



## Summary of the June 8, 2009 EID Board Meeting

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

**For immediate release: June 9, 2009**

### **Contract for Flume Replacement Benefits Local Economy**

#### **Board Supports EID Director Harry Norris for LAFCO Seat**

**Placerville, CA . . .** The El Dorado Irrigation District's (district) board of directors has awarded a construction contract to Syblon Reid for replacement of a portion of the district's water conveyance system east of Pollock Pines. In response to a question from director George Osborne, a representative of the Folsom-based construction company said that a number of El Dorado County residents who are company employees will be put to work on the project.

Osborne's question reflected his desire that the local economy should benefit from the project. Spencer Frederiksen, program manager for Syblon Reid, told the board: "I estimate that about seventy percent of our workforce, including the project superintendent, lives in El Dorado County. And I know that several of those employees are going to be involved in the project." Cindy Megerdigian, the district's engineering manager, added that local suppliers will be the source of much of the material needed for the project.

Construction will center on replacement of flume 51, a segment of the district's 22-mile-long water conveyance system located on steep mountainsides and canyons from the high Sierra down to Forebay Reservoir in Pollock Pines. The system delivers one-third of the district's water supply and transports even more water to generate state-certified renewable energy at the district's hydroelectric power plant on the South Fork of the American River. Much of the conveyance system is past its expected service life and faces threats from decaying infrastructure, falling trees and rocks, and landslides. For health and safety reasons, as well as to deliver a reliable supply of water, the District has been systematically replacing and upgrading the most vulnerable stretches of the conveyance system.

Syblon Reid's bid of \$2.8 million for construction of the replacement flume was the lowest bid received by the district and about \$700,000 less than the initial engineering estimate. Work will begin this coming July and is expected to be completed by mid-December.

Earlier during the June 8 meeting, the board adopted a resolution certifying the final environmental impact report for the El Dorado Canal flume replacement program, which includes flume 51 and several other segments of the conveyance system.

#### **Board chooses Norris for LAFCO special district seat**

Board members voted for their colleague, Harry Norris, as a special district representative on the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO). Norris, who represents the district's division 5, was elected in spring of 2007 to serve an unexpired LAFCO term, a position that is now open.

In a letter urging other special district officials to support Norris, board president George Wheeldon wrote, "I and my fellow EID board members unanimously and enthusiastically support [Harry's] commitment to

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continue his work with the commission.... I have seldom witnessed such consistently outstanding skills in public governance as Harry possesses. And I know that he has put them to good use the past two years in tackling the often thorny issues that come before LAFCO.”

LAFCO will announce the election results after a quorum is reached or when the election ends on June 30, whichever is later.

### **Board reviews IT master plan**

Tim Ranstrom, the district’s director of information technology (IT), presented the recently completed IT master plan to the board. The plan emphasizes the need to more fully integrate EID’s existing information technology with district-wide business practices. “If we do this right,” Ranstrom said, “we will improve our daily work and service delivery, and we will learn more about what we need to do in the future to continue to improve.”

Ranstrom said the district has invested in an extremely efficient and flexible IT infrastructure of servers, networks, storage, and telecommunications. “In this respect,” he added, “we are where most agencies want to be. But we need to get better at using this technology consistently across the organization and not on a departmental basis.”

The five-year plan contains long-term strategies with more detail centered on the 2009-2010 time period. It proposes the development of nine programs that span divisions, departments, and business functions.

The plan is available on the district’s website at [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org) in the document library. Interested parties can also request a copy by calling 530-622-4513 or 916-965-0930.

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