

SUWANNEE RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Governing Board

FROM: Darlene Velez, Chief, Office of Water Resources

THRU: Tom Mirti, Deputy Executive Director, Water and Land Resources

DATE: January 29, 2021

RE: Agricultural Water Use Monitoring Report

BACKGROUND

In September 2012, the District began a program of water use monitoring for agricultural water use reporting on wells of 8" diameter or greater. As of January 11, 2021, the District has permitted 1,786 (255.4 MGD) irrigation wells which include a water use monitoring condition, of which 1,423 (217.5 MGD) wells are active, i.e., the wells have been drilled already. The District is monitoring 1,393 (213.3 MGD) of the 1,423 active wells. The remaining 30 active wells not yet monitored are scheduled for site visits to determine the type of monitoring that will be implemented.

Where possible, agricultural water use is estimated using monthly electric power consumption records provided by the electrical power provider. Estimation by power use is the most cost-effective method of water use reporting. To date, the farmer agreements authorizing the District to receive power usage reports directly from the cooperatives are in effect on 690 (132.1 MGD) monitoring points.

Not all withdrawal points are suitable for estimation using power consumption. Diesel-powered pumps and complex interconnected irrigation systems still require direct methods of monitoring. The District employs telemetry to conduct water use monitoring on diesel-power systems. There are currently 274 (49.2 MGD) telemetry systems installed by the District for this purpose.

Some withdrawal points have very limited use (< 0.05 MGD each) and are monitored for status changes by individual site visits. There are currently 426 (31.8 MGD) limited use monitoring points in the District. Some users monitor their own water use and report that data to the District. There are currently 2 (0.3 MGD) self-monitored points.

Since April 2017, the District has consistently had over 94% of active wells and permitted allocation being monitored. To date, the District is monitoring approximately 97.9% of existing active wells (98.1% of allocation) with water use permit monitoring conditions.

The attached figure shows the current well status and monitoring type for all wells with water use monitoring conditions (Figure 1).