



# Background

*Composed of over 1,400 employees, who function in professional, technical, skilled and non-skilled jobs throughout the Imperial and Coachella Valleys, the Imperial Irrigation District has two core businesses and one overarching mission—to keep the lights on and the water flowing. These two basic functions are central to meeting customers' essential needs.*

## **Mission Statement**

The Imperial Irrigation District is a fiscally responsible public agency whose mission it is to provide reliable, efficient and affordably priced water and energy service to the communities it serves.

## **Vision Statement**

The Imperial Irrigation District will protect its water rights and energy balancing authority, deliver the highest level of customer service and maintain system reliability for the sustained benefit of the regional economy, the environment and the communities it serves in a fiscally responsible manner.

## **Governance**

As a public agency, IID's customers own the district. The registered voters who reside in the district's water service area, by public vote, elect IID's five-member board of directors. Providing local control, the board is responsible for the overall governance of the district. Due to its not-for-profit status, IID is able to maintain water and energy rates that are among the lowest in Southern California.

## **Water**

Water is allocated to IID on a priority system established under the Colorado River Compact. The right for local landowners to use water is held in trust by IID. Under the largest agricultural-to-urban water transfer in the nation, the 2003 Quantification Settlement capped IID's consumptive use at 3.1 million acre-feet.

The district delivers Colorado River water to 474,000 acres of Imperial Valley farmland and to nine communities across Imperial County. As the area's overall elevation is below sea level, water is delivered by an intricate gravity-fed system. Agriculture uses an average of 5.6 acre-feet of water per acre per year. Water is critical to sustaining the local agricultural industry, the backbone of the Imperial Valley economy. Total agricultural production in the valley is valued at over \$1.5 billion annually.

Although water efficiency in the IID service area is already high (as much as 90 percent), and IID conserves 105,000

acre-feet for transfer to the Metropolitan Water District, the QSA eventually calls for 303,000 acre-feet to be conserved for transfer with a minimum of 103,000 acre-feet to be generated by on-farm conservation methods.

## **Energy**

After discovering the potential for low-cost hydroelectric energy from the All-American Canal, IID entered the power industry in 1936. Today, IID is one of the fastest-growing utilities in the nation, providing electric power to more than 150,000 accounts in Imperial County and parts of Riverside and San Diego counties. As the third largest public power provider in California, IID manages approximately 1,100 megawatts of energy derived from a diverse resource portfolio of renewable and nonrenewable sources that includes its own generation and purchased power.

The district is uniquely positioned to play a key role in helping California meet its renewable energy goals. As the Imperial Valley has been recognized for its vast potential for future solar, wind and geothermal renewable energy development (the Salton Sea resource area is one of the largest geothermal resources in North America) IID has taken a leading role in renewable energy development. IID will meet its renewable energy goals from resources located within the Imperial and Coachella valleys – while minimizing rate impacts to its retail customers.

