

EID Reports



Summary of the March 9, 2009 EID Board Meeting

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

For immediate release: March 10, 2009

Board hears more about statewide drought emergency

Placerville, CA . . . During their March 9 meeting, El Dorado Irrigation District (District) Board members heard from District staff about the recent, statewide drought emergency proclamation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger. “The proclamation definitely affects EID because the Governor asks all urban water users to reduce their consumption by twenty percent,” said David Witter, director of the District’s natural resources department. “That’s a little more than called for in our drought plan for a stage 1 drought. And the Governor also indicated the state may decide to ration water as early as April 1.”

Board president George Wheeldon expressed doubts about how water rationing would work, particularly in service areas like EID’s “where water supplies may be close to normal this year. I don’t understand the justification for moving in a one-size-fits-all direction.”

Brian Mueller, director of EID’s engineering department, said the situation is “very fluid at the moment, and we will keep a close eye on events as they continue to unfold. In the meantime, staff will prepare recommendations related to a drought declaration for the Board’s consideration at the March 23 Board meeting.”

In other business, the Board—

- Authorized the signing of a 2009 Warren Act contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for water delivered to Folsom Reservoir from the District’s ditch system. The short-term (one-year) contract is for up to 4,560 acre-feet of water. An acre-foot is equal to one acre covered by a foot of water. There are 325,851 gallons of water in an acre-foot.
- Received an update on operations at Bass Lake. The dechlorinated water in the lake is used to supplement the District’s recycled water supply during peak-use times. Tom McKinney, director of operations at the District, reported staff members are developing standard operating procedures for the lake that will examine a variety of options. The procedures should be ready to present to the Board within two months.
- Approved funding for several capital improvement projects, including a new monitoring system at the El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant that will save nearly \$100,000 over the purchase price of the system that was initially planned. The new system will also save approximately \$28,000 a year in operation and maintenance costs.

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For more information, contact Deanne Kloepfer at 530-642-4073.

Visit the District’s website: www.eid.org.