



For immediate release

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Accepting private water lines into EID's system— up for decision at the January 26 EID Board meeting

Placerville, CA . . . The El Dorado Irrigation District (District) Board of Directors will soon determine whether to include private water lines—currently attached to the District's infrastructure—as part of the District's overall water distribution system. The issue is on the agenda for the Board's January 26 meeting, which begins at 9:00 a.m. in the board room of the District's customer services building, located at 2890 Mosquito Road in Placerville, CA.

“If the Board agrees with the staff proposal, we would take responsibility for operating and maintaining more than 300 private water lines that are attached to our system,” said Tom Cumpston, the District's general counsel and head of EID's private water line task force. “We're looking at 42 miles of pipe, as best we can tell, and approximately 1,000 customers who own the lines.

“We won't be able to take immediate control because of the sheer size of these numbers,” Cumpston added. “But we are asking the Board to formally accept all private lines on the District side of the meters and then give us direction regarding our recommendations for prioritizing the work in the coming years.”

Most of the private water lines in question are located in the Placerville, Diamond Springs, and Camino areas. “A list of parcel numbers for all EID customers who, we believe, are served by private lines is on our website at www.eid.org,” Cumpston said.

For years, private lines have created problems for their owners and the District. Among other concerns, the list includes—

- Lack of knowledge on the part of some property owners that they are served by private lines they must maintain.
- Substandard construction of many private lines.
- Lack of distinction between District and private lines for purposes of regulation and liability in the event of contamination.

During the December 15, 2008 meeting of the Board's engineering and operations standing committee, Cumpston and several private water line owners discussed these and other issues and recommended that staff bring the matter to a vote of the full Board in early 2009.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the January 26 meeting and express their views. Comments are typically limited to five minutes per person.

To review the private water line agenda item summary in the Board packet for the January 26 meeting, interested parties may visit EID's website and click on Minutes and Agendas in the left-hand column on the home page. The information will be posted to the website on Thursday, January 22, 2009.

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