

Report: Central Valley leads state in unmetered water

<http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/03/11/3816256/central-valley-leads-state-in.html>

Posted by Mark Grossi on March 11, 2014

About 255,000 homes and businesses in California do not have water meters, the [San Jose Mercury News reported](#) a few days ago. Most are in the Central Valley.

As part of its drought coverage, the newspaper says it analyzed data from state Department of Water Resources to get those numbers. I could not find a link to the analysis, but the places with the most unmetered connections were listed.

Sacramento County, including the city of Sacramento, had the most with 105,590, according to the chart.

The San Joaquin Valley's largest numbers were in Bakersfield (26,441), Modesto (18,064), Lodi (14,846) and Merced (10,746).

The story mentioned the city of Fresno is metered. Fresno voters passed a 1992 measure banning metered water rates, though meters were routinely installed in new homes in accordance with state law.

In recent years, Fresno has installed meters citywide and now charges the metered rates, as required in a federal Central Valley Project contract for 60,000 acre-feet of water from Millerton Lake each year.