



For Immediate Release
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“Safety First” Reduces Employee Injuries/Accidents and Workers’ Compensation Costs to EID

Savings of \$7 Million Over 6 Years Realized through Employee Diligence

Placerville, CA . . . Through their commitment to safety, El Dorado Irrigation District employees have reduced injuries and accidents significantly over the past six years, saving at least \$7 million in the workers’ compensation premiums the district pays.

EID safety officer Mike Bristow reported the good news at the January 11 EID board meeting, noting that the diligence of employees in adhering to “safety first” protocols was the key factor in the declining number of safety incidents recorded and smaller workers’ compensation premiums paid since 2003.

“Safety is number one on my list of management principles,” said general manager Jim Abercrombie. “I thank Mike, the employee safety committee, and all employees for their efforts to maintain a safe workplace. Everyone benefits, including our customers, when we stay safe and see costs drop as a result. And that will continue to be a priority at the district.”

In 2003, the district spent more than \$1.9 million in workers’ compensation premiums. If that amount had persisted for the six years from 2004 through 2009, the total would have been \$11.6 million. But with a stronger safety program in place, safety incidents dropped and so did the premiums—down to \$487,375 in 2009. Rather than \$11.6 million, the total for the past six years was \$4.6 million, a savings of \$7 million.

EID is considered to have an excellent cost-efficiency rating for comparably sized agencies. The district’s workers’ compensation carrier is the Association of California Water Agencies’ Joint Powers Insurance Authority, which is a partnership of water agencies across the state. JPIA is a non-profit organization, and any cost savings achieved by member agencies through improved safety records are returned to the agencies in the form of lower premiums.

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