

By Russ Pankonin

The Imperial Republican

Irrigators will get to offer testimony during next week's public hearing on a proposed reduction in annual allocation and increased limits on carryforward use.

The hearing will be held Tuesday, Feb. 12, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Upper Republican Natural Resources District headquarters in Imperial.

The two primary issues in the proposed rules focus on the new allocation for the next five years and carryforward use.

On a split vote, the board is recommending a 12.5-inch allocation for the next five-year period.

The proposal also carries a provision that limits the use of carryforward to a total of five inches during the allocation period.

Additional carryforward can be used but those inches will count double instead of a one-to-one basis.

The hearing will also address pooling rules.

Pooling allows farmers to put or "pool" tracts together so the combined allocation can be shared amongst all the tracts in the pool.

Presently, the actual use on each tract is charged against a tract.

As proposed, the allocation on each tract will be averaged across all tracts in the pool, which can be no greater size than a township (six miles square) or a floating township.

Tracts being added to a pool can bring in no more than three years of annualized allocation.