



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## ISO Urges Conservation as Weeklong Heat Wave Continues

*Near-Record Energy Use in California on Monday*

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) is encouraging conservation this week, especially through the peak use hours between 3:00 and 6:00 P.M., due to a lengthy heat wave that tapers off today, but picks up steam Wednesday and Thursday with inland temperatures well into the triple digits. “Yesterday’s peak demand of 42,360 megawatts came within about 1,000 megawatts of the all-time record,” said Jim Detmers, Vice President of Operations at the ISO. “Even with a couple of large generating units off line, we managed to balance supply and demand for electricity without calling for a Stage One Emergency, but conservation is always a wise practice on hot days and will certainly keep monthly utility bills in check.”

Today’s peak demand forecast is 42,082 at about 4:00 p.m. today, but is expected to rise to 42,776 by tomorrow. Previously, this year’s highest demand was set on June 26, 2003 when electricity usage peaked at 40,187 megawatts. The all time record for power use in California was reached on July 12, 1999, when peak demand hit 45,884\* megawatts. Conservation measures include turning off unneeded lights and appliances, setting your thermostat at 78 degrees or higher, and waiting until after the peak demand hours to use major appliances. More energy saving tips are available at the [Flex Your Power](#) website.

The California ISO is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation charged with managing the flow of electricity along California’s open-market wholesale power grid. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity and ensure equal access to a 25,000 circuit miles of “electron highway”. As the impartial operator of the wholesale power grid in the state, the California ISO conducts a small portion of the bulk power markets. These markets are used to allocate space on the transmission lines, maintain operating reserves and match supply with demand in real time.

\*The 1999 figure includes load from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). SMUD’s load is no longer included in the ISO’s peak demand figure because SMUD formed a separate control area about a year ago. SMUD’s peak demand on Monday was approximately 2535 megawatts.

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