable to the director.

33 2. Uses groundwater ~~which~~ THAT is transported from an active
34 management area.

35 3. Is an individual user subject to a municipal conservation
36 requirement for appropriate conservation measures included in a management
37 plan adopted by the director pursuant to article 9 of this chapter.

38 4. Withdraws groundwater for transportation to an initial active
39 management area pursuant to article 8.1 of this chapter.

40 5. Withdraws water from a well in the Santa Cruz active management
41 area or who uses water, other than stored water, withdrawn from a
42 ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT well in the Santa Cruz active management area.

1 6. WITHDRAWS GROUNDWATER FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL IN A LOCATION
2 OUTSIDE OF AN ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA AND OUTSIDE OF AN IRRIGATION
3 NON-EXPANSION AREA, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON WHO WITHDRAWS GROUNDWATER FOR AN
4 IRRIGATION USE FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL IS EXEMPT FROM ANNUAL REPORTING
5 REQUIREMENTS IF THE GROUNDWATER IS USED ONLY ON LAND THAT IS OWNED BY A
6 PERSON WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO IRRIGATE TEN OR FEWER CONTIGUOUS ACRES AT THE
7 PLACE OF USE AND THE LAND IS NOT PART OF AN INTEGRATED FARMING OPERATION
8 OF MORE THAN TEN ACRES.

9 C. Persons who withdraw groundwater from exempt wells and
10 non-irrigation customers of cities, towns, private water companies and
11 irrigation districts, except customers receiving water pursuant to a
12 permit, are exempt from the record keeping and reporting requirements of
13 this section for such water.

14 D. A person who owns or leases an irrigation grandfathered right
15 that is appurtenant to ten or fewer irrigation acres is exempt from the
16 record keeping and reporting requirements of this section for the
17 irrigation grandfathered right unless one of the following applies:

18 1. The land to which the irrigation grandfathered right is
19 appurtenant is part of an integrated farming operation.

20 2. Groundwater is withdrawn from the land to which the irrigation
21 grandfathered right is appurtenant and delivered for use pursuant to
22 either a service area right pursuant to article 6 of this chapter or a
23 grandfathered groundwater right other than an irrigation grandfathered
24 right that is appurtenant to irrigation acres that are exempt from
25 irrigation water duties pursuant to section 45-563.02.

26 3. Groundwater is withdrawn from land that is both owned by the
27 owner of the irrigation grandfathered right and contiguous to the land to
28 which the irrigation grandfathered right is appurtenant and delivered for
29 use pursuant to either a service area right pursuant to article 6 of this
30 chapter or a grandfathered groundwater right other than an irrigation
31 grandfathered right that is appurtenant to irrigation acres that are
32 exempt from irrigation water duties pursuant to section 45-563.02.

33 E. An irrigation district ~~which~~ THAT delivers and distributes
34 groundwater in an active management area may file an annual report with
35 the director for each person who holds an irrigation grandfathered right
36 appurtenant to irrigation acres within the service area of the irrigation
37 district, if the irrigation district delivers all the water used on the
38 person's irrigation acres. If an irrigation district files an annual
39 report for such a person, the irrigation district shall report the
40 following information for each such person:

41 1. The name of the person and the certificate number of the
42 person's irrigation grandfathered right.

43 2. The quantity of groundwater, if any, delivered during the
44 calendar year.

1 F. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph
2 1 of this section and who withdraw groundwater during the calendar year in
3 an active management area shall report the following information for each
4 well:

5 1. The registration number and location of the well.

6 2. The quantity of groundwater withdrawn from the well during the
7 calendar year. A person who, under section 45-604, subsection B, is not
8 required to use and does not use a water measuring device to measure
9 withdrawals made pursuant to a type 2 non-irrigation grandfathered right
10 or a groundwater withdrawal permit shall estimate the quantity of
11 groundwater withdrawn pursuant to the grandfathered right or withdrawal
12 permit.

13 3. The quantity of fuel or electricity consumed by the pump during
14 the calendar year.

15 4. The uses to which the groundwater was applied or the persons to
16 whom the groundwater was delivered during the calendar year.

17 G. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph
18 1 of this section and who use groundwater during the calendar year in an
19 active management area and persons who are required to report under
20 subsection B, paragraph 2 of this section shall report the following
21 information:

22 1. The source of the groundwater, including:

23 (a) The name of the person from whom the groundwater was obtained.

24 (b) The registration number and location of the well, if known.

25 2. The quantity of groundwater used during the calendar year.

26 3. The specific uses to which the groundwater was applied during
27 the calendar year.

28 H. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph
29 4 of this section and who transport groundwater during the calendar year
30 to an initial active management area under article 8.1 of this chapter
31 shall report the following information:

32 1. The registration number and location of each well.

33 2. The quantity of groundwater withdrawn from each well during the
34 calendar year.

35 3. The quantity of groundwater transported during the calendar year
36 to an initial active management area.

37 4. The quantity of groundwater that was withdrawn during the
38 calendar year and that was not transported to an initial active management
39 area and the uses to which the groundwater was applied.

40 5. The quantity of fuel or electricity consumed by each pump during
41 the calendar year.

42 6. The uses to which the groundwater was applied or the persons to
43 whom the groundwater was delivered during the calendar year.

1 I. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph
2 1 of this section and who neither withdraw nor use groundwater during the
3 calendar year shall report the following information:

4 1. The fact that no groundwater was withdrawn or used during the
5 calendar year.

6 2. The registration number and location of each well, if any.

7 J. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph
8 5 of this section and who withdraw water from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT well
9 in the Santa Cruz active management area during the calendar year shall
10 report the following information:

11 1. The registration number and location of the well.

12 2. The quantity of water, by type, withdrawn from the well during
13 the calendar year.

14 3. The quantity of fuel or electricity consumed by the pump during
15 the calendar year.

16 4. The uses to which the groundwater was applied or the persons to
17 whom the water was delivered during the calendar year.

18 K. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph
19 5 of this section and who use water withdrawn from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT
20 well in the Santa Cruz active management area during the calendar year
21 shall report the following information:

22 1. The source of the water, including:

23 (a) The name of the person from whom the water was obtained.

24 (b) The registration number and location of the well, if known.

25 2. The quantity of the water, by type, used during the calendar
26 year.

27 3. The specific uses to which the water was applied during the
28 calendar year.

29 L. PERSONS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT UNDER SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH
30 6 OF THIS SECTION AND WHO WITHDRAW GROUNDWATER FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL
31 DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

32 1. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER AND LOCATION OF THE WELL.

33 2. THE QUANTITY OF GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWN FROM THE WELL DURING THE
34 CALENDAR YEAR, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON WHO, UNDER SECTION 45-604, SUBSECTION
35 E, PARAGRAPH 1, IS NOT REQUIRED TO USE A WATER MEASURING DEVICE SHALL
36 ESTIMATE THE QUANTITY OF GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWN.

37 3. THE QUANTITY OF FUEL OR ELECTRICITY CONSUMED BY THE PUMP DURING
38 THE CALENDAR YEAR.

39 4. THE USES TO WHICH THE GROUNDWATER WAS APPLIED OR THE PERSONS TO
40 WHOM THE GROUNDWATER WAS DELIVERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR.

41 5. THE QUANTITY OF THE GROUNDWATER USED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR.

42 ~~F~~ M. If a person both withdraws groundwater in an active
43 management area and uses such water, the person may combine the
44 information required by subsections F and G of this section into one
45 report. If a person both withdraws water, other than stored water, from a

1 non-exempt well in the Santa Cruz active management area and uses such
2 water, the person may combine the information required by subsections J
3 and K of this section into one report.

4 ~~M.~~ N. The director may require such other information in the
5 report as may be necessary to accomplish the management goals of the
6 applicable active management area.

7 ~~N.~~ O. Each report shall contain either a sworn statement or a
8 certification, under penalty of perjury, that the information contained in
9 the report is true and correct according to the best belief and knowledge
10 of the person filing the report.

11 ~~O.~~ P. The annual report shall be maintained on a calendar year
12 basis and shall be filed with the director no later than March 31 of each
13 year for the preceding calendar year. If a person who is required under
14 this section to file an annual report for calendar year 1985 or any
15 subsequent calendar year fails to file a report for the calendar year in
16 question on or before March 31 of the following year, the director may
17 assess and collect a penalty of ~~twenty-five dollars~~ \$25 for each month or
18 portion of a month that the annual report is delinquent. The total
19 penalty assessed under this subsection shall not exceed ~~one hundred fifty~~
20 ~~dollars~~ \$150. The director shall deposit, pursuant to sections 35-146 and
21 35-147, all penalties collected under this subsection in the state general
22 fund.

23 ~~P.~~ Q. The records and reports required to be kept and filed under
24 this section shall be in such form as the director prescribes. The
25 director shall prepare blank forms and distribute them on a timely
26 schedule throughout each active management area and furnish them ~~upon~~ ON
27 request. Failure to receive or obtain the forms does not relieve any
28 person from keeping the required records or making any required report.
29 The director shall cooperate with cities and towns, private water
30 companies and irrigation districts in establishing the form of the records
31 and reports to be kept and filed by them.

32 Sec. 3. Section 45-2602, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
33 read:

34 45-2602. Establishment of southside protection zones;
35 reporting requirements

36 A. The following southside protection zones are established on ~~the~~
37 ~~effective date of this section~~ DECEMBER 14, 2007:

- 38 1. The eastern protection zone north.
- 39 2. The eastern protection zone south.
- 40 3. The western municipal and industrial protection zone.
- 41 4. The western municipal protection zone.
- 42 5. The central protection zone.

1 B. The boundaries of the southside protection zones established
2 under subsection A OF THIS SECTION are shown on the maps that are dated
3 March 25, 2002 and that are on file in the department. The maps shall be
4 available for examination by the public during regular business hours.

5 C. Each person in the Pinal active management area who withdraws
6 underground water during a calendar year in a southside protection zone
7 established under this section, other than the central protection zone,
8 shall file an annual report with the director no later than March 31 of
9 each year for the preceding calendar year. The report shall contain the
10 following information in addition to any other information required by
11 section 45-632:

12 1. The amount of underground water withdrawn within the southside
13 protection zone and the name of the protection zone.

14 2. If the underground water was used for a nonirrigation use, the
15 purpose for which the underground water was used, the location of the use,
16 the acreage of the parcel or parcels of land on which the underground
17 water was used and the date the use commenced.

18 3. The amount of any water replenished during the year pursuant to
19 section 45-2611, subsection B, paragraph 2, the water use for which the
20 water was replenished and the manner in which the water was replenished.

21 4. The amount of any water replaced during the year pursuant to
22 section 45-2611, subsection B, paragraph 3, the water use for which the
23 water was replaced and the manner in which the water was replaced.

24 D. A person who is required to file an annual report for a year
25 under subsection C of this section:

26 1. Shall use a water measuring device approved by the director
27 unless exempt under section 45-604.

28 2. Shall maintain current accurate records of the person's
29 withdrawals, transportation, deliveries and use of underground water as
30 prescribed by the director.

31 3. May combine the report with an annual report for the same year
32 filed under section 45-632.

33 4. Shall comply with the requirements prescribed in section 45-632,
34 subsections ~~N~~, O, ~~and~~ P and Q AND is subject to the penalties prescribed
35 in section 45-632, subsection ~~O~~ P as if the report was required by
36 section 45-632.

37 E. A person who withdraws underground water from an exempt well is
38 exempt from the record keeping and reporting requirements of subsections C
39 and D of this section. For the purposes of this subsection, "exempt well"
40 means a well that has a pump with a maximum capacity of not more than
41 thirty-five gallons per minute, that is used to withdraw underground water
42 and that would qualify as an exempt well under section 45-454 if used to
43 withdraw groundwater.

- 1 F. If stored water is withdrawn in the Pinal active management area
2 in a southside protection zone established under this section, other than
3 the central protection zone, the annual report filed under section
4 45-875.01, subsection D shall include:
- 5 1. The amount of stored water withdrawn within the southside
6 protection zone and the name of the protection zone.
- 7 2. If the stored water was used for a nonirrigation use, the
8 purpose for which the water was used, the acreage of the parcel or parcels
9 of land on which the water was used, the location of the use and the date
10 the use commenced.
- 11 3. The identification of the storage facility in which the water
12 was stored.
- 13 4. The amount of any water replenished during the year pursuant to
14 section 45-2611, subsection B, paragraph 2, the water use for which the
15 water was replenished and the manner in which the water was replenished.
- 16 5. The amount of any water replaced during the year pursuant to
17 section 45-2611, subsection B, paragraph 3, the water use for which the
18 water was replaced and the manner in which the water was replaced.