RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
SAUCELITO IRRIGATION DISTRICT
GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY
AGENCY

Adopted August 25, 2025

Diane Ennis, Secretary
Saucelito Irrigation District
GSA

Table of Contents

Article I. General

Section 1.01 Purpose

These rules and regulations are established by the Board of Directors of the Saucelito Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency (SID GSA) in order to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater within the SID GSA.

Section 1.02 Authority

Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section 10725.2 expressly states as follows:

"A groundwater sustainability agency may adopt rules, regulations, ordinances, and resolutions for the purpose of this part, in compliance with any procedural requirements applicable to the adoption of a rule, regulation, ordinance, or resolution by the groundwater sustainability agency."

Section 1.03 Groundwater Sustainability Plan

Pursuant to Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section 10725, a groundwater sustainability agency may exercise the powers described in Chapter 5 provided the groundwater sustainability agency adopts and submits a groundwater sustainability plan to the Department of Water Resources. These rules and regulations are designed to implement the provisions of the SID GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP), and may be amended at any time if necessary to achieve consistency with the groundwater sustainability plan and steps needed to achieve sustainability.

Section 1.04 Definitions

"De minimis" means a person who extracts, for domestic purposes, two acre-feet or less per year, as defined in SGMA.
"SID GSA" means Saucelito Irrigation District Groundwater Sustainability Agency.

"SID GSA GSP" means the SID GSA Groundwater Sustainability Plan required to be developed and submitted to the Department of Water Resources pursuant to Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section 10727, *et al.*

"SID Technical Group" means the SID GSA's Consulting Engineer and the Tule Subbasin's designated Hydrogeologist.

"Operator" means an authorized representative of an owner.
"Owner" means fee title owner of land within the SID GSA boundaries.

"SGMA" means the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, pursuant to Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section 10720, *et seq*.

"Water year" means the 12-month period October 1, for any given year through September 30, of the following year. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends and which includes 9 of the 12 months. Thus, the year ending September 30, 1999 is called the "1999" water year.

Section 1.05 Effective Date and Changes

These rules and regulations shall become effective upon adoption and may be added to, amended and/or repealed at any time by resolution of the Board of Directors of the SID GSA and such additions, amendments, and/or repeals shall become effective upon their adoptions or as otherwise specified by the Board of Directors.

Section 1.06 Actions Against the SID GSA

Nothing contained in these rules and regulations shall constitute a waiver by the SID GSA or estop the SID GSA from asserting any defenses or immunities from liability as provided in law, including, but not limited to, those provided in Division 3.6 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

Section 1.07 Rights of Access

The SID GSA staff and/or others authorized by the SID GSA's General Manager shall notify and request consent from the owner of any land prior to their entry. Any such entry must be for the sole and exclusive purpose of conducting SID GSA business.

Section 1.08 Severability of Provisions

If any provision of these rules and regulations, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the remainder of these rules and regulations, and the application of its provisions to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

Article II. Groundwater Monitoring

Section 2.01 Well Registration

(a) Registration Requirement

All wells, except those that extract two acre-feet or less per Water Year for domestic purposes, shall be registered with the SID GSA. Landowners shall register their wells by providing the well information required to complete the Water Service Authorization form provided by the SID GSA. Any new groundwater wells shall be registered with the SID GSA within 30 days of the filing of a well completion report.

(b) Registration Fee

An administrative fee shall be paid to the SID GSA, in an amount determined by the SID GSA board of directors, for each groundwater extraction facility registered with the SID GSA to cover the nominal administrative costs of the registration process.

(c) Change in Owner or Operator

The name of the owner of each extraction facility, the Tulare County Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) on which the facility is located, along with the names of all operators for each registered extraction facility shall be reported to the SID GSA within 60 days upon any change of ownership or operators, together with such other information required by the General Manager.

Section 2.02 Criteria for Using Meter Measurement

(a) Meter Requirements

Flow meters are required on all active groundwater production wells and must meet the following criteria:

i. Have a manufacturer's accuracy specification that is within +/- 2%;
ii. Include both an instantaneous flow rate in gallons per minute (gpm) and volume totalizer in acre-feet (AF);
iii. Be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications (i.e., full pipe recommendations, appropriate upstream and downstream lengths of straight pipe for the selected meter type, etc.);
iv. Be accessible for District operators to read.
v. If multiple flowmeters on a farm, a map identifying the locations of the various flowmeters and lands serviced collectively by these flowmeters.

For each month, the owner shall report to the SID GSA, no later than 30 days following the last day of the month, the quantity of groundwater extracted at each parcel for which the election is made, as measured by the flowmeter(s).

(b) Options for Installation of Well Meters

Each Landowner shall have the following options for meeting the flow meter requirements:

i. The meter is installed by the Landowner and the District will retain a contractor to verify the installation meets the manufacturer's specifications. Landowners can select the brand and type of flow meter for the well so long as the above requirements are met; or

ii. The District will retain a contractor for meter installations. Landowners can

choose to allow the District's contractor to provide and install a Seametrics electromagnetic flow meter on behalf of the Landowner. The Landowner shall reimburse the District for contractor costs and the Landowner will assume ownership of the flow meter. If a Landowner selects this option, they must inform the District in writing.

(c) Inspection of Well Meter

All flow meters shall be inspected and validated by the District's contractor to ensure meter and installation requirements are properly met. Meters on newly constructed wells must be installed and validated by the Districted contractor prior to the use of facilities. Landowners shall provide District staff access to read all meters as needed.

(d) Meter Maintenance and Calibration

Routine maintenance and calibration of the flow meter will be the responsibility of the Landowner. Landowners shall notify the District if a meter is removed or replaced so that the District can update the well and meter registration information. The District will notify the Landowner if a meter needs to be repaired. Landowners shall repair the meter within 30 days of the notice.

Meter calibration must be performed by a testing facility traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The District can provide Landowners with a list of facilities that meet these requirements.

Landowners shall provide the District an initial certificate of calibration that was completed within the last 5 years. If a Landowner fails to calibrate the flow meter based upon the District's requirements, the District will provide written notice to the Landowner that the Landowner has 30 days to calibrate the meter or the District will retain a contractor to calibrate the meter and the Landowner will be obligated to reimburse the District for contractor costs.

Landowners shall re-calibrate flow meters at least every 5 years. A new certificate of calibration will be due by January 31st of every fifth year; for example, if the current calibration date is July 15, 2024, a new certificate of calibration will be due January 31, 2029 and every five years thereafter. The most current calibration date and re-calibration due date will be reflected on the Landowners Water Service Authorization form. If a Landowner fails to submit a new certificate of calibration by the due date shown, the District will provide written notice that the Landowner has 30 days to calibrate the meter or the District will retain a contractor to calibrate the meter and the Landowner will be obligated to reimburse the District for contractor costs.

Section 2.04 Evapotranspiration Measurement Requirements

Crop evapotranspiration (ET) is estimated using remote sensing data from LandSAT satellites. The satellite data is entered into a model, which is used to estimate the ET rate and ET spatial distribution of an area in any given time period. When appropriately calibrated to land-based ET and/or climate stations and validated with crop surveys, the satellite-based model provides an

estimate of crop ET (i.e. consumptive use).

Article III. Groundwater Accounting/Data Management System

Section 3.01 Authority

Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section 10726.4, expressly authorizes a groundwater sustainability agency to establish accounting rules to allow unused groundwater extraction allocations to be carried over and transferred.

Section 3.02 Online Water Accounting Database

The SID GSA shall establish an online database for owners to account for total water use within the SID GSA. Owners may allow operators access and control of their account(s).

Section 3.03 Meter Measurement Categories of Water

The online databased described in Section 3.02 shall account for water through the following five categories:

a) Direct Diversions of Surface Water. As described in Section 3.05, an owner's account may be credited or debited with surface water.

b) Native Sustainable Yield Allocation. As described in Section 4.03(a) below, Native Sustainable Yield may be credited to an owner's account. Transfers of Native Sustainable Yield, as described in Section 4.03(c)(i)(2) below may be debited from an owner's account.

c) Groundwater Credits. As described in Section 4.03(c)(i)(1) below, an owner's account may be credited or debited with groundwater credits.

d) Surface Water Recharge Credits and Debits. As described in 3.07, an owner's account may be credited or debited with groundwater recharge or banking activities. Transfers will be recognized by the GSA when authorized by the applicable surface water entity.

e) Recycled Water. An Owner's account may be credited or debited with recycled water. Prior to a debit or credit proper documentation must be provided and approved by SID GSA staff.

Section 3.04 Evapotranspiration Measurement Categories of Water

The online database described in Section 3.02 shall account for water through the following six categories:

f) Precipitation. As described in Section 4.03(b) below, Precipitation may be credited to an Owner's account.

g) Direct Diversions of Surface Water. As described in Section 3.05, an owner's account may be credited or debited with surface water.

h) Native Sustainable Yield Allocation. As described in Section 4.03(b) below, Native Sustainable Yield may be credited to an owner's account. Transfers of Native Sustainable Yield, as described in Section 4.03(c)(i) below may be debited from an owner's account.

i) Groundwater Credits. As described in Section 4.03(c)(i) below, an owner's account may be credited or debited with groundwater credits.

j) Surface Water Recharge Credits and Debits. As described in 3.06, an owner's account may be credited or debited with groundwater recharge or banking activities. Transfers will be recognized by the GSA when authorized by the applicable surface water entity.

k) Recycled Water. An Owner's account may be credited or debited with recycled water. Prior to a debit or credit proper documentation must be provided and approved by SID GSA staff.

Section 3.04 Priority of Use

Each owner with multiple categories of credits under these rules and regulations shall have the power to elect which of such credits are to be prioritized to be debited or transferred in connection with such consumption, except for Precipitation. Owners may elect to modify the default priorities, which shall be completed no later than thirty (30) days prior to the end of each quarter. If the owner or operator does not elect the priority of allocations to be debited, the default priority will follow in order of Section 3.03 (a)-(e).

Section 3.05 Net Groundwater Consumptive Use Reporting and Debiting

(a) Amount of New Groundwater Consumptive Use

The amount of net groundwater consumptive use will be calculated monthly, within 30 days of the end of the prior month, using either Meter Measurement in Section 2.02 or Evapotranspiration Measurement as described in Section 2.03. If a landowner does not elect to use the Meter Measurement requirement in Section 2.02 within 30 days of the start of the water year, then the method used will be evapotranspiration as described in Section 2.03.

In the event that a watercourse, including but not limited to canals, ditches, or riparian areas, is located within the boundaries of a parcel, the area of such watercourse shall not be evaluated for any consumed use of groundwater.

(b) Appeal Process

Within thirty (30) days of notification of the net groundwater used, any owner may protest the amount or the method. The written protest must be submitted to the General Manager at the SID GSA's Main Office.

The General Manager shall investigate matters related to the protest, may consult with the SID GSA Technical Group, and may present any relevant information, along with any recommendation, to the Board within sixty (60) days of receipt of the protest. The Board shall act on the written protest and supporting documentation within sixty (60) days of receipt of all relevant information, including the possibility of authorizing a separate methodology not identified in these Rules and Regulations.

Section 3.06 Surface Water Reporting

Any owner within the SID GSA which utilizes surface water shall cause to be reported from the applicable surface water entity, the diversion of surface water to direct irrigation.

Section 3.07 Groundwater Recharge and Banking Reporting

An owner within the SID GSA which is performing recharge or groundwater banking activities shall report, or cause to be reported, the diversion of surface water to underground storage to the SID GSA. Prior to crediting or debiting the owner's account, the SID GSA shall ensure the request is consistent with any applicable groundwater banking or recharge policy, including but not limited to, Article VI. The SID GSA acknowledges that several special districts, organized and existing under the laws of the State of California for the purpose of facilitating the beneficial use of the waters of the State, operate within SID GSA's boundaries. Several such districts have adopted and implemented groundwater banking and recharge policies in order to facilitate the underground storage and beneficial use of surface water. SID GSA shall honor the groundwater banking and recharge policies of all such entities within its jurisdictional boundaries.

Article IV. Allocation of Water

Section 4.01 Purpose

Consistent with Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section 10726, the purpose of this Article is to provide for the sustainable management of groundwater within the SID GSA jurisdictional area and Tule Subbasin, and to fulfill the legislative goals and policies of SGMA. Nothing in this Article shall be used to determine or alter water rights. Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5. Section 10726.4 provides in part a Groundwater Sustainability Agency has authority to control groundwater extractions by regulating, limiting or suspending extractions.

Section 4.02 Determination of Allocations

Each year by October 1, or as soon as reasonably practical, the General Manager shall determine the allocations available for use within the SID GSA based on the SID GSA Technical Group's data and calculations regarding whether the SID GSA GSP's Minimum Thresholds or Measurable Objectives require allocation adjustments. In providing such data and calculations to the General Manager, the SID GSA Technical Group shall use the methodologies and calculations defined in this Article 4.

Section 4.03 Sustainable Yield Allocation

(a) Groundwater Extraction Sustainable Yield Allocation

For Owner's electing to use Meter Measurement for purposes of measuring groundwater use as described in Section 2.02 above, each year, the General Manager shall establish a Groundwater Extraction Sustainable Yield allocation for each agricultural assessor's parcel within the SID GSA. The allocation for each owner shall be calculated as follows and shall be titled "Native Sustainable Yield":

1. Sustainable Yield for the Tule Subbasin shall be calculated using the groundwater extraction methodology as agreed upon in the Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement, incorporated herein by reference. The Tule Subbasin Sustainable Yield estimate will be developed using a calibrated groundwater flow model of the Tule Subbasin.* As agreed upon in the Coordination Agreement, the Groundwater Extraction Sustainable Yield Allocation shall include in the return flow from precipitation.

**As additional data becomes available and as projects, monitoring, and management actions are implemented, the groundwater flow model used to estimate the Sustainable Yield of the Tule Subbasin will be updated and the Native Sustainable Yield may be adjusted to reflect the new data. Additionally, the allocation of the total available Sustainable Yield according to gross assessor parcel acreage may be revised as the SID GSA develops additional historical use data and allocation methodologies beyond gross acreage.*

(b) Evapotranspiration Sustainable Yield Allocation

For Owner's electing to use the Evapotranspiration Measurement for purposes of measuring groundwater use as described in Section 2.03 above, each year, the General Manager shall establish a Sustainable Yield allocation for each agricultural assessor's parcel within the SID GSA. The allocation for each owner shall be calculated as follows:

1. Sustainable Yield for the Tule Subbasin shall first be calculated using methodologies as agreed upon in the Tule Subbasin Coordination Agreement, incorporated herein by reference. As described therein, the Tule Subbasin Sustainable Yield estimate will be developed using a calibrated groundwater flow model of the Tule Subbasin.*

Sustainable Yield allocated to the SID GSA shall be comprised of the following two components:

(A) Native Sustainable Yield is calculated as the long-term average natural channel loss water within the Tule River, Porter Slough, Deer Creek, and White River channels and the calculated underflow from the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The volume is determined by utilizing the data provided in the Tule Subbasin Water Budget within the Tule Subbasin Setting attached to the Coordination Agreement. The SID GSA will determine its portion of the Tule Subbasin Native Sustainable Yield by multiplying the GSA's proportionate acreage of the Tule Subbasin multiplied by the total Native Sustainable Yield of the Tule Subbasin.

(B) Total Precipitation is calculated as the long-term average total precipitation for the entire SID GSA jurisdictional area. The long-term average is based on precipitation data collected from calibrated weather stations within and adjacent to the SID GSA, interpolated to lands within SID GSA. Each year the Total Precipitation long term average is updated with prior year actual total precipitation measured.

2. The SID GSA's total available Sustainable Yield shall be the sum of the SID GSA's portion of the Tule Subbasin Native Sustainable Yield and Total Precipitation within the SID GSA.

3. Each parcel within the SID GSA will receive allocations in the amount equal to the gross assessor parcel acreage multiplied by the per acre allocation established in Section 4.03(a)(2).

**As additional data becomes available and as projects, monitoring, and management actions are implemented, the groundwater flow model used to estimate the Sustainable Yield of the Tule Subbasin will be updated and the Native Sustainable Yield may be adjusted to reflect the new data. Additionally, the allocation of the total available Sustainable Yield according to gross assessor parcel acreage may be revised as the SID GSA develops additional historical use data and allocation methodologies beyond gross acreage.*

(c) Carryover and Transfers

(i) Sustainable Yield Allocation

a. Carryover of Sustainable Yield

If an owner uses less than his or her total Native Sustainable Yield allocation in a given year, the difference between the allocation amount for that year and the amount of groundwater used and/or transferred for that year shall be carried over to the next year. Portions of Sustainable Yield allocation successfully carried over from the previous year shall be credited to the owner's account as groundwater credits.

If the carryover amount for the year in question continues to remain unused as a groundwater credit, it may be carried over on a five-year rolling basis. The impact of the total quantity of water used in any five-year period shall be consistent with the provisions of the SID GSA GSP.

An Owner is not allowed to carryover Total Precipitation.

Example: Native Sustainable Yield (NSY) Allocation
Water Year 2021
Unused portion of 2021 SY allocation → groundwater credit → may be carried over until the end of Water Year 2026.
Water Year 2022
Unused portion of 2022 SY allocation → groundwater credit → may be carried over until the end of Water Year 2027.

b. Transfer of Sustainable Yield

An owner may transfer all or a portion of the Native Sustainable Yield component of his or her Native Sustainable Yield allocation at any time, provided that the transfer satisfies conditions 1 through 4. Transferred Native Sustainable Yield shall be credited to the transferee's account as groundwater credits.

1. The proposed transferee will put the allocation to use within the Tule Subbasin;
2. If outside the SID GSA boundaries, the proposed transferee will put the allocation to use within the boundaries of a groundwater sustainability agency which permits the transfer of its own groundwater allocations to water users within the SID GSA;
3. The transfer agreement is memorialized in writing, using a form provided by the SID GSA; and
4. Both the SID GSA and the groundwater sustainability agency of the transferee are informed of the parties to the transfer and the quantity transferred.

The SID GSA Board or Technical Advisory Group shall establish an annual limitation on the total amount of allowable allocations outside the SID GSA boundaries based on water year. Requests for transfers shall be received beginning on October 1. Transfers shall be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Groundwater credits derived from the transfer of Native Sustainable Yield may be carried over for five years.

An Owner is not allowed to transfer Total Precipitation.

No action shall occur on any proposed transfer unless all past due assessments, interest and penalties owed to the SID GSA by either transferee or transferor have been paid prior to the date that the proposed transfer is submitted to the General Manager.

Example:
Native Sustainable Yield (NSY) Transfer

Water Year 2021
Unused portion of 2021 NSY allocation transferred to a separate Owner on October 1, 2023 → groundwater credit → may be carried over until the end over Water Year 2028.

(d) Enforcement

The following actions shall occur if an Owner is in violation of this Section.

For each acre-foot extracted in violation of the restrictions set forth herein, the Owner shall be liable for the maximum penalty rate allowed pursuant to SGMA.

The quantity of water extracted in violation of the restrictions set forth herein shall be deducted from the Owner's allocation account the following year(s). If the Owner's penalty allocation account is depleted, further enforcement actions may be taken by the SID GSA.

An Owner shall not be entitled to utilize any existing allocations while the Owner is out of compliance with this Section. All water extracted while the Owner is out of compliance will result in the imposition of maximum penalties for such consumption.

(e) Community Lands

Lands designated as Community served lands by the SID GSA within the Greater Tule Management Area shall be managed pursuant to the Community Management Areas pursuant to Section 4.06.

(f) Watercourse(s)

In the event that a watercourse, including but not limited to canals, ditches, or riparian areas, is located within the boundaries of a parcel, the area of such watercourse shall not receive any allocation of groundwater.

Section 4.04 Appeal Process

(a) Notification of Allocations and Extraction Limits

The General Manager shall provide written notice to each Owner and if requested, the Operator, of the groundwater allocations described in this Article 4.

(b) Protest of Allocations and Extraction Limits

Within thirty (30) days of the date identified in the written notification described in Section 4.07(a), an Owner may protest the extraction allocations and extraction limits identified in the notification. The written protest must be submitted to the General Manager at the SID GSA's Main Office.

The General Manager shall investigate matters related to the protest, may consult with the SID GSA Technical group, and may present any relevant information, along with any recommendation, to the Board within sixty (60) days of receipt of the protest. The Board shall act on the written protest within 120 days of receipt of the recommendation and information provided by the General Manager.

Section 4.05 Emergency Ordinances

Nothing in this Article shall prevent the SID GSA, in the event of an emergency, from enacting emergency regulations or ordinances.

Article V. Fees & Penalties

Section 5.01 Penalties

(a) Penalty for Excess Use

If any Owner within the SID GSA exceeds his or her Sustainable Yield allocation, he or she shall be liable for penalties as follows: (1) liability rate in an amount to be determined annually by the Board, for each acre-foot extracted.

(b) SGMA Penalties

Any owner, operator or other person who violates the provisions of these rules and regulations is subject to the criminal and civil sanctions set forth in SGMA.

(c) Civil Remedies

Upon the failure of any person to comply with any provision of these rules and regulations, the SID GSA may petition the Superior Court for a temporary restraining order, preliminary or permanent injunction, or such other equitable relief as may be appropriate. The right to petition for injunctive relief is an additional right to those, which may be provided elsewhere in these rules and regulations or otherwise allowed by law. The SID GSA may petition the Superior Court to recover any sums due to the SID GSA.

Section 5.02 Groundwater Extraction Fees

The Board may propose fees, including groundwater extraction fees, consistent with Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section Sections 10730 through 10730.6, and the California Constitution. The owner shall pay to the SID GSA all Groundwater Extraction Fees within 30 days of the date of any invoice submitted by the SID GSA.

De Minimis Extractors. No extraction fees shall be charged to any de minimis extractor.

Section 5.03 Real Property Assessments

The Board may propose land-based assessments consistent with Division 6 Conservation, Development and Utilization of State Water Resources Part 2.74, Chapter 5, Section 10730, and the California Constitution. The owner shall pay to the SID GSA all assessments within 30 days of the date of any invoice submitted by the SID GSA.

Section 5.04 Notification and Appeal of Penalties

Within 30 days of the date identified in any invoice submitted by the SID GSA an owner may appeal a penalty determination in writing. Owner must still submit payment within thirty (30) days of the invoice. The written appeal must be submitted to the General Manager, at the SID GSA's Main Office.

The General Manager shall investigate matters related to the appeal, and may present any relevant information, along with any recommendation, to the Board within sixty (60) days of receipt of the appeal. The Board shall act upon the written appeal and supporting documentation within 120 days of receipt of all relevant information.

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