



The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • November–December 2007

Message from the General Manager

Looking closely at renewable options



While Spring may be the traditional season of renewal, the State of California recently decreed that for EID customers, it's more of a year-round occasion. That's because the California Energy Commission has certified our El Dorado powerhouse as a renewable energy resource.

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This certification is not given out lightly. The District's dedicated staff worked with Energy Commission experts for nine months to win the designation, one that entitles EID to receive an annual premium estimated at \$100,000 for recycling water to generate electrical power. The powerhouse earned its certification under the Energy Commission's Renewable Portfolio Standards program.

As you know, we've also built a one-megawatt solar facility at our El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant. This saves EID a great deal of money (since all of our plants run on electrical power, which we purchase from PG&E)—and by extension and design, saves our customers money. In fact, the solar plant generates almost enough electricity to run the treatment plant all year!

We're now reviewing the feasibility of installing a hydroelectric plant at the Sly Park dam, which would provide self-generated electric power to the Reservoir A water treatment plant nearby. And another study is reviewing the economics of using additional solar, wind, and combustion turbine electrical energy resources at EID facilities. This is scheduled for discussion at the EID Board of Directors meeting on November 14.

In short, our goal is to make every season a time of renewal at the District.

Reducing pressure—and saving money

EID's Board and staff are always looking for better ways to fulfill our mission. For example, we recently completed an engineering study of the 200 energy-dissipation structures in our water distribution system that keep water pressure constant in pipelines wending their way through the hills and slopes of El Dorado County.

We're looking into replacing some of them with small hydroelectric turbines, which would convert hydraulic energy to electrical energy for use elsewhere within the EID system.

The net results? Reduced electrical energy bills at the District—a real benefit for EID customers.

Electricians-in-training tour EID solar facility



Rich Wheeler at right talks the students through the solar facility's electrical system

Rich Wheeler, an electronic tech at EID, led a tour of the District's solar facility for a group of 15 apprentice electricians in September. The group of students from the Sacramento Area Electrical Apprenticeship are in their final year of a five-year program. Wheeler graduated from the same program and was pleased to be able to contribute to the students' knowledge through this tour. "This is one of the largest solar photovoltaic fields in northern California," said Wheeler. "It's a great opportunity for these students to see what kinds of jobs are out there—and for me to share a job I enjoy!"

Emergency intertie with Folsom is proposed

For EID, regional cooperation is much more than a catch-phrase; it's an ongoing commitment. This is why the District may team up with one of its neighbors, the City of Folsom, to create an emergency intertie between the two entities' water systems.

While the water needs of EID customers will always come first, an inter-agency agreement could assist Folsom in the event that a massive power outage or other emergency temporarily eliminated the city's ability to deliver water to its customers. EID's Board of Directors emphasized at a recent EID Board meeting that the intertie, to be owned and operated by EID, would only be activated in case of emergency.

Folsom's water is delivered from a single water treatment plant. The intertie, which could be built in the coming year if an agreement is reached between the city and EID, would probably be built in the Promontory community area along the Sofia Parkway, close to the border separating El Dorado and Sacramento counties.

A delightful, “water-wise” garden-to-be in El Dorado Hills

“My yard is an open, empty space,” Jane Flint said, “and it’s ready for a makeover!” The El Dorado Hills resident imagines a tranquil, beautifully landscaped space. And now that she’s got the physical plan, her bare, wide-open yard will soon catch up with her imagination.

Jane, an EID customer for nearly 7 years, recently won second prize in the Ultimate Garden Makeover contest, sponsored by the Regional Water Association’s water efficiency program (RWEP). Jane’s name was randomly drawn for the prize, which includes a water-wise landscape plan professionally designed by a licensed landscape architect.

For contest eligibility, RWEP requires an emphasis on water-efficient design, so a lawn is not being installed. “I had a lot of ideas about what I wanted for the space, and the design I got reflected that,” said Flint. “The landscape will be low maintenance. It has a modest re-circulating water feature and some raised beds for a small vegetable garden.”

Joseph Pattin of Rocklin-based Garden Retreats met with Jane at her home to measure every angle and point of the yard, and asked her questions about her favorite plants, colors, and fragrances.

When Jane looks at her empty yard now, envisioning the plans in her mind’s eye, she sees the tranquil garden in vivid detail. The work of making it a reality begins soon.



Top: Jane Flint and her son, Zach Mlenek, look over the plans for her future outdoor space



Below: Jane’s yard is an empty canvas, soon to be transformed into a tranquil cottage garden retreat

Sly Park passes—great gifts for the holidays



Autumn at Sly Park

Passes for the 2008 day use season at EID’s Sly Park Recreation Area are now on sale. The passes make great gifts and we encourage you to order them in time for the holiday season.

Applications are available at the Sly Park Ranger Station Office at 4771 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines, or at EID’s Harry J. Dunlop Customer Service Building, 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville.

You can also print an application from the EID website (www.eid.org) or request one by fax (530-644-1003) or by mail sent to the Ranger Station Office address above (zip code 95726).

Completed applications and accompanying payments should be mailed to Sly Park Recreation Area, P.O. Box 577, Pollock Pines, CA 95726. You may also pay in person—Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—at the Ranger Station Office. We accept checks, cash, and credit cards, but please do not send cash through the mail.

Remember, park staff must be able to see your visitor pass, attached to your vehicle, when you approach or leave the gatehouse. For more information, call park staff at 530-644-2545.

Upcoming Board Meetings

November 14 December 10

Remember to winterize your irrigation system!

This is especially important for residential sewer customers as your 2008 residential sewer rates will be based on your water use for the months of November 2007 through February 2008.

Even more reason to conserve!