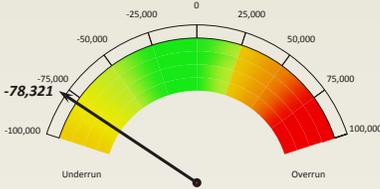




Ditchbank

July 2017

IID 2017 Forecasted Water Use (acre-feet)



<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/forecast.pdf>

June 29, 2017

Ag leaching deliveries will not count toward EDP apportionment or impact on-farm conservation yields

With the June 30 conclusion of the 15-year following requirement mandated by the terms of the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the increasing water conservation and management activities being implemented by growers, IID has reviewed the status of IID’s year-to date water deliveries and reminds ag water users to consider leaching fields to improve soil conditions and crop production.

To facilitate the delivery of leaching water, outlined in Regulation No. 20 of IID’s rules and regulations, the board of directors recently authorized a summer Equitable Distribution Plan apportionment take-or-pay relief period, for each of the months from July through September, to support the board’s decision not to deduct leaching water from a grower’s apportionment in 2017. Leaching water is also given a specific cropping code to ensure that those deliveries will not impact the on-farm efficiency conservation yields of participating fields.

“IID encourages farmers to leach, when appropriate, to maintain or improve the productivity of their fields,” said Mike Pacheco, Water Department manager. “At this time, after reviewing the status of the agricultural water clearinghouse, IID consumptive uses, 2017 weather events and cropping patterns, the district wants to support the farming community’s efforts to control salts in their fields, given their extraordinary contributions toward IID’s water management responsibilities and conservation programs.”

Growers should determine if a leaching event would be beneficial between crops and contact their division office to apply for these water deliveries.

Summer take-or-pay relief periods declared

At its June 27 meeting, the IID board of directors declared summer take-or-pay relief periods for each of the months of July, August and September. During these months, all offers of water received by the agricultural water clearinghouse will be accepted by IID, thereby relieving the water users of payment for that water on the take-or-pay basis.

In addition, the IID board authorized staff to administratively transfer water offered to the clearinghouse during these relief periods to any field for which leaching water is ordered, thereby ensuring that any water delivered for leaching purposes is not deducted from a farm unit’s apportionment.

Conservation program participants need to leave enough water in their farm unit account to cover their remaining 2017 water demands and conservation associated with IID’s on-farm efficiency conservation or fallowing programs.

If you have questions, including assistance to offer or request water to be

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transferred through the ag water clearinghouse, please contact:

• **Kirk Hale**, Supt., Water Accounting, NE Division, 1-760-482-9959, mkhale@iid.com

• **Brian VanBebber**, Supt., Water Accounting, SE Division, 1-760-339-9645, bjvanbebbber@iid.com

Clearinghouse Notice of Transfer forms can be accessed at www.iid.com/edpforms and at division offices.

2016 final water accounting numbers

The final water accounting numbers for 2016 documenting IID water uses and conservation program yields were presented to the IID Board of Directors in May and are consistent with values verified and published by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Since IID began ramping up its water conservation efforts in 2003 to meet the needs of the Quantification Settlement Agreement, the district has conserved more than 4.4 million acre-feet of water.

This impressive volume, totaling 4,443,313 acre-feet between 2003 and 2016, to be exact, is more Colorado River water than the state of California is entitled to each year.

More detailed accomplishments in 2016:

- IID's conservation programs yield totaled 514,573 acre-feet, nearly 17 percent of its annual entitlement; it's the third consecutive year the district has generated over a half-million acre-feet in conservation.
- The district generated 70,077 acre-feet of excess conservation, due largely to the farming community embracing the on-farm efficiency conservation program (the on-farm program conserved 138,585 acre-feet in 2016).

- IID ended 2016 with an underrun of a 62,497 acre-feet, about 2 percent of its actual water entitlement, which attests to the general consistency and use of water in the valley.
- IID stored 56,232 acre-feet of extraordinary conservation intentionally created surplus with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
- 13,845 acre-feet of IID's extraordinary conservation intentionally created surplus was confirmed for Lake Mead storage.
- IID's 2016 end of the year total storage balance: 134,660 acre-feet.

End of fallowing

With system conservation and on-farm efficiency conservation targets significantly ramping up in the years ahead, the Water Department is preparing for the transition away from traditional land fallowing in 2017.

In working to complete the conversion from fallowing to efficiency conservation based primarily on system and on-farm efficiency conservation methods, the district completed numerous system efficiency conservation projects throughout 2016 and had many other projects in various stages of development.

IID built and installed seepage recovery systems, lateral interties, discharge monitoring sites, automated gate headings, lined canals with concrete, dredged reservoirs and its team of zanjeros controlled gates remotely by computer from the ditchbank, all in an effort to more tightly manage water.

Effective July 1, all lands within IID that had been participating in an IID traditional land fallowing program are eligible to order water; if, by early July, your lock has not been removed, please contact your division office.

