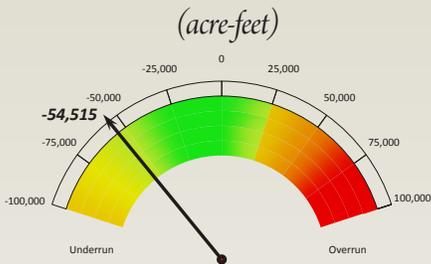




Ditchbank

September 2017

IID 2017 Forecasted Water Use



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

9/1/2017

2016-17 on-farm program applications due

September 30 deadline nears

With the authorization by the IID Board of Directors to initiate the 2017-18 solicitation for the On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program, the district wishes to remind participants of the upcoming deadlines and application criteria.

The board has authorized a rate of \$285 per acre-foot as a conservation incentive payment rate for the 2017-18 On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program. The program will continue to use the 2003-2012 baseline period.

In order to start preparing for this next solicitation covering calendar year 2018 crops and crops planted in 2017 but harvested in 2018, IID must have all applications for the 2016-17 solicitation submitted as soon as possible.

The 2016-17 solicitation covers crops planted in 2016 and harvested in 2017 as well as calendar year 2017 perennial crops.

Applications for 2016-17 must be received no later than September 30, 2017, to ensure the timely accounting of conservation.

Participants are reminded that:

- Applications should be submitted before crops are planted (short-season crops) or before January 1 (perennial crops) of the applicable program year.
- Applications must be submitted annually; applications do not roll over or remain active in subsequent years (including perennial crops).
- Applications submitted after the crop has been harvested will not be processed.

Information and applications can be obtained by visiting:

www.iid.com/onfarmforms.

If you have questions, please contact the on-farm hotline at 1-760-339-9777 or by email at onfarm@iid.com.

Final summer take-or-pay relief period available

Submit notices by September 20

Agricultural water customers still have time to take advantage of water apportionment take-or-pay relief. The final summer relief period closes on Wednesday, September 20, 2017.

During the relief period, all eligible 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.

Up to 7 percent of a water user's accepted apportionment (initial apportionment plus any water transferred in from the clearinghouse) will be accepted.

In addition, the IID board authorized

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the district to administratively transfer water offered to the clearinghouse during the relief period to any field for which leaching water is ordered. This ensures that any water delivered for leaching purposes is not deducted from a farm unit's apportionment.

If you participate in a conservation program, however, you will need to leave enough water in your farm unit account to cover your remaining 2017 water demands and conservation associated with IID's on-farm efficiency conservation or fallowing programs.

USDA program seeks grant applicants

Conservation aims to improve water to Salton Sea, air

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service is accepting applications for the 2017 Salton Sea Water Quality, Air Quality and Agricultural Wetlands Regional Conservation Partnership Program.

Farm and ranch operators in the Imperial Valley watershed interested in financial assistance from the conservation program are encouraged to apply. Applications from eligible producers with farmland located within targeted drainage areas of the New River, Alamo River or drainage areas along the Salton Sea (HUC 12 watersheds) are high priority and will be accepted on a continuous basis.

Producers can contact NRCS to find out if their properties are eligible and if they fall within the targeted drainage areas. NRCS staff members are available to help producers create conservation plans on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The regional conservation partnership program aims to improve surface and subsurface drainage water quality flowing from

croplands into the Salton Sea by reducing nutrients and sediments. Producers interested in the following efficiency practices are encouraged to apply:

- **Kirk Hale**, water operations superintendent, NE Division, 1-760-482-9959, mkhale@iid.com.
- **Brian VanBebber**, water operations superintendent, SE Division, 1-760-339-9645, bjvanbeber@iid.com.

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

croplands into the Salton Sea by reducing nutrients and sediments.

Producers interested in the following efficiency practices are encouraged to apply:

- improving or replacing existing irrigation systems with drip or sprinkler irrigation.
- improving surface irrigation distribution uniformity to reduce irrigation runoff.
- deep leaching of crop nutrients.
- adopting advanced irrigation water management and nutrient management practices.

On-farm air quality improvements may also be addressed by such practices as reduced tillage, cover crops, stabilized farm roads and windbreaks.

For more information, contact NRCS at 2407 Marshall Avenue, Suite E, in Imperial, or call 1-760-355-2208, ext. 3 or visit:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ca/programs/farmland/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd1304025>

Latino Farmer Conference, November 7

Presented at UC Riverside's Palm Desert Center

The National Center of Appropriate Technology, a non-profit organization serving farmers and ranchers, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, a government conservation organization, are teaming up to host the Latino Farmer Conference for the third year.

The conference will be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2017, at the UC-Riverside Palm Desert Center in Palm Desert.

The conference will be presented in Spanish. Translation will be available in English. It will consist of workshops, panel discussions and networking opportunities throughout the one-day conference.

Workshops will focus on the latest information and technology in sustainable agriculture practices, conservation and farm business and financial resources for California farmers.

For more information, please visit:

<https://latinofarmerconference.ncat.org/>.

