



Summary of the July 14, 2008 EID Board Meeting

El Dorado Irrigation District — serving people, agriculture, businesses, and the environment in El Dorado County since 1925

For immediate release
July 15, 2008

Board gives the go-ahead to purchase parts for repair work at Caples Lake

EID congratulated for support of employees called to active military duty

Placerville, CA . . . During their July 14 meeting, El Dorado Irrigation District (District) Board members unanimously approved a request from District staff to purchase parts needed to begin the replacement of deteriorated outlet works at the Caples Lake main dam. While the dam structure itself is safe, the outlet works were recently found to be in unsound condition.

At a special meeting on July 1, the Board declared an emergency after District staff presented the results of an underwater investigation at the lake that revealed problems with two slide gates, located in a well-like shaft within the dam. Of particular concern is the lower gate that is about 64 feet under water when the lake is full. Any attempt to operate the lower gate, which is now closed, carries a substantial risk of failure. If the gate fails in an open position, the result would be an uncontrolled release of the entire active storage of Caples Lake. If it fails in a closed position, the upper slide gate would be the only means of releasing stored water from the lake, which would not allow controlled release of spring runoff.

Despite the July emergency declaration, it did not appear that the problems could be addressed in 2008. But late last week, District staff located a manufacturer who can furnish the replacement parts by September 15 if the District places its order by July 16. District staff and consultants are now developing plans to empty Caples Lake over the next two months so that the new equipment can be installed this fall.

Caples Lake and nearby Silver Lake are part of Project 184, the hydroelectric power generation system that the District acquired from Pacific Gas and Electric Company in 1999. Damage to the outlet works at Silver Lake was also discovered and is the subject of a second declared emergency. However, it will likely be next year before work can commence there.

EID nominated for support of employees called to active military duty

In late May, the Board was notified that an EID employee had nominated the District for the Secretary of Defense's Employer Support Freedom Award. The award recognizes employers who, according to the notification letter, demonstrate "exceptional leadership, support and personal devotion to the National Guard and Reserve."

At the July 14 Board meeting, Robert Laurie, the northern California chair for the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, commended the Board and District for the nomination. "You've gone beyond your legal obligations," Laurie said, "and I appreciate all that you do to support your employees who are called to serve their country."

Award recipients will be announced soon and honored during a September gathering in Washington, D.C.

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In other business, the Board:

- Authorized contracts with T & S Construction Co., Inc. for rehabilitation of flumes 31 and 31A—part of the District’s Project 184 hydroelectric power generation system—and with Golden State Construction for wildlife fencing along portions of Project 184 canals.
- Approved funding for the next phase of the District’s diesel retrofit program and awarded a bid to Riverview International Trucks for a dump truck that meets the state’s requirements for diesel-powered vehicles.
- Discussed preliminary data presented by Brian Mueller, co-manager of the District’s water division, for the 2008 Water Resources and Service Reliability Report.

Standing Committees

Engineering and Operations: Committee members heard from Brian Mueller and Elizabeth Wells, co-manager of the District’s wastewater/recycled water division, about progress in developing an integrated water/wastewater/recycled water master plan for the District. In addition, senior engineer Tim Sullivan reported on excavations at the El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant, where extensive work is underway to expand the plant’s capacity.

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