

Madera County GSAs, FB and MAWA

Madera County GSAs Chowchilla, Delta-Mendota and Madera Subbasins

Allocations Farm Units Farm Units in Irriwatch

10:00 to 11:30 a.m., April 19, 2021

Zoom, Madera County

Madera, CA





Allocations

- A water budget that decreases over time
- Consists of Sustainable Yield (SY) and Transitional Water (TW)
 - SY – water that is here “naturally”
 - TW – continued overdraft
- Tracked over a calendar year in Irrigate
- Will have water rates (volumetric) associated with it
- SY and TW estimates will be available per acre at next BOS meeting
- Allocations can be managed within a farm unit with some limitations



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What is a farm unit?

- Discussed with Advisory Committee, MAWA and Board in 2020 extensively
- Will allow some flexibility and reflect real-world farming conditions in which resources are shared among commonly operated or managed lands
- Land must be owned or managed by same entity or organization or co-op



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Why do farm units matter?

- Farm units provide flexibility to manage TW over multiple acres and multiple parcels
- TW would be available to currently irrigated lands and fallowed land
- Never-been-irrigated land is not eligible for TW
- TW is a bucket available to the GSA in each basin that shrinks each year
- The GSA is allocating this TW “bucket” to irrigated lands to help growers transition to zero overdraft



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What are the constraints on farm units?

- Must be within the same zone on map
- Can consist of irrigated, fallowed and never-been-irrigated land within same zone
- Must be owned or managed by **a certain date**
- Must be willing to pay for SY for all acres, including fallowed and never-been-irrigated acres
- Must be willing to pay for TW for irrigated acres
- **SY from never-been-irrigated acres is limited to the lesser of:**
 - 25% of the irrigated acres of the farm unit
 - 25% of the annual ETAW of the farm unit
 - The SY from 2,000 acres

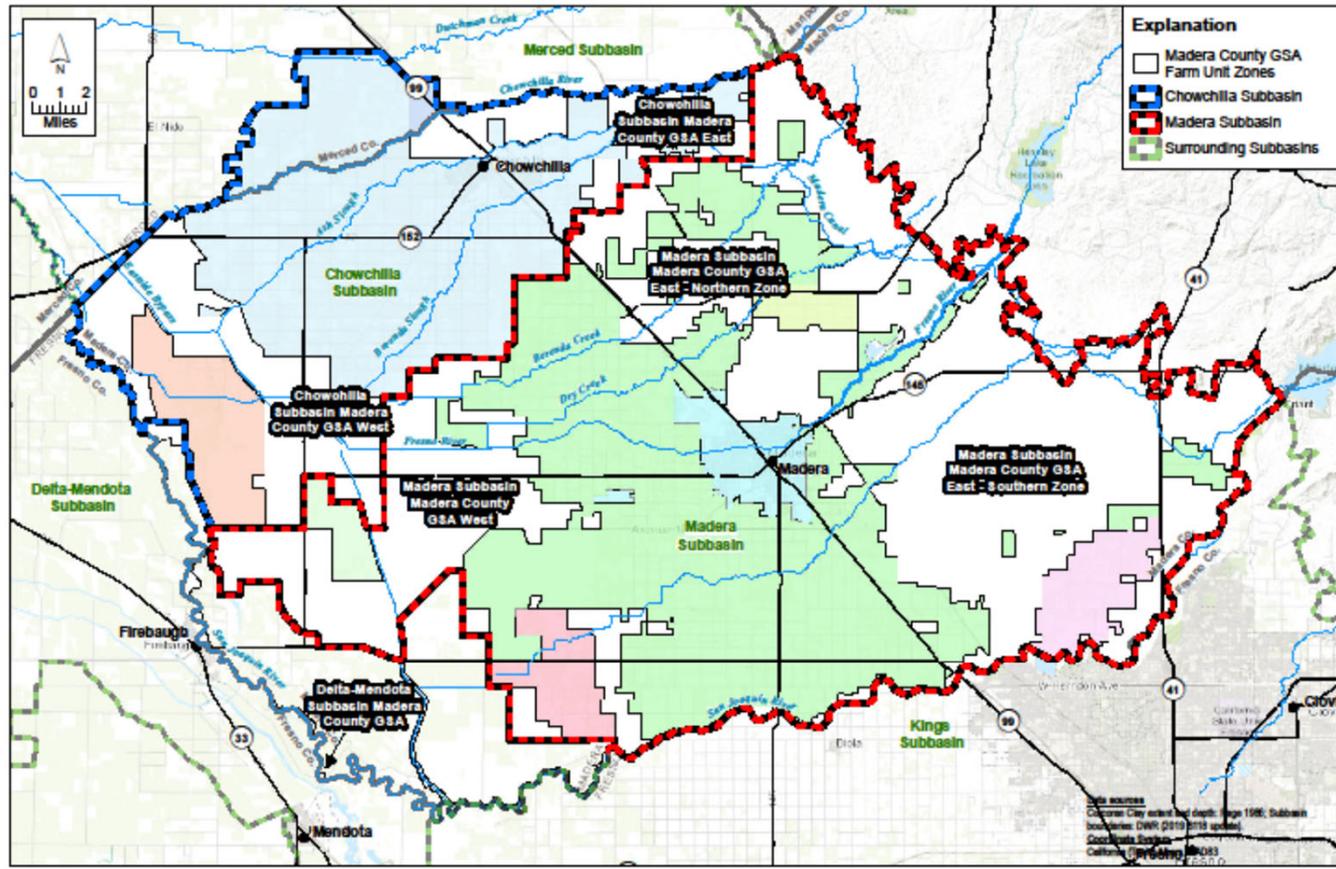


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Exhibit B



X:\D\707-113 Madera Subbasin GSP Development\GIS\Map Files\bb_working_FarmUnit.mxd



FIGURE 1

Madera County GSAs Farm Unit Zones

Madera Subbasin
Groundwater Sustainability Plan



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What changes could occur to farm units?

The idea of farm units is to provide flexibility. If the system is being used in some manner such that necessary reduced consumption of groundwater is not occurring as required by the GSP, the GSA will need to make changes. This could include:

- Protecting domestic well users from concentrated pumping impacts
- Increasing ramp down of TW
- Restricting farm unit size or proximity (e.g. lands need to be within X miles)
- Further limits on the inclusion of never-irrigated lands in farm units



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How were the farm units set up?

- Irriwatch did an initial grouping of land as the farm unit
- Modifications for farm units can be sent to County GSA with a map of specific parcels
- Documentation will be required of ownership or management



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What is the appeals process?

An appeals process for the farm unit will be developed. Most likely, it will be based on the GSA Appeals Process:

1. Contact staff at the GSA to let them know of your issue.
2. Issue can be reviewed by department head
3. Issue can be reviewed by three-person panel (assessor-admin-development services)
4. Issue can be reviewed by the board of supervisors/board of directors



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How will changes be handled?

- Leases and ownership changes— an example
 - Farmer A leases/buys 50 irrigated acres from Farmer B
 - Farmer B must submit form to Madera County GSA requesting transfer of allocation associated with the leased/sold 50 irrigated acres to Farmer A
- Information must include:
 - APN
 - map if field is only part of an APN and
 - beginning date and ending date

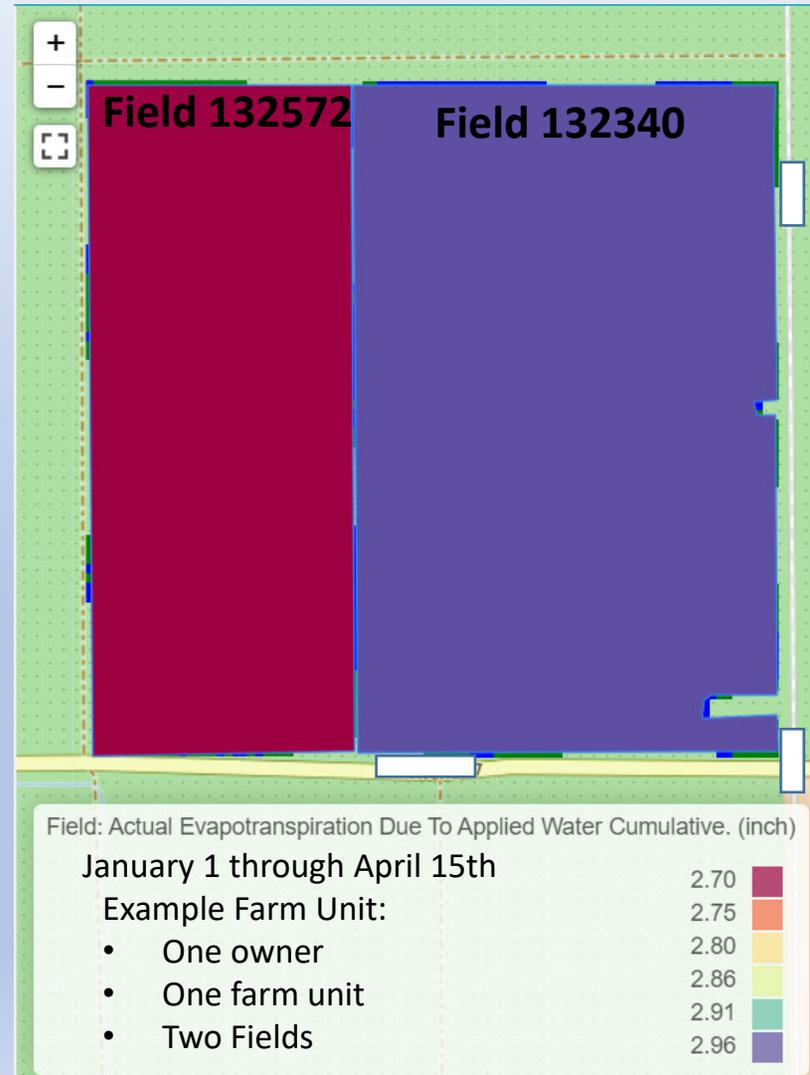


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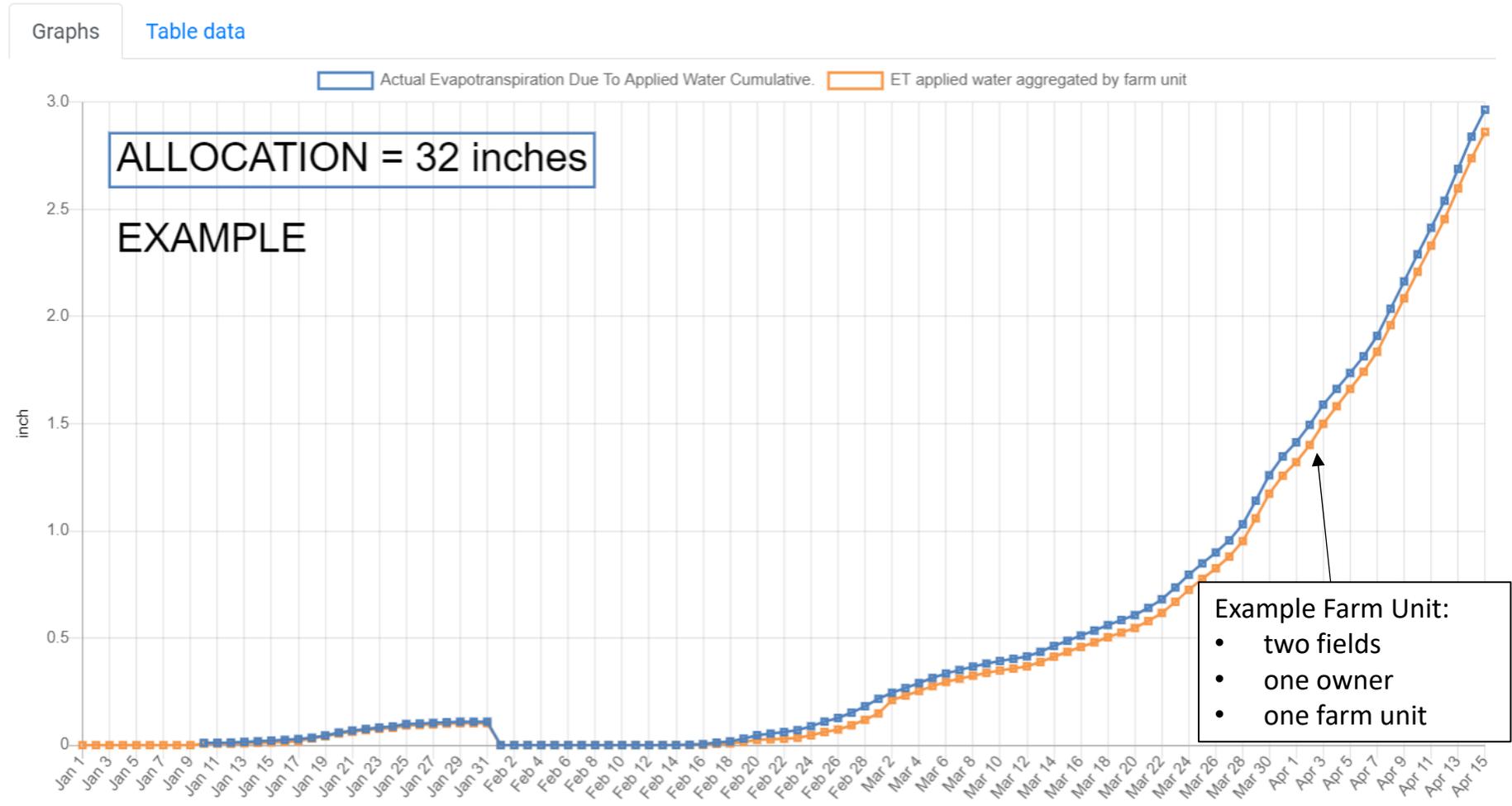
Example Farm Unit—for feedback

- one owner
- one farm unit
- two fields
- Total Etaw (Jan. 1 through April 15)
 - Etaw 2.70 inches
 - Etaw 2.96 inches



IrriWatch ET_{aw} Tracking—Field 132340

Graphs - 044272002_132340



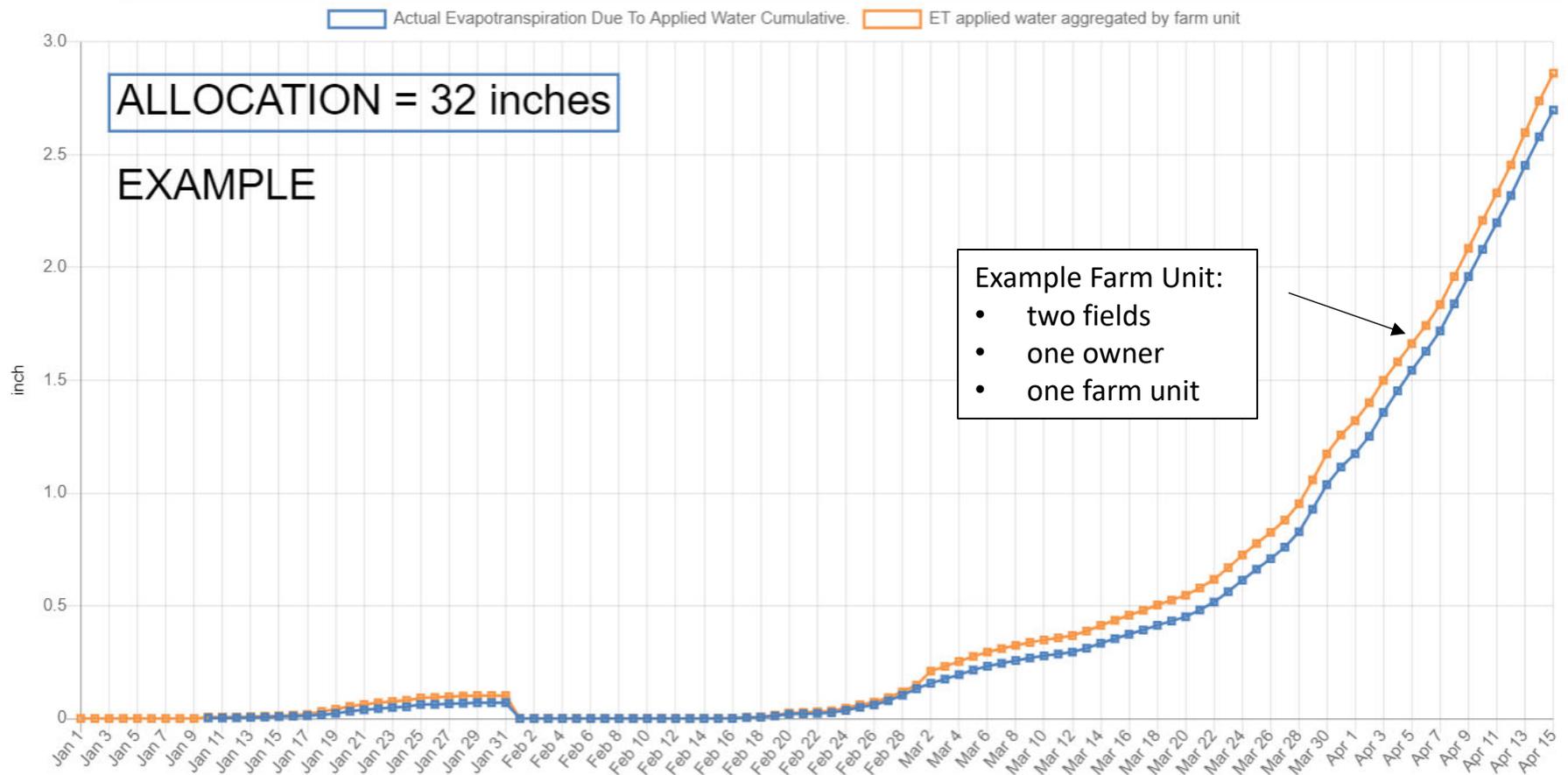
IrriWatch ET_{aw} Tracking—Field 132572

Graphs - 044272002_132572



Graphs

Table data



IrriWatch Training Schedule

- November 6, 2020 – SEBAL and root zone water budget
- December 16, 2020 – Enrollment workshop with MAWA
- January 20, 2021 – IrriWatch set up and use
- April 19, 2021 (MAWA) farm units and allocations
- May 3, 2021 (MAWA) functions and features
- May 17, 2021 (MAWA) How does SEBAL/Irriwatch work?
- Mid/late summer 2021 – IrriWatch feedback and comparison to field measurements
 - Listen to feedback
 - Respond to questions
 - Discuss comparisons with field measurements.
 - Discuss relationships between AW, ET and ET_{aw} for selected fields

Next Steps

- Register your parcels by sending APNs, crop types, irrigation types and soil types to support@irriwatch.com
- Log on and make sure the parcels are correct (including crop, irrigation and soil types)
- Let us know what makes sense and what information you have questions about by emailing support@irriwatch.com
- Register for May 3 and May 17 MAWA workshops