In early December 2020, the IID Board of Directors authorized the 2021 On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program for crops planted in 2020 that will be harvested in 2021 and for 2021 calendar year crops (perennials).

The $39.5 million budget for the 2021 program was established using a target OFECP conservation volume of 136,667 acre-feet.

If the program generates less than the targeted conservation volume, the budget will be decreased by $289.68 per acre-foot of shortfall.

Two payment tiers will be used. The final rate for the tiers can’t be calculated until the 2021 OFECP conservation totals are finalized and assigned to the two tiers based on each participating field’s conservation measures. Proposals will be paid at the highest applicable rate for measures utilized; measures may be used for a partial season but must be implemented over the entire field.

Tier A consists of tailwater recovery systems, drip and sprinkler systems at a base rate of up to $289.69 per acre-foot. As

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Rural Energy System Distribution
Expansion Funding for on-farm projects

The Imperial Irrigation District has been collecting backfeed power service payments and limited waiver fees from power generating facilities located within IID’s service area. In 2014, the IID Board directed that these monies be utilized solely to fund the expansion of the rural energy distribution system in support of on-farm water conservation projects.

While the grant funds had been used as a 50 percent match for eligible projects, in 2020 the board increased the grant level to a 75 percent match.

Rural Energy System Distribution Expansion Funding Guidelines:

- Funds must be used for projects that expand the existing rural electrical system.
- Funds are limited to projects participating in, or facilitating, IID’s On-Farm Efficiency Conservation Program.
- Project funding is limited each year to the annual backfeed power service revenue (approximately $600,000 annually).
- Annual funding cap of $200,000 per farm-unit up to 75 percent of the electrical upgrade ($150,000).
- Funding awards must be utilized within one calendar year of application approval.
- An application review committee will review and rank the submittals and recommend funding awards.

The application period is continuous for project funding requests.

To apply for funding, please complete the Rural Energy System Distribution Expansion Funding Application posted on the IID website at https://www.iid.com/home/showdocument?id=12937. If you would like more information, contact Mike Pacheco at 1-760-339-9287 or by email at mapacheco@iid.com.
a general rule, all Tier A measures involve a pump.

Tier B consists of field reconfiguration and land leveling, to be paid at 50 percent of the Tier A base rate, plus any residual prorated balance due to the Tier A rate cap; both payment rates will be affected by the final total volume of conservation generated in this OFECP cycle.

Ditch lining, irrigation scheduling and other minor management and physical improvements will not be contracted independently; however they can be used in combination with the measures listed in Tier A or Tier B to enhance field conservation savings. Fields that do not implement a conservation measure falling under Tier A or B will not be accepted for program participation.

IID staff has provided current OFECP participants with a 2021 provisional application. The application is also available on IID’s website at [https://www.iid.com/water/water-conservation/on-farm-efficiency/current-ofecp-solicitation](https://www.iid.com/water/water-conservation/on-farm-efficiency/current-ofecp-solicitation).

Please enable content when opening the Excel file. Applicants are asked to please be aware of the new format and updated program guidelines. The provisional application includes: instructions, applicant information form, information on conservation measures and a provisional conservation measure proposal form.

Applications for each crop must be turned in each year. Fields do not automatically rollover into the next program; you must turn in an application each year for the fields you expect to participate.

Submission of the provisional form is required for program participation. It should be submitted prior to planting for seasonal crops and must be submitted by February 1, 2021 for perennial crops. Proposals received with insufficient time for the IID to perform field verification and monitoring of conservation measure implementation will not be accepted.

If you have already submitted a field for the 2021 program but used an old version of the form, you do not need to resubmit that crop using the new form. A completed landowner authorization form (soon to be available) will complete the proposal process for all participants.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the On-Farm Conservation Office at 1-760-339-9777 or by email to onfarm@iid.com.

The Imperial Irrigation District’s Water Conservation Advisory Board, in honoring former WCAB chairman Al Kalin, presented a plaque to members of his family in sincere thanks, recognizing the second generation farmer and rancher for his 18 years of service to the WCAB, 10 years as its dedicated chairman. Kalin, who passed away in 2020, will be remembered for his love and commitment to the Imperial Valley, particularly the ag community. He is noted as being a true steward of the land, wildlife, and the water, which ushers in life to this arid landscape. His passion and dedication for topics regarding the Salton Sea, IID reservoirs, and system maintenance was unmatched.

Pictured (from left): Larry Cox (WCAB chairman), Linda Morse (daughter), Kalin Morse (grandson), Kristin Kalin (daughter), Michael Kalin (son) and his wife Brandi, and Mark McBroom (WCAB).