

EID Reports



Summary of the August 9, 2010 EID Board Meeting

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

For Immediate Release
August 10, 2010

Partnership to Help EID Customers in Financial Emergencies **Board Okays District's Response to Grand Jury Recommendations for Websites**

Placerville, CA... A new partnership between El Dorado Irrigation District and the El Dorado Community Foundation will assist district customers whose water and wastewater bills are delinquent because of financial emergencies. The EID board of directors today authorized general manager Jim Abercrombie to sign the agreement needed to set up the Helping Hands Outreach Program, which is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from EID employees and customers or other residents of the county.

“We already have pledges of more than \$5,000 a year from our employees,” Abercrombie said. “That’s a very good start.” And Community Foundation executive director Bill Roby announced that, so far, he has raised an additional \$2,000 from people in the community who are interested in the success of the program.

EID customer services manager Lori Grace explained that the district, as a public agency, cannot “deliver services for free. But we can make it possible for people in the communities we serve to send voluntary contributions that benefit customers in need.”

EID is working with the El Dorado County Department of Human Services to establish a Memorandum of Understanding defining the criteria for providing customers with assistance. The county would determine eligibility and prepare vouchers for qualifying customers. Upon receipt of the vouchers, the Community Foundation will forward monies from the program to EID to assist customers with their delinquent bills.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the program should write a check payable to Helping Hands Outreach and send it to: El Dorado Community Foundation, 3097 Cedar Ravine Road, Placerville, CA 95667. EID customers who pay their bills by mail can include a separate check, also made out to Helping Hands Outreach, in their billing envelope, and staff will transfer the checks to the Foundation.



(Left to right: EID board president John Fraser; Community Foundation executive director Bill Roby, holding the Helping Hands Outreach Program kick-off check from contributions made by EID employees; and EID customer services manager Lori Grace, who organized the new program.

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EID Responds to the Grand Jury's Website Recommendations

The board unanimously approved the staff's draft response to the 2009-2010 El Dorado County Grand Jury Report, with one addition to the presentation made by general counsel Tom Cumpston. Director Bill George asked that a sentence be added to make it clear that EID does not endorse any new state law that would create an unfunded mandate for all special districts to create websites.

Cumpston explained that the Grand Jury report required 50 of the larger special districts in the county to respond to the report's website findings, "and that included EID. I'm pleased to say our website already contained information recommended by the Grand Jury in all most every instance. After we received the report, we added the current year's operating budget, and we improved information about the board's tenures and our service area boundaries within the county."

Cumpston said the staff's response agrees wholeheartedly with the Grand Jury's primary conclusion that adequate Internet websites with basic information about the districts' governance and operations are effective, essential tools to promote an informed citizenry. "We tailor our website to this purpose," he stated.

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