

# IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **IID Seeks Applications for 2006-07 On-Farm Fallowing Program**

(IMPERIAL, Calif.) – This week the Imperial Irrigation District is contacting landowners and water users in an attempt to notify them that the solicitation process for the 2006-07 On-Farm Fallowing Program has begun.

The deadline to apply to have land considered for the program is Thursday, April 6. Applications must be received in the Water Department manager's office by noon on April 6.

The information about the fallowing program is being mailed to landowners and water users this week. Further information about the program, including the necessary application materials, are available at the following Web site: [http://www.iid.com/water/fallowing\\_program.html](http://www.iid.com/water/fallowing_program.html).

Fields selected to participate in this program will be paid to remain fallow from July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007. Payments will be set at a rate of \$60 per acre-foot per acre of a field's baseline water use history.

All proposals that meet the eligibility guidelines and selection criteria will be offered contracts to participate in the program unless there is an over-subscription. "In the event that more fields are offered than are necessary, a random selection process will be utilized to determine the participants," said Water Department Manager Michael L. King.

Fields that are not offered contracts based on the random selection process will be "rolled over" and given the first opportunity to participate in the next Fallowing Program.

The On-Farm Fallowing Program, which enters its fourth year, is necessary at this time to generate the water needed for the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the mitigation requirements of the Salton Sea. This will be done until on-farm and system efficiency conservation measures can be implemented.

The District anticipates needing about 78,900 acre-feet of water in 2006 and about 93,900 acre-feet in 2007. IID plans to generate this water through the fallowing program and, if necessary, by fallowing District-owned lands.

In 2005-06, the On-Farm Fallowing Program had 11,672 acres enrolled, generating about 80,857 acre-feet of conserved water.

The District works to closely monitor the fallowing program, calculating the amount of water and acreage needed each year and to ensure that all mitigation and contract requirements are met.

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