2014 WATER USAGE
(as of May 2, 2014)

Use to Date
814,849

Estimated Use
2,506,803

Forecast Use
2,526,440

Excess to Estimated Use
20,083

(All volumes are in acre-feet)

Projections are from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
www.usbr.gov/lc/riverops.html

Note: If you need to make a flow change or close your delivery gate early, please notify your zanjero three hours in advance.

2014-2015 Farm Unit Fallowing Program

In April, the district held a series of stakeholder meetings on the recently approved pilot Farm Unit Fallowing Program. This program replaces IID’s current agricultural fallowing programs. This program better aligns with the “farm unit” approach in the district’s Equitable Distribution Plan.

Conserved water from the pilot Farm Unit Fallowing Program will be used to meet transfer and Salton Sea mitigation requirements outlined in the Quantification Settlement Agreement and may also be used to help the district with payback obligations and create water for IID storage purposes.

The farm unit falling rent calculator and field selector spreadsheet are available to assist you in your participation in this program. Please direct requests for copies or assistance to: Imperial Valley Vegetable Growers, 1-760-353-1900, or Imperial County Farm Bureau, 1-760-352-3831.

DEADLINE EXTENDED
Farm Unit Manager Offer Forms Accepted Through May 16

Due to confusion regarding the deadline, IID is extending the time to submit Farm Unit Manager Offer forms from May 1 to May 16.

IID will analyze and calculate the fallowed water offered and that will be accepted by the district by May 16.

As of May 2, farm unit managers have offered more than 134,000 acre-feet. Fields are currently undergoing verification. IID anticipates further submitted offers on and before May 16.

The district encourages all participants and potential participants to submit completed Farm Unit Manager Offer forms and to identify any excess fallowed water that the farm unit managers are willing to offer in that form. Based on the submitted forms, IID will be calculating the amount of the offered fallowed water that will be accepted by the district.

Currently, participants will be paid $175 per-acre foot with 80 percent of the proceeds going to the landowner and 20 percent to farm unit managers.

Fields selected for fallowing in the program will be fallowed from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

For more information, visit www.iid.com/farmunitfallowing or contact the fallowing program team by email at: fallingprogram@iid.com.

On-farm Efficiency Conservation

As of late April, more than 70 contracts have either been signed or are in the process of being completed for farm participation in the on-farm efficiency conservation pilot program.

The program’s goal is to incentivize agricultural water customers to conserve 40,000 acre-feet in 2014 by implementing water use efficiency improvement projects on farm. Voluntary participants will be paid $285 per acre-foot of delivered water reduction, verified against historical deliveries specific to each field and crop.

IID will accept proposals from landowners and tenants until the program is fully subscribed.

(continued on reverse)
The on-farm efficiency conservation program is being implemented to further IID’s commitment to efficient water use by contracting with water customers to achieve efficiency conservation goals. Conserved water may have a variety of uses, including meeting IID’s water transfer obligations under the QSA and fulfilling IID’s inadvertent overrun payback obligations.

Proposal forms and related documents for the on-farm efficiency conservation pilot program are available at all IID Water division offices or can be downloaded at www.iid.com/onfarmconservation. Questions regarding the program should be directed to the on-farm conservation team at 1-760-339-9777 or by email at: onfarm@iid.com.

System Conservation

IID staff has developed preliminary design of five approved spill interties under the System Conservation Program and has met with the Water Conservation Advisory Board subcommittee to provide overview of the proposed designs for those interties.

The Water Department reports that the project is on schedule as 11 frames have been installed on 22 automated gate headings. Gate installation is expected to start in June.

The System Conservation Program is a defined integrated package of improvements to existing infrastructure in the IID water delivery system that would include construction of new facilities designed to conserve water through targeted spill reductions and enable the scale of water delivery operations that are required to achieve the on-farm conservation goals in the Efficiency Conservation Definite Plan.

The program has been developed as a targeted strategy for capturing and reusing operational spill from laterals within the IID service territory. Water conservation savings generated from the implementation of these efficiency improvements are required to fulfill water transfer obligations under the QSA and related agreements.

Of the 303,000 acre-feet of water IID is to eventually conserve for transfer; 100,000 acre-feet is expected to be generated through system conservation measures.

Equitable Distribution

Four volunteers appointed by the Water Conservation Advisory Board have formed the Agricultural Water Distribution Board. The Agricultural Water Distribution Board will meet to administer the Agricultural Water Clearinghouse and to act in limited circumstances on water transfer requests.

IID staff has been working to develop standard operating procedures. Questions regarding the development of those procedures and how you may get involved should be directed to Dean Currie, key customer coordinator at 1-760-339-9334.

Transfer offers and requests are accepted up to the 20th of each month for redistribution through the Agricultural Water Clearinghouse. Clearinghouse Notice of Transfer forms are available at www.iid.com/edp or at your water division office.

The clearinghouse has water available for transfer in May as noted in the summary table below. After transfers have been fulfilled, requestors will be notified and the water will be transferred to their account upon payment to IID at the agricultural rate of $20 per acre-foot. Payment for offers of water accepted for transfer will be credited to the appropriate account.