

EID Reports



Summary of the June 28, 2010 EID Board Meeting

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

For Immediate Release
June 29, 2010

New Caples Lake Boat Launch Gets Rave Reviews

- Low Interest Rates and Higher Power Revenues Highlight Finance Report
- Bulk Water Fill Stations Approved

Placerville, CA... During their June 28 meeting, El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) board members heard from Cheri Jagers, EID's parks and recreation superintendent, about the newly opened Caples Lake boat launch facility. On Saturday, June 26, Jagers was on hand as host when visitors arrived.

"People came by to take a look," Jagers said, "and many paid and stayed. We were flooded with positive comments about the site's beautiful, user-friendly design."

The boat launch is required under the district's federal license to operate the El Dorado Project (Project 184), which delivers water from high Sierra lakes for EID customers and generates hydroelectric power. The new facility provides day-use recreation opportunities and accommodates kayaks, canoes, and fishing boats.

The facility is located on National Forest System lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, which funded the access road from State Route 88 to the facility. The district paid the costs of construction of the boat launch and a new turn lane from State Route 88, in part through a \$1.6 million matching grant from the California Department of Boating and Waterways. EID is required to operate and maintain the boat launch facility for the next 36 years.

On Friday, July 23, the Forest Service and EID will host an official opening ceremony at the launch facility. Representatives from the various agencies involved will be on hand. The event begins at 10:00 am, and the public is welcome.

Finance Report Shows Gains in Hydropower Revenues

The board received and unanimously voted to file the May 31, 2010 financial update. According to Mark Price, EID's finance director, the district has received less in revenue from water sales compared to last year at this time. "The wet spring really contributed to that number being lower," said Price. "But we also saw the benefit of the recently renegotiated rates for hydroelectric power generation. The hydroelectric fund was about \$1.6 million higher for May, year-over-year. And June is set to deliver another \$1 million."

Price also highlighted the nearly \$2 million in savings on interest payments so far this year. "The variable rate debt has been a real boon," he said. "The rate has stayed extremely favorable since issuing that debt, saving the district a total of more than \$10 million over what we would have paid under fixed interest rates."

MORE >

Card Lock-Operated Bulk Water Fill Stations Approved

The board unanimously approved the purchase of four card lock-operated bulk water fill stations that will be installed in July by EID crews.

“These new stations give us much more control over use of the water system by businesses that haul water for a number of purposes,” said Dana Strahan, EID’s water operations manager. “Under our old system, haulers used portable meters and could hook up virtually anywhere along the system. This often caused low pressure problems for other customers and presented the possibility of contamination entering the system. The new stations will be placed in areas that are convenient for haulers but should not cause loss of pressure or impede flows for firefighting.”

The stations will be equipped with backflow prevention devices to prevent contamination to the system.

In other business, the board—

- Approved the purchase of lumber for use by district crews in completing upgrades to canals and flumes along the El Dorado Project. .
- Authorized staff to exercise a two-year extension with Maze & Associates for independent auditing services in 2010 and 2011.

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