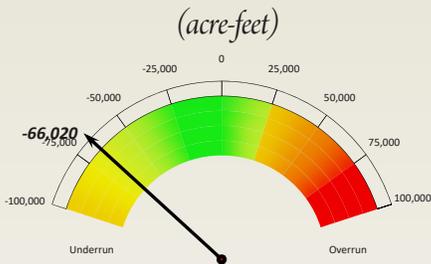




# Ditchbank

December 2019

## IID 2019 Forecasted Water Use



<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/4000/hourly/forecast.pdf>

12/3/2019

## CHANGES TO IID'S ON-FARM PROGRAM



Changes have been made to IID's On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program that are intended to help the district operate the program within budget, meet the obligations of the water transfer, and continue on-farm participation by the ag water community.

After careful consideration, on November 18, the IID Board of Directors approved a one-year, 2020 OFECP with the following target volumes and rates:

- The 2020 OFECP establishes a not-to-exceed payment rate of \$285/acre-foot to fund a maximum conservation target of 128,333 AF tied to a fixed budget.
- If the 2020 OFECP yield is more than the 128,333 AF target, the OFECP budget remains the same and the \$285/AF payment rate will be reduced proportionately.
- Participants with crops planted in 2019 and harvested in 2020, will be paid using the 2019 OFECP payment rate of \$125/AF of conserved water (plus any true-up).

### Excess conservation

The 2020 OFECP conservation target is two-thirds of the San Diego County Water Authority transfer volume, which will peak at 205,000 acre-feet in 2021 before leveling off to 200,000 acre-feet per year of conserved water from 2023 to 2047. In 2013, the first year of implementation, the on-farm program yielded 17,276 acre-feet of conserved water. Since 2014 this program has been oversubscribed, far exceeding

QSA ramp-up schedules, conservation requirements and budget plans, yielding nearly 191,000 AF of conserved water in 2018. The volumetric and budgetary caps that were initiated in 2019 are intended to prevent deficit spending and support Salton Sea concerns, given the district's limited water storage options.

### Closing of old contracts

IID has mailed out closing notification letters to all OFECP participants with outstanding contracts for 2015 to 2017 programs that require immediate action. If the designated contracts are not returned to OFECP staff with all required signatures by noon on December 31, 2019 **these OFECP contracts will be void and no conservation payments will be processed.** There will be no exceptions to this deadline as the IID board has directed these programs to be closed.

### Going forward

There are changes being made to the application process for 2020 that involve moving the property owner's authorization into the application, ultimately streamlining the verification process. The proposed application changes may not be finalized in time to allow for all the applications to be returned by the end of 2019. Therefore, in order to have the opportunity to properly verify crop fields, provisional application forms for proposed fields will be available in December 2019 and will be distributed to all program participants upon request. Provisional application forms must be submitted before the start of the crop.

The OFECP provisional application form will be located on the following web page:

[www.iid.com/onfarmconservation](http://www.iid.com/onfarmconservation).



# IID

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[www.iid.com](http://www.iid.com)

(Continued from front page)

## STRUCTURE INVESTIGATIONS SCHEDULED FOR BRIDGES OVER THE ALL-AMERICAN CANAL



The California Department of Transportation is planning to inspect the structural safety and integrity of three bridges that cross over the All-American Canal within the vicinity of the city of Calexico. Water flows will be maintained at a maximum of 400 cfs for 12 hours (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) during the last Sunday of 2019 for these areas, affecting irrigation

flows in multiple locations districtwide.

The three locations affected by the scheduled inspections include the Highway 98 bridge crossing at the AAC west of Calexico, the Highway 111 bridge crossing at the AAC north of Calexico and the Highway 98 bridge crossing at the AAC east of Calexico.

The carryover rate may increase on the inspection day (Sunday, December 29), however, the carryover rate will return to normal on Monday, December 30, 2019. The bridge inspections will only affect the lower southwest AAC (Wormwood to Woodbine), southwest West Side Main Canal (Fern to Fillaree) and the Westmorland Division.

Beginning mid-December, South End Division and North End Division staff will issue text notifications to water customers regarding the scheduled December 29 water flow restrictions. Water customers may contact the South End Division office with any questions at 1-760-482-9800 or the North End Division at 1-760-482-9900.

## RECOGNITION OF IID'S ALAMO IRRIGATION SYSTEM AS WORLD HERITAGE IRRIGATION STRUCTURE

National committees have an opportunity annually to nominate operational irrigation structures, or those having an archival value, for selection as World Heritage Structures by the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage.

Worldwide, there were 88 structures recognized through 2018, none of which were in the United States.

IID submitted considerations for the Alamo Canal, Rockwood Gates and Hanlon Heading (original Alamo Irrigation System).

Key factors for eligibility:

- 100 years old facility
- Meet significance criteria

In August of 2019, IID's nomination was approved as a World Heritage Irrigation Structure.

The Alamo Irrigation System was instrumental in the settlement and the development of the Imperial Valley.

- The facilities at the time (1900-1918) represented a significant milestone in the development of irrigated agriculture.
- By 1923, Imperial County was the third fastest growing county in the United States.
- Unique from all others, was the system's binational approach in that the irrigation system resulted in exceptional development of agriculture and increase in food production not just for the Imperial Valley and Mexicali Valley, but worldwide.
- The system enabled outstanding contribution to food production, livelihood opportunities and rural prosperity in the region.



Brian Wahlin, president of USCID, presents IID's Tina Shields with the award that recognizes the Alamo Irrigation System in the Register of World Heritage Irrigation Structures.