



Summary of the August 11, 2008 EID Board Meeting

El Dorado Irrigation District — serving people, agriculture, businesses, and the environment in El Dorado County since 1925

For immediate release

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Fish rescue and fishery restocking highlight update on emergency repair work at Caples Lake main dam outlet

Board passes resolution to honor Congressman John Doolittle

Placerville, CA . . . During their August 11 meeting, El Dorado Irrigation District (District) Board members heard a staff update on the emergency repairs needed to ensure safe operation of the main dam at Caples Lake reservoir. Staff reported that the California Department of Fish and Game will conduct a fish rescue consisting of netting the fish and placing them in hatchery trucks for transport to nearby Silver Lake.

“This is good news and the first part of a multi-phase attempt to save as many fish as possible during the critical work we are doing to ensure public health and safety,” said George Osborne, the District’s Board president. “We must replace the slide gates at the dam and fix other problems that were discovered in mid-June during an underwater investigation.”

“That means we have to draw down the reservoir so the repair crews are not endangered,” Osborne continued. “As soon as Fish and Game determined the drawdown will have impacts on the reservoir fishery, we began working with Fish and Game, the Forest Service, the California Division of Safety of Dams, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as well as our local advisory committee and many other stakeholders in the region, to make the best of this emergency.”

Osborne also said that the District has applied to the State Water Resources Control Board for permission to divert some of the water from the drawdown to Jenkinson Lake, the District’s largest water storage reservoir, as a hedge in case 2009 turns out to be another dry year. Due to dry conditions, Jenkinson Lake has not filled completely since 2007.

District staff informed the Board that the plan also encompasses construction of a temporary bladder dam behind the main dam to protect the safety of the repair crews, store water for reservoir fish, and provide flows for downstream fisheries during the winter. The third step in the plan is short and long-term restocking efforts following recommendations from the Department of Fish and Game, who successfully implemented a similar plan at Lake Davis in 2006.

“We are extremely appreciative of the technical support that Fish and Game has provided in developing a comprehensive plan to rescue the existing fishery and reestablish a trophy fishery at Caples Lake,” said Dan Corcoran, the District’s environmental review manager. “We are working aggressively to ensure that anglers will have a trophy fishery returned immediately after the ice melts and the lake can be accessed next spring. Meanwhile, Caples Lake will continue to provide angling opportunities throughout this season”

Staff will bring the plan to the Board for formal consideration and funding approval at the August 25 Board meeting.

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Board recognizes John Doolittle for his work on behalf of the District

In a unanimous vote, the Board endorsed director John Fraser's resolution in honor of Congressman John Doolittle, who is retiring this year after 18 years in the U.S. Congress.

"Congressman Doolittle has been instrumental in securing federal funding for many District projects," said Fraser. "And he was key in making sure that water rights were transferred along with Sly Park Recreation Area to the District from the Bureau of Reclamation. His steadfast dedication to his constituents in El Dorado County has been exemplary, and he will be greatly missed."

The resolution outlined the Congressman's many accomplishments that have had positive outcomes for the District and its customers, including \$19.25 million in appropriated federal funds and \$22.15 million in authorized federal funds for critical projects such as:

- reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for costs associated with weather-caused damage to critical portions of the Project 184 water transmission system,
- the Alder Creek water storage and conservation project feasibility study,
- the Sly Park Recreation Area waterline,
- the temperature control device at Folsom Lake, and
- El Dorado County water efficiency projects, including District projects.

In other business, the Board:

- Awarded low bidder D.G. Granade of Shingle Springs, CA, the construction contract for phase three of the District's headquarters improvement project and authorized funding for the work.
- Authorized the purchase of furniture and equipment from Walker's Business Products and Services of Placerville, CA, for the new administration building at El Dorado Hills wastewater treatment plant, piggy-backing on El Dorado County's competitively awarded agreement for these goods.
- Ratified an existing contract with Verizon Wireless for wireless telecommunication products and services and authorized continuation of the contract through the remainder of 2008.

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