



For Immediate Release: Dec. 26, 2007
Contact: Kevin Kelley (760) 427-1593

Proposals sought for 2008-09 On-Farm Fallowing Program

(IMPERIAL, Calif.) – The Imperial Irrigation District has opened the solicitation process for the 2008-09 fallowing program.

Proposals are now being accepted and must be received by the IID water manager's office no later than noon on Feb. 1, 2008.

Information about the fallowing program is being mailed to landowners and water users. Information about the program and application materials are available over the Internet from the IID Web site: www.iid.com. Please click on the water section and select "fallowing" from the side menu.

Fields selected to participate will be paid to lie fallow from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

IID will issue contracts in March 2008. All proposals that meet the eligibility guidelines and selection criteria will be offered contracts to participate, unless there is an over-solicitation. Should there be more fields offered than necessary, a random selection process will be used to determine participants. Fields that are not offered contracts based on the random selection process may be rolled over and given the first opportunity to participate in the next fallowing program, if needed.

The on-farm fallowing program, which enters its sixth year, is necessary to generate the water needed for the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the mitigation requirements of the Salton Sea and to pay back inadvertent overruns of IID's annual Colorado River water entitlement. This will be done until on-farm and system efficiency conservation measures can be implemented. Fallowing is limited to the first 15 years of the water conservation and transfer agreement and will be replaced by on-farm and system efficiency conservation measures as they are implemented, beginning in 2008.

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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