



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
December 7, 2000

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## STAGE THREE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY DECLARED

### Rotating Outages Not Required at this Time

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared its first Stage Three Emergency today at 5:15 p.m., Thursday, December 7, 2000, but rotating blackouts have not been ordered at this time. This Stage Three declaration enables the California ISO to receive emergency assistance from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) to help meet the day's peak demand, forecasted to be 33,839 megawatts at approximately 6:00 p.m. this evening. California ISO is hopeful that these additional resources will help avoid rotating blackouts throughout the state.

Higher than usual consumer demand for this time of year coupled with more than 11,000 megawatts of generation off line and a decrease in imported power has jeopardized the operating reserves necessary to maintain electricity reliability.

The California ISO is strongly urging consumers statewide to conserve electricity this evening. Stage One and Stage Two emergencies were called earlier today and are in effect until 10 p.m.

Stage Three of the state's Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) is required when operating reserves fall below one-and-a-half percent. The California ISO's EEP is part of the state's enhanced reliability standards created by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890, which restructured California's electricity industry.

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California ISO is charged with managing the flow of electricity along the long-distance, high-voltage power lines that make up the bulk of California’s transmission system. The not-for-profit public-benefit corporation assumed the responsibility in March, 1998, when California opened its energy markets to competition and the state’s investor-owned utilities turned their private transmission power lines over to the California ISO to manage. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, facilitate markets and ensure equal access to a 12,500 circuit mile “electron highway.”

Information about the California ISO control area’s electricity supply and the current demand is available on the web at [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com).

Other helpful contacts:

Pacific Gas and Electric	415/973-5930
Southern California Edison	626/302-2255
San Diego Gas and Electric	877/866-2066

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