

Chapter One

WATER MEASUREMENT & METERING

The landowners within the GSA utilize both surface water and groundwater to meet the needs of the business operations and producing agricultural products. A key component to manage the sustainability of groundwater is to measure quantitatively the total amount of water used by each landowner within the GSA. This will allow the GSA to track groundwater water usage by landowner which can then be correlated to the amounts allowed to achieve sustainability. The GSA will utilize satellite imagery to determine crop demands at the landowner level

Per the Pixley Irrigation District Surface Water Allocation Policy, adopted 8/8/19, the District has determined that imported surface water should be allocated proportionally to lands within the District on an annual basis. Since not all lands in the District are connected to the District canal system, the District policy is to accomplish such an allocation by annually allocating surface water as groundwater credits. Surface water, once actually delivered to lands with access to the District canal system and consumed by those lands through crop production would then be accounted for as a reduction against their allocated groundwater credits.

Total Crop Demand (Evapotranspiration or ET) is calculated by Cal Poly – ITRC – METRICS Program and will be provided by Cal Poly to the District on a monthly basis.

Consumption, based on the ET calculations will be tracked and will be available in the following sequencing:

- i. Surface water groundwater credit allocation
- ii. Safe yield groundwater allocation
- iii. District allocated groundwater credits
- iv. Landowner developed groundwater credits
- v. Transitional groundwater allocation

The satellite imagery used to determine the ET values, will be audited by the GSA through spot checking land use for cropping patterns and the values will be compared to District meters on wells throughout the District.