

REFERENCE TITLE: groundwater pumping; measuring; reporting

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-seventh Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2025

## **SB 1249**

Introduced by  
Senator Sundareshan

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30 (a) Groundwater withdrawn from the well for an irrigation use is  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.

43 6. WITHDRAWS GROUNDWATER FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL IN A LOCATION  
44 OUTSIDE OF AN ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA AND OUTSIDE OF AN IRRIGATION  
45 NON-EXPANSION AREA, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON WHO WITHDRAWS GROUNDWATER FOR AN

1 IRRIGATION USE FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL IS EXEMPT FROM ANNUAL REPORTING  
2 REQUIREMENTS IF THE GROUNDWATER IS USED ONLY ON LAND THAT IS OWNED BY A  
3 PERSON WHO HAS THE RIGHT TO IRRIGATE TEN OR FEWER CONTIGUOUS ACRES AT THE  
4 PLACE OF USE AND THE LAND IS NOT PART OF AN INTEGRATED FARMING OPERATION  
5 OF MORE THAN TEN ACRES.

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

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

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

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 Groundwater is withdrawn from the land to which the irrigation  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

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 Groundwater is withdrawn from land that is both owned by the  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

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

38 1. The name of the person and the certificate number of the  
39 person's irrigation grandfathered right.

40 2. The quantity of groundwater, if any, delivered during the  
41 calendar year.

42 F. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph  
43 1 of this section and who withdraw groundwater during the calendar year in  
44 an active management area shall report the following information for each  
45 well:

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

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

9           3. The quantity of fuel or electricity consumed by the pump during  
10 the calendar year.

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

13           G. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph  
14 1 of this section and who use groundwater during the calendar year in an  
15 active management area and persons who are required to report under  
16 subsection B, paragraph 2 of this section shall report the following  
17 information:

18           1. The source of the groundwater, including:

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

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

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

22           3. The specific uses to which the groundwater was applied during  
23 the calendar year.

24           H. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph  
25 4 of this section and who transport groundwater during the calendar year  
26 to an initial active management area under article 8.1 of this chapter  
27 shall report the following information:

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

29           2. The quantity of groundwater withdrawn from each well during the  
30 calendar year.

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

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

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

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

40           I. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph  
41 1 of this section and who neither withdraw nor use groundwater during the  
42 calendar year shall report the following information:

43           1. The fact that no groundwater was withdrawn or used during the  
44 calendar year.

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

1 J. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph  
2 5 of this section and who withdraw water from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT well  
3 in the Santa Cruz active management area during the calendar year shall  
4 report the following information:

- 5 1. The registration number and location of the well.
- 6 2. The quantity of water, by type, withdrawn from the well during  
7 the calendar year.
- 8 3. The quantity of fuel or electricity consumed by the pump during  
9 the calendar year.
- 10 4. The uses to which the GROUNDWATER ~~water~~ was applied or the  
11 persons to whom the water was delivered during the calendar year.

12 K. Persons who are required to report under subsection B, paragraph  
13 5 of this section and who use water withdrawn from a ~~non-exempt~~ NONEXEMPT  
14 well in the Santa Cruz active management area during the calendar year  
15 shall report the following information:

- 16 1. The source of the water, including:
  - 17 (a) The name of the person from whom the water was obtained.
  - 18 (b) The registration number and location of the well, if known.
- 19 2. The quantity of the water, by type, used during the calendar  
20 year.
- 21 3. The specific uses to which the water was applied during the  
22 calendar year.

23 L. PERSONS WHO ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT UNDER SUBSECTION B, PARAGRAPH  
24 6 OF THIS SECTION AND WHO WITHDRAW GROUNDWATER FROM A NONEXEMPT WELL  
25 DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR SHALL REPORT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 26 1. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER AND LOCATION OF THE WELL.
- 27 2. THE QUANTITY OF GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWN FROM THE WELL DURING THE  
28 CALENDAR YEAR, EXCEPT THAT A PERSON WHO, UNDER SECTION 45-604, SUBSECTION  
29 E, PARAGRAPH 1, IS NOT REQUIRED TO USE A WATER MEASURING DEVICE SHALL  
30 ESTIMATE THE QUANTITY OF GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWN.
- 31 3. THE QUANTITY OF FUEL OR ELECTRICITY CONSUMED BY THE PUMP DURING  
32 THE CALENDAR YEAR.
- 33 4. THE USES TO WHICH THE GROUNDWATER WAS APPLIED OR THE PERSONS TO  
34 WHOM THE GROUNDWATER WAS DELIVERED DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR.

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

36 ~~M.~~ M. If a person both withdraws groundwater in an active  
37 management area and uses such water, the person may combine the  
38 information required by subsections F and G of this section into one  
39 report. If a person both withdraws water, other than stored water, from a  
40 non-exempt well in the Santa Cruz active management area and uses such  
41 water, the person may combine the information required by subsections J  
42 and K of this section into one report.

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

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

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

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

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

28 45-2602. Establishment of southside protection zones:  
29 reporting requirements

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

- 32 1. The eastern protection zone north.
- 33 2. The eastern protection zone south.
- 34 3. The western municipal and industrial protection zone.
- 35 4. The western municipal protection zone.
- 36 5. The central protection zone.

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

41 C. Each person in the Pinal active management area who withdraws  
42 underground water during a calendar year in a southside protection zone  
43 established under this section, other than the central protection zone,  
44 shall file an annual report with the director no later than March 31 of  
45 each year for the preceding calendar year. The report shall contain the

1 following information in addition to any other information required by  
2 section 45-632:

3 1. The amount of underground water withdrawn within the southside  
4 protection zone and the name of the protection zone.

5 2. If the underground water was used for a nonirrigation use, the  
6 purpose for which the underground water was used, the location of the use,  
7 the acreage of the parcel or parcels of land on which the underground  
8 water was used and the date the use commenced.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

35 F. If stored water is withdrawn in the Pinal active management area  
36 in a southside protection zone established under this section, other than  
37 the central protection zone, the annual report filed under section  
38 45-875.01, subsection D shall include:

39 1. The amount of stored water withdrawn within the southside  
40 protection zone and the name of the protection zone.

41 2. If the stored water was used for a nonirrigation use, the  
42 purpose for which the water was used, the acreage of the parcel or parcels  
43 of land on which the water was used, the location of the use and the date  
44 the use commenced.



1           3. The identification of the storage facility in which the water  
2 was stored.

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

6           5. The amount of any water replaced during the year pursuant to  
7 section 45-2611, subsection B, paragraph 3, the water use for which the  
8 water was replaced and the manner in which the water was replaced.