

EID Reports



Summary of the February 23, 2009 EID Board Meeting

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

For immediate release: February 24, 2009

Board okays resolution to proceed with Energy Commission grant application

Director George selected as vice chairman of foothill water association

Placerville, CA . . . During their February 23 meeting, El Dorado Irrigation District (District) Board members gave staff the go-ahead to apply for a grant from the California Energy Commission that would help fund a study of potential energy-efficient options. Some of the options are development of low-head hydro-power systems, solar applications, and additional programs to reduce the District's demand for electricity. The grant, which could be as much as \$200,000, would require the District to match 25 percent of the total.

"We believe this is a cost-effective way to identify numerous opportunities to add to our ongoing energy-efficiency programs and projects," said Cindy Megerdigian, the District's engineering manager. "We are already seeing significant benefits from our solar facility at El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant and our demand-response program at El Dorado Hills water treatment plant. These projects are reducing our operating costs and in effect freeing up energy for the state grid, especially during peak demand times. The new study will point out other ways we can continue to be energy and cost efficient."

Megerdigian said that the study will not cover any costs associated with undertaking new projects but will include engineering feasibility and economic analysis, including incentives offered through Pacific Gas and Electric or other avenues.

Announcement of successful grant applications is expected in April or May.

Director George joins Mountain Counties' board

The District's Board Vice President John Fraser announced that EID Director Bill George has been selected as Vice Chairman of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association's governing board. "I'm pleased to represent EID on the Mountain Counties' board," George said, "especially because this group of water agencies from our neighboring foothill counties is a strong voice on issues that affect us and our customers on a daily basis."

The association was organized nearly 60 years ago to represent foothill regional interests during preparation of the first state water plan. Since then, the group has been involved in a wide range of issues such as counties of origin water rights.

Member organizations include more than a dozen water districts like EID and county water agencies, including the El Dorado County Water Agency.

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In other business, the Board—

- Heard from District staff and utility staff from the City of Folsom about the potential of a two-way emergency intertie between the District and Folsom water systems. The issue was initially raised two years ago and was revived during a meeting of District and Folsom staff members in early February. Brian Mueller, EID’s district engineer and head of the engineering department, emphasized that any such agreement would be similar to pacts Folsom has negotiated with other neighboring water agencies and would include provisions that ensure water be transferred only under emergencies for short periods of time and only when both parties agree to the transfer. Prolonged dry spells, declared drought, and low water pressure would not qualify as emergencies, he said, adding “If an agreement is reached and authorized, Folsom would pay for the design and construction of the intertie.” Both parties would pay agreed-upon rates for water actually transferred either downhill to Folsom or uphill to EID.

The discussion was for information purposes only. Board members took no action but did express support for staff to continue discussions with the City of Folsom regarding construction of the intertie.

- Authorized \$105,000 in funding for the following ongoing capital improvement projects in the regulatory, reliability, and service requirements categories:
 - Department of Transportation construction projects,
 - the permit process for the El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant; and
 - canal bench work under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license to operate the District’s hydroelectric power generation system.

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