



## Update No. 6 Caples Lake emergency drawdown and outlet works repair project



For immediate release  
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## Fish and Game to conduct second fish rescue at Caples Lake

### Rescue to follow installation of temporary “bladder” dam

Placerville, CA . . . The California Department of Fish and Game plans to conduct a second fish rescue at Caples Lake. The day-long project, scheduled for Monday, September 22, follows a successful four-day rescue at the lake during the last week in August. At that time, Fish and Game staff and approximately 90 volunteers captured more than 6,300 rainbow, brown, lake, and brook trout that were moved to two nearby lakes—the rainbow, brown, and lake trout to Silver Lake, and the brook trout to Red Lake. The rescue was funded and the logistics coordinated by El Dorado Irrigation District.

Monday’s rescue will be accomplished by Fish and Game staff and will take place two days after the installation of a temporary “bladder” dam behind the main dam at Caples Lake. The temporary dam is being installed tomorrow (Saturday, September 20) 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. The rescue will occur in the area between the main dam and the temporary dam.

Crews are also constructing a pumping system 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.

### Background

The El Dorado Irrigation 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 at the Caples Lake main dam. To access the areas that must be repaired and maintain a safe work environment, the water level in the reservoir must be drawn down.

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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