

EID Reports



July 13, 2009 EID Board Meeting

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

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Invasive mussels topic of concern Board approves funding for capital improvement projects

Placerville, CA. . . . El Dorado Irrigation District's (district) three-pronged initiative to prevent the spread of invasive quagga and zebra mussels in its service area was the subject of a staff update during the July 13 meeting of the board of directors. Actions include: (1) an aggressive monitoring program in lakes owned by the district, (2) a public outreach campaign, and (3) boat owner screening.

Staff launched the initiative last year after the mussels were discovered in California. EID environmental review specialist Dena McCann, who leads the mussel monitoring team, said that after a year of monitoring at Jenkinson and Silver lakes, "we have found no evidence of the invasive mussels. This year, we added Echo and Caples lakes to the monitoring list. We take samples from the monitoring devices at Jenkinson every month all year, and every month from June through September at Silver, Caples, and Echo lakes."

The district also expanded its public outreach program in 2009 through increased cooperation with resort managers at Caples, Silver, and Echo lakes; updates of the mussel web pages on the district's website; and additional notification to district customers about the threats that the mussels pose .

Boat owner screening, which began last year at Jenkinson Lake, "has been expanded to include visitors to Silver Lake," said recreation and parks supervisor Cheri Jagers. "We use a verbal screening protocol that helps us determine whether boats will be allowed to launch or must return with proof that they have been inspected for mussels."

Local firms prevail in new contracts

The board unanimously awarded a construction contract to Folsom-based Syblon Reid for work at the El Dorado Hills water treatment plant. The work will expand the plant's water treatment capacity from 19.5 million gallons a day (mgd) to 26 mgd. The expansion is part of a multi-year initiative to upgrade the plant, which currently provides drinking water primarily in the El Dorado Hills area. Syblon Reid's bid was less than other companies who bid on the project and \$4.1 million under the original engineering estimate of \$12 million. "We're getting a great price for this project in an increasingly competitive market," said EID associate engineer Daryl Noel, who prepared information for the board to consider.

Board director George Osborne noted that many Syblon Reid employees are residents of El Dorado County and said, "In these hard economic times, having project money stay in the county is important."

Syblon Reid was also awarded a \$464,464 contract to install wildlife fencing in steep and sometimes heavily forested terrain along the El Dorado Canal, part of the district's hydroelectric power generation system. Under its federal license to operate the system, the district must maintain and operate in working condition all devices and measures that pertain to wildlife along the canal. Sections of the existing fence do not meet

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**Quagga/zebra
mussels**

ruin boats and destroy waters

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California Department of Fish and Game specifications for height and wire gradation. Other sections were incorrectly installed years before the district acquired the system and therefore do not provide the required wildlife protection.

The board also authorized a contract with another local company, Placerville-based Doug Veerkamp, Inc., for as-needed asphalt patch-paving services. The contract totals \$131,590 over the next year and a half.

In other actions, the board:

- Approved a \$197,950 professional services contract with Domenichelli and Associates to assist EID, the El Dorado County Water Agency, and Georgetown Divide Public Utility in analyzing ways to reduce electric grid loading and new opportunities for renewable energy production at many locations in El Dorado County. The contract cost is fully reimbursable through an approved grant from the California Energy Commission (CEC). EID will provide matching funds through \$77,050 in staff time dedicated to the work. The CEC grant's goals are to (1) find ways to manage energy demand and evaluate opportunities to optimize pumping efficiencies and (2) analyze new renewable generation opportunities. This work is in addition to the hydropower generation and solar photovoltaic facilities EID operates and various energy-use reduction programs already in place at district facilities.
- Received the 2009 Water Resources and Service Reliability Report. This annual report, prepared by district staff, determines EID's water supply and meter availability. As in past years, the report shows that the district has water rights sufficient to meet existing customer demand and provide new hookups consistent with the county's general plan.

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