

Chapter Six

DISTRICT GROUNDWATER RECHARGE CREDITS

The Irrigation District (District) owns and operates existing recharge basins. These basins, along with the open channel canal distribution systems, provide for both direct and indirect groundwater recharge. During times when surface water supplies beyond the irrigation needs of the landowners are available, the District uses the basins to divert the surface water for groundwater recharge. This happens most often in wetter years and comes in the form of Class Two under the Friant Contracts and flood releases from Lake Success. Recharge through channel loss in the distribution system occurs at all times when water is in the canals. These District owned facilities create additional opportunities for establishing groundwater credits beyond the Safe Yield of the Tule Subbasin.

Any groundwater developed through recharge basins and through loss in the distribution system remains with the District and will not be allocated to the landowners until a determination is made by the GSA Board that minimum threshold amounts identified in the GSP have been met.

District Owned Land Based Groundwater Recharge Credits:

The lands owned through fee title by the irrigation district are allocated a sub basin wide Safe Yield. The Safe Yield, allocated to District owned lands by virtue of being in the Tule Subbasin, will be re-allocated back to the District Landowners proportionate to the landowner's gross acreage in the GSA.

Surface Water Recharge Groundwater Credits:

The imported surface water that is diverted for recharge by the District into District owned facilities (both recharge basins and canals) will be tracked and accounted as a groundwater credit belonging to the District. The District will allocate these credits to lands within the GSA in the following manner:

- 90% of the water diverted into the District groundwater recharge basins, and water accounted for as channel loss in the canals, will be available for allocation. The remaining 10% of the recharge water will not be allocated to landowners in the District as it is used to account for evaporation and other losses. Adjustments to the percent of recharge water utilized as groundwater credits may occur based on groundwater monitoring, avoiding undesirable results, and to help avoid minimum thresholds.
- The District will allocate the groundwater recharge credits proportionally to all landowners within the District by acreage. All District landowners pay an equal land based assessment and each landowner will be provided an equal groundwater credit based upon gross acreage owned within the District and irrespective of any access to

Chapter 6: District Level Groundwater Recharge Credits

- surface water that landowners may have through water rights, riparian water or any other surface water.
- The transfer or sale of the District groundwater recharge credits within the GSA will be permitted in accordance with Chapter 3.