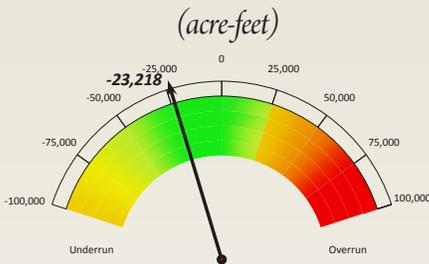




Ditchbank

May 2018

IID 2018 Forecasted Water Use



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

5/3/2018

On-farm program application deadlines

On-farm conservation measures have expanded and are being widely embraced by farmers, creating broad participation in the district's On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program and reducing water deliveries.

Growers seeking to participate in the on-farm program should submit applications before the crop is planted (before the beginning of the year for perennials). Applications should reflect the field's conservation measure(s).

Late applications that do not allow sufficient time before harvest for staff to coordinate and perform field verifications will be rejected. Please be aware that

field verifications are timed to coincide with irrigation events and may have other logistical constraints.

The conservation accounting period has closed for the 2017 calendar year. Late proposals, for crops planted in 2017 but not yet harvested, are not eligible for 2017 conservation payments but may be eligible for the 2018 portion of conservation if other program requirements are met.

If implementing a conservation measure on a perennial crop, please turn in your proposal as soon as possible. Perennial crop applications for existing crops are due by June 30. Late submittals will not be accepted.

Equitable Distribution Plan

In February 2018, the IID Board of Directors repealed the district's Equitable Distribution Plan in response to a judicial order. In the absence of an annual farm unit apportionment, field water deliveries will not be limited in 2018 but continue to be subject to reasonable and beneficial use standards.

In addition, the district continues to be subject to the 3.1 million acre-foot annual consumptive use cap set forth under the Quantification Settlement Agreement and the rules of the federal Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy.

With the repeal of the EDP, farm unit apportionment data is no longer being reported on water bills and related EDP provisions, such as the Agricultural Water Clearinghouse and take-or-pay requirements, are not currently in effect. Farm units remain in place because they are an administrative grouping of water accounts corresponding to a single water user, which helps reduce duplicate correspondence.

Additional details and updated litigation information is available on IID's website at www.iid.com/edp.

NRCS helps sustain ag, environment

The Natural Resources Conservation Service works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance to benefit the soil, water, air, plants and animals for productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

NRCS staff works with farmers, ranchers and other eligible land managers to determine which conservation practices are appropriate on individual properties.

(See **NRCS**, back page)



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NRCS: conservation programs, funding

(continued from front page)

NRCS also has conservation programs that help address the above-mentioned resource concerns and provides funding opportunities for agricultural producers and other landowners through these programs.



Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation and scenic beauty.

For more information, contact the NRCS Imperial Field Office at 1-760-355-2208, ext. 3, or stop by 2407 Marshall Ave. Suite E, Imperial, CA 92251 or visit them online at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/ca/home/>.

Colorado River drought

According to the Colorado River Basin water report, precipitation has been below average for most basins entering April.

Snowpack

Although spring storm activity slightly improved some water supply conditions, poor snowpack persisted throughout April in much of the basin. In April, the Snow Water Equivalent data showed record low values for historical ranking at a few sites and the Lake Powell runoff forecast was only 54 percent of normal for Water Year 2018.

Forecasted runoff

The April-to-July streamflow forecasts have increased slightly since the March 1 forecast. As of April 30, the unregulated inflows into Lake Powell are projected to be 3.3 million acre-feet, or 46 percent of normal.

Leaching can be beneficial for soil and for crops

Growers are reminded of the many benefits of leaching to improve soil conditions and crop production.

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.



Given the current water use forecast, growers should determine if a leaching event would be beneficial to their fields between crops.

In addition to leaching salts, this irrigation method can help growers monitor tile lines, refill the field's soil moisture profile, assist with weed control and potentially manage pathogens.

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.

- Fields need to be well leveled, having adequate drainage to permit movement of water through the soil.
 - Ponded water must not exceed a depth of more than 1 ½ 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.
- For a complete list of water regulations, visit www.iid.com/waterregulations.



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