

# Irrigation Training and Research Center



California Polytechnic State University  
San Luis Obispo

# Flow Measurement Update

by Dr. Stuart Styles

26 January 2012

- Introduction
- USBR water management plan update
- “Accuracy” defined
- Devices
- Documentation requirements
- Other agencies and new guidelines
- Summary

# Flow Measurement Update

- **Introduction**
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Large Flume,  
Pressurized Equipment  
Test Area, and Control  
Canal

Sustainable Water  
Resources Building  
(Proposed)

Cal Poly  
Surveying and  
Animal Science  
Pasture

Drumm  
Reservoir

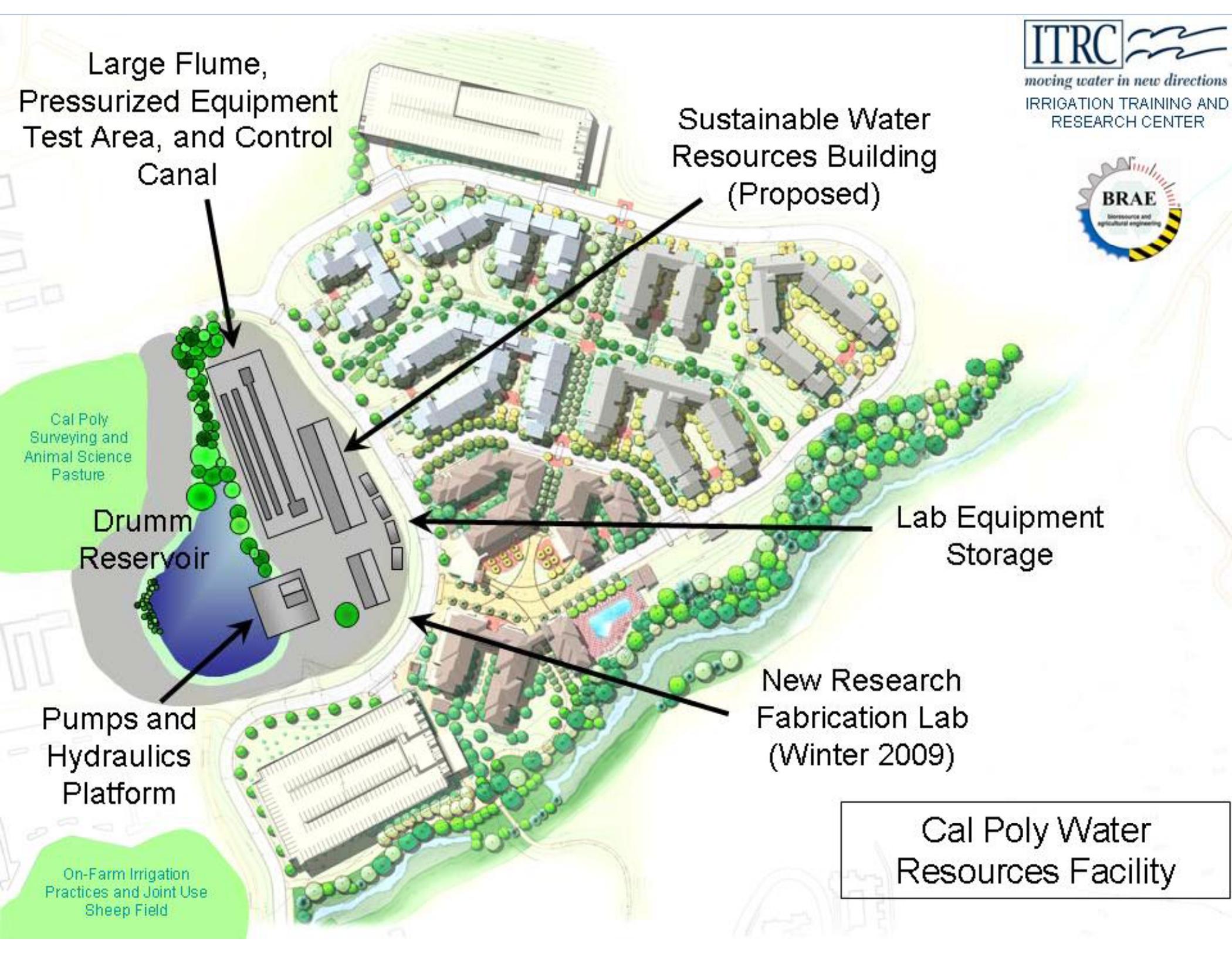
Lab Equipment  
Storage

Pumps and  
Hydraulics  
Platform

New Research  
Fabrication Lab  
(Winter 2009)

On-Farm Irrigation  
Practices and Joint Use  
Sheep Field

Cal Poly Water  
Resources Facility



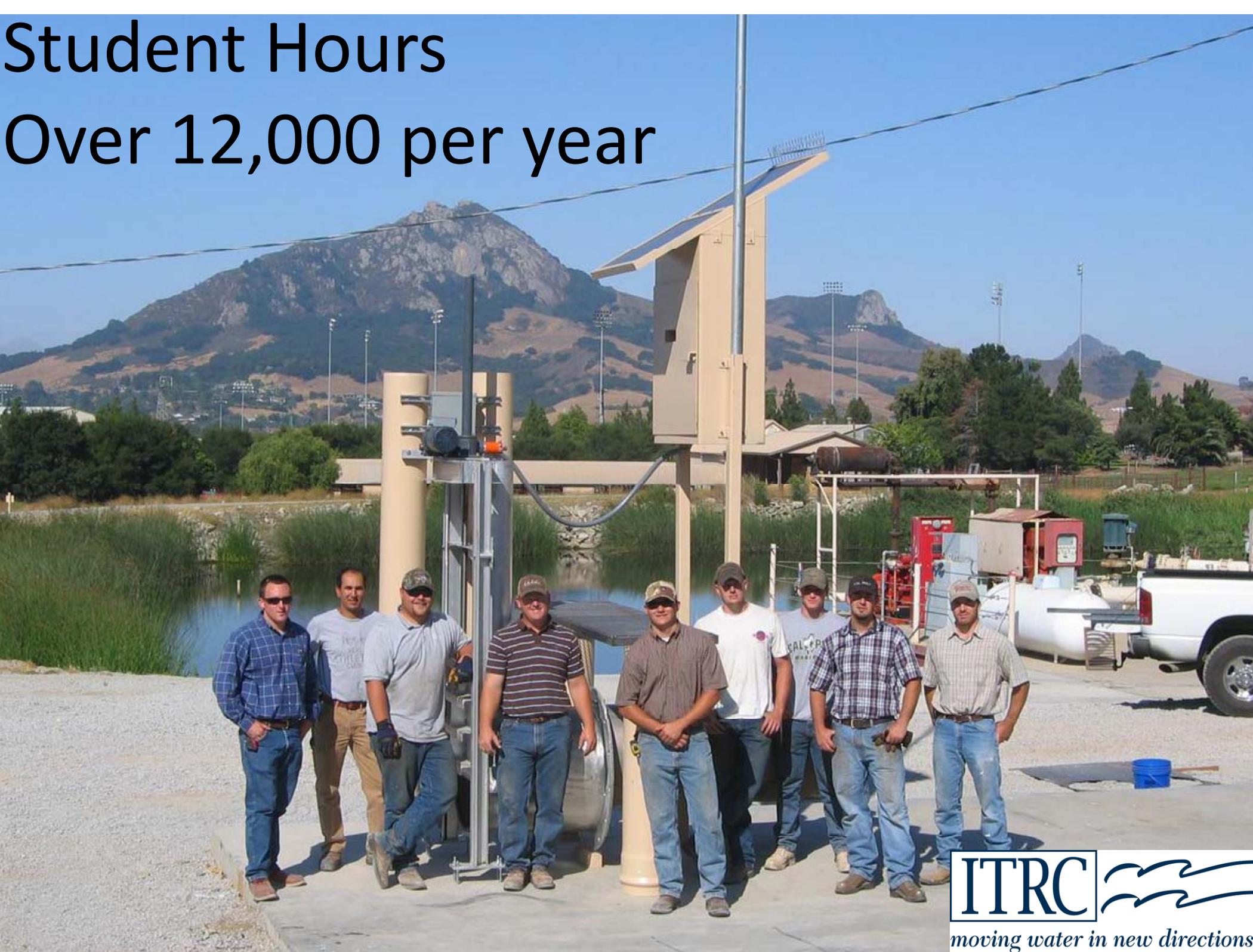
# Cal Poly Water Resource Facility



# New Hydraulic Equipment NIST Traceable Weigh Tank



# Student Hours Over 12,000 per year



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# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Water Conservation Standard Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans**

Reference:

[http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/documents/  
Water\\_mgmt/Working%20documents/2011%20Pr  
esentation%20for%20public.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/documents/Water_mgmt/Working%20documents/2011%20Presentation%20for%20public.pdf)



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# USBR – New Guidelines

- **Water measurement –documentation in support of verifying measurement accuracy (e.g. +/-6%) must be submitted**
- **Note: “Documentation is what is the new item. The +/-6% has been in place for 20+ years.**

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# Accuracy

The percent shall be calculated as:

$$100 \times (\text{measured value} - \text{actual value}) / \text{actual value}$$

Example: Metergate reading – 10.3 CFS

Current meter reading – 10.6 CFS

Flow Rate Accuracy =

$$100 \times (10.3 - 10.6) / 10.6 = -2.8\%$$

# Accuracy

Flow Rate Accuracy is not the same as Volumetric Accuracy

Volumetric Accuracy must take into account the **time** that water was delivered using one of 2 options:

- Propeller meters (or any meter with a totalizer)
- Any calibrated measurement device equipped to make flow rate measurements at frequent intervals



Gas Station 5-Gallon Accuracy  
 $\pm 0.5\%$

# ITRC Weigh Tank – Accuracy +/-0.1% NIST Traceable



## USBR: BMP Language

*Measure the volume of water delivered by the Contractor to each customer with devices that are operated and maintained to a reasonable degree of accuracy, under most conditions, to +/- 6 percent.*

# Accuracy

Potential Flow Rate Accuracy Assuming Proper Installation and Maintenance						
Device Category	Example Types	USBR - Lab (Flow Rate)	ILRI20 - Lab (Flow Rate)	Reference & Notes (See footnotes for links to references)	ITRC - Field (Flow rate)	Reference & Notes
<b>Pipelines</b>		<b>(%)</b>			<b>(%)</b>	
Propeller meters		2%	5%	USBR - Section 14-4, Pg. 14-12. ILRI20 -Table 3.1, Section 9.7. Must have at least 8-10 diameters upstream and 4 diameters downstream. Meters must be maintained and checked for accuracy at least every 5 years. See the link below from the USBR-MPR for the maintenance and protocol requirements. ITRC note: It is possible to place customized flow conditioning upstream that minimizes errors due to rotating flow and non-symmetric flow. Propeller meters are sensitive to trash accumulation. Some models have serious bearing problems with sand/silt.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
Magnetic meters						
	Full bore	1%	---	USBR - Section 14-6, Pg. 14-18. Recommended to have at least 2 diameters upstream and 1 diameter downstream. Major differences between manufacturers. Some have built-in flow conditioning. One of the most accurate flow measurement devices.	3%	Estimated by ITRC
	Insert	---	---	ITRC notes: Insert meters must have an excellent straight section of pipe upstream and downstream; accuracy is limited. Not recommended for turnouts.	?	
<b>Acoustic Meters</b>						
	Transit-Time	2%	---	USBR - Section 11-1, Pg. 11-3. ITRC notes: Results with "dry" transducers can be variable.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
	Doppler	2%	---	USBR - Section 11-8, Pg. 11-15. Highly dependent on the canal section to obtain good accuracy. ITRC note: There are huge differences in quality among the manufacturers. Some are excellent; some are very undependable and have been abandoned by irrigation districts.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
<b>Differential head meters</b>						
	Venturi	1%	---	USBR - Section 14-3	5%	Estimated by ITRC
	Orifice	1%	---	USBR - Section 14-3. ITRC notes: Few orifice meters used in agricultural irrigation turnouts because of narrow range of flow rate accuracy, head loss, and difficulty in measuring the difference in head. Not recommended for turnouts	?	
Electricity KWH meter				ITRC notes: Not recommended. Some users will use a flow rate from a pump test and extrapolate a value for AF/KWH. This approach is very inaccurate.	50+%	Estimated by ITRC
<b>Open Channel</b>						
Metergates		2.5%	6%	USBR - Section 9-14, Pg. 9-23. ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 8.6. Main issue is that the standard conditions used to create the flow tables must be met. In addition, the following specific conditions must be met: "Zero" height is when the gate starts to leak and must be verified for each gate. Always pull up on shaft to take a reading. Keep the bottom of the gate entrance clean/clear to maintain a constant flow characteristic. A water level in the downstream pool is not same as a properly set stilling well 12-in behind the gate. Eddies or vortexing at the gate entrance will generally cause an overestimation of the flow rate. The accuracy is poor if the gate is more than 70% open. If installed according to a manufacturer's specifications, with a well-calibrated chart provided by the manufacturer, results can be good.	5%	Estimated by ITRC

# Accuracy

Calibrated slide or sluice gates		2%	---	Estimated by ITRC. ITRC notes: Numerous conditions for calibration must be met, as with metergates. Standard textbook calibrations are rarely satisfactory. Calibration must correspond to the specific dimensions and inlet/outlet conditions. Must constantly be in either free flow or submerged conditions.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
Constant Head Orifice		3%	7%	USBR - Section 9-11-b, Pg. 9-14. ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 8.3. The poor accuracy reported by ILRI20 was based on information from the 1980s, and because of inherent dislike of CHOs that were inappropriately used in foreign projects. The 2nd gate simply maintains a submerged condition on the first gate. Same accuracy as calibrated slide or sluice gates.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
<b>Weirs</b>						
	Rectangular	1%	1%	USBR - Section 7-17. ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 5.1. ITRC notes: In general, there is insufficient head in California for widespread usage of these.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
	V-notch	1%	1%	USBR - Section 7-17; Section 7-11, Pg. 7-20. ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 5.2. ITRC notes: In general, there is insufficient head in California for widespread usage of these.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
	Cipoletti	1%	5%	USBR - Section 7-17. ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 5.3. ITRC notes: In general, there is insufficient head in California for widespread usage of these.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
<b>Acoustic Meters</b>						
	Transit Time	2%	---	USBR - Section 11-1, Pg. 11-3. Must be maintained and field verified weekly. ITRC note: Generally not applicable to turnouts.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
	Doppler	2%	---	USBR - Section 11-8, Pg. 11-15. Highly dependent on the canal section to obtain good accuracy. ITRC note: There are huge differences in quality among the manufacturers. Some are excellent; some are very undependable and have been abandoned by irrigation districts.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
	Doppler with control section	---	---	New structure design by ITRC. Uses a structure to straighten the stream lines in combination with an uplooking Doppler. <a href="http://cedb.asce.org/cgi/WWWdisplay.cgi?267867">http://cedb.asce.org/cgi/WWWdisplay.cgi?267867</a> . With a high quality of Doppler, this can be an excellent technique.	3%	Estimated by ITRC
<b>Flumes</b>						
	Parshall	2%	3%	USBR - Section 8.10, Pg. 8-21. Not recommended by USBR for new installations (Pg. 8-40). ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 7.4.	5%	Estimated by ITRC
	Replogle Flumes, aka "Ramp flume", "broadcrested weir"	2%	3%	USBR - Section 8.8.a, Pg. 8-21. ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 7.1. ITRC notes: These can be excellent if designed and maintained properly. Very sensitive to incorrect design, not using as-built dimension in rating tables, incorrect positioning of "zero" on staff gauge, and poor downstream conditions that cause submergence at high or low flows. Nevertheless, can be excellent in the correct situation.	3%	Estimated by ITRC
	Cutthroat flumes	-	-	ITRC note: Not recommended. Although they received considerable attention in Colorado, subsequent work indicates they have poor accuracy.		
Radial gate		---	5%	USBR - Section 9.13. Reported as complex to evaluate. ILRI20 - Table 3.1, Section 8.4. Rarely if ever used for turnouts.	5%	Estimated by ITRC

#### **USBR Reference (9mB):**

[http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hydraulics\\_lab/pubs/wmm/wmm.html](http://www.usbr.gov/pmts/hydraulics_lab/pubs/wmm/wmm.html)  
Water Measurement Manual, A Water Resources Technical Publication\  
US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Third Edition - 2001

#### **ILRI 20 Reference (18.6 mB):**

<http://content.alterra.wur.nl/Internet/webdocs/ilri-publicaties/publicaties/Pub20/pub20.pdf>  
Discharge Measurement Structures (third edition), 1976/1989.

**Note: Most of the accuracy values are from Table 3.1 - Column 14**

#### **USBR-MPR Maintenance and Protocol Requirements for Flow Rate Measurement:**

[http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/documents/Water\\_mgmt/Planner/2008%20%289%29%20Calibration%20and%20Measurement.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/watershare/documents/Water_mgmt/Planner/2008%20%289%29%20Calibration%20and%20Measurement.pdf)

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# USBR Turnout Devices

## Category I

The first category includes devices with totalizers that measure volume. These devices might measure velocity, flow rate or volume directly. All of these devices will provide a direct volumetric reading. The devices in Category I include:

- Propeller meters

- Venturi meters with flow recorders

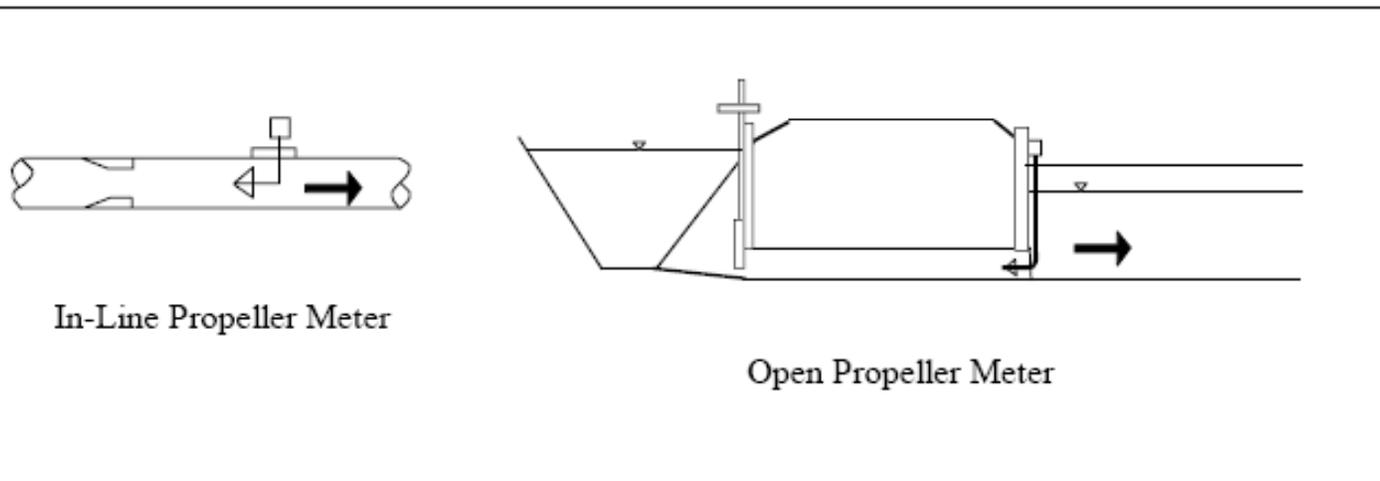
- Magnetic meters

- Acoustic meters

These have a high level of accuracy with proper installation and periodic maintenance and calibration.

**DISCLAIMER:** Reference to any specific process, product or service by manufacturer, trade name, trademark or otherwise does not necessarily imply endorsement or recommendation of use by either California Polytechnic State University, the Irrigation Training and Research Center, the United States Bureau of Reclamation or any other party mentioned in this document. No party makes any warranty, express or implied and assumes no legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any apparatus, product, process or data described previously.

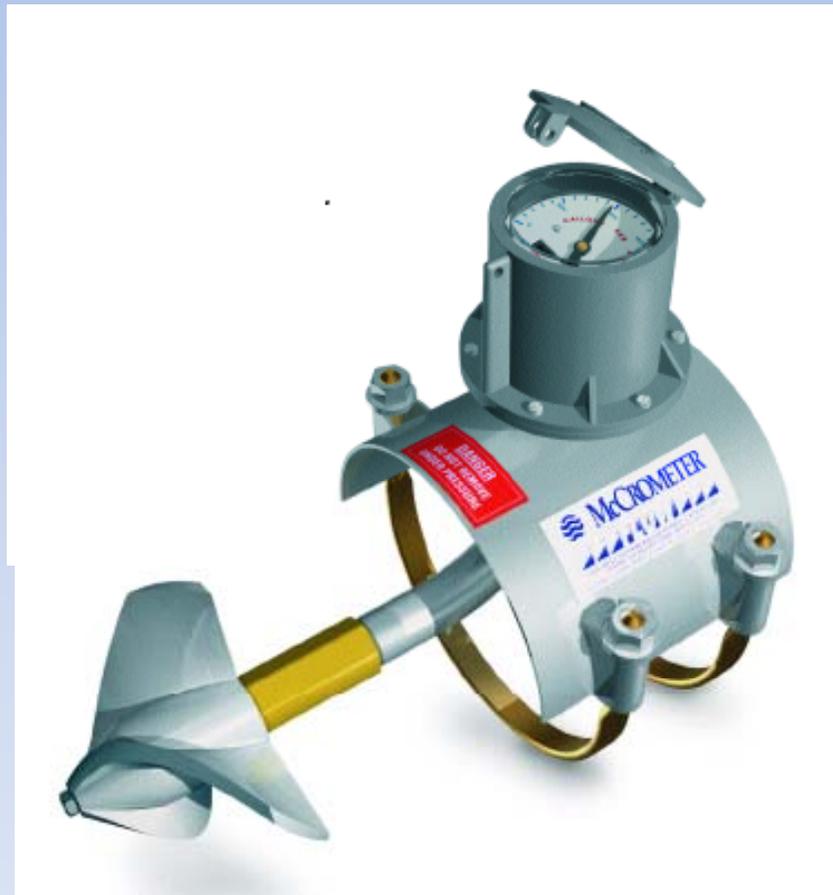
# Traditional Flow Measurement Device for Pipelines: Propeller Meters



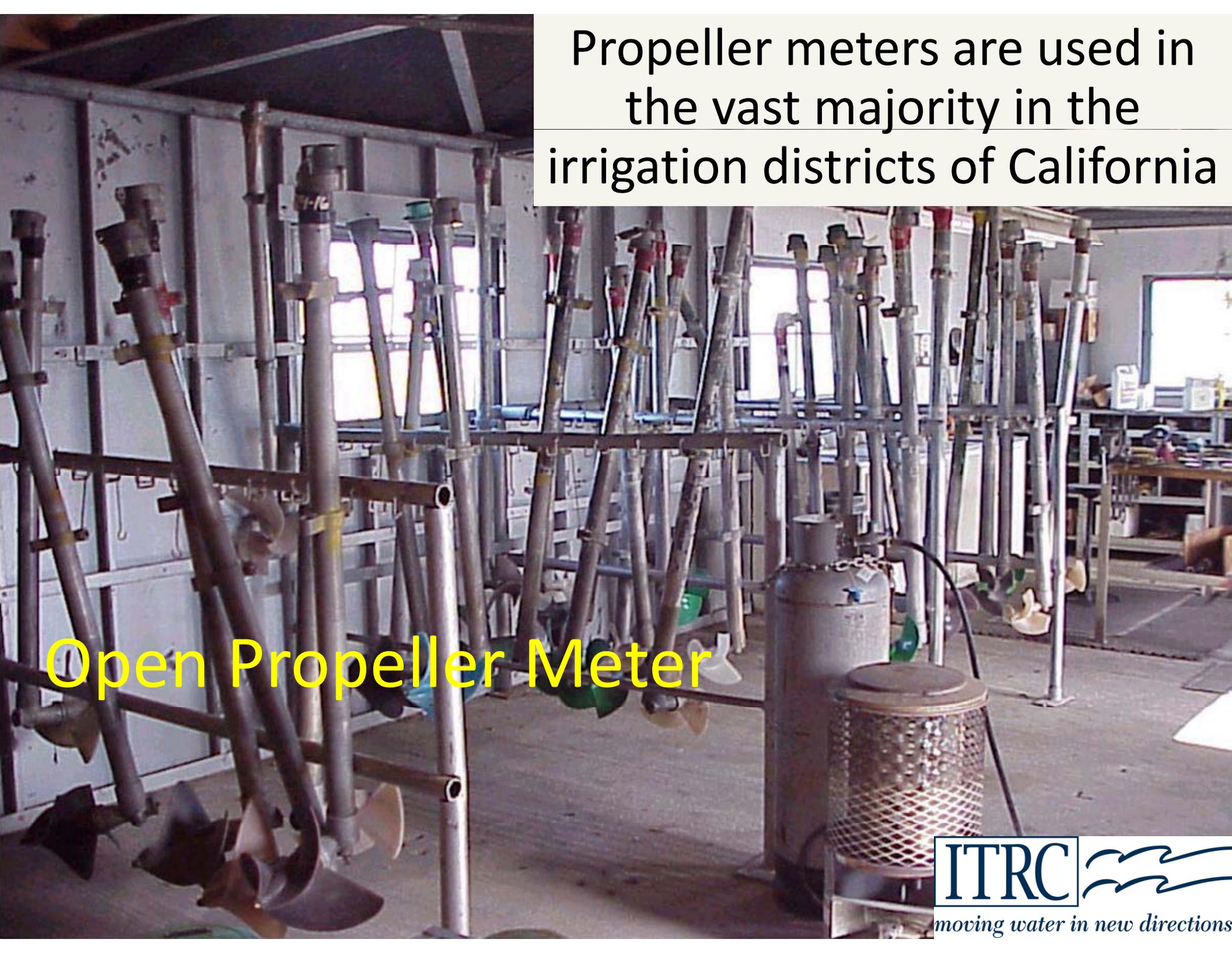
# Propeller Meters

- Advantages
  - Easy to use
  - Relatively low cost
- Disadvantages
  - Sensitive to plugging
  - Sensitive to turbulence
  - Inaccurate at low velocity (less than 1 fps)

# Most popular Saddle-type Propeller Meter



Propeller meters are used in the vast majority in the irrigation districts of California



Open Propeller Meter

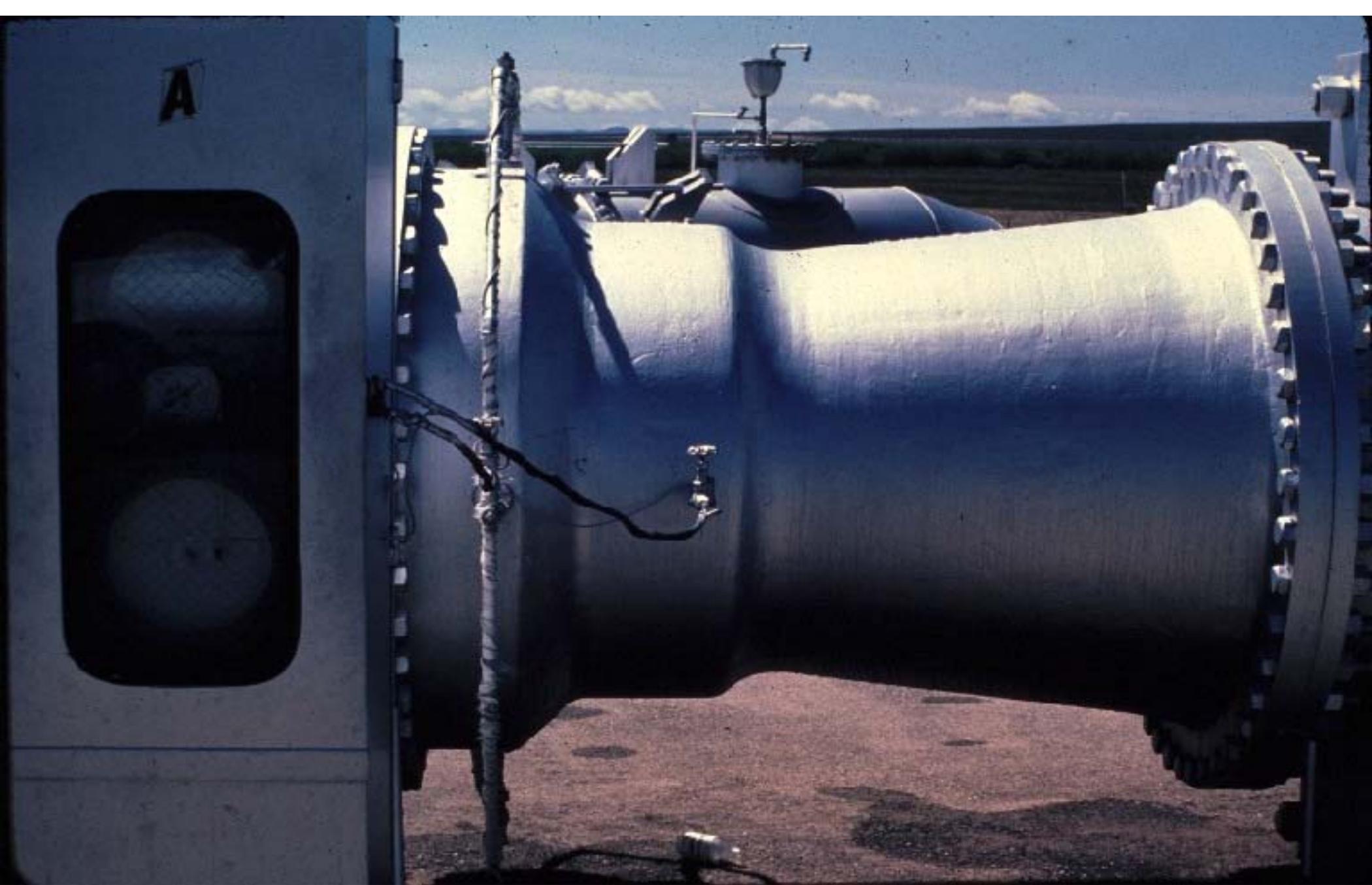


# Propeller Meter with weir box

Cordua ID

# Trash Problem on a Open Propeller Meter





# Venturi Meter

# TCCA – Venturi Meters



# Magmeters

- Various sizes available
- Range up to 100:1
- Accurate (+/- .5%)

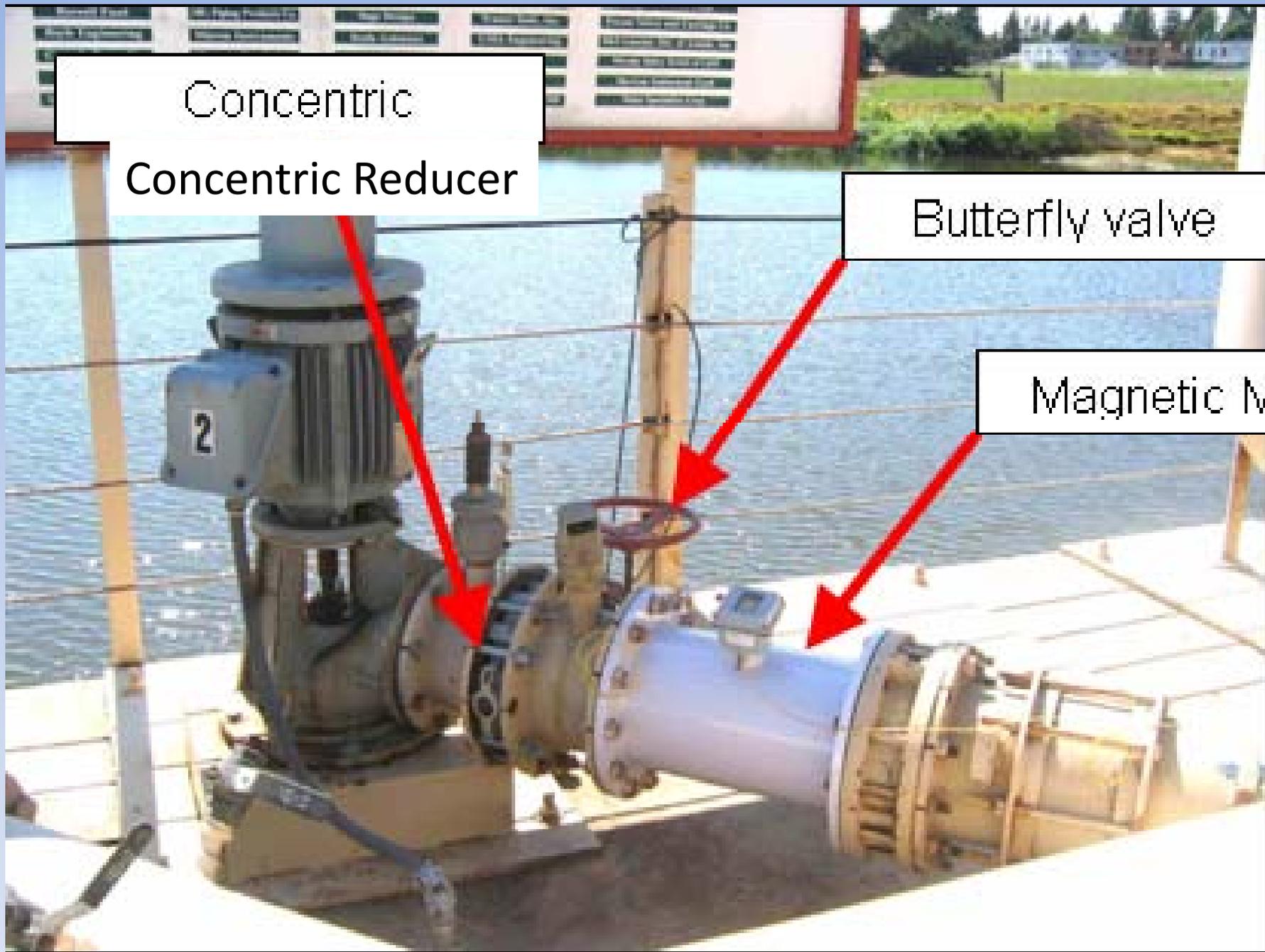


# Advantages of Magmeters

- No moving parts
- Good for highly erosive and corrosive fluids
- Not impacted by sand, sediment, algae



Full Bore Magmeter



Concentric  
Concentric Reducer

Butterfly valve

Magnetic Meter

ITRC Testing in Poor  
Hydraulic Conditions

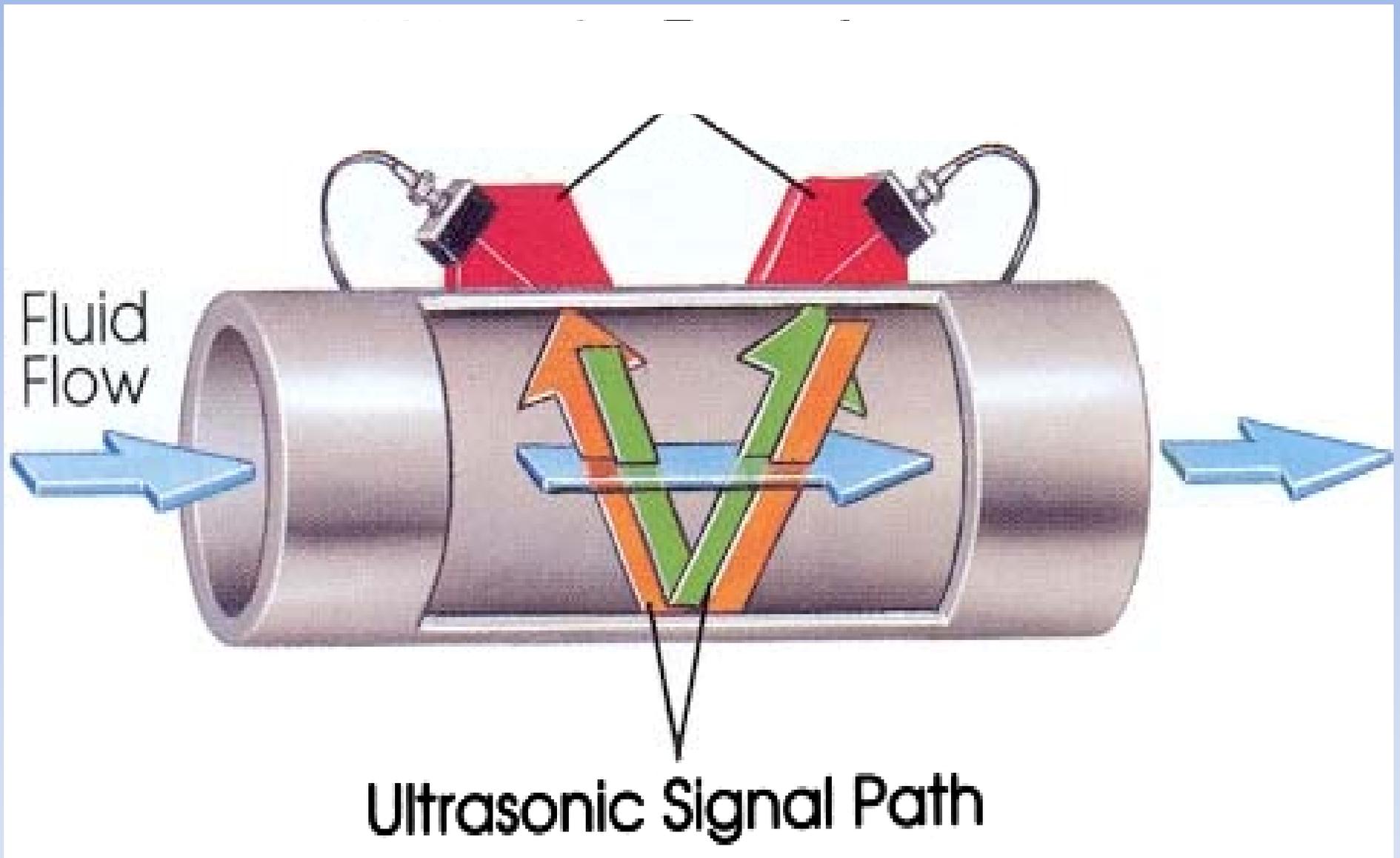


## Magnetic meters in Patterson Irrigation District

# Acoustic Meters

- Transit Time
- Doppler

# Transit Time Acoustic Meter





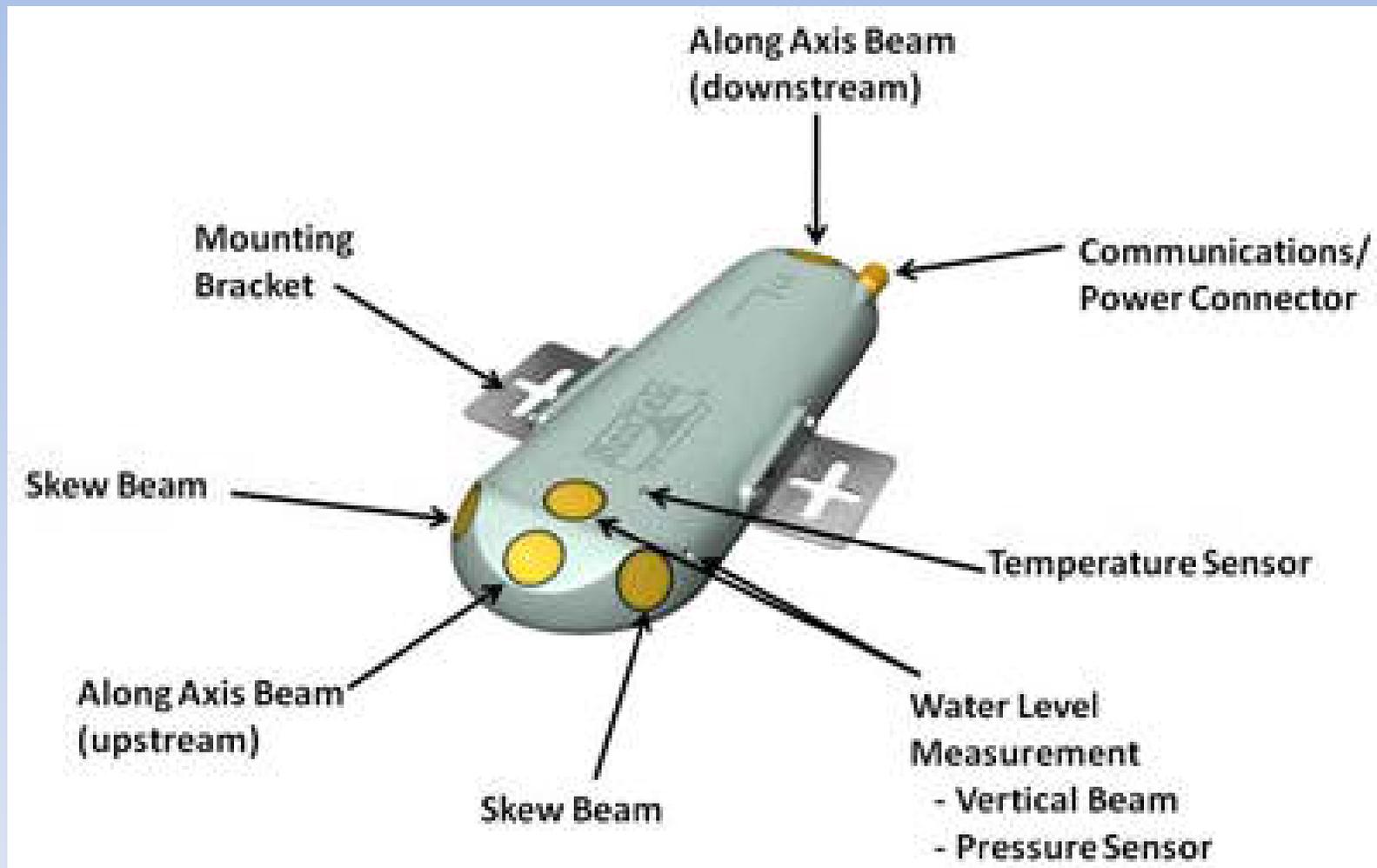
RD108

Transit Time Acoustic Meter

# TCCA, DEID – Sontek SW Doppler Meter



# New Sontek IQ Doppler Meter





# Trash Problems on Dopplers

# USBR Turnout Measurement

## Category II

The second category involves devices used for open channels. The second category includes:

1. Standard flow measurement devices that measure flow rate and also require accurate measurements (hourly or more frequently) of water level or,
2. The same standard devices combined with excellent canal water level control using positive means such as flap gates, long-crested weirs, or properly designed PLC-controlled water level control gates.

# Weirs



# Cipolletti Weir

# TCID - Rectangular Weir





RD 1004 - ITRC Weir Stick



# Replogle Flumes



Turlock Irrigation District  
2,100 CFS

# Firebaugh Canal Water District 100 CFS – Redwood Flume





# Westlands Water District

## Small Flumes

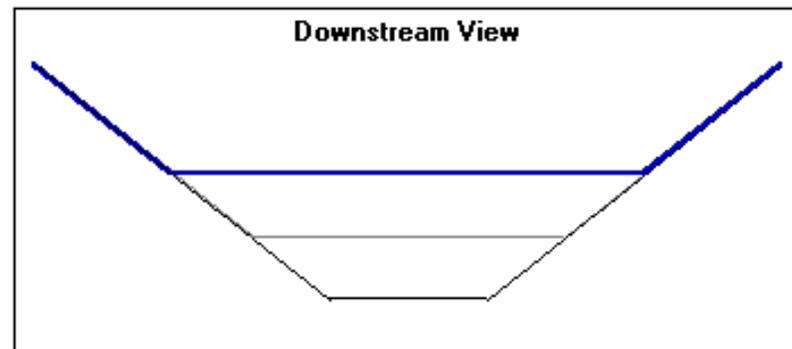
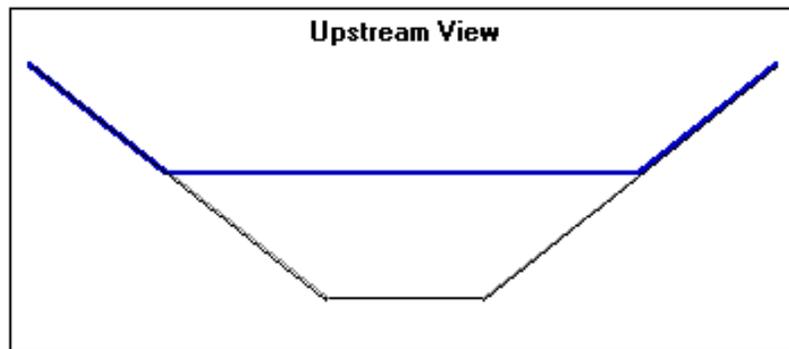
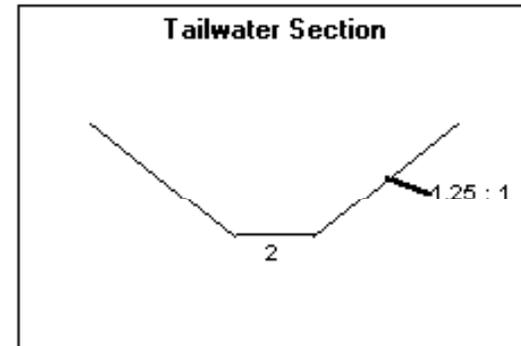
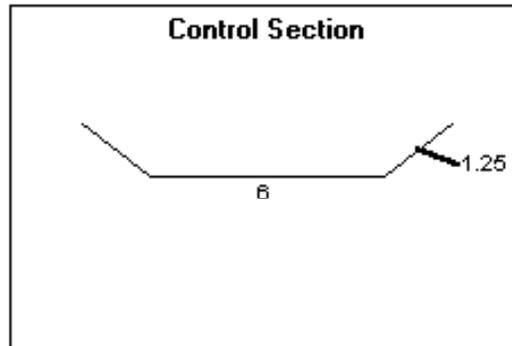
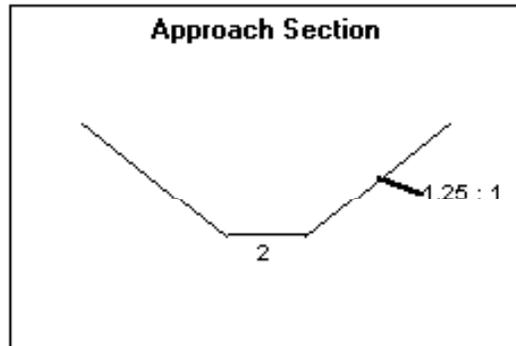
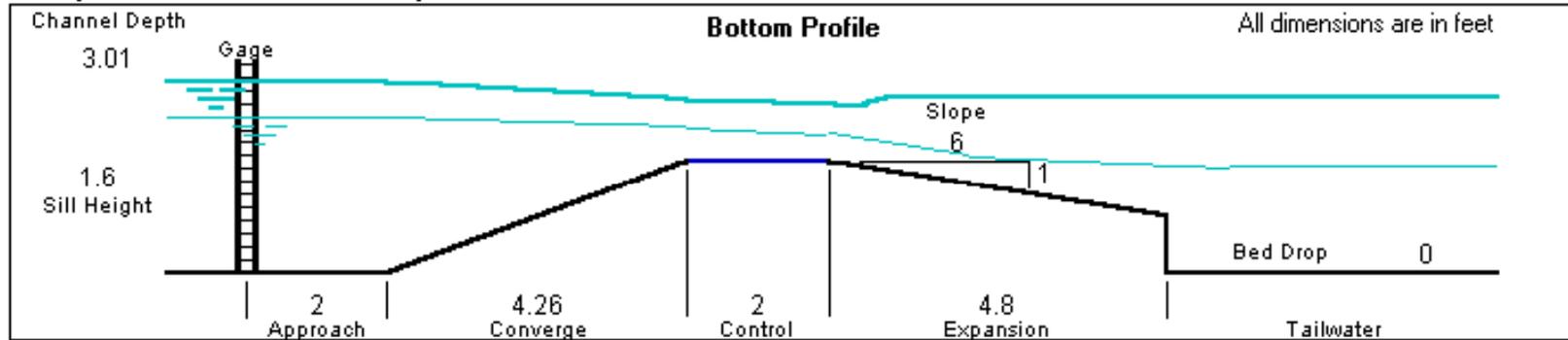


# WinFlume USBR-Denver

### New flume at S5 Heading - Revision 24

C:\Program Files\WinFlume\A-T27 Design.Flm

3/1/2000 8:50:53 PM





yuma, az

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Replogle Flume at  
Gila Gravity Main Canal

More...



Replogle Flume at  
Gila Gravity Main Canal

# New Device by ITRC

## Subcritical Contraction with Doppler



# USBR Turnout Measurement

## Category III

The third category includes non-standard, individually calibrated flow measurement devices. These are often special measurement devices developed by an irrigation project. Typically, there are no published standard dimensions or flow tables for such devices.

Requirements for acceptability would include:

- Consistent dimensions and installations
- Accurate determination of delivery time
- Local calibration and a verification of accuracy, based on a representative sample number of devices measured over time (see guidelines later in this document)
- A proposed schedule for maintenance and calibration

# USBR Turnout Measurement

## Category III

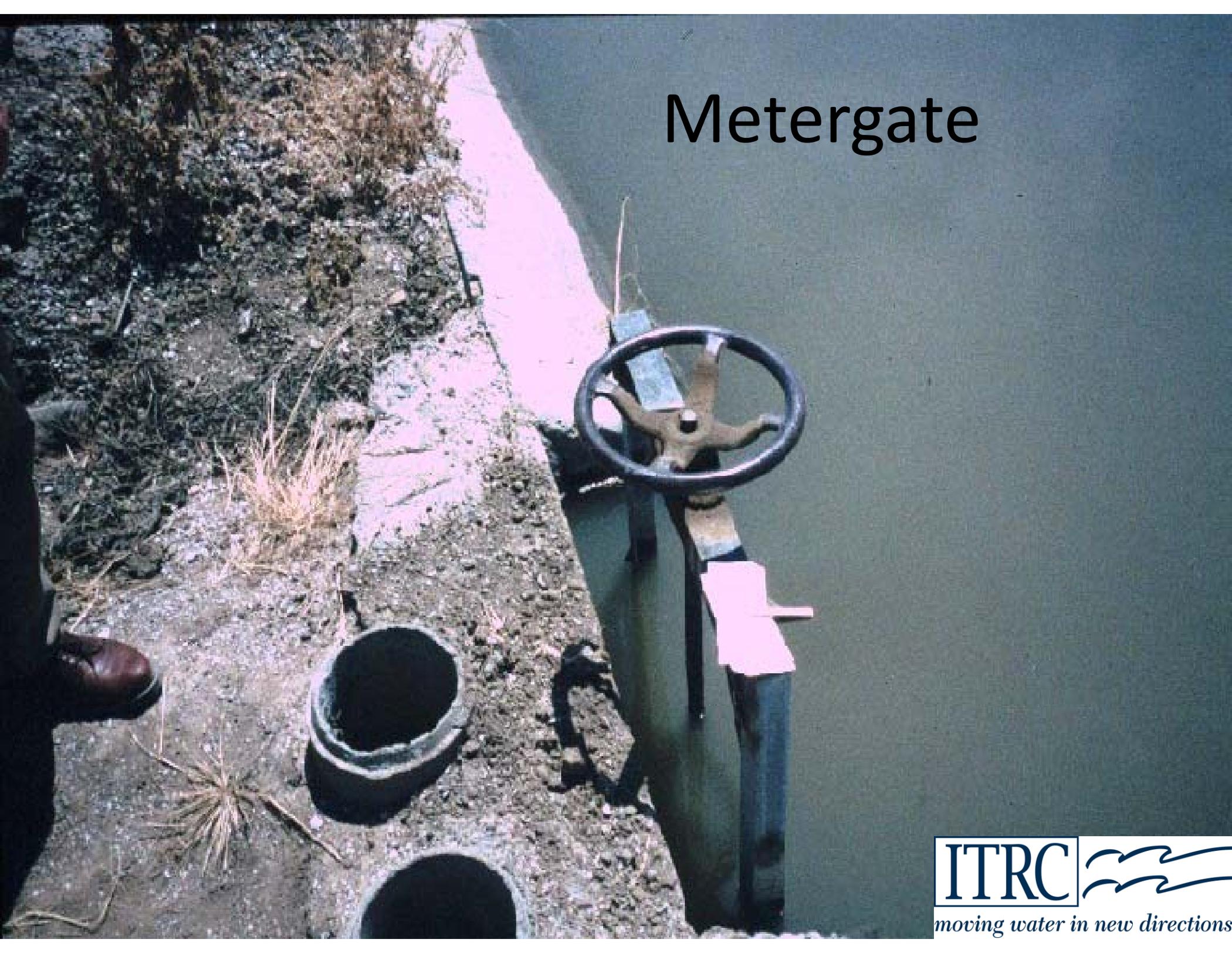
Devices in this category also require:

- Accurate measurements of water level (taken hourly or more frequently), or
- Excellent water level control using positive means such as flap gates, long-crested weirs, or properly designed PLC-controlled water level control gates, along with delivery time to determine volumes, or
- Adequate delivery pools for accurate deliveries (demonstrated with a verification procedure)

This category also includes calibrated pumps in cases where the suction-side water level fluctuation is small when compared to the total lift (+/- 5 percent) and the discharge pressure does not change with time.

# Metergate

# Metergate



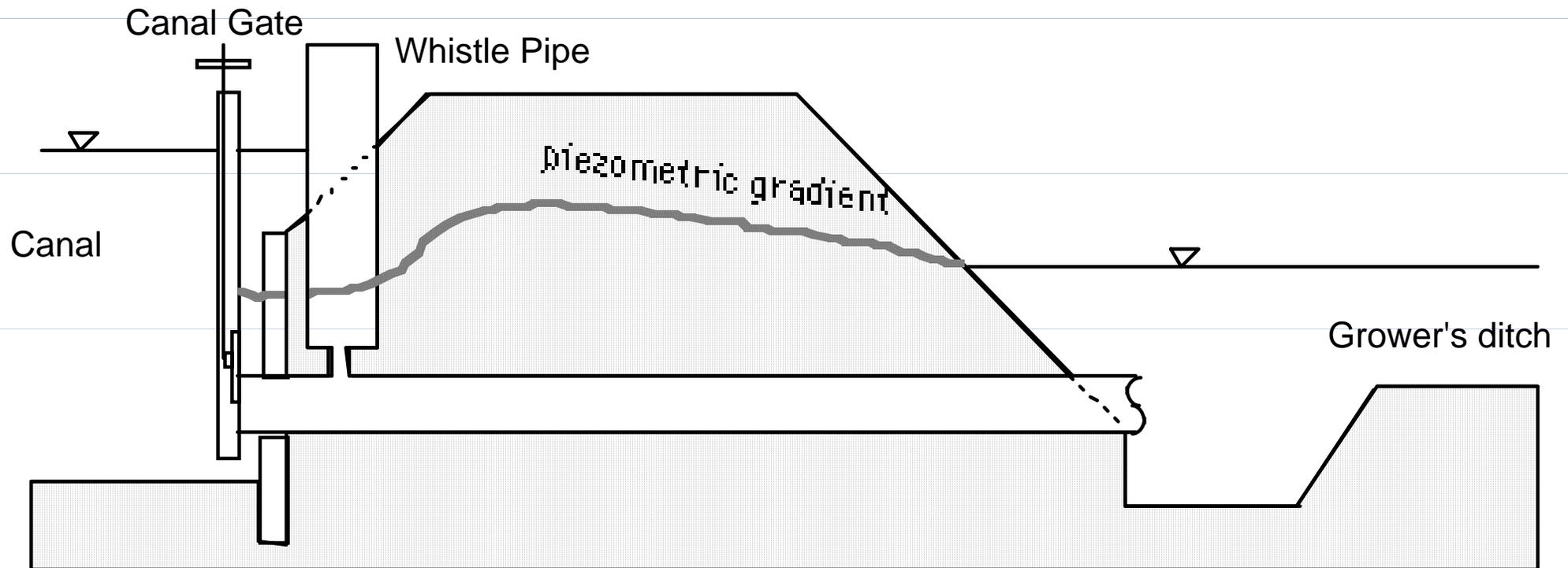
# Metergate





Metergate

# Metergate



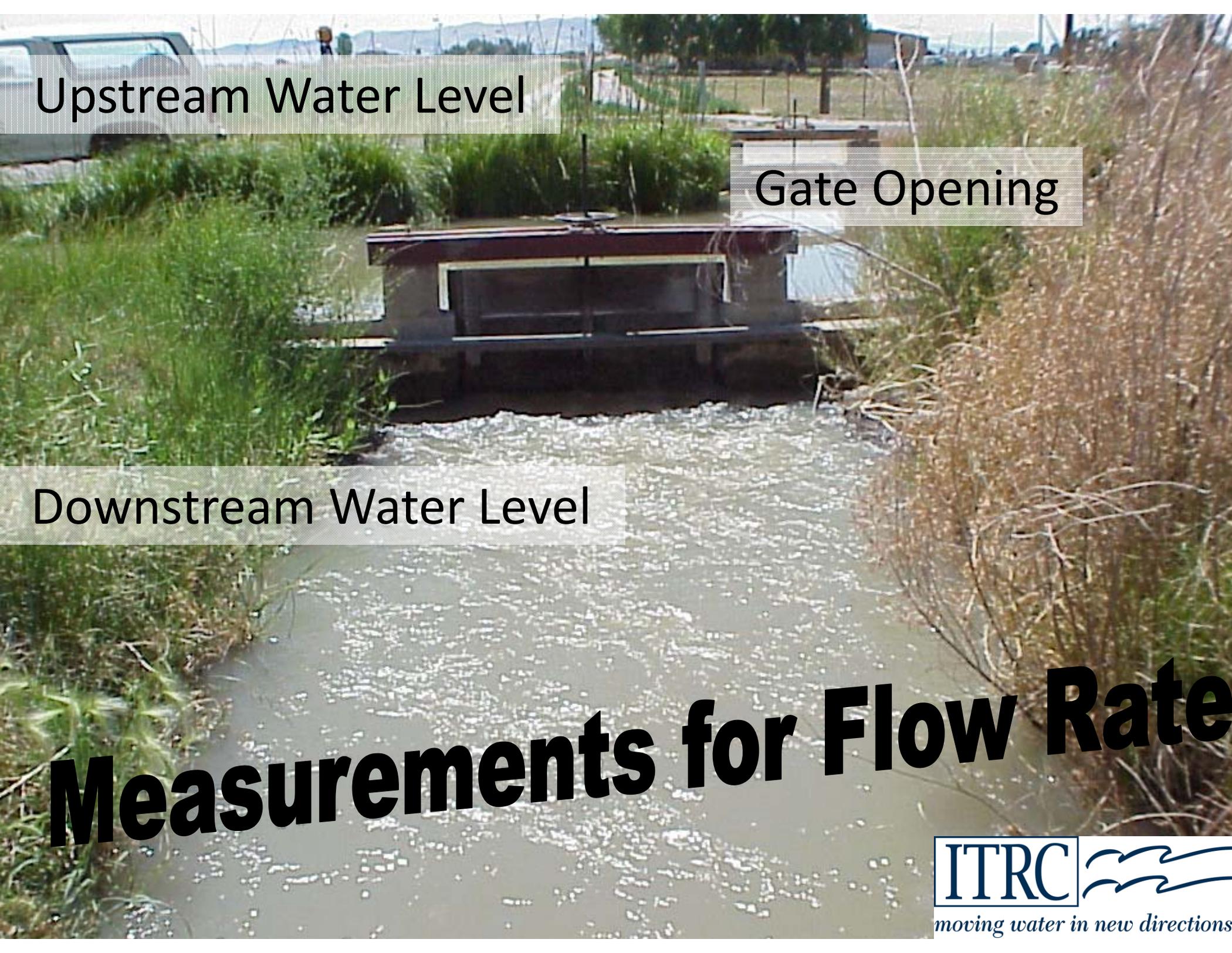
Key:

Location of the differential head measurement

# 8" Armco Metergate - Model 101

Head (mm)	Net Gate Opening (mm)														
	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200
30	0.33	0.38	0.42	0.46	0.49	0.52	0.56	0.59	0.61	0.63	0.65	0.67	0.68	0.69	0.69
35	0.36	0.41	0.45	0.49	0.53	0.56	0.61	0.64	0.66	0.68	0.70	0.72	0.74	0.75	0.75
40	0.38	0.43	0.48	0.52	0.57	0.60	0.65	0.69	0.71	0.73	0.76	0.78	0.79	0.80	0.80
45	0.40	0.46	0.51	0.55	0.60	0.64	0.69	0.73	0.76	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.84	0.84	0.85
50	0.42	0.48	0.53	0.58	0.63	0.67	0.72	0.76	0.79	0.82	0.84	0.86	0.88	0.89	0.90
55	0.43	0.49	0.55	0.60	0.65	0.70	0.75	0.80	0.83	0.86	0.88	0.91	0.93	0.94	0.95
60	0.45	0.51	0.57	0.63	0.68	0.72	0.78	0.83	0.86	0.89	0.92	0.95	0.97	0.98	0.99
65	0.47	0.54	0.60	0.65	0.71	0.75	0.81	0.87	0.90	0.93	0.96	0.99	1.01	1.02	1.03
70	0.49	0.56	0.62	0.67	0.73	0.78	0.84	0.89	0.93	0.96	1.00	1.02	1.04	1.06	1.07
75	0.50	0.57	0.64	0.69	0.75	0.81	0.87	0.92	0.96	1.00	1.03	1.06	1.08	1.10	1.11
80	0.52	0.59	0.65	0.71	0.77	0.83	0.89	0.95	1.00	1.03	1.07	1.10	1.12	1.13	1.14
85	0.53	0.61	0.67	0.74	0.80	0.85	0.92	0.98	1.03	1.07	1.10	1.13	1.15	1.17	1.18
90	0.55	0.62	0.69	0.76	0.82	0.88	0.95	1.01	1.06	1.10	1.13	1.16	1.19	1.21	1.22
95	0.56	0.64	0.71	0.78	0.84	0.90	0.97	1.03	1.08	1.13	1.16	1.19	1.22	1.24	1.25
100	0.57	0.65	0.73	0.79	0.86	0.92	0.99	1.06	1.11	1.16	1.19	1.23	1.25	1.27	1.28
105	0.58	0.67	0.75	0.81	0.88	0.95	1.02	1.08	1.14	1.19	1.23	1.26	1.29	1.31	1.32
110	0.60	0.68	0.76	0.83	0.90	0.97	1.04	1.11	1.16	1.22	1.26	1.29	1.32	1.34	1.35
115	0.61	0.70	0.78	0.85	0.92	0.99	1.06	1.13	1.19	1.24	1.28	1.32	1.35	1.37	1.38
120	0.62	0.71	0.79	0.86	0.94	1.01	1.08	1.16	1.22	1.27	1.32	1.35	1.38	1.40	1.41
125	0.63	0.72	0.80	0.88	0.95	1.03	1.11	1.18	1.24	1.30	1.34	1.38	1.41	1.43	1.44
130	0.65	0.73	0.82	0.89	0.97	1.04	1.13	1.20	1.27	1.32	1.37	1.41	1.44	1.46	1.47
135	0.66	0.75	0.83	0.91	0.99	1.06	1.15	1.22	1.29	1.34	1.39	1.43	1.47	1.49	1.51
140	0.67	0.76	0.84	0.92	1.00	1.08	1.17	1.24	1.31	1.37	1.42	1.46	1.50	1.52	1.54
145	0.68	0.77	0.85	0.94	1.02	1.10	1.19	1.26	1.33	1.39	1.44	1.48	1.52	1.54	1.56
155	0.69	0.79	0.88	0.97	1.05	1.13	1.23	1.30	1.37	1.44	1.49	1.53	1.57	1.59	1.61
160	0.70	0.80	0.89	0.98	1.07	1.15	1.24	1.32	1.40	1.46	1.51	1.56	1.59	1.62	1.64
165	0.71	0.81	0.90	0.99	1.07	1.16	1.25	1.33	1.41	1.47	1.52	1.57	1.60	1.63	1.65
170	0.72	0.82	0.92	1.01	1.10	1.18	1.28	1.36	1.44	1.50	1.56	1.60	1.64	1.67	1.69
175	0.73	0.83	0.93	1.02	1.11	1.20	1.30	1.38	1.46	1.52	1.58	1.63	1.66	1.70	1.72
180	0.74	0.84	0.95	1.04	1.13	1.22	1.32	1.40	1.48	1.55	1.60	1.65	1.69	1.72	1.74
185	0.75	0.86	0.96	1.05	1.15	1.24	1.34	1.42	1.51	1.57	1.63	1.67	1.71	1.74	1.77
190	0.76	0.86	0.97	1.06	1.16	1.25	1.35	1.44	1.52	1.58	1.64	1.69	1.72	1.76	1.78
195	0.77	0.88	0.99	1.08	1.18	1.27	1.38	1.46	1.55	1.61	1.67	1.72	1.76	1.79	1.81
200	0.78	0.89	1.00	1.09	1.19	1.29	1.39	1.48	1.57	1.63	1.69	1.74	1.78	1.81	1.84
205	0.79	0.90	1.01	1.11	1.21	1.30	1.41	1.50	1.59	1.65	1.71	1.76	1.80	1.84	1.86
210	0.80	0.91	1.02	1.12	1.22	1.32	1.43	1.52	1.60	1.67	1.73	1.78	1.82	1.86	1.88
215	0.80	0.92	1.03	1.13	1.23	1.33	1.44	1.53	1.61	1.68	1.74	1.79	1.84	1.87	1.90
220	0.82	0.93	1.05	1.15	1.25	1.35	1.46	1.56	1.64	1.71	1.77	1.82	1.86	1.90	1.93
225	0.82	0.94	1.06	1.16	1.26	1.36	1.48	1.57	1.66	1.73	1.79	1.84	1.88	1.92	1.95
230	0.83	0.95	1.07	1.17	1.28	1.38	1.49	1.59	1.68	1.75	1.81	1.86	1.90	1.94	1.97
235	0.84	0.96	1.08	1.18	1.29	1.39	1.51	1.61	1.70	1.77	1.83	1.88	1.92	1.96	1.99
240	0.85	0.97	1.09	1.19	1.30	1.40	1.52	1.62	1.71	1.78	1.85	1.90	1.94	1.98	2.00

# Submerged Orifice



Upstream Water Level

Gate Opening

Downstream Water Level

**Measurements for Flow Rate**

# Submerged Orifice



# USBR Turnout Measurement

## Category IV

A fourth category includes using rough estimates of flow rate or volume, such as flow-rate estimates at check structures or the sum of siphon tubes (or other methods of measurement not specified here). These approaches are NOT acceptable since they do not provide a documented reasonable degree of accuracy.

# Flow Measurement Update

- Introduction
- USBR water management plan update
- “Accuracy” defined
- Devices
- **Documentation requirements**
- Other agencies and new guidelines
- Summary

# USBR – Documentation

## *1. Turnout calibration equations*

If all similar turnouts (such as meter gates of a specific size) use the same equation of discharge, provide a description of all such similar groups along with their discharge equations and calibration coefficients.

If turnouts have been individually calibrated, provide a list of turnouts and locations and the equations and various calibration coefficients that have been developed.

# USBR – Documentation

## *2. Standardization of inlet and valve conditions*

Provide photos of at least 10 devices of each of the same design showing verification that the inlet, valve placement, etc. conditions are the same within each group (e.g., if there are four different designs (not sizes), there would be four groups of photos, each group with 10 turnouts).

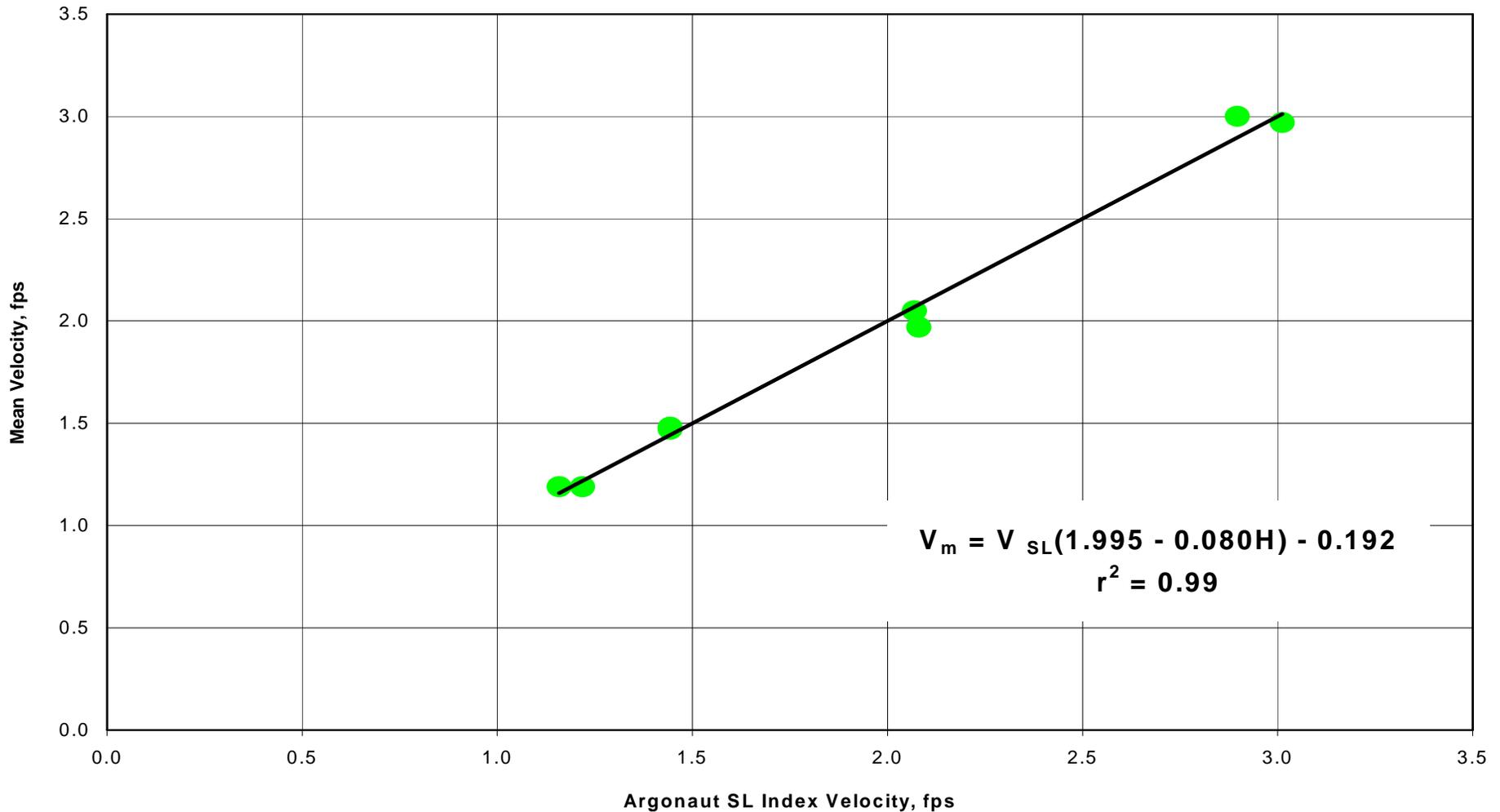
# USBR – Documentation

## *3. Procedures and equipment for flow rate verification*

Provide documentation of field procedures and equipment used to verify instantaneous flow rates for discharge equation calibration purposes, through at least 15 turnouts that span the range of possible designs and conditions of turnouts in the district. This verification procedure has to be conducted with accurate flow measurement verification equipment to avoid errors.

# Calibration

CRIT Main Canal



10 Points using multiple regression  
required for +/-5% accuracy

# Calibration

**Uncertainty Based on:  
1 Standard Deviation**

**“Excellent” means  $\leq 2\%$**

**“Good” means  $\leq 5\%$**

**“Fair” means  $\leq 8\%$**

**“Poor” means  $\geq 8\%$**

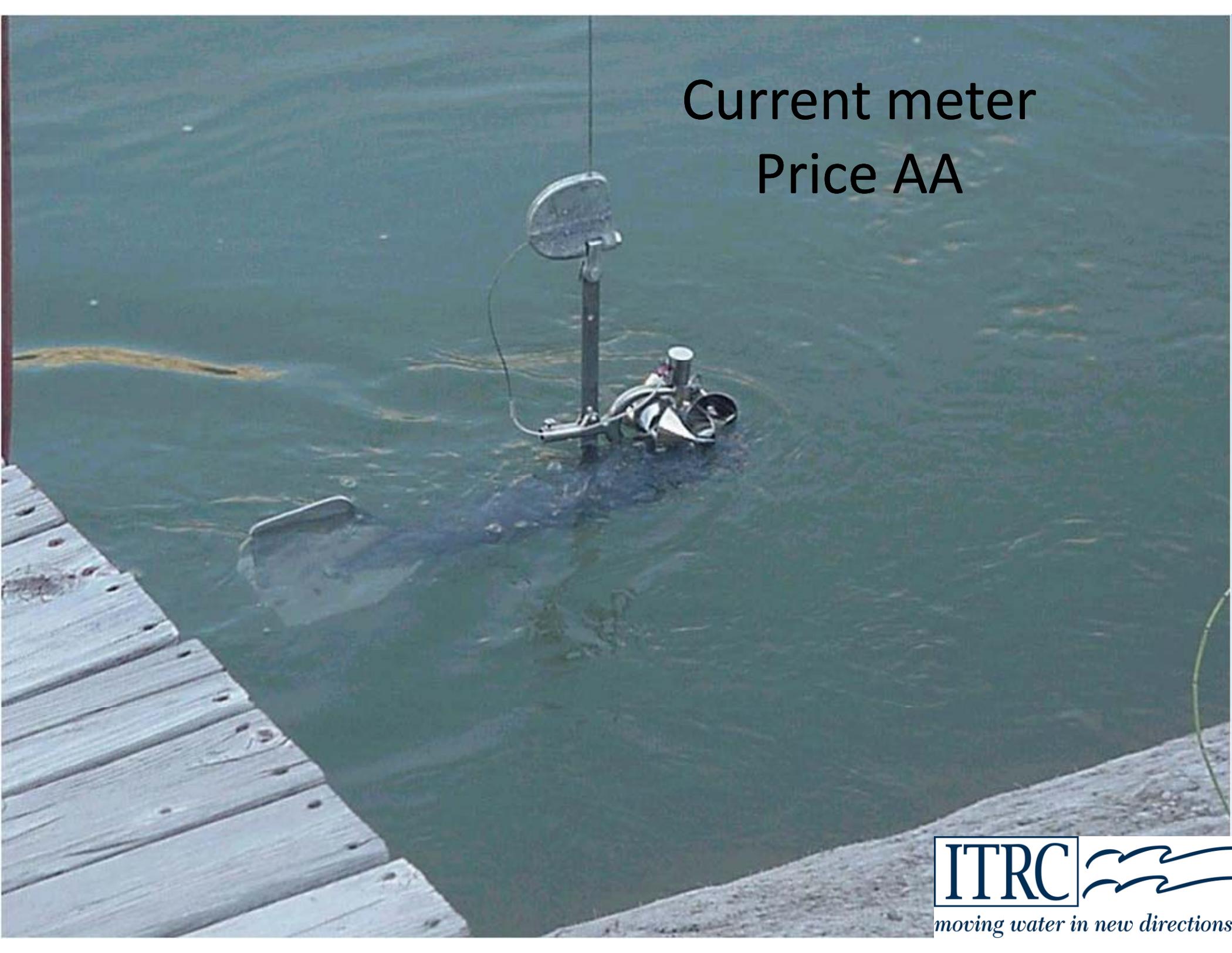
# Current Meters

Current meter  
Price AA



Current meter  
Price AA

Current meter  
Price AA







Doppler on a boat





## New ITRC Portable Calibration Device

# USBR – Documentation

## *4. Equations for flow measurement verification*

Provide well-explained computations and equations used for verification of flow measurement accuracy for each type of turnout (e.g., what % accuracy, on what percentage of delivered volumes).

# USBR – Required Documentation

## KEY

Combine the flow rate accuracy with the inaccuracy in volume measurement that is inherent with varying canal water levels or pipeline pressures to compute the overall accuracy of the volumetric measurements of the district. Show all equations and values in a neatly organized, well-explained procedure.

# Volumetric Accuracy

Average error in volume measurement, %								
Initial Head across the turnout, ft.	AVERAGE <u>rise</u> in the pool water level after the initial flow measurement, ft.							
	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.30	0.35	0.40	0.45
0.1	32.0	44.3	55.2	65.1	74.1	82.5	90.4	97.8
0.2	17.6	25.1	32.0	38.3	44.3	49.9	55.2	60.2
0.3	12.2	17.6	22.7	27.4	32.0	36.2	40.3	44.3
0.4	9.3	13.6	17.6	21.4	25.1	28.6	32.0	35.2
0.5	7.6	11.1	14.4	17.6	20.7	23.6	26.5	29.3
0.6	6.4	9.3	12.2	14.9	17.6	20.2	22.7	25.1
0.7	5.5	8.1	10.6	13.0	15.3	17.6	19.8	22.0
0.8	4.8	7.1	9.3	11.5	13.6	15.6	17.6	19.5
0.9	4.3	6.4	8.4	10.3	12.2	14.0	15.8	17.6
1	3.9	5.7	7.6	9.3	11.1	12.8	14.4	16.0
1.2	3.3	4.8	6.4	7.9	9.3	10.8	12.2	13.6
1.4	2.8	4.2	5.5	6.8	8.1	9.3	10.6	11.8
1.6	2.5	3.6	4.8	6.0	7.1	8.2	9.3	10.4
1.8	2.2	3.3	4.3	5.3	6.4	7.4	8.4	9.3
2	2.0	2.9	3.9	4.8	5.7	6.7	7.6	8.5
2.5	1.6	2.4	3.1	3.9	4.6	5.4	6.1	6.8
3	1.3	2.0	2.6	3.3	3.9	4.5	5.1	5.7

# Volumetric Accuracy

Example: Metergate reading – 10.3 CFS

Current meter reading – 10.6 CFS

Flow Rate Accuracy =

$$100 \times (10.3 - 10.6) / 10.6 = -2.8\%$$

Volumetric Accuracy =

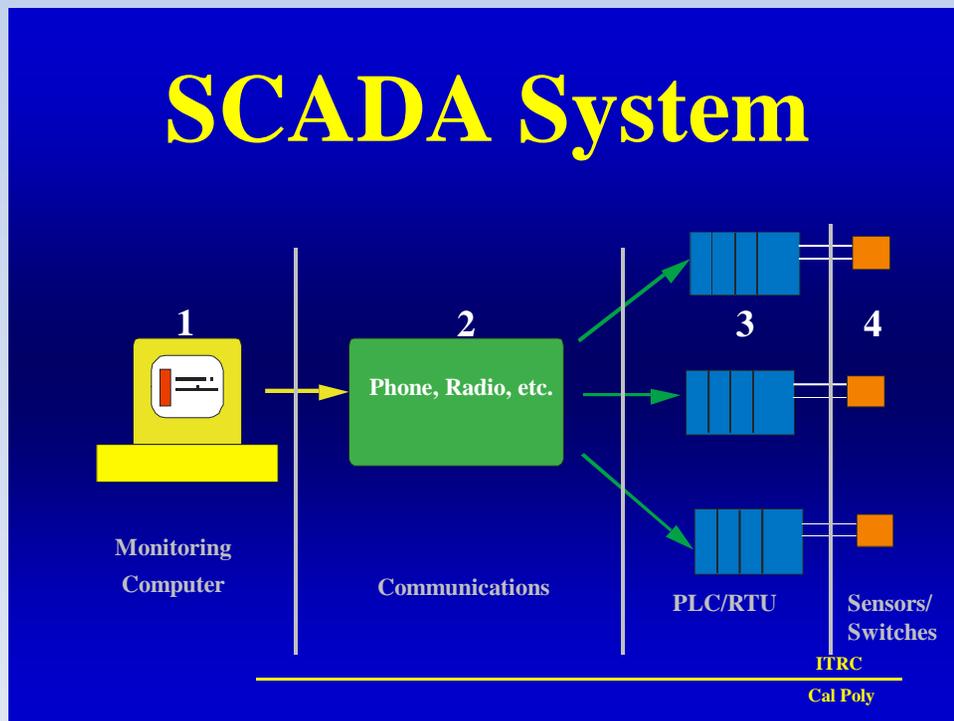
Table value for 3 ft drop and 0.25ft fluctuation = -3.3%

$$\text{Combined \% error} = \sqrt{(\% \text{ flow meas. error})^2 + (\% \text{ volumetric error})^2}$$

$$\text{Combined Accuracy} = (2.8^2 + 3.3^2)^{0.5} = 4.3\%$$

# Volumetric Accuracy

- Strong link between Volumetric Accuracy and Modernization
- Automation and SCADA = constant pools



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USBR-TCID Agreement  
75% of the delivered  
volume to be measured within +/-10%



Truckee Carson Irrigation District  
50 CFS

# DWR – New Guidelines

## SB7x7

- **Ag plans accepted by USBR also comply with State Water Management Plan requirements**
- **Note: Not approved as of 26 January 2012**

# DWR – New Guidelines

1) An existing measurement device shall be certified to be accurate to within **±12% by volume.**

2) A new or replacement measurement device shall be certified to be accurate to within:

A) **±5% by volume** in the laboratory if using a laboratory certification;

B) **±10% by volume** in the field if using a non-laboratory certification.

# SWRCB – New Guidelines



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## State Water Resources Control Board

### NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT GUIDANCE FOR COMPLYING WITH WATER DIVERSION MEASUREMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR STATEMENT HOLDERS

- Starting January 1, 2012, all diverters of surface water or pumped groundwater from a known subterranean stream must measure their water and submit a monthly report

# SWRCB

## Examples of Alternative Measurement Methods

- **Propeller Meter/Turbine Meter:** A device that uses an internal propeller or turbine to determine the inline flow rate.
  - [www.mccrometer.com](http://www.mccrometer.com)
  - [www.netafimusa.com/agriculture](http://www.netafimusa.com/agriculture)
  - [www.watermeters.com](http://www.watermeters.com)
- **Acoustic Meter:** A device that uses a sensor to transmit an ultrasonic sound signal into a pipe.
  - [www.mccrometer.com](http://www.mccrometer.com)
  - [www.elsteramcowater.com](http://www.elsteramcowater.com)
  - [www.macemeters.com](http://www.macemeters.com)
  - [www.usabluebook.com](http://www.usabluebook.com)
- **Flow Totalizer:** A device that totalizes measured flow through a flow meter.
  - [www.mccrometer.com](http://www.mccrometer.com)
  - [www.netafimusa.com/agriculture](http://www.netafimusa.com/agriculture)
- **Slide/Sluice Gate:** A gate valve opening that has been calibrated to measure flow.
  - [www.watermanusa.com](http://www.watermanusa.com)
- **Weir:** An overflow dam with a designed edge or notch.
  - [www.water.siemens.com](http://www.water.siemens.com)

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/diversion\\_use/wm\\_vendors.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/wm_vendors.shtml)

# SWRCB

## Examples of Alternative Measurement Methods

[http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/waterrights/water\\_issues/programs/diversion\\_use/wm\\_alt\\_mthds.shtml](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/diversion_use/wm_alt_mthds.shtml)

All methods discussed below require that a daily log book or other recording device be maintained.

Electricity Records Dedicated to the Pump

Total Facility Records minus Estimated Non-Pump Electricity

Staff Gage and Storage-Capacity Curve

Pressure Transducer and Storage Capacity Curve

Power Generation Estimates

Remote Satellite Imaging

Crop Duty Estimates/Consumptive Use Estimates

Other Water Duty Estimates Other than for Crops

Pipe/Trajectory Method

Modeled/Estimated Flows

**Bucket and Stopwatch**

Engine Fuel Use

Staff Gage and Floodable Acreage

Float and Stopwatch

Note: There is **no** accuracy requirement with the new guidelines from the SWRCB (yet)

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