On-farm conservation applications sought

The Water Department is accepting applications for the 2016-2017 On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program. Under the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the efficiency conservation target volume for transfer to the San Diego County Water Authority in 2016 is 80,000 acre-feet; this ramps up to 100,000 acre-feet for 2017.

To create this volume of water, IID has initiated the 2016-17 on-farm program to allow for the contracting of fields with crops that roll into the 2017 calendar year. While more than 100 proposals for crops that extend beyond the current 2015-16 program term have already been submitted, it is critical that existing on-farm participants, as well as new proposals, submit the required applications to build off the current momentum.

To move forward with the program and allow growers to make necessary cropping decisions, the IID Board of Directors authorized the continued use of the current $285 per acre-foot conservation incentive payment rate. This rate has been used in the previous four On-Farm Efficiency Conservation programs and, to date, the conservation generated has exceeded the annual scheduled targets. For more information, visit www.iid.com/onfarm.

Apportionment relief periods

A review of farm-unit apportionment records, water use forecast from the Bureau of Reclamation and rainfall records/weather events, indicate that agricultural water users may have some unused apportionment in 2016. Under the Equitable Distribution Plan, water users can be relieved of the payment obligation for unused apportionment that is offered in the agricultural water clearinghouse for transfer to another water user.

In August, the agricultural water clearinghouse had 21,000 acre-feet of offers to transfer. An initial take-or-pay relief period was set for Sept. 20, 2016; this has been extended to a series of relief periods, between the fifth and twentieth of each month for the months of October, November and December, consistent with the Equitable Distribution Plan.

During this timeframe, IID will accept up to 7 percent of any farm units’ accepted apportionment into the agricultural water clearinghouse during each relief period, thereby relieving the water user of the

(continued on back)

2016 Relief Periods (up to 7%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 6 – 20</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7 – 21</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 6 – 20</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
payment of that water on the take-or-pay basis. That water will then be available in the clearinghouse to fill requests for water by other users.

Additionally, in recognition of the year-end uncertainty as to final annual water conservation yields attributable to participation in the On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program, the district will work with applicants to ensure their accounts are appropriately balanced by Dec. 31, 2016, provided they participate in the clearinghouse process to transfer water into or out of their farm unit. For more information, visit www.iid.com/awc.

2017 method of apportionment

Staff will be seeking direction from the Board of Directors in October to determine the method of apportionment for 2017 under the Equitable Distribution Plan before the Oct. 31, 2016, annual written notification of apportionment deadline.

In 2014, 2015 and 2016, the board authorized a hybrid method of apportionment, consisting of 50 percent of each field’s average historical use and a straight-line component of the balance of the available water supply for agricultural lands.

Rural energy system distribution expansion funding available

Funds are available to expand rural electrical systems for projects that participate in the district’s On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program or facilitate an on-farm water conservation method.

Project funding, which is limited to the annual backfeed power service revenues, is available under the IID Water and Energy partnership for Rural Energy System Distribution Expansion Funding for On-Farm Conservation Projects.

Under this partnership, IID collects backfeed power service payments from generating facilities located within its service area at retail distribution voltage-levels of 34.5 kV or lower.

As of Jan. 1, 2016, the district had six backfeed generator customers; collectively, projected annual revenue from all six customers is about $600,000. The funds will be used to expand the rural energy distribution system in support of on-farm water conservation projects.

A full description of the program is available on the IID website under Water and Crop News and On-Farm Efficiency sections and at: www.iid.com/EnergyConservationGrant.

The application for funding is available at: www.iid.com/EnergyConservationGrantApp.

Power line safety

Many workers in construction and agriculture face a common safety hazard: potential electrical contact with high voltage overhead lines. Every year, workers across the nation are killed or disabled after accidentally coming in contact with power lines.

Under California Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, storage of hay or irrigation pipe under high voltage lines is prohibited if at any time during handling minimum clearances are not achievable (distance varies by the voltage carried by the line). If you don’t know the voltage a line carries, you must keep a minimum distance of 20 feet.

For more information on voltages or the storage of hay or irrigation pipe, please consult Cal/OSHA or contact IID’s Safety Section at 1-760-339-9376.