

# EID Reports



## Summary of the January 12, 2009 EID Board Meeting

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

**For immediate release**

**January 15, 2009**

### **Board delays proposed changes to rate structure**

#### **EID Director Bill George elected to executive committee of Regional Water Authority**

Placerville, CA . . . During their January 12, 2009 meeting, El Dorado Irrigation District (District) Board members delayed sending a notice to all customers regarding potential changes in the District's rate structure. The Board directed staff to provide more information about the costs of operating the District's pumped and gravity systems and how those costs should be allocated within the proposed new rate structure.

"Overall, our proposal gives customers more control over their bills," said Mark Price, head of the District's finance department. "Most customers will see the basic charge on their two-month bill drop, while the rates for use of water will increase. That way, the more a customer conserves, the lower the bill.

"The proposal is also 'revenue neutral,'" Price added. "It is not designed to collect more revenue than we projected in the 2009 budget, which the Board adopted in December 2008. And the new structure complies with standards that are designed to meet federal and state requirements for conservation pricing."

The proposed rate structure also contains a cost-of-living escalator that would begin in 2010 and a three-stage drought rate schedule that would go into effect should the District declare drought. The drought rates would coincide with the three stages of drought that are identified in the drought preparedness plan adopted by the Board in early 2008.

The Board will reconsider the proposed rate structure at their next meeting on January 26. If the Board agrees to notify customers of the suggested changes, the District will send a notice to all customers that explains the proposed changes in detail and informs them of the time and place for the public hearing on the changes.

#### **EID lakes may be stocked with fish in 2009 after all**

Staff reported that the California Department of Fish and Game is recommending that Echo Lake and Forebay Reservoir be removed from the list of waters that the department will not stock with fish in 2009. Dan Corcoran, the District's environmental division manager, reported that Fish and Game officials agreed to the recommendation after the District provided Fish and Game with additional biological survey information indicating Echo Lake and Forebay are not suitable habitat for the mountain yellow-legged frog and California red-legged frog, respectively.

Late in 2008, Fish and Game announced it would not stock a number of lakes and streams across the state in 2009 while it completed an environmental impact report for the overall stocking program. The report is required under a court order that stemmed from a lawsuit brought by the Pacific Rivers Council and Center for Biological Diversity and their counsel, the Stanford Legal clinic.

Jenkinson Lake, located in the center of EID's Sly Park Recreation Area in Pollock Pines, is still on the list. However, Fish and Game is reexamining that area to determine if it should recommend that the lake be removed from the list. Caples and Silver lakes, which—like Echo Lake—are part of the District's hydroelectric power generation system, were not included on the list.

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### **Bill George now a member of RWA executive committee**

General Manager Tom Gallier announced that EID Board member Bill George has been elected to the executive committee of the Regional Water Authority (RWA). George said he views his seat on the committee as “a great opportunity for EID to participate more fully in discussions and decisions on regional issues that have definite impacts on the District.”

RWA was organized in 2001 to serve and represent the interests of 21 water providers in the greater Sacramento region, including water agencies in Placer, El Dorado, and Yolo counties. Among many initiatives supported by RWA are a water efficiency program designed to help local water agencies implement best management practices and the American River Basin Regional Conjunctive Use Program, which operates under a \$22 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources.

### **In other business—**

The Board approved a contract with HDR, an engineering firm located in Folsom, CA, to prepare an integrated water and recycled water master plan and a wastewater master plan as part of the District's long-range planning process. Models and information used in preparation of the wastewater plan will also aid the District in meeting timelines associated with EID's sewer system master plan, required by the state. The projects are part of the District's five-year capital improvement program, which the Board adopted in 2008.

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