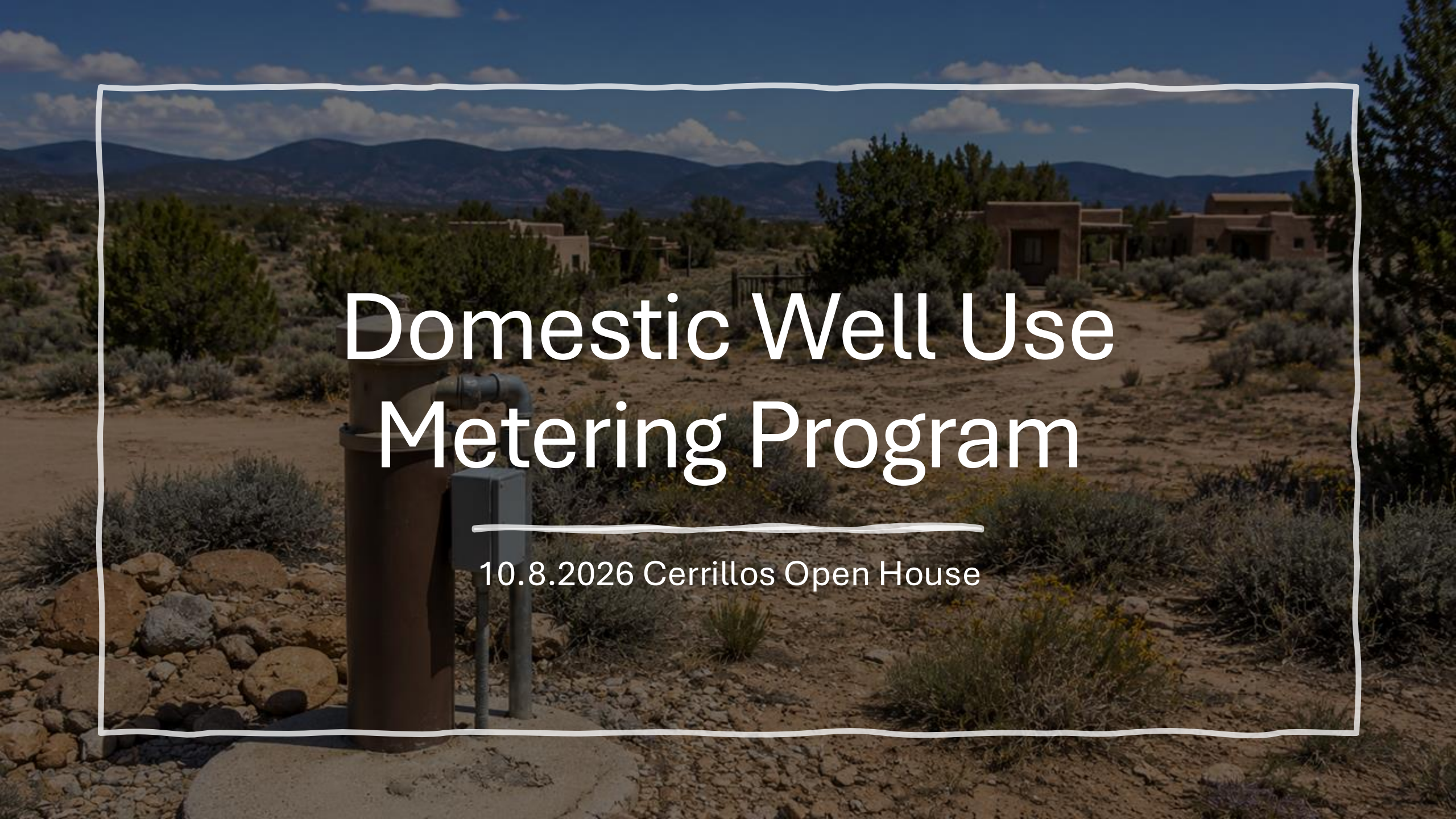


The background image shows a desert landscape under a blue sky with scattered clouds. In the foreground, a brown metal wellhead with a grey electrical box is visible. The ground is sandy with some low-lying desert shrubs and rocks. In the middle ground, there are several green trees and a small, single-story house with a flat roof. In the far background, there are rolling hills or mountains.

Domestic Well Use Metering Program

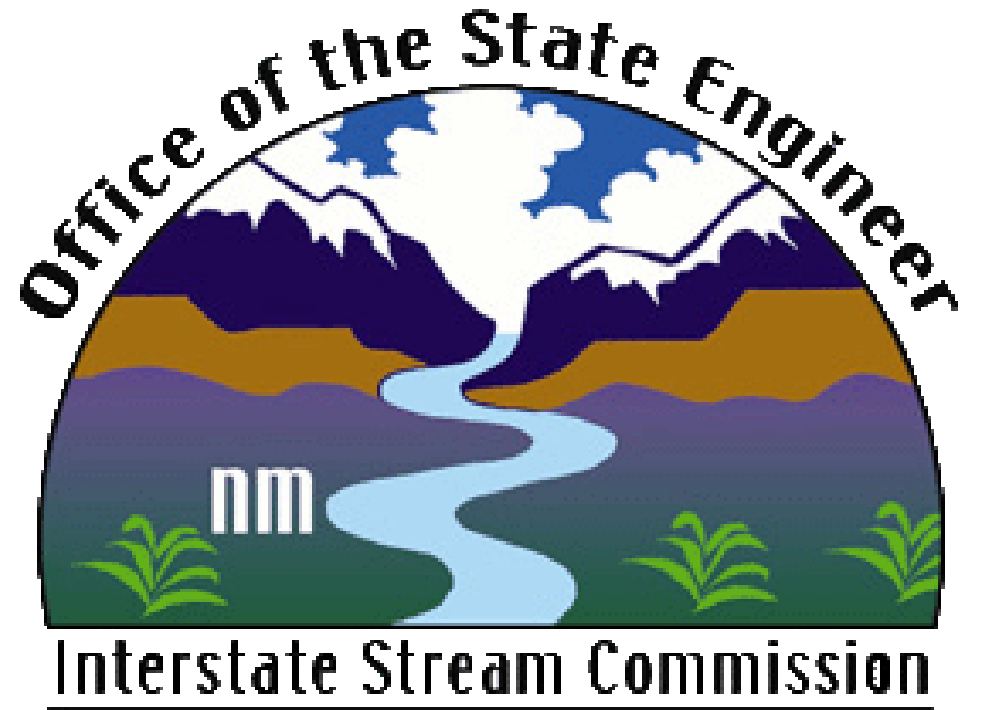
10.8.2026 Cerrillos Open House

State Regulation: Well Metering Requirements

NM Office of the State Engineer (OSE) requires well owners to install totalizing well meters and report regularly.

"Meter reporting for domestic or livestock well usage shall be submitted to the OSE, in writing, on a quarterly basis for the calendar year on or before the 10th day of January, April, July and October for the preceding 3 months."

This effort has not been adequately implemented or enforced, leading to some well owners to overdraw water or never report their water usage.



What is it?

Domestic Well Use Metering Program

Established in 2002 and developed to ensure the sustainable use of groundwater resources throughout the County.

1. Water Resources are limited
2. Droughts have demonstrated how vulnerable water resources are to depletion
3. It is critical to conserve water year-round



What is it?

Establishing Legislation

(Then) Ord. No. 2002-013; 2004-007

Sustainable Land Use Development Code

(Now) SLDC 2016 (§7.13.11.5)

Santa Fe County Strategic Plan

Implement domestic well metering and reporting

2019: Strategy 2.2.1

2022: Strategy 2.2.7

2025: Strategy 2.3.1

Purpose

- **Oversee compliance with ground water use restrictions**
- **Understand water usage in areas of potential expansion of the water utility**
- **Ensure sustainable water resources for our community, fire protection, and preservation of traditional land use.**

What is it?

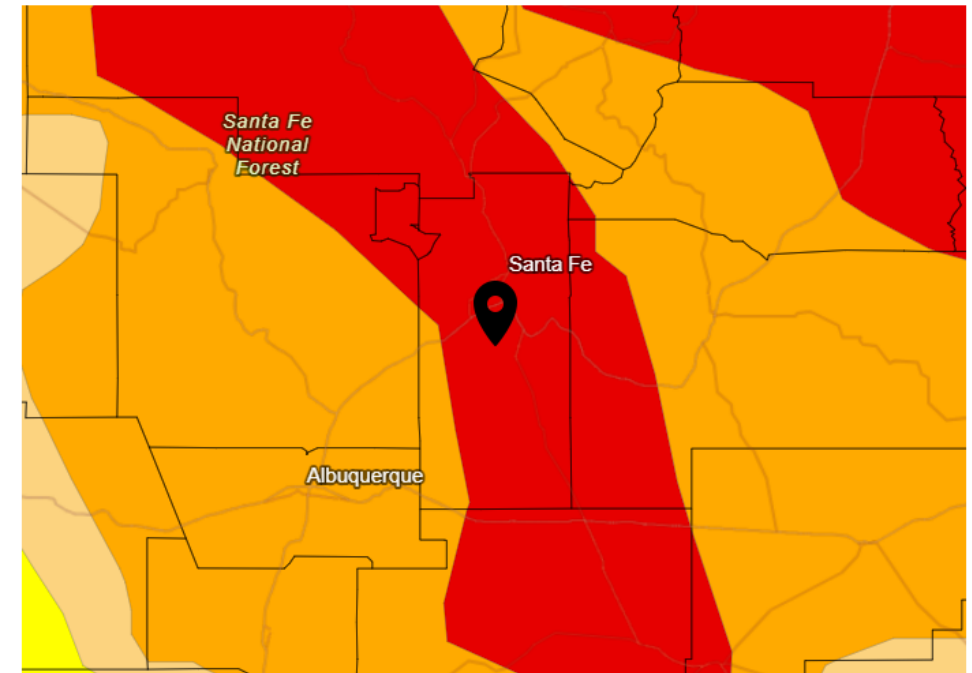
1. Property owners using a private well must install an approved flow meter and will be registered into the program during the development permit review process.
2. Registered well owners are required to submit a meter reading annually, no later than April 30th
3. OSE meter reading submissions can be submitted instead of using the County meter reading submission portal.
4. Water meters are required to be tested every 10 years for accuracy.

Why is it in place?

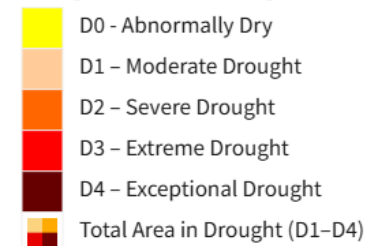
Ensure sustainable water resources for the future:

- Prevent overuse and abuse of groundwater resources.
- Better understand our groundwater resources and use collected data to support future water policy decisions.

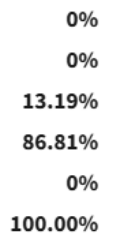
U.S. Drought Monitor



Drought & Dryness Categories



% of Santa Fe County



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA
Data Valid: 09/29/26

Drought.gov

Who will it affect?

All property owners utilizing a domestic well

however

Only required to register when applying for a development permit

No new information will be required from participants that isn't already required by OSE or existing County applications

Implementing Easy Reporting

- Developing an accessible public reporting portal
- Managed via secure, cloud-based database
- Ensure annual program communication to participants

TASK ITEM	DURATION
Phase 1 – Perform Needs Assessment/Analysis	3 weeks
Phase 2 – Conceptual Design and Screens	4 weeks
Phase 3 – Development Phase	12 weeks
Phase 4 - Testing	3 weeks
Phase 5 – Deployment	1 week

Additional Resources

Website

- Contact information
- FAQ
- Groundwater Informational Resources
-
- Educational Materials
- "How to Read Your Well Meter" video *(in development)*

Notice: The Domestic Well Use Metering Program is being revised and meter readings are not currently being collected. Additional information will be shared once digital reporting has been implemented (*expected Fall 2026*).

Domestic Well Use Metering Program

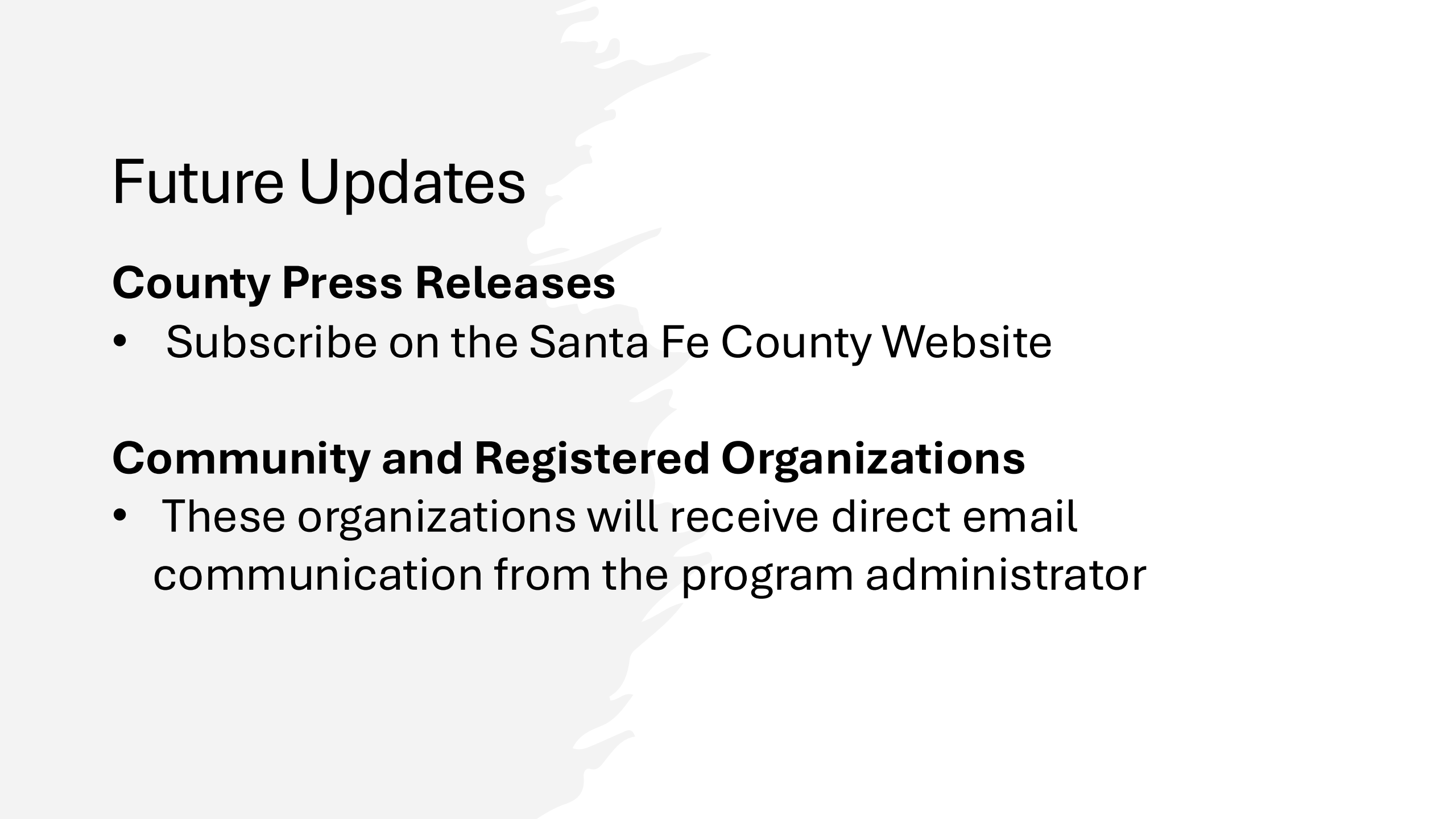
Santa Fe County is dedicated to conserving water resources through effective resource management policy and programming. Per the [Sustainable Land Development Code section 7.13.11.5](#), all developments utilizing a well shall participate in the well use metering program. This includes mandatory annual reporting of well meter readings for registered well users. Please use the portal below to enter your well meter readings.

Well meter readings are due January 1st and are to be submitted no later than April 30th. Well meters are required to be tested for accuracy every ten(10) years and replaced, if necessary.

[Submit Your Meter Reading](#)

Well users required to submit meter readings for this program that already report their meter readings to the Office of the State Engineer may submit those readings instead of submitting via the portal above. Please submit those documents via the email below.





Future Updates

County Press Releases

- Subscribe on the Santa Fe County Website

Community and Registered Organizations

- These organizations will receive direct email communication from the program administrator

Future Updates

Upcoming Open Houses

- Canda de los Alamos community meeting
- PBRWS October Meeting

BCC presentations

- November/December Update
- Rollout Presentation (early 2027)

A photograph of a desert landscape with mountains in the background and a water meter in the foreground. The water meter is a brown, cylindrical device with a grey electrical box attached to it. The background shows a dry, sandy area with sparse vegetation and a clear blue sky with some clouds.

Questions?

Michael J. W. Carr

Environmental Compliance Officer

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Services Div.

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