



Questions?

Please contact us at (760) 339-9334

www.iid.com/Water/NewsFromTheDitchbank

Equitable distribution discussions under way

By the time you read this, the first public workshop of the fall on the subject of equitable distribution for the 2009 water year will have concluded.

The meeting was set for Oct. 6.

At the time of this writing, it's anticipated that the district will conduct future meetings regarding equitable distribution.

Farmers and landowners are encouraged to visit the posting of meetings on the Community Calendar section of the IID Web site at www.iid.com. You may also contact Dean Currie at (760) 339-9334 for information.

In August, the IID Board of Directors declared a projected supply/demand imbalance for 2009, a move that triggers a system

of apportionment among water users referred to as equitable distribution. However, since the time when SDI was declared,

the district's projected overrun for 2008 has significantly decreased.

The district's current equitable distribution plan is based on the straight line method of apportionment in which each farmable acre is apportioned the same amount of water.

Staff has been working with water users to suggest modifications to the current equitable distribution plan identified

by the farm community and staff. These will be reviewed at the equitable distribution workshops.

Water Watch

2008 IID approved use: 2,863,270 AF

2008 Forecast of IID use: 2,907,473 AF

2008 Projected Overrun: 44,203 AF

(Figures are projections made by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on 9/30/2008).

Board approves WCAB's following program changes

Recommendations made by the Water Conservation Advisory Board to modify future land-fallowing programs were approved by the IID Board of Directors on Sept. 23.

The changes will take effect with the 2009-10 fallowing program.

The amendments were drafted by a WCAB subcommittee of farm water users that included IID Directors John Pierre Menvielle and James Hanks.

The amendments attempt to address concerns raised by the farming community over fallowing and should help to improve relations between landowners and tenants.

The WCAB passed its resolution on Sept. 11, 2008.

For more information please contact Water Department Key Customer Coordinator Vince Brooke at (760) 339-9765.

The complete document is available at: www.iid.com/Water/WCABResolutions

Water Conservation Advisory Board Resolution No. 2008-1

Excerpts:

WHEREAS, Initiation of a calendar year Fallowing Program (January 1 – December 31) to run concurrently with the existing cropping year Fallowing Program (July 1–June 30).

WHEREAS, Contracts with a 2-year term (or possibly a 1-year term with a renewal option for a second year); and

WHEREAS, Addition of a generic 'early termination' clause (no \$\$ buyout, terms to be mutually agreed upon by both parties if exercised) to the Fallowing Program contract; and

WHEREAS, Earlier contracting deadlines/solicitation process for all Fallowing Programs ... and

WHEREAS, Fallowing Program application notice to Tenant;

NOW THEREFORE, on motion of the Fallowing Program Subcommittee, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the IID BOD incorporates these changes to future Fallowing Programs.

www.iid.com/Water/WaterConservationAdvisoryBoard

Could an overrun in '08 result in a water rate hike?

Since the signing of the Quantification Settlement Agreement in 2003, IID has a fixed amount of water it can use. If IID exceeds its approved use, the district must pay back that amount of water to the Colorado River system by implementing conservation projects and programs.

The potential financial cost to pay back a 2008 overrun of 44,000 acre-feet, through the current fallowing program, would be around \$3.7 million. To generate this money, a charge of about \$1.50 per acre-feet for a year would have to be added to the current agricultural water rate. It would also require about 8,800 acres of Imperial Valley farmland to be fallowed in 2010. This would be in addition to the fallowing used to generate the water for transfer obligations.

While no formal changes are proposed at this time, changes to the water rate structure are being reviewed through a cost of service study. Rates will be discussed during the budget process.

Water coordinators available 'till 7 p.m. to assist during busy season

To help agricultural water customers make adjustments to their water orders during this very busy pumping season, IID water coordinators will be in the office an additional two hours each evening.

Coordinators will be available until 7 p.m. through the middle of November to

receive change requests to water orders. Normally, coordinators are available until 5 p.m.

"This is a very busy time of the year," said Assistant Water Manager Carlos Vilalón, "and we want to be able to better respond to our water customers who need to make adjustments to their orders."

Water Conservation Advisory Board

All meetings are held in the Water Control Center, Imperial. The following meetings are on Thursdays. Meetings begin at noon and conclude by 3:30 p.m.

Oct. 9	Nov. 20
Oct. 23	Dec. 4
Nov. 6	Dec. 18

I'D LIKE TO KNOW

Kevin Kenagy of Nature Fresh Farms and a WCAB member asked: ***"If IID inadvertently overruns its approved use of Colorado River water, what are IID's payback requirements?"***



Kenagy

The October 2003 document "Record of Decision: Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement, Implementation Agreement, Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy, and Related Federal Actions Final Environmental Impacts Statement" addresses this question.

Given the January 1, 2008 beginning of year elevation of Lake Mead (below 1,125'), any overrun (including any balance from previous years) must be paid back in the calendar year after the final decree accounting is issued. Thus, any overruns existing or accumulated in 2008 will

need to be paid backing in full via the implementation of conservation measures within a two year period, or by the end of 2010.

In a future year, should the Secretary of the Interior officially declare a shortage condition for the Colorado River system, any overrun would be required to be paid back in the year the final decree accounting is issued, or essentially a one year period. A shortage condition would also trigger suspension of the inadvertent overrun program and prevent any further overruns from accumulating.

Should the water storage conditions improve such that the beginning of year elevation of Lake Mead reaches 1,125' or higher, payback obligations can be managed over periods of up to three years provided minimum annual payback obligations are met.

The document is available at:

www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/crwda/crwda_rod.pdf

District, water users test way to order water via Internet

■ Operations staff anticipates availability for its ag customers by this winter

IID staff and members of the Water Conservation Advisory Board are currently testing, under a pilot program, the ability to view and place water orders online.

The feature would allow customers to place agricultural water orders through a Web portal.

The new feature is a part of the TruePoint Solutions software program installed by the district earlier this year to assist with managing water ordering and billing services.

"We expect to have the online water ordering capability available to all our agricultural customers by this winter," said Michael L. King, Water Department manager.

In addition to convenience, the technology should improve water ordering accuracy and record keeping efficiency.



IID's Manual Zarate assists WCAB member Larry Gilbert as he works to test the web portal software for ordering water.

Despite the new feature, water users will retain the ability to place orders over the telephone with division coordinators.

Helpful Web sites

www.iid.com/Water/EquitableDistribution
www.iid.com/Water/CutoutSchedule

AAC's new offline reservoir in operation

IID assumed operating responsibility of the new offline storage reservoir along the All-American Canal in late August.

This reservoir is intended to replace operational capacity lost during the redesign of the concrete lined sections currently under construction.

The new regulating reservoir is located adjacent to the newly-lined section of the All-American Canal between Drops 1 and 2. It will be used to manage water flows that exceed downstream operational demands or when there is insufficient flow from the Colorado River to meet downstream water user orders. Flows diverted into the regulating reservoir will be reintroduced into the AAC as necessary to meet downstream demands or as Colorado River diversions are reduced to accommodate this water's flow back into IID irrigation system.

The offline reservoir was constructed in a portion of the original All-American Canal at Reach 2 that was slated to be abandoned once the new parallel, concrete-lined canal was completed. Instead, this section of the canal was drained, reshaped, and covered with a synthetic liner before a layer of earth was applied for additional protection. Two inlets to the newly lined All-American Canal will enable flows to be diverted into the regulating reservoir and an outlet will provide for releases back into the canal.

Contractor Ames Coffman JV has been doing the construction work on Reaches 2 and 3 of the All-American Canal lining project. www.iid.com/Water/AllAmericanCanalLiningProject



Above: The offline storage reservoir's inlet structure with its gates open. Below: The reservoir was filled for the first time in late August.



IID zanjeros employ wireless equipment to open, close gates in pilot program

With the aid of rugged laptop computers, four IID zanjeros will soon be able to send wireless signals from their trucks to receivers affixed to canal gates. This will give them the ability to manage water flow with precision.

Zanjero-controlled gate automation is currently a pilot program. The goal is to reduce spill from the IID delivery system by maintaining tighter controls.

One of the biggest advantages of the pilot program, zanjeros expect, is rapid response time. Some laterals are very long, requiring a lot of travel time.

The instantaneous nature of the wireless communication feature will help control the irrigation system.