Schedule set for new farm unit fallowing program

In late March, the IID Board of Directors approved a new fallowing program that allows farmers to fallow on a farm unit basis, in line with farm units created under the district’s water apportionment plan.

The new 2014-2015 pilot farm unit fallowing program is a voluntary program intended to yield the annual fallowed water requirements for the Quantification Settlement Agreement water conservation and transfer obligations, payback requirements of overruns from previous years, Salton Sea mitigation requirements and the creation of water for IID storage purposes.

The program will include a contract between IID and participating farm unit managers and landowners for a one-year fallowing period from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015. During this time, no water will be delivered to the fallowed fields. IID’s fallowed water conservation target 2014-2015 under this program is 181,000 acre-feet.

The payment rate for this program is currently $150 per acre-foot of conservation yield. This payment rate will be reconsidered by the IID board on April 8, 2014, and any change approved by the IID board will be immediately incorporated in the program.

Participating farm unit managers will be paid 20 percent ($30 per acre-foot) of the payment rate, while participating landowners will be paid a pro rata share of the 80 percent balance ($120 per acre-foot) of the payment rate.

The landowner payment will be divided proportionately based on participating acreage, regardless of which fields are fallowed. A farm unit manager may receive payment as both a participating landowner and a farm unit manager, if applicable.

Each farm unit will be assigned a fallowing target based on the potentially eligible acres in the farm unit configured under the Equitable Distribution Plan as of the date of target preparation.

This program is voluntary. A farm unit manager may choose to offer more or less than the fallowing target acre-feet of conserved water for the farm unit. Landowners may also elect not to participate. All offers for fallowed water in excess of the farm unit’s target are subject to IID approval and will be proportionally accepted as needed to reach the program fallowed water conservation target amount.

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)
- April 1, 2014 – May 1, 2014: Farm unit managers have 30 days to gain landowner interest and consent.
- April 10, 2014 – May 16, 2014: Farm unit manager will provide IID with a list of potential fields for fallowing.
- May 1, 2014 – May 16, 2014: IID analyzes all submissions and calculates prorated fallowed water target for each farm unit.

(continued on reverse)
Keep current with important dates and deadlines

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

- Fallowing 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

Conservation program guidelines updated

Recently, the IID Board formalized existing district practices by approving the 2013-2014 Conservation Program Implementation guidelines as follows:

Fields that participate in the 2013-2014 on-farm conservation program will be assigned a modified water history to ensure IID records reflect a cumulative value that includes both the delivered water volume and the conservation yield attributed to each field during the conservation contract term.

This reconstructed water use history is intended to facilitate participation in IID’s conservation programs and ensure baseline calculations are not negatively impacted by conservation activities implemented on behalf of IID.