On May 31, members of the Cosumnes, American, Bear, and Yuba watersheds consortium, CABY for short, hosted a tour for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Board, consisting of 13 members and three non-voting members appointed by the Governor, state legislature, and local governments. Organized by EID’s watershed program manager Liz Mansfield, the tour focused on the Bear River watershed at sites that clearly illustrate water resource issues associated with agriculture, water supply, hydroelectric power production, watershed management, fire and ecosystems, water and safety, water quality, and more.

“It was an intense day, packed with information that will be very useful as we continue our work on the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan,” Liz said. “We wanted to give the Conservancy Board an opportunity to better understand these issues and also discuss ways that our work might complement what the Conservancy is doing.”

CABY is a partnership formed last year to seek a state grant in support of the integrated planning effort. Liz took the lead in forming the partnership and writing a successful $500,000 grant application, which EID administers. The consortium’s primary goals are to (1) provide water supply needs of all interested parties in the CABY region, (2) protect and improve water quality, and (3) preserve and enhance the environment and habitat in our region. “The May tour was the first of several that we will be conducting throughout the planning process,” she said. “It’s important to get an on-the-ground feel for issues that affect these four watersheds in the Sierra foothills.”

For more information about CABY, visit www.cabyregion.org or call Liz Mansfield at 530-642-4101.

EID receives Flex Your Power award

Flex Your Power, California’s statewide energy efficiency campaign, recognized El Dorado Irrigation District as a leader in energy efficiency with a 2005 Flex Your Power Award in the “demand response” category (see General Manager’s message). The award was presented during the California Commercial Real Estate Energy Symposium on May 16 in Sacramento.
When 11-year-old Wesley Hampshire said he wanted to “do some dirty work, anything from machinery to cleaning water,” we decided he would be the perfect shadow for our fleet manager Jerry Foote during Work Shadow Community Day in May. We’re not sure how dirty he got, but Wesley and four of his classmates from Schnell School got a taste of what it takes to run a water district. From processing payments at the front desk and scanning and copying documents to clerical tasks, the students gained experience in a real-life work environment and brought smiles to the faces of their adopted mentors.

Wesley’s job centered on troubleshooting a small motor. That included requisitioning the needed part and processing the paperwork. “Wesley proved he was up to the task,” said Jerry. “He diagnosed the problem, ordered the part on our computer, then helped fit the piece to make the equipment run. What a joy to see his excitement when the motor turned over and water shot 25 feet into the air.”

The full roster of teams included Wesley and Jerry; August Kuuskven, who shadowed EID executive assistant Karen Cross; Cheyenne Hall and Shelby Boyer, who both shadowed administrative technician Jacqui Galbraith; and Marisol Beas, who worked with customer service technician Dianne Sickendick. EID’s Lori Grace, Tricia Bridges, Jesse Saich, Tom McKinney, Cindy Starr, Michele Weimer, and Mary Lynn Carlton provided support.

The day included an overview of EID, a tour of the headquarters and shop facilities, and time “on the job,” ending with a team pizza lunch to review results and share experiences.

“We thank Tammy Amburgey, program coordinator from Schnell School, for giving us the opportunity to share a morning with these exceptional young people,” said Mary Lynn. “We hope their time at EID will help them as they prepare for the future.”