For Immediate Release
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Harry Norris and Bill George Selected as 2011 Board Officers
Board Adopts 2010–2011 Budget

Placerville, CA . . . At its December 13 Board meeting, EID Board members selected Harry Norris as President and Bill George as Vice President for 2011. The new officers began their duties immediately.

Outgoing Board President John Fraser thanked his fellow Board members stating that he was “pleased to sit in this seat as Board President and tackle, along with my fellow Board members, a lot of sticky issues that arose this past year. And we prevailed, much to the relief of our bondholders.” Mr. Fraser, who lives just west of Placerville and represents Division 2, has been a member of the Board since 2001 and is in his third term. He also served as Board President in 2005.

Mr. Norris, who served as Vice President in 2010 and represents Division 5, thanked Fraser for his leadership. “John did a good job during some very difficult times and we all appreciate that and his willingness to work hard for the District.

“We should also be thankful for having Jim Abercrombie, who is such a good General Manager, and his team who work hard for the District and customers,” continued Norris. “Common sense is alive and well here at the District when it comes to Jim and the staff and I look forward to working with everyone in the next year.” Norris, who represents El Dorado Hills, was first elected to the EID Board in 2003 and is in his second term on the Board. He also served as President in 2006. He was named “Citizen of the Year” in 1998 by the El Dorado Hills Chamber of Commerce and served on the El Dorado County School Board from 1993 until 2003, when he joined the EID Board. Mr. Norris also serves on the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and the Marshall Medical Center Board of Directors.

Mr. George, a resident of Swansboro, is serving his second term as EID’s Division 3 Board member and served as President in 2007. Mr. George worked for more than 31 years with IBM and serves as Vice Chairman of the Regional Water Authority Board, alternate Board member of the Association of California Water Agencies - Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA-JPIA), Board member of ACWA Region 3, and Vice President of the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association.

More >>
Board Adopts 2010–2011 Budget

The El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt the 2010–2011 operating budget. “The $42.7 million budget is basically flat, showing only a $137,000 or 0.3% increase over the operating budget adopted for 2010,” said District Finance Director Mark Price. “The budget reflects the many cost-cutting steps undertaken over the past few years, as well as expected increased revenue from the hydropower contract signed earlier this year.”

Price pointed out that the District continued to hold the line on expenses, in part due to decreases in the salary and benefits line items. The District’s current staff of 227 employees represents a 14.5% decrease since January 1, 2009 and a 34.8% decrease from January 1, 2008. Price also reported that revised revenue projections for 2010 are expected to be lower than initially estimated, primarily because of lower-than-anticipated revenue from water sales due to late rains and a fairly mild summer in 2010. As a part of a two-year budget cycle, the Board also approved the 2012 proposed operating budget in the amount of $44 million, which represents roughly a 3% inflation adjustment to the 2011 budget.

“Staff has worked diligently to ensure that they have made as many cuts as possible to hold down the budget for this coming year,” said newly appointed Board President, Harry Norris, “and I think they have done an excellent job.” This budget reflects a previously approved rate increase which will be effective January 1, 2011.

Cost-of Service Study Update

General Manager Abercrombie updated the Board on the ongoing cost-of-services study. “We are well on the way with the study and making progress,” said Abercrombie. The study advisory panel met on November 19, 2010, and reviewed cost-of-service analysis and terms, wastewater strength allocation, recycled water, financial plan final draft, compliance with BMP11, and future steps. “One of the strategic actions is to see how much we conserve internally and try to minimize the impacts to our ratepayers,” said Abercrombie. “We will continue our work in 2011 and report back to the Board when we have more definitive information to report.”

In other business, the Board:

- Discussed the Weber Dam Advanced Funding Agreement and agreed to revisit the subject at the January 10, 2011, Board meeting after staff has had an opportunity to conduct more research.

- Received an informational report about the California Public Utilities Commission approval of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s Power Purchase Agreement to purchase renewable energy from EID’s El Dorado Hydroelectric Project. General Manager Abercrombie reminded everyone that this is a water project with ancillary power generating business that will help the District hold down rates. Annual estimated revenue projections are $6 to $10 million, which will depend on water-year and other operational factors.

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