

**Pixley Irrigation District
Board of Directors
Ground Sustainability Agency Meeting Minutes
May 14, 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 - **ABSENT**

Director Div. 2 Bill DeGroot

Director Div. 3 Randy Parreira

Director Div. 4 Rusty Schott

Director Div. 5 Frank Junio - President

District Staff:

Travis Millwee, Resources Manager

John Michael Domondon, Operations Manager

Mark Greenall, Controller

Kirk Masters, Water Resources Superintendent

Jack Lopez, Operations Superintendent

Alex Peltzer, General Counsel

Landowners and Public:

Seth Merritt, Doug Jackson, Elijah Greidanus, Christian Tufenkjian, Lisa McEwen, Geoff Vanden Heuvel, Josh Nugent, Jim Morehead, Austin Williams, Randy Moore, Gavin Chauhan.

2. Public Comment.

None.

3. General Administration-

- a. Agenda Approval

On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director DeGroot and unanimously approved, the agenda was approved.

- b. Minutes of April 9, 2026 Regular GSA Meeting

On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director DeGroot and unanimously approved, the minutes of the April 9, 2026 regular GSA meeting were approved as presented.



- c. Minutes of April 24, 2026 Regular GSA Meeting
On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director DeGroot and unanimously approved, the minutes of the April 24, 2026 regular GSA meeting were approved as presented.
 - d. Minutes of April 29, 2026 Regular GSA Meeting
On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director DeGroot and unanimously approved, the minutes of the April 29, 2026 regular GSA meeting were approved as presented.
4. GSP Implementation
- a. Public Hearing – Resolution 2026-5-1 – 2026 Groundwater Consumption Fees

Board President Junio opened the Public Hearing at 9:05 AM. Jim Morehead gave a comment stating concern over financial pressure from groundwater consumption fees, as well as expressing his suspicion of the accuracy of ET data. Geoff Vanden Heuvel stated his frustration with the recent groundwater pumping fees that were imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board and that it only makes it harder for growers to continue to fund the GSA. A public comment was received from E.W. Merritt Farms expressing their disapproval of the proposed groundwater consumption fees. E.W. Merritt Farms also submitted a written comment letter through their attorney which was received late on Wednesday and has not been circulated with the Board as a result, but will be part of the record of the hearing.

After Board discussion and consideration of multiple fee options, on a motion of Director DeGroot, second by Director Parreira and unanimously approved, **Resolution 2026-5-1, setting the 2026 groundwater consumption fees at \$1.93 per acre-foot for the Base Rate, \$167.14 per acre-foot for the Penalty Tier Rate, and \$824.71 per acre-foot for the Exceedance Rate, with the enforcement of a deduction of future year allocations for every acre-foot a growers exceeds, was approved.**
 - b. March 2026 Groundwater Usage Report

Resources Manager Millwee presented the total ET and groundwater usage for the month of March.
 - c. SWRCB Updates – Subbasin Probationary Status

As a result of PIXID GSA having its request for exclusion denied, Resources Manager Millwee gave an update on the recent effort by GSA staff to help landowners register and report their wells and groundwater pumping to the State Water Resources Control Board.
 - d. Subsidence Management

No update
 - e. Metering Policy – 2025 Consumed Water Potential Adjustments

Resources Manager Millwee updated the Board on Policy 1.2 of the Pixley ID GSA Rules and Regulations that allow for flow meters to be used, instead of ET as the measurements methodology to determine total crop consumption. Millwee explained that there are multiple growers enrolled in this option and have brought forward flow meter data that suggests a larger than 10% discrepancy from ET data. Per Policy 1.2, if there is a greater than 10% discrepancy from ET data, further staff investigation is required. The motion from the previous Groundwater Planning Commission meeting was to request the Board consider crediting back at least 10% of the consumption charged during such cases. Millwee explained that staff are in the process of investigating and determining, for each submitted request with a discrepancy of more than 10%, whether and to what degree an adjustment will be recognized. Written staff determinations will be made subject to review by the Board.

f. Projects

i. Kaweah/Tule Exchange Project Investigation

1. Ewell Group Consulting Agreement

Resources Manager Millwee presented a retainer agreement for the Ewell Group. The Ewell Group will be assisting the participants with the Kaweah/Tule Exchange Project on coordination with potential exchange/banking partners, and the feasibility study for new infrastructure. The retainer cost of this agreement is meant to be split evenly among the four participating GSAs. On motion of Director DeGroot, second by Director Schott and unanimously approved, the retainer agreement for the Ewell Group was approved as presented.

g. Other

Resources Manager Millwee presented slides provided by Anja Raudabaugh from Western United Dairies. The presentation gave a performance update on the Public Relations Campaign currently underway for the GSA. The presentation showed data that supported the effectiveness of the promoted messages to specific audiences and advised the Board to consider a Phase 2 campaign.

i. Tule Subbasin Coordination

1. Updates

Resources Manager Millwee gave an update on the recent effort by the GSAs in the Tule Subbasin to develop a coordinated single GSP. The main goal of this effort is to properly address the remaining deficiencies identified by the SWRCB and to exit probation. Millwee also gave an update on the need to address subsidence locally and the potential for changes to GSA management action.

2. Resolution 2026-5-2 Appointment of Tule Subbasin Plan Manager

Approved Minutes May 14, 2026

Resources Manager Millwee presented a resolution that will officially appoint Don Tucker, as the Tule Subbasin Plan Manager. On motion of Director Parreira, second by Director Schott and unanimously approved, Resolution 2026-5-2 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
 - ii.
 - 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: June 11, 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, MAY 11, 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,

Travis Millwee
Resources Manager

