



## Update No. 5 Caples Lake emergency drawdown and outlet works repair project



For immediate release  
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### **Installation of temporary “bladder” dam nears EID staff concludes bidding process to restock Caples Lake reservoir with fish**

Placerville, CA . . . Placement of a temporary “bladder” dam at Caples Lake may occur as soon as Friday, September 19, 2008. The temporary dam is being installed to protect workers who are scheduled to make major repairs to the outlet works of the Caples Lake main dam while storing as much water as possible for the coming winter.

“We are waiting for the exact moment when the water level is at the right height to install the dam safely and still maximize the amount of water we can store,” said Jake Eymann, senior engineer at the District who is managing the emergency repair project. “That time may be as early as this Friday, but it could be several days afterward. The company that will complete the installation is on call and waiting for our signal.”

In the meantime, crews are constructing pumping systems that will move water from behind the temporary dam through a pipeline to provide stream flows downstream of the main dam while the repairs are underway and to pump water that may seep under the temporary dam back into the storage area behind the dam.

#### **Progress on fish restocking plan**

Dan Corcoran, the District’s environmental review manager, reports that a number of firms have submitted bids for restocking Caples Lake with fish next spring. Staff will present the results of the bidding process to the District’s Board of Directors at their October 6 meeting along with a recommendation on awarding a contract.

The restocking effort is part of the District’s fisheries management plan for Caples Lake, which is aimed at reestablishing a trophy fishery in the reservoir after the emergency repairs are completed.

The District also provided all logistics for the fish rescue conducted by the California Department of Fish and Game and volunteers organized by the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance and Trout Unlimited in late August at Caples Lake. More than 6300 fish were captured and transported to nearby Silver and Red lakes.

#### **Background**

The District’s Board of Directors declared an emergency on July 1, 2008, after a mid-June underwater investigation revealed major deterioration of the outlet works, including the two slide gates, at the Caples Lake main dam. To access the areas requiring repair and to maintain a safe work environment for replacement of the slide gates and other repairs, the water level in the reservoir must be drawn down.

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Caples Lake is part of Project 184, the hydroelectric power generation system that the District acquired from Pacific Gas and Electric Company in 1999. Under conditions of the federal license to operate the system and according to state regulations, the District must assure safe operation of the dam.

Learn more about the emergency project by visiting the District's website at [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org). Future project updates will also provide more details. District employees continue to brief the Board of Directors during the Board's regular meetings. The public is welcome to attend the meetings. The meeting schedule is posted on the District's website or can be obtained by calling 530-622-4513.

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