United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Lower Colorado Regional Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SEP 2 1 2013

LC-4220
WTR-4.03

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. Kevin E. Kelley
General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251-0937

Subject: Approval of Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOPP) Payback Plan for Calendar Year 2014 – Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Dear Mr. Kelley:

Effective January 1, 2004, the IOPP established requirements for payback of inadvertent overuse of Colorado River water by users in the Lower Division States. By letter dated June 7, 2013, the Bureau of Reclamation notified IID that based on Reclamation's final water accounting records for calendar year 2012, IID incurred an overrun of 134,076 acre-feet in 2012. In accordance with the IOPP, IID is required to pay back the full amount of its 2012 overrun in calendar year 2014.

In response to Reclamation's June 7 letter, and in accordance with the IOPP, IID submitted its 2014 Inadvertent Overrun Payback Plan (Plan) dated August 5, 2013. As outlined in IID's Plan, IID proposed to implement four extraordinary conservation measures to meet its calendar year 2014 payback obligation of 154,738 acre-feet, which includes the 2012 overrun and the 20,662 acre-foot balance of IID's 2011 overrun. These measures include: delivery system improvements; seepage interception and recovery; fallowing; and on-farm efficiency conservation.

On August 21, 2013, IID staff presented IID's Plan to the Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Technical Committee (IOPTC). The IOPTC reviewed the Plan for technical adequacy and unanimously recommended approval of three of the four proposed payback measures: fallowing, seepage interception and recovery, and on-farm efficiency conservation. With respect to delivery system improvements, the IOPTC recommended that IID provide additional information demonstrating how the estimate of conservation yields from this measure will be derived, as well as information describing how Reclamation will be able to monitor implementation and perform verification of this measure.

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the IOPTC, I approve IID to implement three of the four proposed payback measures to meet IID's calendar year 2014 payback obligation: fallowing, seepage interception and recovery, and on-farm efficiency conservation.

With respect to the delivery system improvements, at this time I am withholding approval on use of this measure for implementation to meet IID's calendar year 2014 payback obligation pending additional consultation with IID. Reclamation recognizes that IID is actively developing this program and appreciates the significant effort being undertaken to ensure its success. Reclamation will continue to consult with IID as IID develops additional information demonstrating how the estimate of conservation yields from the projects implemented under this measure will be derived, as well as information describing how Reclamation will be able to monitor implementation and perform verification of this measure. After further review of such supplemental information, Reclamation will further consider the approval of this proposed extraordinary conservation measure for implementation to meet IID's 2014 payback obligation. Unless and until Reclamation approves the use of delivery system improvements to meet IID's payback obligation, IID is approved to repay its 2014 payback obligation only through fallowing, seepage interception and recovery, and/or on-farm efficiency conservation measures.

The IOPP requires that Reclamation monitor implementation of the extraordinary conservation measures outlined in approved payback plans. Reclamation will work closely with IID staff to arrange and conduct semi-annual field verification inspections in 2014 on 5 percent of the acreage enrolled in IID's fallowing program, on 5 percent of the seepage interception and recovery systems, and on a representative sample of the fields enrolled in the on-farm efficiency conservation program to ensure IID is on target to meet its 2014 payback obligation. Reclamation requests that IID provide quarterly updates regarding IID's progress in implementing the approved extraordinary conservation measures. Should Reclamation approve the IID's delivery system improvements program, Reclamation will work with IID staff to identify and conduct the appropriate verification inspections of this measure as well.

Reclamation's administration of the IOPP requires that IID submit a report certifying the amount of Colorado River water conserved by implementation of the extraordinary conservation measures in the previous calendar year as defined in the approved Plan. This report must contain appropriate data that demonstrates the conservation yields achieved by each approved measure. Please submit this report, certifying the amount of conservation achieved in calendar year 2014, to Reclamation no later than February 28, 2015.

Reclamation notes that, in addition to IID's 2014 payback obligation, IID is required to conserve 221,000 acre-feet in 2014 to meet its transfer obligations set forth in Columns 5, 7, and 8 of Exhibit B to the Colorado River Water Delivery Agreement (CRWDA). Reclamation further notes that, in accordance with Section 2.4 of the IOPP, conservation measures implemented to meet an IOPP payback obligation must be in addition to those being implemented to meet any existing transfer or conservation agreement. Reclamation understands that IID has accelerated its implementation schedules and conservation targets to meet its IOPP obligations, and

appreciates IID's efforts to ensure it successfully meets both its CRWDA transfers and its 2014 IOPP payback obligation.

If you have questions, please contact Mr. Paul Matuska, Water Accounting and Verification Group Manager, at 702-293-8164.

Sincerely,

Terrance J. Fulp, Ph.D.
Regional Director

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