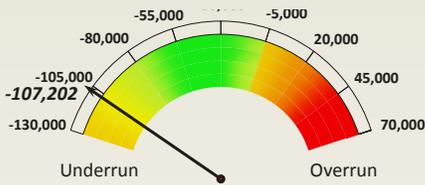




Ditchbank

April 2017

IID 2017 Forecasted Water Use (acre-feet)



[http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/
g4000/hourly/forecast.pdf](http://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast.pdf)

March 28, 2017

On-Farm Conservation Program deadline

Agricultural water customers who wish to participate in IID's On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program are reminded that applications must be turned in each year and for each new crop. Applications for the 2016-2017 solicitation must be submitted as soon as possible to facilitate contracting and allow the district to start preparing for the 2017-2018 solicitation (covering crops harvested in 2018).

Once this next solicitation process opens, proposals for 2016-2017 OFECP will no longer be accepted and the application process will be closed. Please also note the following:

- Applications should be submitted before crops are planted for short season crops and before the beginning of the year for perennials.
- Applications must be submitted each year and for each crop season.
- Applications do not remain active for perennial crops, or rollover into the next OFECP unless a new application is submitted.
- 2016-2017 applications submitted in 2017 for short season crops that started in 2016 may receive historical use credit for the entire conserved amount during the entire crop season, but can only be paid for the savings associated with calendar year 2017 if the program conservation goals have not already been met.
- Applications will not be eligible for program consideration after the crop is harvested.

Leach to benefit soil, crops

Leaching allows water to thoroughly wet the soil, causing salts to dissolve and move into lower soil stratifications and subsurface tile drains. Pushing the salt away from the root zone can provide better crop growth and improve yields. Leaching can also help growers monitor tile lines, refill the field's soil moisture profile, assist with weed control and potentially manage pathogens.

"If you don't control the salts in your field, crops can begin to suffer," said Mike Pacheco, Water Department manager. "IID encourages its agricultural water customers to leach, when appropriate, in order to improve field productivity."

Given the current 2017 IID water use forecast and the availability of water in the Agricultural Water Clearinghouse, growers should determine if a leaching event would be beneficial to their fields between crops.

A few things to remember about leaching:

- The percentage of surface runoff allowed when water is being used to irrigate plowed or flat unseeded ground shall be 5 percent for the last day of irrigation; no measurable waste shall be allowed for any previous day.

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- Fields need to be leveled, having adequate drainage to permit movement of water through the soil.
- Ponded water must not exceed a depth of more than 1½ feet.
- Applications for leaching water need to be made at the water division office where the property is located.
- Adequate protection must be provided to adjacent properties against flooding from the ponded area before applications for leaching water will be granted.
- Approvals are subject to field inspections.
- A drying period of 30 days should follow each leaching period.

A complete list of water regulations is available at www.iid.com/waterregulations.

Reclamation semi-annual site visit

Representatives from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will visit farm fields and conservation projects in April as part of its semi-annual site visit.

During the week of April 11, representatives will be in the valley to verify fields in the Farm Unit Fallowing Program and to review main canal seepage interception system projects.

Reclamation randomly selects fallowed fields in IID's service area to document water records, crop history and locked gates to provide proof of fallow land and water conservation volumes.

Information from the visit will be compiled into a report containing global positioning system coordinates and photographs of select parcels.

District staff will prepare information and accompany Reclamation in the verification process.

Salton Sea air quality mitigation

To help address air quality conditions around the Salton Sea as the shoreline declines, IID has developed a Salton Sea Air Quality Mitigation Program.

In an effort to protect the Air Quality Mitigation pilot projects

at the Salton Sea and control playa emissions, "no trespassing" signs are being added to district property to identify areas on or near exposed playa that access is restricted. Off-road enthusiasts and the general public should refrain from entering these pilot project areas or open playa lands in order to assist with IID's air quality mitigation responsibilities.



Currently, IID is developing and testing a range of proactive dust control measures tailored to the climate and soil conditions on and around the Salton Sea playa. These measures can be quickly implemented, adequately maintain a stabilized surface and prevent the spread of emissive source areas as playa is exposed.

Pilot studies include surface roughening, vegetation enhancement and surface stabilizer.

Surface roughening: An effective dust control measure on bare, unprotected surfaces. It can provide quick, waterless and effective control on exposed playa by decreasing surface wind velocity and physically trapping soil particles from upwind sources.

Vegetation management: IID is evaluating methods to establish vegetation in areas where there is natural drainage in the soils and a ground water source that plants can reach after established.

Surface stabilizer: This pilot project evaluates a salt-based surface stabilizer, magnesium chloride. Widely available and relatively inexpensive, it can absorb and retain moisture from the air and soil subsurface, reducing erosion.

For information on the IID's air quality mitigation projects, visit www.iid.com/airquality.