

# EID Reports



## Summary of the December 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: December 14, 2009

### **Fraser, Norris Elected as Board Officers; Draft Capital Improvement Plan Addressed Regional Group Honors Fraser; District Receives Conservation Award from Statewide Association**

**Placerville, CA . . .** During their December 14 meeting, El Dorado Irrigation District (district) board members elected John Fraser president of the board and Harry Norris as the board vice president for 2010.

“I’m pleased to take up the gavel again,” Fraser said. “We are in the midst of fiscally challenging times, and my goal is to see us through 2010 within the constraints of a lean budget.”

Fraser, who was elected to a third term on the board in November, previously served as board vice president in 2004 and 2009 and as president in 2005. Norris, in his second term, was elected board vice president in 2005 and board president in 2006.

Fraser represents the west Placerville/El Dorado/Diamond Springs portion of the district’s service area. Norris represents El Dorado Hills.



**Outgoing board president George Wheeldon (left) hands the gavel to incoming (2010) president John Fraser during the December 14 meeting of the EID board of directors.**

### **Board Discusses Draft, Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

A nearly one-third reduction in the district’s capital improvement plan (CIP) highlighted a presentation by Brian Mueller, the district’s director of engineering, during a workshop at the board meeting. The budget for the 2010–2014 CIP dropped from an estimated \$299.8 million to \$204.5 million. Mueller emphasized that “such a large reduction represents our latest step in belt-tightening during these difficult economic times.”

“The reduction is the result of project prioritization,” he added. “It comes largely through deferrals of numerous projects and the completion of others. However, this plan does not compromise our obligations to provide safe, reliable service and high-quality water to customers.

Mueller said the draft plan estimates \$40 million in capital expenditures for 2010, in line with the budget the board adopted in November and with the district’s financial plan. “Sixty percent of that amount will fund water reliability and water quality projects,” he explained. “One example is our ongoing work to secure water rights to fill storage reservoirs we now have access to under an agreement with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The access is worth tens, if not hundreds, of millions of dollars. Another example is the replacement of portions of the 22.3-mile canal and flume system that delivers water from the high Sierra to all district customers.”

Mueller noted that district staff will refine the CIP and bring it back to the board for adoption in January. Adoption of the plan does not include authorization of expenditures. Rather, the board considers each project

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separately during the year. Board vice president Norris asked that staff present all options and the pros and cons of each when bringing projects to the board for approval.

### **Fraser Receives Distinguished Service Award**

Director Bill George announced that on December 10, board president John Fraser received the Regional Water Authority's (RWA) Distinguished Service Award. George said the award recognizes Fraser's more than 40 years of outstanding service on behalf of California's water industry, 20 years of which were spent as the executive director and general counsel for the Association of California Water Agencies—the largest such organization in the country.

“Since 2001, John has delivered consistently good advice on our board,” George said. “We certainly appreciate his deep knowledge of the water industry in the state and particularly in our service area. It's terrific to see he's also appreciated throughout this region for his many years of dedication to the public good.”

In addition to his work with ACWA and the district, Fraser has been a board member of the National Water Resources Association, Interstate Council on Water policy, and RWA and was appointed by former California Governor George Deukmejian to the Western States Water Council. He has received numerous recognitions, including the citizen award and citation for distinguished service from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and four commendations from the National Water Resources Association.

RWA was organized in 2001 to serve and represent the interests of 21 water providers in the greater Sacramento region, including water districts and water agencies in Placer, El Dorado, and Yolo counties.

### **District Earns ACWA Theodore Roosevelt Natural Resources Management Award**

EID received the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) 2009 Theodore Roosevelt Environmental Award for Excellence in Conservation and Natural Resources Management. This statewide award recognizes the district for its program to preserve and restore fisheries and habitat as a result of the emergency rehabilitation project at the Caples Lake main dam in the summer of 2008.

To receive the award, projects must measure up to several criteria such as innovation and initiative in addressing a major natural resources challenge and a commitment to meet the needs of the people and the environment in the area affected by the project.

Outgoing board president George Wheeldon and Dan Corcoran, the district's environmental manager, accepted the award on December 2, during the ACWA fall conference. “This award recognizes the hard work of each and every department at the district,” Corcoran said. “I'm proud to accept it on behalf of my colleagues, our partner agency the California Department of Fish and Game, and more than 90 volunteers from the Sacramento-Sierra Chapter of Trout Unlimited and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance.”

With a membership of 450 public water agencies, ACWA is the largest organization of its kind in the country. ACWA's members provide 90 percent of the water delivered to communities, farms, and businesses in California.

### **In other business, the board —**

- Discussed the impacts on the district of sweeping water-related legislation passed earlier this fall by the state legislature and signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The discussion occurred during a comprehensive briefing by EID general counsel Tom Cumpston, EID natural resources director David Witter, and legislative advocate Bob Reeb (Reeb Government Relations, Inc.). Of special interest are the potential for new or enhanced water storage projects, the new statewide water conservation goals, and the effects of the legislation on water rights.

The board also approved a contract with Reeb for legislative advocacy work at the state level during 2010.

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