



## REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

501 Taft Highway  
Bakersfield, California

**TUESDAY, February 3, 2026**

### **AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM**

**12:00PM**

### **CLOSED SESSION:**

- A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Closed Session Pursuant to Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1):
1. Bring Back the Kern, et al. v. City of Bakersfield, et al.

### **REGULAR SESSION:**

#### **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC**

- I. **PUBLIC COMMENT** (Members of the public may address the Board of Directors on any matter not on the agenda, but absent extraordinary circumstances, the Board may not act on such matters. Members of the public may address items of interest that are listed on the agenda prior to the Board's decision on such items.)
- II. **MANAGER'S REPORT** (The General Manager will discuss, and the Board will consider various items and issues relating to the ongoing and future operations of the District which are of interest to the Board)
- A. Approve Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 20, 2026.
  - B. District Golden Mussel Notice.
  - C. Consideration of Daily ET Tool Proposal from Land IQ.
- III. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** (This item provides Board Members with an opportunity to make announcements or provide general comments.)
- IV. **ADJOURN**

Requests for disability related modifications or accommodations, including auxiliary aids or services may be made by telephoning or contacting Madelyne Rodriguez at the District Office (661-834-4656). Please attempt to make such requests known at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. Pursuant to Government Code section 54957.5, any materials relating to an open session item on this agenda, distributed to the Board of Directors after the distribution of the agenda packet, will be made available for public inspection at the time of distribution at the District, 501 Taft Highway, Bakersfield, CA.



## **MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

January 20, 2026

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### **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 12:01PM– 2:41PM**

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mendonca, Antongiovanni, Garone, Spitzer, Fanucchi, and Kaiser.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Palla, Tillema, and Borba.

STAFF PRESENT: General Manager Teglia, Assistant General Manager Bellue, General Counsel Iger, Controller Duncan, Controller Rivera, Hydrographer Hyatt, and Groundwater Manager Marquez.

OTHERS PRESENT: None.

### **CLOSED SESSION DECLARED AT 12:01PM**

Vice President Mendonca called to order the Closed Session of the Kern Delta Board of Directors at 12:01PM regarding the following agenda items:

A. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation – Closed Session Pursuant to Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(1):

1. SWRCB Kern River.
2. Rosedale Rio Bravo Water Storage District, et al. v. Kern County Water Agency, et al. (CVC).
3. Kern Delta Water District et al. v. Rosedale Rio Bravo Water Storage District et al. (Onyx Ranch CEQA).
4. Bring Back the Kern, et al. v. City of Bakersfield, et al.
5. Sierra Club v. California Department of Water Resources (Delta Conveyance Project Validation).

B. Conference with Legal Counsel – Potential Litigation – Closed Session Pursuant to Gov. Code § 54956.9(d)(2),(e)(1):

1. Two Matters.

Closed Session concluded at 1:01PM.

### **REGULAR SESSION DECLARED AT 1:05PM**

Vice President Mendonca called to order the Regular Session of the Kern Delta Board of Directors at 1:05PM.

Closed Session Report: District General Counsel Iger reported the following:

Item A: No reportable action.

Item B: No reportable action.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC**

Those listed as others present were introduced.

### **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **II. CONSENT CALENDAR**

M/S/C (Spitzer/Kaiser) (yes-6, no-0): By unanimous vote, with Directors Palla, Tillema, and Borba absent, the Board approved and authorized items II A through II D of the Consent Calendar.

- A. Approval of Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of December 16, 2025.
- B. Approval of December 2025/January 2026 District Construction and Water Banking Project(s) Disbursements.
- C. Approval of December 2025/January 2026 District Disbursements.
- D. Approval of Resolution No. 2026-01 – Consent for Temporary Water Service Contract Between the United States and Kern Delta Water District (Section 215 Water).

### **III. BUSINESS AND FINANCE**

A. Business & Finance Committee Report – January 6, 2026: District Controller Duncan provided a report from the January Business & Finance Committee Meeting.

A(i). Approval of December 2025 Preliminary Financial Reports: Mr. Duncan presented the December 2025 Preliminary District and Water Banking Project(s) Financial Statements, Treasurer's Reports, and District Delinquency Report.

M/S/C (Antongiovanni/Garone) (yes-6, no-0): By unanimous vote, with Directors Palla, Tillema, and Borba absent, the Board approved the December 2025 Preliminary District and Water Banking Project(s) Financial Statements, Treasurer's Reports, and Delinquency Report as presented.

A(ii). Quarterly Investment Review: Mr. Duncan provided a brief overview of the quarterly investment review report, which was included in the Board agenda package. This item was informational, and no action was recommended or taken.

### **IV. OPERATIONS AND PROJECTS**

A. - A(i-v). Operations and Projects Committee Report – January 6, 2026 (Canceled): Assistant General Manager Bellue reported on several items, including District maintenance activities, recent encroachment permit requests, pending development projects impacting District facilities, and a status update related to the Sunset Groundwater Banking project. In addition, Mr. Bellue also provided an update regarding preparations for the annual maintenance activities and projects associated with the winter shutdown period.

*Note: Director Kaiser left the meeting at approximately 2:05PM.*

### **V. WATER RESOURCES REPORT**

A. - A(i-iii). District Watermaster Report: Staff reviewed and discussed the water supplies of the District for

the months of December and early January. Approximately 2,372 acre-feet of water was diverted in District during the month of December. Staff also provided information related to current precipitation totals and future forecasts. It was noted that the current 2026 SWP allocation stood at 10% and the B-120 April through July Kern River runoff for 2026 was not yet available. Staff provided a brief update regarding current water management activities, including the completion of purchasing available 4% overdraft correction supplies from 2023 and 2024 totaling 9,451AF.

B. Kern River Watermaster Report: The January Kern River Watermaster Report was included in the Board packet.

C. District Groundwater Manager Report: Groundwater Manager Marquez provided verbal comments supplementing graphical information regarding depth to groundwater at various monitoring locations throughout the District.

## **VI. MANAGER'S REPORT**

A. - A(i-ii). Verbal/SGMA Update/WAKC Water Summit: General Manager Teglia provided an update regarding the impact of golden mussels throughout the state water project, cross valley canal and various Kern County water districts. Mr. Teglia emphasized that while golden mussels have been found in Kern County water conveyance facilities, to date, they have not been found in Kern Delta facilities. Mr. Teglia stated that staff will do everything it can to reduce the potential exposure to golden mussels for as long as possible. In addition, staff will put out a notice to our water users educating them on the issue and to contact the district if they see any evidence of golden mussels in their systems.

Mr. Teglia stated 2026 District Water Applications were sent out to all District water users. These applications are required of all water users and are due back to the District by the end of March.

With respect to local SGMA efforts, Mr. Teglia stated the Kern Subbasin was preparing for initial discussions with the Department of Water Resources (DWR) regarding their review of the Kern Subbasin GSPs. Mr. Teglia also provided a brief update regarding the efforts of the Kern Non-District Land Authority (KNDLA).

Finally, Mr. Teglia highlighted the upcoming annual Water Association of Kern County Water Summit scheduled for March 5, 2026.

B. External Agency Report: Mr. Teglia provided verbal comments supplementing a memorandum included in the Board package which provided information on the meetings and activities of various external agencies. These agencies include, but are not limited to, the Kern County Water Agency, Kern Fan Authority, Kern River Watershed Coalition Authority, Kern Water Collaborative, Kern Non-Districted Land Authority, Kern River Groundwater Sustainability Agency, the South Valley Water Resources Authority, the Water Association of Kern County, and the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan.

C. Water Banking Projects Report: Mr. Teglia provided verbal comments supplementing a memorandum included in the Board package which provided information on water banking project activity on the Kern Fan as well as District water banking project activities.

## **VII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

A. Approval of District Employee Handbook: General Counsel Iger provided a brief overview of the 2026 District Employee Handbook, which was updated due to changes in state law. It was further noted that state law now requires each employee to be provided with a "Know Your Rights" notice by February 1, 2026. Staff recommended the Board approve the new handbook as presented. Once approved, staff will distribute updated handbooks to all employees including the required notice.

M/S/C (Fanucchi/Spitzer) (yes-5, no-0): By unanimous vote, with Directors Palla, Tillema, Borba, and Kaiser absent, the Board approved the 2026 District Employee Handbook as presented.

B. VAWC Legislative Update: Mr. Iger referenced the January edition of the VAWC Sacramento Report, which was included in the Board package.

C. Appointment of Board Officers: Following each odd year election cycle, the Board is required to appoint Officers of the Board. This typically includes the Board President, Vice President, Secretary, Combined Officer and any Assistant Secretaries and Combined Officers. Following a brief discussion a motion was made to re-appoint the existing slate of officers.

M/S/C (Garone/Fanucchi) (yes-5, no-0): By unanimous vote, with Directors Palla, Tillema, Borba, and Kaiser absent, the Board re-appointed the existing slate of Officers of the Board.

D. Board Vacancy – Division 6: It was noted that on January 8, 2026, longtime Director Fred Garone informed President Palla and District staff that he is resigning from the Board effective January 21, 2026. Director Garone reflected on his over 31 years of service to Kern Delta Water District, highlighting some of the changes that he was a part of during that span. Following comments by Director Garone, Vice President Mendonca presented Director Garone with a plaque acknowledging Director Garone's service on behalf of Kern Delta's Board, landowners, water users and staff.

D(i). Notice of Intent to Appoint Director to Fill Board Vacancy: Mr. Iger informed the Board that given the resignation of Director Garone, the District had an obligation to inform the county elections office of the vacancy and the intent of the Board to fill the vacancy by appointment within 60 days of the effective date of the vacancy. Such a letter was provided in the Board package and will be sent without objection.

## **VIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Vice President Mendonca adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:41PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steven Teglia, General Manager

Approved by Board,



Richard Tillema, Board Secretary



To: Kern Delta Water District Water Users

From: Steven Teglia – General Manager

Date: January 21, 2026

**Re: Update Regarding Invasive Golden Mussels in California**

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Golden Mussels (*Limnoperna fortunei*) are an invasive freshwater species that pose a serious risk to water conveyance systems, agricultural infrastructure, and ecosystem health.

This mussel species originated from Southeast Asia and were introduced to North America in October of 2024 when golden mussels were discovered in the Sacramento – San Joaquin Delta. Since that time, they have spread through the State Water Project and have been discovered throughout the state. The presence of golden mussels in Kern County water conveyance facilities was confirmed towards the end of 2025.

Golden mussel detections in Kern County have so far been linked to districts with direct access to the State Water Project including the Cross Valley Canal. Please be aware that while the presence of golden mussels has been confirmed in various areas of Kern County, **District inspections have shown no evidence of the presence of golden mussels in Kern Delta Water District facilities to date.**

Golden mussels tend to attach to hard surfaces using strong byssal threads. Once established, they reproduce rapidly and can form dense colonies. Infestations can result in:

- Clogging of irrigation pipelines, pumps, and screens
- Reduced conveyance capacity and system efficiency
- Increased maintenance, operational, and repair costs
- Damage to valves, meters, and other infrastructure

Golden mussels are a robust species that can withstand many typical types of treatment. As such, Kern Delta is continuing to monitor statewide and regional efforts to develop effective mitigation options, which are limited at present.

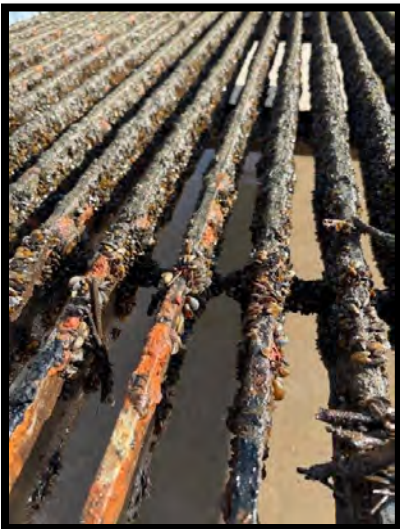
In the meantime, Kern Delta will continue to do everything possible to prohibit sources of water that have the potential to convey golden mussels into the District. Water users are encouraged to remain vigilant and watch for the following:

- Small, yellowish-brown mussels attached to pipes, screens, intakes, or other submerged surfaces.
- Unusual accumulation of shell material or biological growth
- Unexplained reductions in flow, pressure, or pumping efficiency

Below are several pictures depicting golden mussel colonization. If you observe any suspected golden mussels or signs of infestation, please notify Kern Delta Water District Operations at 661-834-4653 or [info@kerndelta.org](mailto:info@kerndelta.org)



*Above Picture: Golden mussel colony on buoy in O'Neill Forebay*



*Above Picture: CVC Trash Screen*



*Above Picture: WRMWSD Traveling Water Screen*

Attachments:

1. CDFW Invasive Species Fact Sheet – Golden Mussel





## Invasive Species Fact Sheet

# Golden mussel, *Limnoperna fortunei*

### General Description

Golden mussel (*Limnoperna fortunei*) is an invasive bivalve that ranges in color from dark brown to gold. It can reach up to 1 ¾ inches long. Adult mussels form byssal threads that enable them to attach to surfaces. Adult mussels spawn multiple times each year and have the potential to produce thousands of planktonic offspring, called veligers.



Golden mussels, San Joaquin County  
Photo: Jeb Bjerke, CDFW

### Current Distribution

In October 2024, golden mussels were discovered in the Sacramento – **San Joaquin Delta and O'Neill Forebay** (Merced County). This discovery was the first known occurrence of golden mussel in North America. Originally from China, Thailand, Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Cambodia, they have invaded waters of other countries and territories including Hong Kong, Japan, Taiwan, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

### Habitat Suitability

Golden mussel can inhabit fresh and brackish-water lakes, rivers, creeks, wetlands, bays, and canals with water temperatures ranging from 41-95°F. They can establish in waters with a constant salinity of less than 3 parts per thousand (ppt) and can survive fluctuations of higher salinities. They attach to a wide variety of substrates, both man-made and natural, and at various water depths. Golden mussels are not restricted to hard surfaces and have been found colonizing soft substrates and attached to aquatic plants.

### Pathways

Pathways are the mechanisms and processes by which invasive species are moved, intentionally or unintentionally, into a new ecosystem. Golden mussel can be carried in ballast water of ocean-going ships and released with that water. Adult golden mussel can be moved overland attached to watercraft and in-water equipment, and veligers and adults can be moved overland in water contained within watercraft and equipment.

Within interconnected waters, golden mussels can expand their range via the flow of water, and attached to, or entrapped within, watercraft and in-water structures moved within that waterway.

### Impacts

Golden mussels are highly efficient filter feeders and form dense colonies. They consume large quantities of aquatic microscopic plants and animals that native species and sport fish depend on for food. Their colonization of hard surfaces impedes water flow, clogs pipes, and fouls watercraft motors, and necessitates ongoing, costly removal to maintain operational function. These costs result in economic impacts to water conveyances, energy production, recreation, agriculture, and ultimately the public.

### Actions Taken if Found

If you observe golden mussel in California immediately report your sighting to the CDFW Invasive Species Program at <https://arcg.is/10D4G8>, or by email to [Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov), or by telephone



# Invasive Species Fact Sheet – Golden mussel, *Limnoperna fortunei*

to (866) 440-9530. Please take clear, close-up photos that include something (such as a pencil or hand) to show size.

## References

- Correa, N., Sardiña, P., Perepelizin, P., Boltovskoy, D. (2015). *Limnoperna Fortunei* Colonies: Structure, Distribution and Dynamics. In: Boltovskoy, D. (eds) *Limnoperna Fortunei*. Invading Nature - Springer Series in Invasion Ecology, vol 10. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-13494-9\\_7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-13494-9_7)
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- Fernandes De Oliveira, P.R.F., C.C. Rodrigues, M.I. Grano-Maldonado, and T.L. Rocha. 2023. The golden mussel *Limnoperna fortunei* (Dunker, 1857) as an emerging concern for biodiversity in the Brazilian cerrado. *Folia Malacologica* 31(4):211-221.
- Karatayev, A., L.E. Burlakova, V.A. Karatayev, and D. Boltovskoy. 2010. *Limnoperna fortunei* versus *Dreissena polymorpha*: population densities and benthic community impacts of two invasive freshwater bivalves. *Journal of Shellfish Research* 29(4):975-984.
- Karatayev, Alexander & Boltovskoy, Demetrio & Burlakova, Lyubov & Padilla, Dianna. (2015). Parallels and Contrasts Between *Limnoperna fortunei* and Species of *Dreissena*. 261-297. 10.1007/978-3-319-13494-9\_15.
- Liu, Y., He, X., Yang, Y., Bai, X., & Yuan, C. (2024). Distribution, tolerance, growth, behaviour and control methods of *Limnoperna fortunei* (Dunker, 1857) (Bivalvia: Mytilidae): A review. In *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* (Vol. 34, Issue 7). John Wiley and Sons Ltd. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.4217>
- Molina, F., S. José de Paggi, and D. Frau. 2012. Impacts of the invading golden mussel *Limnoperna fortunei* on zooplankton: a mesocosm experiment. *Zoological Studies* 51(6):733-744.
- Morton, B. (2015). The Biology and Anatomy of *Limnoperna fortunei*, a Significant Freshwater Bioinvader: Blueprints for Success. In: Boltovskoy, D. (eds) *Limnoperna Fortunei*. Invading Nature - Springer Series in Invasion Ecology, vol 10. Springer, Cham. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-13494-9\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-13494-9_1)
- Musin, G.E., F. Rojas Molina, F. Giri, and V. Williner. 2015. Structure and density population of the invasive mollusc *Limnoperna fortunei* associated with *Eichhornia crassipes* in lakes of the Middle Paraná floodplain. *Journal of Limnology* 74(3):537-548.
- Sylvester, F., D. Cataldo and, D. Boltovskoy. 2013. Fluctuating salinity improves survival of the invasive freshwater golden mussel at high salinity: implications for the introduction of aquatic species through estuarine ports. *Biological Invasions* 15:1355-1366.
- Xu, M., Z. Wang, C.C. Lin, B. Pan, and N. Zhao. 2013. Experimental study of invasion and biofouling of freshwater mussel *Limnoperna fortunei*. *International Journal of Geosciences* 4:1-7.

# GROWER AND MANAGER IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT TOOL: DAILY ET AND PRECIPITATION – KERN DELTA WATER DISTRICT

**TO:** Steve Teglia/Kern Delta Water District

**FROM:** Joel Kimmelshue/Land IQ  
Mica Heilmann/Land IQ  
Casey Gudel/Land IQ  
Adriana Joosep/Land IQ  
Kylie Applemun/Land IQ

**DATE:** November 4, 2025

## INTRODUCTION

Kern Delta Water District (District) has utilized Land IQ for developing a monthly field-by-field estimate of actual evapotranspiration (ET). The work proposed here is to provide growers and the District with a daily, field-by-field account of ET and precipitation to aid in irrigation management and water use tracking. This daily result matches the proven results of the 30-day deliverables the District is currently receiving.

## STAFFING RESOURCES AND PROJECT COOPERATORS

Staff expected to work on this project from Land IQ have been involved in various aspects of ET field measurements and modeling, agricultural remote sensing, and regulatory support for the last 4 to 29 years and are listed below. Other appropriately qualified staff may also participate to facilitate completion of any tasks approved by the District as a part of this proposed scope of work.

- Principal In Charge and Principal Agricultural Scientist – Joel Kimmelshue, PhD
- Project Manager/Client Relations – Casey Gudel, MS
- Senior Geospatial Developer – Xue Gao, MS
- Full Stack Developer – Tianyi Sun, MS
- Remote Sensing Analyst – Zhehan Tang, PhD
- Biometeorologist – Frank Anderson, MS
- Agricultural Scientist – Adriana Joosep, BS
- Agricultural Scientist – Cody Fink, MS
- Assistant Project Manager/Client Relations – Kylie Applemun, BS
- GIS Analyst – Justin Sitton, BS
- Support Staff – Various as needed

Land IQ also welcomes input and collaboration with District staff and individual growers.

## TASKS

This scope of work has been developed based on Land IQ's development of a daily irrigation management ET tool and discussions with the District. The main task includes:

- **Task 1** – Irrigation Management Tool: Daily Field-by-Field ET and Precipitation

This task is discussed in detail below and includes schedule, deliverables, and cost.

## TASK 1. IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT TOOL: DAILY FIELD-BY-FIELD ET AND PRECIPITATION

**Scope of Work:** Land IQ has developed a grower-level, field-by-field, daily ET product portal (see visual examples below).

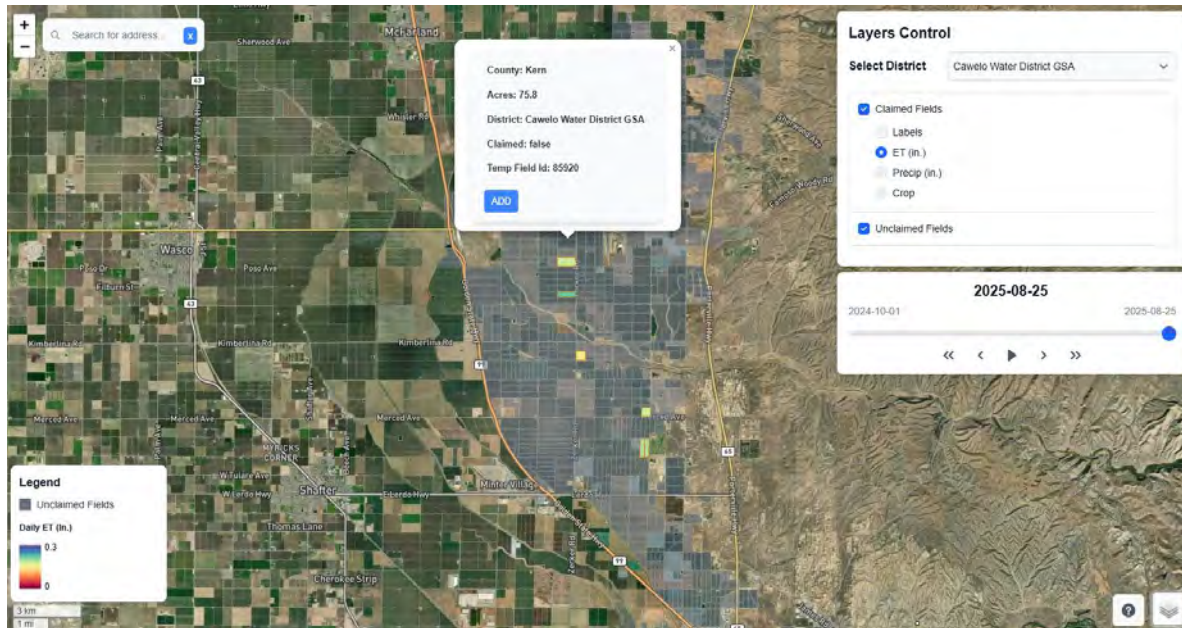
The development of this tool is in response to grower requests to access daily ET and precipitation results, within 1-2 days. This is for the purpose of individual irrigation water management decision-making. For consistency, the results of this daily product will be reconciled against, and will match, the proven results of the 30-day ET results that are currently provided and proposed in this scope of work. The goal is for growers to track their water use on a daily basis in relation to a district-, GSA-, or grower-defined threshold. This will allow the grower to adjust water management during the year on a real time basis to achieve, and hopefully not exceed, this threshold.

All data results are downloadable in Excel file format for every grower to use for their own irrigation management programs, etc. Manager level results are downloadable as well.

The tool contains both a grower portal and a manager/administrative-level portal. Visual examples of both are provided below. The grower only sees the results of his/her fields, while the administrative user-level sees all individual grower fields and is provided with area-wide (e.g., GSA, irrigation or water storage district, or similar entity) summaries of accumulated consumption, precipitation, grower participation, crop type, field-level results, etc.

All results are continuously updated and downloadable at any time in Excel format for the use by the individual grower or manager entity.

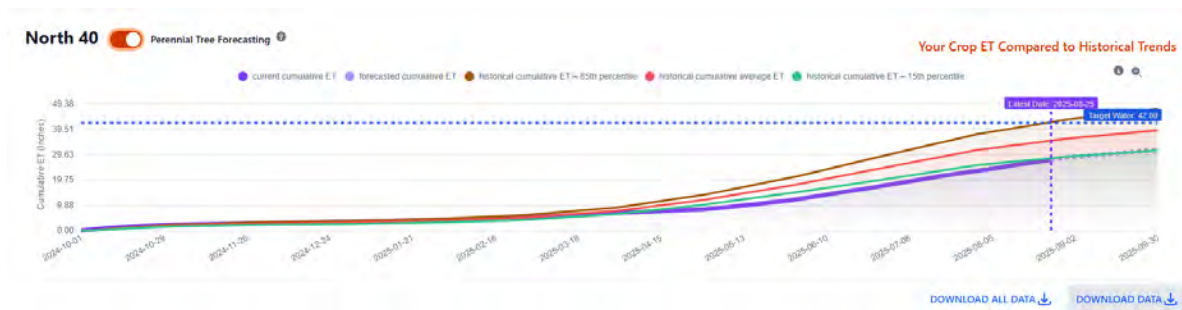
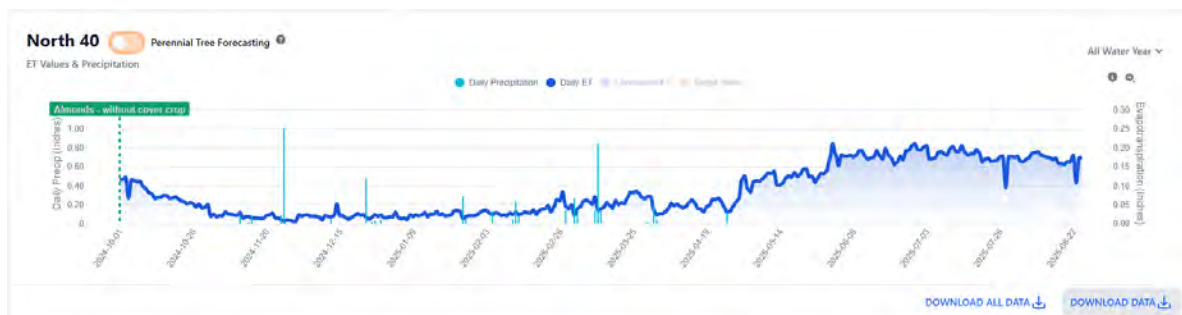
## Grower Portal Examples:



Claimed Fields

FIELD NAME	ENTITY	TARGET WATER	CROP 1
AZ Dairy Home Ranch #1	None	33 Inches (ET)	Forage Mix (2024-11-20 - 2025-03-25)
AZ Dairy Home Ranch #2	None	40 Inches (ET)	Alfalfa (2024-10-01 - 2025-09-30)
AZ Dairy Home Ranch #3	None	35 Inches (ET)	Corn (field) (2025-03-20 - 2025-08-06)

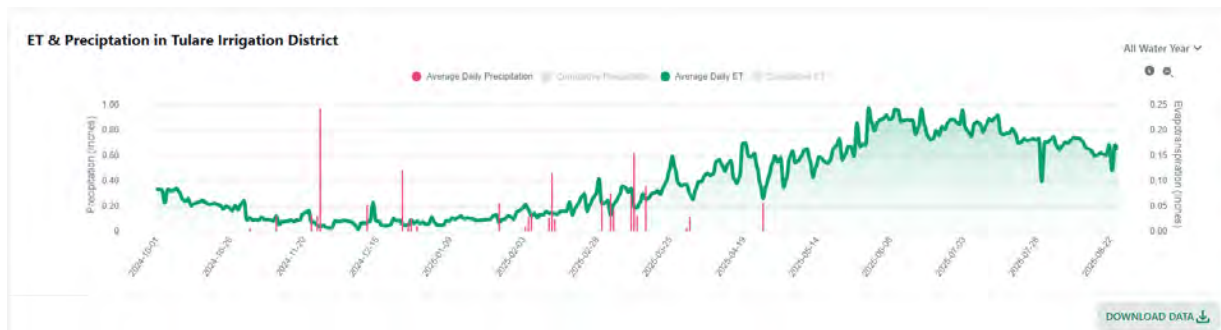
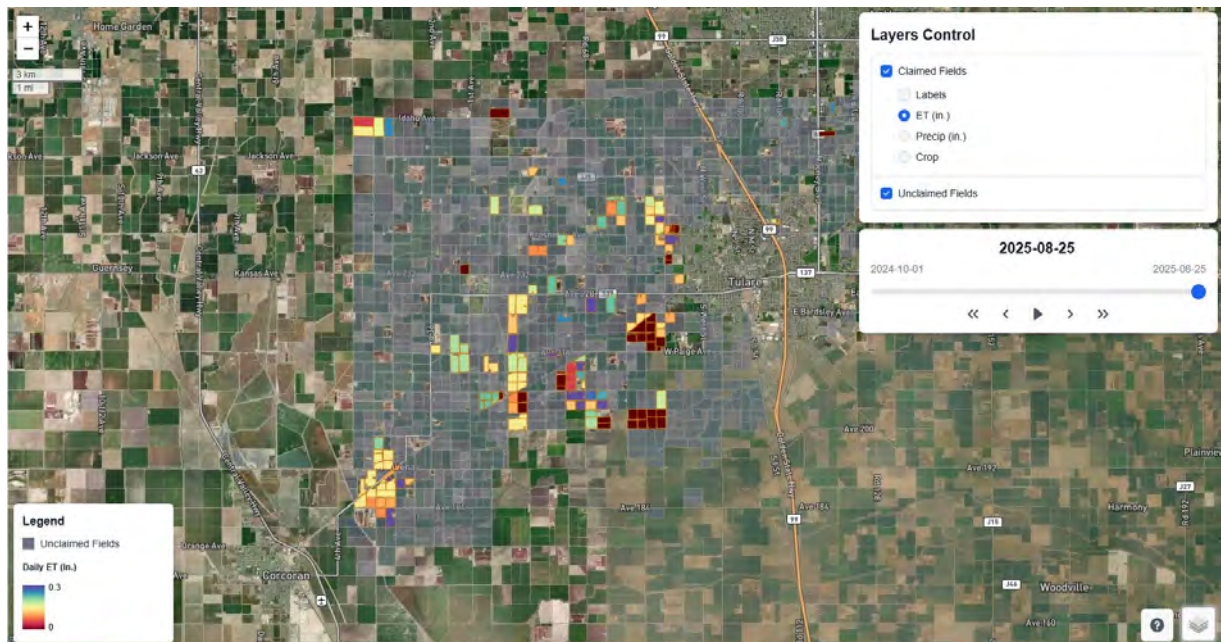
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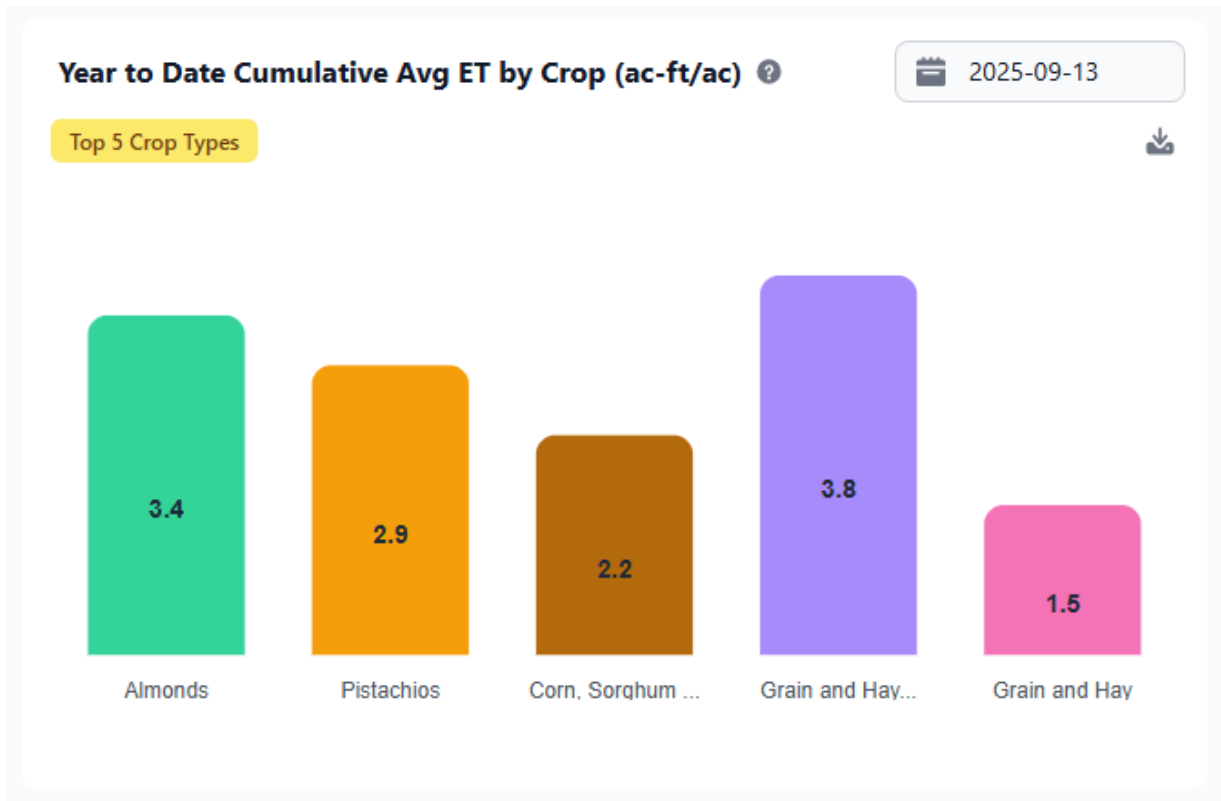
**Scope Confidentiality:** This scope of work is considered confidential in nature, and is intended for review and consideration only by the addressees or direct representatives of the organization in the "Prepared For" line.



## Manager Portal Summaries:



**Scope Confidentiality:** This scope of work is considered confidential in nature, and is intended for review and consideration only by the addressees or direct representatives of the organization in the "Prepared For" line.



## SCHEDULE

This scope of services is intended to cover a 3-year duration:

Beginning Water Year Date: October 1, 2025

Ending Water Year Date: September 30, 2028

## TOTAL COST AND PAYMENT TERMS

As of 2025 Land IQ mapping, there are approximately 93,108 cropped and/or managed acres within the KDWD as delineated fields. Please note that because this daily tool is intended to be an irrigation management resource, only cropped and/or actively managed fields are considered. Costs are only associated with those cropped and/or managed acres.

**Table 1. Cropped and/or Managed Fields and Associated Cost Estimates.**

KDWD	Proposed – 3 Years		
	October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026	October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027	October 1, 2027- September 30, 2028
Analysis Acres	93,108	93,108	93,108
Cost (\$)/Acre/Year	\$0.55	\$0.57	\$0.59
Annual Cost	\$51,209.40	\$53,071.56	\$54,933.72
Monthly Cost	\$4,267.45	\$4,422.63	\$4,577.81

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