

EID Reports



Summary of the October 14, 2009 EID Board Meeting

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

For immediate release: October 14, 2009

EID Director Bill George Elected to Regional Board of Statewide Water Association

Placerville, CA . . . El Dorado Irrigation District board director Bill George has been elected to the Region 3 board of directors for the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), announced Jim Abercrombie, the district's general manager, during the October 14 EID board meeting.

“We’re very pleased with the election results,” Abercrombie said. “ACWA is a statewide organization of 450 water agencies that deals year in and year out with state and regional issues having major impacts on EID. So it’s important that our voice be heard in Region 3, which is a large area stretching from Tuolumne County to the Oregon border. Bill’s an excellent choice for the board position.”

George, who has served on the EID board of directors since 2003, also represents the district as vice chairman of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) board and as a member of the executive committee of the Regional Water Authority (RWA) board. MCWRA is a consortium of Sierra foothill water districts and three counties in northern California, formed to protect and enhance Mountain County water resources. RWA, serving the greater Sacramento region, assists its members in protecting and enhancing the reliability, availability, affordability, and quality of water resources.

Legislative update

During their meeting, EID board members heard an update on recent developments in the state legislature’s attempts to adopt legislation on Bay-Delta and other water issues, as requested by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. EID director of natural resources David Witter, EID general counsel Tom Cumpston, and the district’s legislative advocate, Bob Reeb (of Reeb Government Relations, LLC), discussed with the board members a number of matters and potential legislation about water conservation, water rights, governance of the Delta, water bonds, and more. Reeb emphasized that most of the legislative negotiations to date have occurred behind closed doors by a small group of legislators and with very limited public participation.

As background—in September, the governor said he would veto all bills that arrived on his desk at the close of the legislative session unless he received legislation to deal with the state’s water crisis. Last week after citing progress in talks on water issues, he began signing bills and called a special session of the legislature to continue work on water-related legislation.

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