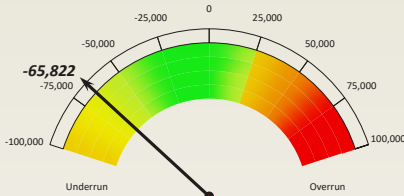




Ditchbank

December 2017

**IID 2017
Forecasted Water Use**
(acre-feet)



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

12/05/2017

Important deadlines for ag water users and land owners

December 15 2018 Apportionment

Apportionment acceptance authorization forms for 2018 water apportionment offered must be submitted by December 15, 2017. These forms do not need to be submitted if the intent is to accept all the apportionment with the default permissions.

Most ag water users require no action; the entire water apportionment is accepted on a take-or-pay basis and the tenant is authorized to use the clearinghouse by default.

In the event a landowner expects a tenant change mid-year, it is recommended they submit an authorization form accepting all the water apportionment and offering 50 percent or the appropriate proration of it to the current tenant noting the expected lease expiration date.

Accepted apportionment summaries will be mailed no later than January to owners and tenants confirming the accepted apportionment for 2018.

December 31 2017 Ag Water Clearinghouse

Records indicate that ag water users may have some unused apportionment in 2017. Sunday, December 31, 2017, is the deadline to offer water to, or request water from, the ag water clearinghouse for the month of December.

It is recommended that all ag water users submit a notice of transfer form and select the zero-out option, requiring only an account name and number. Selecting this option authorizes the district to balance the farm unit at the end of the

year, making adjustments for leaching, conservation programs, and unused farm unit water. A pre-filled notice of transfer is being mailed to all ag water users to make this easier.

All On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program participants should submit a notice of transfer requesting to zero out the farm unit to ensure they have enough water to cover their conservation, so they don't end up with water remaining in their account.

December 31 2017 Take-or-pay relief period

Sunday, December 31, 2017, is also the deadline for the last relief period of the year, which is further encouragement for any water user who has unused apportionment to submit a notice of transfer to the ag water clearinghouse.

IID will accept up to 7 percent of any farm unit's apportionment, thereby relieving the water user of the payment for that water on a take-or-pay basis. Ag water customers should use this relief period to avoid potential take-or-pay charges for unused 2017 apportioned water.

If you have any questions or need assistance offering or requesting water to be transferred through the ag water clearinghouse, please contact:

Kirk Hale

Supt, Water Operations, NE Division
1-760-482-9959 or mkhale@iid.com

Brian VanBebber

Supt, Water Operations, SE Division
1-760-339-9645 or bvanbebber@iid.com

Ag water clearinghouse notice of transfer forms can be obtained at www.iid.com/edpforms.



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On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program

Participants in the On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program are reminded to submit applications for any calendar year crops (trees, alfalfa, Bermuda, etc.) before the end of the year.

If your application is for seasonal crops, please apply before you plant the crop.

All 2017 contracts are expected to be ready by the end of the year. Payment will be made after the crop is harvested; for perennial crops, this will be sometime after January.

Pilot alternate contracting method

At the IID Board of Directors meeting on December 5, 2017, staff received approval of the development of a one-year voluntary pilot program for an alternative contracting process for the On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program for 2018 implementation. The process would quantify the contractual payments for alfalfa, Bermuda and Klein grass field participants, based on average conservation program yields specific to those crops and certain conservation methods.



With the board's authorization, staff will develop the modifications to the contracts and the program description for further board consideration, with the intent to offer a pilot program during the 2018 calendar year.

Once implemented, the results of the pilot program will be reviewed to determine if the board should consider the permanent replacement of the current On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program for these three crops.

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 and facilitate implementation of field-level conservation measures.

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

Under this partnership, IID collects backfeed power service payments from generating facilities located within its service area. As of December 2017, 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 Efficiency Water Conservation Program projects.

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

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

Keep current with important dates and deadlines

IID's website has a dedicated page to help water customers plan for upcoming deadlines and events. Topics include:



Following Program



Apportionment & Equitable Distribution Plan



On-Farm Conservation



System Conservation

To view the latest on all of IID's programs and to register for email alerts, visit:

www.iid.com/waterdates



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