

February 19, 2025

Based on discussions with a group of landowners, the Pixley Groundwater Planning Commission and Pixley GSA Board are in the process of implementing a policy which would allow landowners the option of submitting meter data to the GSA and using that data as the basis for groundwater accounting rather than using ET data. The terms of the policy are outlined below.

If you are interested in opting in to this policy for 2025 contact John Michael Domondon at jdomondon@ltrid.org, or 559-686-4716.

Meter opt-in policy criteria:

1. Application and Criteria:

- If landowner opts to use meters rather than ET to account for groundwater use, the landowner will need to apply for approval, and the following criteria and information would need to be provided to the GSA:
- Annual election to exercise the meter option
- Well registration forms need to include all parcels served by wells (parcel data will be verified by staff before approving election)

2. Meter criteria:

- Manufacturer and Model of flowmeter (see GSA list of acceptable meters, or request GSA review of meter not on accepted meter list)
- Date meter was installed
- Meter size and specs
- Certification and pictures of installation verifying location and installation to manufacturer specs

- Calibration certification on installation and annually per GSA meter policy
- Identification of APNs served by the metered well, including maps
- Type and age of crops on the parcels served
- Irrigation methodology (flood, drip, sprinkler, etc.)
- The landowner allows GSA staff access to inspect the meter, if necessary

3. Reporting:

- Metered data must be read on the last day of the month and submitted to GSA by 15th of the following month.
- Meter data submitted through basin safe account with a photo of the meter read uploaded
- Failure to submit data on time, will result in that month's groundwater use to be accounted for via ET consumption and for repeat offenders the loss of election until the following year.

4. Accounting:

GSA will determine groundwater usage for the month in the following manner:

- Calculate Total Applied Water. Total applied water = metered data submitted + Surface water deliveries + actual monthly precipitation
- Calculate Net water applied. Net Water applied = Total applied water – estimated return flow (based on irrigation method)
- Compare Net Water applied to monthly ET data
- If there is less than +/- 10% difference, [Net Water Applied from based on](#) metered measurement will be used for groundwater accounting purposes.

- If more than 10% discrepancy, GSA staff will notify landowner and meter data will need to be checked and verified (either through flow test, or meter inspection for malfunction, etc.). Once checked and verified, staff will determine whether the meter data can be relied upon, or whether ET will be used for groundwater accounting purposes.

5. Appeal process:

- The amount of groundwater charged to a landowner account can be appealed, in writing, within 30 days of the monthly groundwater statement date.
- GSA staff will investigate, including consulting with GSA technical consultants if needed and make a determination within 30 days of the appeal.
- If the landowner is not satisfied with the staff decision, within 10 days of the decision, the landowner may request an appeal of the decision to the GSA Board of Directors, in writing, which will be presented to the Board at their next meeting. All decisions of the Board of Directors are final.