

**November 14, 2024**

**Pixley Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency**

***Administrative Order Establishing***

***The High Risk Zone Early Action Plan Applicable to  
Subsidence Management Zones designated as High Risk Zones in  
Zones 34,42,48,49,50,56,57,58,59,66, and 67***

**1. Background and Purpose:**

The Groundwater Sustainability Plan adopted by the Pixley Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (PIXID GSA) requires the establishment of a Subsidence Management Plan intended to manage subsidence and avoid undesirable results as defined by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

The Subsidence Management Plan (the SMP) has been adopted as Policy 9 of the PIXID GSA Rules and Regulations. The SMP identifies management actions that the GSA will implement when measured subsidence in a zone reaches certain trigger points relative to the maximum amount of subsidence that has been established for the zone as being acceptable (the subsidence Minimum Threshold, or MT).

The first trigger under the SMP is for Board designation of High Risk Zones. When High Risk Zones are designated, Section 9.2 of Policy 9 requires the adoption of an Early Action Management Plan for those zones. Section 9.2.1 identifies required Landowner Regulatory Actions that must be included in an Early Action Management Plan, and Section 9.2.2 identifies other District Actions that may be pursued in order to assist landowners in avoidance of continued subsidence.

By action of the PIXID GSA governing board, the PIXID GSA has designated Zones 34, 42, 48, 49, 50, 56, 57, 58, 59, 66, and 67 as High Risk Zones. Notice was provided to each landowner within the designated zones, notifying them that their land is within a designated zone and that the PIXID GSA governing board intends to adopt an Early Action Management Plan.

This Plan constitutes the Early Action Management Plan applicable to Zones 34, 42, 48, 49, 50, 56, 57, 58, 59, 66, and 67. The Plan sets forth the Landowner Regulatory Actions and District Actions.

The Plan was reviewed in Draft at the November 14, 2024, GSA Board meeting and released for a 45-day comment period. A public hearing is scheduled for the January 9, 2025, GSA Board meeting for approval of the plan.

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The landowner regulatory actions included in this Plan constitute an administrative enforcement decision, appealable and enforceable through judicial action as specified by GSA Policy 8 – Implementation & Enforcement of Plan Actions.

**2. Landowner Regulatory Actions.** Landowners within the designated zones shall be subject to the following requirements:

**2.1 Well Registration:** Landowners in the High Risk Zones are required to register **all** wells with the GSA **by December 31, 2024**, using the GSA Well Identification Sheet and Maps provided by the GSA. Well registration will be utilized for investigation by the District and Technical Team to help find the cause of subsidence. The investigation will determine where management actions will take place within the High Risk Zone.

**2.1.1 Well Identification Sheet:** Landowners must submit a well identification sheet with the following information included: APN, latitude/longitude, owner, water user, well type, well status, horsepower, metered or nonmetered, motor type, total well depth, or sounding tube, perforated intervals, and the well yield.

**2.1.2 APN Well Map:** map of owned APNs must be filled out with an X over the exact location of wells.

**2.1.3 Metering and Reporting:** All wells are required to be metered in High Risk Zones. The GSA will use the meter readings in addition to ET data and well registration data to investigate the cause of subsidence in the High Risk Zones.

**2.1.4 Reporting Readings:** Per Metering Rules and Regulations, the landowner must report month end readings by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the following month and GSA staff will visit sites to verify meter readings at random. Reporting begins February 1, 2025 (submitting the January 2025 readings).

**2.1.5 Meter Requirements:** Meters are required to follow the District's Meter Rules and Regulation guidelines attached to this document. A meter must be purchased based on the Approved Meter List. The landowner will be required to submit a third-party certification that an in-line flowmeter is installed correctly on the discharge pipeline and is calibrated. Recalibration is required annually, and a third-party certification must be submitted by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**2.1.6 Alternative or Additional Measurement Devices:** The GSA will work with landowners to develop alternative or additional well measurement methods, such as well transducers or similar devices that can monitor on a near-real-time basis data such as static and

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draw-down water levels, which may be of valuable use in crafting subsidence prevention measures. Available grant monies will be pursued where available.

**2.1.7 Data Collection:** Data collected from landowners pursuant to the metering and reporting requirements of this Plan will be considered landowner utility records for the purpose of implementing the SMP only and will be maintained as non-public documents to the extent permitted by law.

**3. GSA Actions:** The GSA will focus projects, potential grant funding, and incentive programs in High Risk Zones to assist with water savings and offsetting water use. Examples of GSA focused activities: focusing surface water deliveries, fallowing programs, recharge projects, deep aquifer injection and other subsidence preventative measures in the High Risk Zones.

**3.1 Investigation:** The GSA will provide well registration, metering, and other data to hydrogeologist consultants for the purpose of assisting the GSA in identifying with greater specificity and precision the causes and determinants of land subsidence, and for the purpose of tailoring future regulatory actions under Policy 9 based on hydrogeologist findings and recommendations.

**3.2 Recharge:** If a GSA or landowner recharge basin location is located near a canal or riverway, and funding is identified, the GSA will consider the area for a project site.

**3.3 Surface Water deliveries:** Depending on the location of the Zone along the District distribution system, the District may also deliver surface water to the zone in lieu of groundwater pumping. The District will investigate specific opportunities for concentration of surface water deliveries to lands in the designated zones and report on that investigation no later than May 31, 2025.

**3.4 Land Fallowing:** The GSA is focusing fallowing and groundwater credit buyback programs in High Risk Zones to incentivize less pumping. Interested landowners should contact the GSA immediately.

**3.5 Aquifer Storage Recovery Project:** Aquifer Storage Recovery, or ASR, is a process in which surface water is injected into a groundwater aquifer utilizing an existing well. The GSA is researching the process of implementing ASR and will be focused on High Risk Zones. This is a longer term project, as it will require an environmental impact study prior to construction and implementation.

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**Adoption**

Pursuant to Paragraph 9.4 of Policy 9 of the PIXID GSA Rules and Regulations, the PIXID GSA Board, having held a public hearing no less than 45 days after the Draft Early Action Management Plan was made available for public review, finds and declares as follows:

- 1) The Early Action Management Plan set forth herein above is hereby adopted
- 2) The landowner regulatory actions included in this Plan constitute an administrative enforcement decision, appealable and enforceable through judicial action as specified by GSA Policy 8 – Implementation & Enforcement of Plan Actions.
- 3) PIXID GSA shall provide notice of the adoption of this Plan to the affected landowners within 15 days of adoption.

ATTEST:

I, Eric Limas, Secretary to the Board of Directors of Pixley Irrigation District GSA, hereby certify that the foregoing was introduced at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of said GSA, held on the 9th Day of January, 2025, and was adopted at that meeting by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

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Eric Limas, Secretary  
to the Board of Directors of  
Pixley Irrigation District GSA