under the Salton Sea initiative, IID seeks to integrate
the resolution of Salton Sea environmental and public
health impacts from the QSA water transfers with the
development of renewable energy assets in the region
to create a beneficial water-energy nexus. Additionally, IID’s
petition to the California State Water Resources Control
Board similarly requests the state live up to the Salton Sea
restoration obligations it committed to in 2003 in order to
ensure the long-term viability of the various conservation
and transfer programs that provide water supply reliability
to Southern California.

IID and its partners believe that a smaller, but sustainable,
Salton Sea restoration plan is viable and will, over
the long-term, proactively address transfer-related
environmental concerns while reducing long-term
mitigation costs and public health impacts.

Looking Ahead
As the QSA’s primary implementing agency, IID invests
its interests in the Salton Sea Restoration and Renewable
Energy Initiative as a solution to preserve the long-term
viability of the water conservation and transfer pact
among California’s Colorado River water users.

With a 3.1 million acre-feet annual entitlement to Colorado River water, the Imperial Irrigation
District is a careful steward of every drop of this precious resource.

Though conservation measures date back many years, since the 2003 implementation of the
Quantification Settlement Agreement, IID has aggressively been conserving water to meet the
ramping-up conservation schedules – expecting to generate more than 218,000 acre-feet in 2018
for the QSA. This is in addition to the 105,000 acre-feet generated annually by the conservation
program funded by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the 67,700 acre-
feet conserved by the All-American Canal Lining Project.

Collectively, with all its conservation efforts, IID will ultimately conserve about 15 percent of its
conservative use entitlement each year – over 487,000 acre-feet when all conservation measures
are at full implementation.

Early Conservation

Since its inception over a century ago, IID and its growers have implemented
ambitious conservation programs and efforts that include concrete-lined canals
and head ditches to reduce seepage, delivery system automation, regulating
reservoirs, scientific irrigation scheduling, tailwater recovery systems, sprinkler
irrigation, drip irrigation and land leveling.

Additional significant conservation practices have been in place for more than 25
years after the district and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
entered into its landmark water conservation agreement in 1998. The various
conservation methods have saved millions of acre-feet for Southern California’s
urban water use since inception.

In doing its part today to help California live within the state’s basic 4.4 million
acre-foot apportionment of Colorado River water, IID is the primary implementer
of the Quantification Settlement Agreement – the nation’s largest ag-to-urban
water conservation and transfer project.

Under the QSA, water conservation efforts at IID include temporary land
fallowing, and a conversion to both system and on-farm conservation efforts that
steadily ramp up annually until leveling off in 2026.

Every Drop... Precious and Finite
A Leader in the Practice of Water Conservation
Since 2013, IID has been implementing a system of apportionment to help agricultural water users more accurately plan and manage their annual water use. Under IID’s Equitable Distribution Plan, the district offers an apportionment volume, equivalent to a water budget, at the start of the year to each farm unit. The apportionment is determined using a hybrid calculation comprised of half of a field’s historical average annual water use and a straight-line, acre-foot-per-acre value.

Agricultural water users are encouraged to closely plan their yearly cropping plans and irrigation schedules to maximize their apportionments. The district provides support to growers who seek assistance in creating crop plans and irrigation schedules to closely plan their yearly cropping and irrigation activities.

The water transfer schedules call for the district to generate 150,000 acre-feet per year through fallowing from 2013 through 2017 for these mitigation and transfer needs, after which IID’s required fallowing will be completed.

In 2014, the following program was re-engineered to better integrate it with the farm unit approach developed for the district’s Equitable Distribution Plan.

**FALLOWING PROGRAM**

Fallowing is the practice of temporarily taking active farmland out of production. Water, which under normal circumstances would have gone to the land to produce crops, is considered conserved under the following program. Conserved water from fallowing is transferred to the San Diego County Water Authority, used for delivery to the Salton Sea (through 2017) to mitigate the environmental impacts of these transfers, and for payback or storage purposes.

The water transfer schedules call for the district to generate 150,000 acre-feet per year through fallowing from 2013 through 2017 for these mitigation and transfer needs, after which IID’s required fallowing will be completed.

In 2014, the following program was re-engineered to better integrate it with the farm unit approach developed for the district’s Equitable Distribution Plan.

**SYSTEM CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

IID also generates conserved water to meet the needs of the QSA water transfers by making water efficiency improvements in its delivery system. Conservation targets started at 4,000 acre-feet in 2008 with the goal of capturing and reusing operational discharge. With the completion of the first system conservation project (the Main Canal Seepage Interception project and other system projects), the district conserved nearly 45,000 acre-feet in 2015 through system conservation.

IID system conservation measures generated over 67,000 acre-feet in 2018, with the goal of reaching 103,000 acre-feet annually in 2026.

System conservation efforts improve the reliability and flexibility of water deliveries and facilitate future on-farm conservation efforts.

**Components of the System Conservation Program:**
- major integrated information management systems
- communication upgrades
- installation of automated headings
- monitoring of system operational discharge
- a pilot delivery measurement project on two zanjero runs that will be scaled up district-wide
- notebook computers for zanjeros
- reservoirs and interties

**ON-FARM EFFICIENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

Of the 303,000 acre-feet of conserved water IID needs to generate for the QSA water transfers at full implementation, 200,000 acre-feet is to come from on-farm conservation measures by 2026.

In 2018, IID generated 190,969 acre-feet through on-farm water conservation measures. Under this program, voluntary water efficiency improvement projects and conservation measures are implemented as contracts are made between the district and ag water users. The program pays participants $285 per acre-foot of delivered water reduction, which is verified against historical deliveries specific to each field and crop.

**THE ALL-AMERICAN CANAL LINING PROJECT**

IID provides 67,700 acre-feet of conserved water annually to Southern California through the All-American Canal Lining Project.

- 11,500 acre-feet goes to the San Luis Roy Indian settlement parties
- 56,200 acre-feet goes to the SDCWA

Considered to be one of the largest civil engineering efforts in the country at the time, the canal lining project consisted of constructing a parallel canal, 23-miles in length, emerging about 20 miles west of Yuma, Ariz., and extending to IID’s Drop 3 hydroelectric facility.

**IID-MWD WATER CONSERVATION AGREEMENT**

IID conserves 105,000 acre-feet annually for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California through the historic water transfer agreement entered into by the parties in 1988.

Not to be confused with IID’s more recent System Conservation Plan, for nearly three decades MWD has been...