## **Response to Editor (Re3)**

(hess-2019-155)

Zhe Zhang, Yanping Li, Michael Barlage, Fei Chen, Gonzalo Miguez-Macho, Andrew Ireson, and Zhenhua Li

Thank you for taking this article into consideration and your efforts are much appreciated. Please see the reply to Editor's comment in the following texts:

Comments to the Author:

Dear authors,

Thank you for your efforts to address the latest set of comments. The manuscript is now ready to be published. there is just one last minor issue. The term "subsurface soils" in the intro on L51-52 is still unclear. Why not call it what you mean, which is "unsaturated soils above the saturated aquifer"?

Thank you.

Thank you for this comment and suggestion. We have changed the term "subsurface soils" into "unsaturated soils" through the manuscript. This indeed makes a clearer sense. Thank you very much. See L51-52 in the manuscript.