



# IID

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October 5, 2022

Jacklynn Gould, Regional Director  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
Attention LC00-4200  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Dear Ms. Gould:

**Subject: IID Estimates of Diversion – Colorado River 2023**

This letter responds to the Bureau of Reclamation's annual request to the Imperial Irrigation District for an estimate of IID's 2023 expected water use. This estimate constitutes IID's water order for 2023 and assumes an averaging of values as utilized in 2022 based on the *Accounting Methodology for IID Canal Losses Key Terms of Agreement* dated October 3, 2007 between IID and Reclamation. Should there be any changes to this methodology, it may or may not require further revision to the 2023 water order.

This water order should be considered by Reclamation in the context of the signed Quantification Settlement Agreement and the reservation of legal positions contained in the dismissal of IID v. USA, et al. As historically recognized by Reclamation and the position of many other Colorado River contractors, water orders submitted in advance of the water year are merely estimates of anticipated water use that may require subsequent revision based on many variables, and should not be perceived as a volume limitation on the annual exercise of the water right. Similarly, the exact volume and proposed uses of conserved water cannot be determined or accurately predicted in advance of any water conservation program's startup, final contracting and actual demands. The final calculation of actual conserved water yields is dependent on year-end crop water use, rainfall, and delivery records that are not available prior to the conclusion of the current calendar year. Contracting parameters and conserved water requirements for 2023 are also dependent on Reclamation's or third-party measurement, reporting, and calculation of IID's diversions, return flow credits, and consumptive uses for the current and previous water years. The accuracy and timeliness of these final measurements and Decree Accounting records are a significant factor in IID's estimates, and as such they may necessitate a subsequent revision to this order.

Thus, IID submits this water order for 2023 without limiting IID's water rights. IID acknowledges that the QSA itself provides an annual consumptive use volume limitation. Pursuant to that agreement, IID quantified its Priority 3 consumptive use at a maximum

of 3.1 million acre-feet per year during the term of the QSA. IID anticipates (but does not limit itself except by the terms of the QSA) to a consumptive use need of 2,565,800 to 2,627,800 acre-feet for 2023. This initial range of estimates is intended to address the consumptive use needs for IID in 2023, and certain conservation program contracting assumptions, within the parameters identified in IID's proposed Intentionally Created Surplus Plan. Pursuant to the QSA, and assuming implementation as agreed to by all other parties without material changes or failure, IID's initial water order estimate for 2023 is as follows:

<b>IID 2023 Estimated Consumptive Use<sup>1</sup> Table in Acre-Feet (October 5, 2022)</b>	
Priority 3 Cap	3,100,000
Miscellaneous PPR's	(11,500)
1988 IID/MWD Conservation & Transfer	(105,000)
IID/SDCWA Conservation & Transfer	(200,000)
AAC Lining Project Conservation & Transfer	(67,700)
IID/CVWD Conservation & Transfer	(88,000)
Estimate of Additional Conserved Water <sup>2,3,4</sup>	(0-62,000)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lake Mead ICS = 0 AF<sup>5</sup></li> <li>Imperial ICS Sub-Account = 25,000 AF<sup>6</sup></li> </ul>	
<b>Total IID 2023 Consumptive Use<sup>1</sup> Estimate Range<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>2,565,800-2,627,800</b>
<b>IID 2023 Estimated River Consumptive Use<sup>1</sup> Table in Acre-Feet</b>	
Total IID 2023 Consumptive Use <sup>1</sup> Estimate Range <sup>7</sup>	2,565,800-2,627,800
2023 Estimated Consumptive Use <sup>1</sup> met by LCWSP <sup>8</sup>	(10,000)
<b>Total IID 2023 Consumptive Use<sup>1</sup> Estimate Range<sup>7</sup> at River<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>2,555,800-2,617,800</b>

<sup>1</sup> Consumptive uses include, but are not limited to, agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental, mitigation and storage.

<sup>2</sup> Additional conserved water uses include Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) water storage in Lake Mead, ICS created by IID and credited to another contractor pursuant to Section 3.B.8 of the 2007 Guidelines, inadvertent overrun payback (IOP), early IOPP payback on behalf of another Colorado River contractor, groundwater storage, groundwater recharge, storage in the Salton Sea, delivery of ICS to meet water transfer obligations, water storage for drought resiliency programs or in conformance with other agreements and/or other yet-to-be determined purposes.

<sup>3</sup> Contracting of any additional conservation programs and a final true-up of all 2023 IID conservation program yields at year-end may require an adjustment to this volume.

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to Section 3.B.9 of the Interim Guidelines for the Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead, IID's estimated volume of ICS water may change in 2023 with the appropriate notifications.

<sup>5</sup> IID's 2023 ICS plan requested approval to create up to 62,000 AF of Extraordinary Conservation (EC) ICS in 2023; however, due to limitations set forth in the California ICS Agreement, as of the date of this water order IID is currently unable to store additional ICS in its Lake Mead ICS account due to capacity limitation set forth in the Interim Guidelines. The storage of additional EC ICS will require additional authorizations that have not yet occurred as of the date of this water order; the actual amount of EC ICS created by IID and stored in a Lake Mead ICS account will be based on any additional authorizations as well as final accounting and verification.

<sup>6</sup> On September 16, 2021, IID and MWD entered into a *Settlement and Release Agreement* that created an Imperial ICS Sub-account with MWD that allows for the storage of 50,000 acre-feet (25,000 acre-feet/year) of excess conservation through 2026.

<sup>7</sup> This range of estimates is intended to address the likely consumptive use needs for IID in 2023, but could change based on circumstances regarding the level of contracting for 2023 conservation programs identified in IID's proposed ICS plan and other water conservation, transfer and/or storage agreements or additional drought protection plans being considered.

<sup>8</sup> Reclamation's Yuma Area office has estimated the maximum project yield for 2023 at 10,000 acre-feet. Actual pumped volumes and projections will be updated by Reclamation at year-end.

This 2,555,800 to 2,617,800 acre-feet of consumptive use at Imperial Dam (net of return flows) will require a larger volume diversion from the Colorado River in 2023. Any changes to the actual 2023 LCWSP pumping will, of necessity, result in changes to IID's actual Colorado River diversion and the associated return flow credit estimate, while the use of any in-lieu flows from the Warren H. Brock Reservoir in 2023 will require reductions to IID's actual Colorado River diversions and consumptive use accounting volumes at Imperial Dam. This annual water order estimate is based upon average conditions for rainfall, salinity and likely 2023 cropping patterns, including multiple cropped acreage and normal economic conditions in crop markets. Actual diversions in 2023 will, of necessity, reflect changed circumstances as they evolve including the final contracting and potential expansion of any 2023 conservation programs, the truing-up of 2023 IID conservation program yields at year-end, aggressive crop markets given current state and regional drought conditions and additional water conservation storage or delivery requests not yet authorized by the IID Board of Directors for 2023.

Finally, attached to this water order is a monthly breakdown of IID's estimated 2023 water order intended for use by Reclamation's operational staff. These consumptive use estimates are prorated using a historical use monthly proration methodology and are subject to change based on actual water demands and conditions in 2023.

If you have any questions regarding these issues, please contact, Dylan Mohamed, at (760) 339-9256 or [djmohamed@iid.com](mailto:djmohamed@iid.com).

Sincerely,



Tina Shields, P.E.  
Water Department Manager

Enclosure

cc: Jeremy Dodds, USBR  
Chris Harris, CRB  
Robert Cheng, CVWD  
Bill Hasencamp, MWD  
Kelly Rodgers, SDCWA

**IID 2023 Estimated Monthly Consumptive Use Table  
(October 5, 2022)**

	<b>Historical Proration</b>	<b>Estimated Consumptive Use Range (acre-feet)</b>	
<b>January</b>	3.8702%	99,300	101,699
<b>February</b>	5.5262%	141,791	145,218
<b>March</b>	8.7636%	224,857	230,291
<b>April</b>	11.0156%	282,639	289,468
<b>May</b>	12.2115%	313,322	320,893
<b>June</b>	11.2648%	289,033	296,015
<b>July</b>	10.7810%	276,618	283,302
<b>August</b>	9.8194%	251,945	258,034
<b>September</b>	8.2916%	212,746	217,887
<b>October</b>	8.5130%	218,426	223,705
<b>November</b>	5.9810%	153,461	157,169
<b>December</b>	3.9622%	101,662	104,119
<b>2023 Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>2,565,800</b>	<b>2,627,800</b>