



For immediate release: August 5, 2009

Jim Abercrombie to Start as EID General Manager in September

Placerville, CA... El Dorado Irrigation District (district) board president George Wheeldon announced today that the board of directors has selected Jim Abercrombie as the district's new general manager. Abercrombie, who is now general manager of the Amador Water Agency headquartered in Sutter Creek, California, is expected to begin his new duties on September 8. The board will consider Abercrombie's employment contract at its August 10 regular meeting.

Wheeldon stated he and his colleagues on the board are enthusiastic about Abercrombie's selection. "We had forty-one well-qualified applicants, and Jim clearly stands out in that excellent field," he said. "Jim's very knowledgeable about the water industry and the issues facing EID. And he knows this county well. He's definitely the right choice for the district. We all look forward to the strong partnership he will develop with our employees and the board in the coming years."



Jim Abercrombie

Among his many accomplishments at the Amador Water Agency, Abercrombie carried out a team-based performance management process that led to achievements in reorganization, cost reduction, and increased customer satisfaction. He developed a five-year strategic plan for the agency and a quarterly training program for managers and supervisors. He also oversaw the successful completion of the \$24 million Amador transmission pipeline project, two salary and classification studies, and the development of computer maintenance management/document management systems to increase reliability and productivity.

"We have launched several similar initiatives at EID," Wheeldon said, "and we are confident that Jim has the expertise and leadership skills to bring them to fruition with the support of district employees."

Abercrombie has more than 30 years of management experience, including 11 years as Amador Water Agency's general manager and 20 years at Pacific Gas and Electric Company. His last position with PG&E was as El Dorado district manager, from 1987 to 1998. When promoted to that position, he was the company's youngest-ever district manager. A registered civil engineer, he earned an engineering degree from Santa Clara University and a master's degree in business administration from that university's Leavey School of Business.

Abercrombie is currently a board member for Region 3 of the Association of California Water Agencies, of which EID is a member. A long-time El Dorado County resident, he is past president of the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, El Dorado County Development Corporation, and El Dorado County United Way and past chair of the El Dorado Leadership Program.

MORE >

EID's general counsel Tom Cumpston will continue serving as interim general manager until Abercrombie arrives. Cumpston accepted the interim post, but announced at the beginning of the recruitment process that he was not a candidate for the general manager position.

Board directors said they were pleased with the work Cumpston has accomplished in his dual role since mid-May. "This was a tremendous responsibility for Tom to take on," said John Fraser, the board's vice president. "He is leading the district with distinction as the interim general manager and at the same time continues to provide us with outstanding legal services."

* * * * *

For more information, contact Deanne Kloepfer at 530-622-4513.