



The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • January – February 2007

Message from the General Manager

Right sizing



Ane D. Deister

One thing we all learn when we're stuck in traffic is that no matter how much we want to, we simply can't drive any faster than the person in front of us.

In a similar vein, we always try to recognize the realities of the economy—and to make

sure that our capital improvement program (CIP) doesn't move at a faster pace than the market will tolerate.

This is why your District's Board recently decided to take the expansion of our El Dorado Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant off the fast track and perform the work in phases. We're doing this for the same reason you're able to manage your personal or family budget: we simply don't spend money unless we're sure we'll be able to replace it.

Our plant expansion has been keyed to the area's expected growth. But the slowdown in the housing market means that EID will collect fewer one-time-only fees for water and sewer hook-ups—facility capacity charges, or FCCs—than a booming market would have provided. Those fees are what we use to fund projects of this type.

To be sure, the plant will be expanded—just as the area will continue to grow. Our goal is still to increase the plant's daily capacity from 3 million gallons to 5.4 million gallons. But we'll start by increasing the plant's capacity to 4 million gallons. This will keep pace with the revised projections of building activity in the area: approximately 5,000 new homes (the full expansion will provide service to roughly 12,000 new homes).

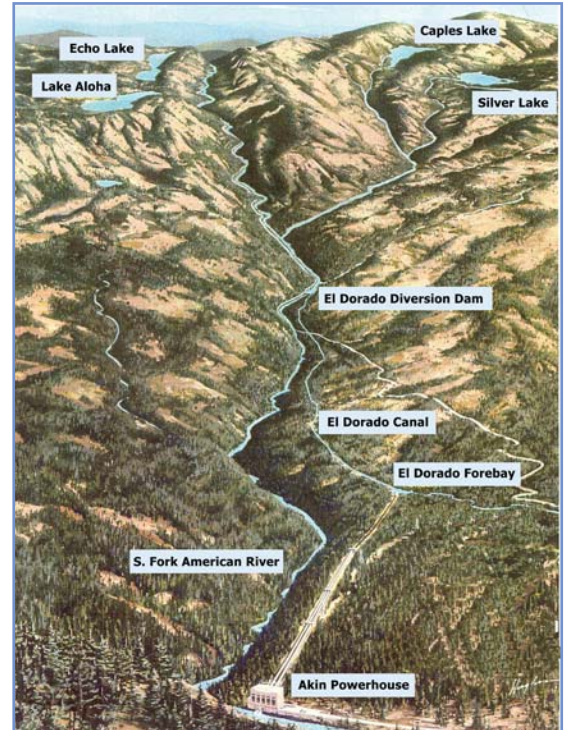
By breaking the project into phases, we recognized that its overall construction costs would likely increase. But by not over-building—or, to return to the example at the start of this column, by not trying to drive faster than that car in front of us—we'll be reducing your District's financial risk. It's also possible that when homebuilding increases and the rest of the economy picks up, we'll be able to adjust those FCCs upward to make up the difference. It's a balancing act and one we take very seriously, because your Board's policy is clear: new growth pays for itself.

Project 184 update: 40-year license issued

EID's Project 184 has two new leases on life: a 40-year operating license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and improved access to its water for our customers' domestic needs. Access had been restricted by the State Water Resources Control Board as part of its decision to allow EID to draw 17,000 acre-feet of water from the South Fork American River every year for customer use. The 3rd District Court of Appeal ruled in EID's favor this past September to allow the access.

With the license in hand, EID is engaged in satisfying a number of mitigation measures, deadlines and other requirements imposed by the new license. The areas requiring action include, among others, the project's impact on land use; biological, hydrology and water quality factors; cultural resources; geological and soil issues; transportation; and recreation.

Project 184 is EID's 21-megawatt hydroelectric power generation and water supply system. Its Kyburz Diversion Dam on the South Fork American River diverts natural flow of the South Fork, plus water stored in Echo Lake and Lake Aloha in El Dorado County, Caples Lake in Alpine County, and Silver Lake in



Following the water for Project 184

Amador County, into a 22-mile system of canals, flumes, and tunnels for delivery to Forebay Reservoir in Pollock Pines. From Forebay, most of the water runs to the Akin Powerhouse for power generation and returns to the river. A portion of the Forebay water is taken into EID's consumptive water delivery system under water rights that date back to the 19th century.

The 40-year license took more than seven years to achieve. It's now time to get on with the work needed to keep the license in compliance.

January Board Meetings
Mondays, January 8 and 22

EID website: a new look, more information

Mid-January 2007 brings a new look and organization to the EID website. The new site features a more stable architecture, unified design, and easier access to information. The graphic to the right shows how the main page is formatted. The navigation bar, located in the blue-shaded left column (1) makes it easier to navigate to all pages and content on the site—from descriptions of the District and customer service questions/answers to recreation opportunities and much more.

The wide middle column (2) includes short features that highlight District activities, services, or personnel, and will often provide links to more in-depth information. You'll find notices of meetings prominently displayed in this section as well.

The right column of the main page (3) consists of linked images that will take you directly to specific high-traffic pages of interest. You'll find links to the latest news releases, special announcements, water efficiency information, construction updates, and District publications, among others.

We will continue to expand the content and improve the functionality on the site. Take a moment to visit the new website at www.eid.org and let us know what you think.

El Dorado Irrigation District
Serving people, agriculture, businesses, and the environment in northern California's El Dorado County since 1925

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Features

Sly Park water line project
The construction schedule has changed at Jenkinson Lake, and effective immediately, we are now camp in the following campgrounds for the majority of the week until further notice. [More >>](#)

IMS works with local farms in unique, beneficial partnership
EID's Irrigation Management Service (IMS) provides a high-tech way for agricultural growers to use smart watering techniques and get the most out of their growing cycle. Kirk Taylor, IMS program coordinator and a local grower, is shown above installing an irrigation scheduling device at Boeger Winery. The program received a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant to place the devices on farms that participate in the IMS program. [More about IMS >>](#)

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Click on items below

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Airing on KVIE

WATER USE IT WISELY
Water Efficiency

latest NEWS

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Water Efficiency Works!

Did you know...



You can save up to 8 gallons of water if you turn off the tap while brushing your teeth in the morning and at bedtime. That adds up to a savings of more than 100 gallons of water per person each month.



A leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water every day! To determine if your toilet is leaking, place a drop of food coloring in the tank. If the color shows in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Remember: November to February is the period in which residential sewer rates are derived based upon water usage. It pays to conserve!

Call EID at 642-4126 to find out about high-efficiency toilets and other water-efficient appliances. Call us at 642-4071 to schedule a complimentary water survey today!

GIS Partnership



At a recent EID in-house GPS training session, from left: Paul Harvey, Jonathan Draffan (trainer), Mark Haverson, and John Schlegel

For the past few years, EID has been developing staff capabilities in using Global Positioning Systems (GPS), along with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to more accurately locate and map District infrastructure.

In partnership with the El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, and Diamond Springs fire departments, EID is embarking on an ambitious project to locate all fire hydrants in the District using GPS technology. EID will supply the fire departments with GPS units and training on their use, and fire department employees will go into the field and enter the GPS data for each hydrant. The result will be greatly improved information on the location and status of each hydrant.

This GPS data will enable the District to better model water system characteristics and flow histories.