



# The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • July – August 2006

## Message from the General Manager

### Energy management fuels savings



**Ane D. Deister**

Rising gas prices have led some car dealers to offer gas price guarantees as a lure for purchasing gas-hungry vehicles. Other dealers feature hybrid autos touting fuel efficiencies from 26 mpg to 45 mpg.

At the pump, the faces tell the story. People are well aware that the cost of fuel affects their lives in measurable ways.

At EID, escalating fuel costs directly drive up the cost of providing service. That harsh reality led the EID Board of Directors to embark on a comprehensive energy efficiency program to manage and reduce the impacts of these costs.

In northern California, we are blessed with many clear days, and the sun, our brightest star, plays a leading role in EID's energy savings program. Last year, the Board voted to build a solar power project capable of generating 900 kilowatt hours of electricity. Located at our El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant, this project saves energy and almost \$250,000 per year in operating costs. What's more, half of the money to construct the facility is being paid through PG&E's alternative energy incentive program and the California Energy Commission's grant program.

The solar project comes on the heels of another successful initiative — our electricity demand reduction project, which shifts electrical demand away from peak use times. The first year of this project netted almost \$125,000 in savings, and this year those savings are expected to increase to \$180,000.

Bottom line is that while energy costs are rising, EID is continually improving its energy and resource management portfolio to yield costs savings and provide flexibility in its operations — all with an eye on benefits to our customers and the environment.



New solar facility at EID's El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant.

## Regional partnerships: CABY hosts Sierra Nevada Conservancy

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](http://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.

## Ag water-saving program wins statewide recognition

Growers in EID's service area are saving 2000 acre-feet\* of water every year, and that's a major reason why the District's Irrigation Management Service (IMS) program was one of six from across the state chosen as finalists for the annual Clair H. Hill Water Agency Award for Excellence. The award is given by the Association of California Water Agencies for outstanding leadership and innovation in the water industry.

The 30-year-old IMS program began as a way to assist commercial agricultural growers reduce the amount of water they use to irrigate their crops after severe drought in the mid-1970s. Since that time, growers and EID staff have improved the program through new technology and leadership. A first-of-its-kind software program, designed especially for IMS just last year, has gone a long way to deliver timely, comprehensive, site-specific reports so growers can schedule their irrigations more effectively.

"I'm very pleased with the success of our revamped IMS program and the way that growers have embraced it," said Kirk Taylor, IMS program coordinator and local rancher. "And we're not stopping. Plans for even more improvements are underway."

\*An acre-foot is equal to an acre of land covered by a foot of water.

**Looking for a career?**  
Check our website for the latest openings: [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org)

### EID Board meetings

July 10, 24  
August 14, 28

### COUPON

#### Sly Park Recreation Area

\$2.00 discount on day use fee

-or-

\$5.00 discount on camping fee

Good Monday through Thursday only, except holidays.  
This offer cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts, season passes or sale items.

Valid until September 30, 2006 • Must present at Sly Park

Written, edited and designed by Mary Lynn Carlton, Jesse Saich, and Deanne Kloepfer.

## Schnell School and EID team up for Work Shadow Community Day



Jerry Foote (left) shows student Wesley Hampshire a generator, while Patrick Preach looks on.



Dianne Sickendick (left) shows student Marisol Beas how to process EID payments.

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."