



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 20, 2001

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ROTATING CUSTOMER OUTAGES ORDERED STATEWIDE at 9:20 a.m.
Continuing Supply Limitations Necessitate Second Day of Rolling Black-outs

(Folsom, CA) The **California Independent System Operator (California ISO)** declared a **Stage Three Electrical Emergency** and called for **rotating customer outages beginning at 9:20 a.m.**, Tuesday, March 20, 2001.

The California ISO has requested the state’s utilities to curtail 500 megawatts affecting both northern and southern California. The extent of the outages and whether they are anticipated to last the afternoon and into the evening will be evaluated on an hourly basis. Conservation is strongly urged today and could easily make the difference in maintaining operating reserves at a level that could lesson or prevent blackouts.

Specific details will be available at the following media briefings.

Media News Teleconference			
TIMES (PST):	10:30 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
PHONE NUMBER:	800/374-1387		
PASSCODE:	ISO News		

More than 12,000 megawatts of generation remain unavailable in the state due to planned and forced maintenance outages. In addition, half of the state’s Qualifying Facilities (QFs) are not operating because of

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reported financial concerns, low wind or an inability to purchase natural gas to run the plants. QFs are small independent power generators that include biomass plants, wind farms and photovoltaic (solar) projects.

California ISO anticipates reaching a peak load of 29,952 megawatts this evening. Earlier a Stage Two Emergency was extended through midnight tonight. Voluntary load interruption programs were activated this morning.

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.

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 25,526 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.

Contact local investor-owned utilities for information regarding which customers will be affected:

Investor-Owned Utility Media Offices	
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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