

# EID Reports



## Summary of the February 22, 2010 EID Board Meeting

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

**For Immediate Release**  
**February 23, 2010**

### **Board Adopts Significantly Curtailed Capital Improvement Plan**

**- State Legislative Committee Votes “No” on Request for a State Audit of the District**  
**- Flume 51 Replacement Project Wins “Outstanding Engineering Project Award”**

**Placerville, CA...** During the February 22 board meeting, the El Dorado Irrigation District board of directors adopted a revised, five-year (2010-2014) capital improvement plan that reflects significant deferrals of projects as a result of budget-cutting measures.

“The plan approved last year in April included nearly \$300 million in capital projects from 2009 through 2013,” explained Brian Mueller, the district’s director of engineering. “Now we’re down to \$152.5 million over the next five years, about half of what we planned.”

“When we put the 2010 budget together late last year, we cut \$95 million from the 2010-2014 capital plan to help conserve cash and delay the need to borrow,” Mueller added. “Then under ‘Plan B’ adopted by the board two weeks ago, we reduced the capital expenditure projections by another \$53 million.”

Mueller emphasized that the projects remaining in the plan are needed to comply with regulations and address safety and critical maintenance issues as well as to secure water rights.

Board vice president Harry Norris pointed out that during the January public workshops and early February public hearing on the district’s proposed rate increases, “Safety and security were key concerns. I want to make sure the capital improvement plan doesn’t jeopardize our ability to deliver safe, reliable services.”

### **Results of February 17 Meeting with the Joint Legislative Audit Committee**

General manager Jim Abercrombie reported on the Wednesday, February 17 meeting with the Joint Legislative Audit Committee. Abercrombie said he and board president John Fraser attended the meeting to respond to Assemblymember Ted Gaines’ request that the committee approve a state audit of the district in the wake of EID’s recent Proposition 218 rate increase process.

The meeting began with a statement by Mr. Gaines and a review of the State Auditor’s analysis of the audit request. “The analysis described the scope of work and estimated the cost at \$184,000,” Abercrombie said. “That didn’t include travel and administrative expenses or the cost of an outside consultant, if needed. And it didn’t include the costs to the district.

“President Fraser and I gave short statements and then answered questions from members of the committee. We emphasized we look forward to a partnership with the citizen-based committee the EID board will appoint to work with us during this year’s cost-of-service study.”

A motion to approve the request for the audit failed on a vote of seven to three.

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## Flume 51 Replacement: EID and Carlton Engineering, Inc. Earn Regional Engineering Award

The Sacramento Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers selected the district's Flume 51 replacement project as the recipient of the "2009 Outstanding Engineering Project Award" in the geotechnical category. The award was presented on February 17 to the local firm of Carlton Engineering, Inc., the project designer, and EID, the project owner.

"The Flume 51 project was a high priority for the district," said Cindy Megerdigian, EID's water/hydro engineering manager. "It required pinpoint engineering given the difficult location of the flume and the very challenging terrain. Carlton delivered. The award reflects their outstanding work and the positive benefits that our customers will realize from the successful completion of the project."

The Flume 51 project is part of the district's long-term rehabilitation program for the 22.3-mile El Dorado Canal, which delivers drinking water from four high-Sierra reservoirs to customers throughout the district's service area and supplies water to generate EID's state-certified renewable hydroelectric power.



**L to R: Mark Rietema (Syblon Reid, the construction firm for the project), EID board member and geologist George Wheeldon, Dave Jermstad and Alan Carlton (both with Carlton Engineering), Spencer Fredericksen (Syblon Reid), and EID's Cindy Megerdigian at the February 17 ASCE Sacramento Section awards ceremony.**

## Other Business

- The board approved the proposed Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) water policy principles and "re-focused" association changes. The district is a member of MCWRA. EID director Bill George, who sponsored this resolution and the following resolution, is vice president of the MCWRA board.
- The board adopted director George's resolution to support the nomination of Joseph M. Dion as a candidate for the executive committee of the Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA). EID is a member of ACWA/JPIA.

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