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NEWS RELEASE

Proposals sought for 2007-08 On-Farm Fallowing Program

(IMPERIAL, Calif.) – The Imperial Irrigation District will soon be opening the solicitation process for the 2007-08 Fallowing Program.

Proposals will be accepted starting December 22. All proposals must be received by the IID water manager's office no later than noon on Jan. 31, 2007.

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, 2007, through June 30, 2008.

IID will issue contracts in March. 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 fifth year, is necessary to generate the water needed for the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the mitigation requirements of the Salton Sea and to payback previous overuse or 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 anticipates needing about 78,000 AF of water from the 2007-08 fallowing program solicitation. For the 2006-07 On-Farm Fallowing Program, about 18,000 acres were contracted for fallowing to generate approximately 96,400 AF 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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