Correction

In the December 2013 *Water Tap* article, "Understanding your system's water rights and how they relate to water system planning," we incorrectly defined how to interpret the instantaneous quantity on water rights, also known as Qi. The description of annual quantity, otherwise known as Qa, was correct.

- Qi is the maximum allowed RATE of withdrawal at any given INSTANT. Think of it as a speed limit. Your well may have the capacity to pump 100 gallons per minute, but your instantaneous water right (Qi) may only legally allow you to withdraw 75 gallons per minute. In this case, you wouldn't want to exceed the 75 gpm speed limit. The rate of withdrawal is measured in gallons per minute for groundwater and cubic feet per second for surface water.
- Qa is the amount of water you can legally use in one year. Your meter probably has a flow totalizer that measures the total amount of water pumped over a given time period. Think of your flow totalizer as a car odometer. When you read the meter at the end of the year, you are reading the total amount of water pumped. This is the Qa, and it is always recorded in acre-feet per year on your water right. One acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons.

Source meters measure in gallons, cubic feet, gallons per minute, and cubic feet per second. As a water resource manager, you need to understand how to convert the units so you can compare against your legally allowed Qi and Qa. A handy online conversion tool is available.

We apologize for our error any confusion it may have caused.

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