

**Pixley Irrigation District
Board of Directors
Ground Sustainability Agency Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2026
Location: 357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272
Time: 9:00 a.m.**

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by President Junio.

Roll Call:

Director Div. 1 Neal Westbrook
Director Div. 2 Bill DeGroot
Director Div. 3 Randy Parreira
Director Div. 4 Rusty Schott
Director Div. 5 Frank Junio - President

District Staff:

Eric Limas, General Manager
Travis Millwee, Resources Manager
John Michael Domondon, Operations Manager
Kirk Masters, Water Resources Superintendent
Jack Lopez, Operations Superintendent
Alex Peltzer, District Legal Counsel
Jennifer Spaletta, Special Counsel

Landowners and Public:

Seth Merritt, Doug Jackson, Elijah Greidanus, Allsion Tristao, Nick Reed-Krase,
Christian Tufenkjian, Jason Morehead, Lisa McEwen, Eric Greidanus, Jesse Roseman.

2. Public Comment.

Nick Reed-Krase from the Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust commented that the Trust, along with UC ANR, will be hosting a dryland farming workshop for growers considering alternative farming practices.

3. General Administration-

- a. Agenda Approval

GM Limas reported the District had been served with a lawsuit, and the following needed to be added to the Closed Session Agenda:

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PENDING LITIGATION in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9: E.W. Merritt Farms v. Pixley Irrigation District GSA et al, T.C. Superior Court Case No: VCU332014

On motion of Director Westbrook, second by Director Parreira and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved with the closed session agenda addition.

b. Minutes of February 12, 2026 GSA Meeting

On motion of Director Schott, second by Director DeGroot and unanimously approved, the minutes of the February 12, 2026 regular meeting were approved as presented.

4. GSP Implementation

a. Updates

General manager Limas gave an update on December 2025 and January 2026 groundwater usage.

b. SWRCB – Probationary Status

General Manager Limas updated the Board on the exclusionary request process for SWRCB fees and reporting. Expectations are that the SWRCB will give a response in the coming weeks.

c. Subsidence Management

No update

d. Projects

i. Land Conservation Easement Program

Limas gave an update. Staff are still waiting for funding opportunity announcements and have had recent conversations with the Pixley Wildlife Refuge about land management issues.

ii. Kaweah-Tule Banking Project Investigation

General Manager Limas updated the Board about ongoing meetings with partners and consultants to explore the feasibility of a joint banking project.

e. Other

i. UC Merced MLRP Budget Amendment – Action Item

Resources Manager Millwee explained that UC Merced has requested to transfer its monitoring funds to Pixley ID GSA in the MLRP Task Budget. On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director DeGroot and unanimously approved, the MLRP Budget Amendment was approved as presented.

ii. Update to Natural Resources Results Contract – Action Item

General Manager Limas shared an updated agreement with NRR showing an increase in the monthly retainer fee from \$4,000 per month to \$10,000 per month. This includes the work being done on behalf of Pixley ID for Land Conservation Easement Project, potential expansion of the Pixley Wildlife Refuge, and other various grant funding opportunities. On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director Westbrook and unanimously approved, the updated Natural Resources Results Contract was approved as presented.

iii. Deer Creek Basin Expansion CEQA & Design Proposal – Action Item

Operations Manager Domondon shared a CEQA & design proposal from Provost & Pritchard for the expansion of the Deer Creek Basin. The maximum cost for CEQA documentation and design/survey was proposed at \$30,000 in total. On motion of Director Westbrook, second by Director Parreira and unanimously approved, the Deer Creek Basin Expansion CEQA & Design Proposal was approved.

iv. **Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust Memorandum of Understanding – Action Item**

Resources Manager Millwee presented an MOU between Pixley ID and the TBLWCT. The purpose of the MOU is to formalize a desire from both parties to collaborate and work in a coordinated fashion with the purpose of transitioning currently farmed ground into future alternative uses. On motion of Director Degroot, second by Director Schott and unanimously approved, the Tule Basin Land & Water Conservation Trust Memorandum of Understanding was approved.

v. **Southern Area Subsidence Study & FKC Monitoring Benchmark Cost Share – Action Item**

Resources Manager Millwee presented on the GSA's cost share of the Southern Land Subsidence Study and the FKC Subsidence Benchmark monitoring. Millwee explained how these two efforts are essential first steps to Subbasin coordination. On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director Westbrook and unanimously approved, the Southern Area Subsidence Study & FKC Monitoring Benchmark cost share was approved.

vi. **Spring Groundwater Measurements**

Operation Manager Domondon presented the spring groundwater elevations and depth of groundwater maps. Water Superintendent Masters presented the transducer data from the local community well transducers.

vii. **Land IQ Daily ET Tool Update**

Resources Manager Millwee presented the dashboard from the Daily ET Tool website and updated the Board on the useful data being provided by Land IQ.

viii. **Tule Subbasin Coordination**

Resources Manager Millwee updated the Board about ongoing meetings for Tule Subbasin policy makers to sort through coordination issues. The group plans to continue meeting.

ix. **Public Outreach Campaign Update – Action Item**

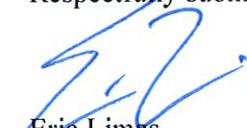
Resources Manager Millwee gave a presentation, on behalf of Anja Raudabaugh, showing the progress from the previously approved Public Outreach Campaign. Three different levels of media outreach were presented as options for the Board's Consideration. On motion of Director Degroot, second by Director Parreira and unanimously approved, Option 3 costing \$30,000 and cost shared with LTRID GSA, was approved.

5. Closed Session. The Board entered Closed Session at the conclusion of the Irrigation District Board meeting open session.
 - a. Legal – Pending Litigation
 - i. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - PENDING LITIGATION in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9: E.W. Merritt Farms v. Pixley Irrigation District GSA et al, T.C. Superior Court Case No: VCU332014
 - b. Personnel – Possible adjournment to executive session to confer on employee related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).
 - c. Real Property – Possible adjournment to executive session to confer on employee related matters in accordance with Government Code Section 54957 (Brown Act).
 - i. District Negotiator: General Manager Limas
- Closed Session adjourned. No reportable actions were taken during Closed Session.**
6. Next GSA Meeting: April 9, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272
 7. Adjourned by Board President Junio.

CERTIFICATION: THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ORIGINAL AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING AND GROUND SUSTAINABILITY AGENCY WAS POSTED AT THE DISTRICT OFFICE BY 9 AM, MARCH 9, 2026.

IF ANYONE WANTS COPIES OF ANY OF THE REFERENCED BOARD MATERIALS THEY MAY CONTACT THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, CINTHIA CANALES AT 559-686-4716 OR BY EMAIL customerservice@ltrid.org.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric Limas
General Manager