



For immediate release

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State agency grants EID petition to transfer water from Caples Lake reservoir to Jenkinson Lake

Placerville, CA . . . El Dorado Irrigation District (District) has obtained approval from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to transfer up to 4,000 acre-feet* of water currently being drawn down from Caples Lake reservoir—under emergency conditions—to Jenkinson Lake, the District’s largest water storage facility.

“We started the transfer through Hazel Creek Tunnel to Jenkinson Lake this morning,” stated EID General Counsel Tom Cumpston. “Although we hope to get as close to the 4,000 acre-foot maximum limit as possible, we will probably run short due to the drawdown that has already taken place.”

“This event marks the first use of Permit 21112 water, and is a positive outcome for a tough situation, especially if 2009 turns out to be another dry year,” said EID Board President George Osborne. Cumpston concurred and noted that this permit was first applied for in 1999.

In an effort to ensure that the drawdown water is not wasted, some of the water is being diverted through the EID powerhouse to generate state-certified “clean” hydroelectric power for California.

Under authority granted by state law, the District’s Board declared an emergency repair situation on July 1 of this year, shortly after it was determined that badly deteriorated slide gates and other equipment was in need of replacement as soon as possible. The District began the drawdown of water in Caples Lake reservoir in mid-July in order to expedite the emergency repairs.

* An acre-foot is equal to one foot of water covering one acre of land.

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