

Notification to the authors:

1. Please note that any change to the list of authors at this stage of the review needs to be approved by the editor. For a subsequent revision, please indicate in the “Author's response” the reasons for adding of the co-author Jiyu Li to the list of authors.

**Reply:** Jin Wang graduated this spring, Jiyu Li conducted additional analysis in response to the reviewer's comments (i.e., the validation of soil moisture estimation by comparing with re-analysis data from CLDAS dataset). Thus, Jiyu Li was added to the list of authors.

2. For the next revision, please remove the "Supplementary" section from your \*.pdf manuscript file. Please see more: <https://www.hydrology-and-earth-system-sciences.net/submission.html#assets / Supplements />.

**Reply:** Thank you for the notification, we have removed the "Supplementary" section from our manuscript file and put it in a separate file.