



NEWS RELEASE

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NEITHER ENERGY SHORTAGE NOR LONG HOURS KEEP CALIFORNIA ISO EMPLOYEES FROM SHOWING HOLIDAY SPIRIT *Staff at the Grid Control Center Round Up Thousands of Gifts for 300 Needy Children*

(Folsom, CA) There is no scarcity of giving spirit at the California Independent System Operator (California ISO), despite the state's electricity shortage. A record-breaking string of electrical emergencies kept many California ISO employees working 16-hour days the past two weeks, but that did not stop them from their desire to play Santa to hundreds of children served by the County of Sacramento's *Gifts From the Heart 2000* program. Under the program, foster children, and boys and girls waiting-to-be-adopted, as well as kids from troubled homes, hand over Christmas wish-lists to volunteers with the Department of Health and Human Services.

Originally, employees with the California ISO and Structure Consulting Group, a leading supplier of energy trading and business solutions, delivered gifts for 90 children only to find out there were still several hundred more children who needed presents to make their hopes and dreams for Christmas come true. With time running out and only a week before Christmas, the ISO employees and contractors rallied together and collected thousands of more presents for 200 additional children.

In a vehicle almost as environmentally friendly as a sleigh with reindeer, the California ISO elves today will deliver their large bundle of gifts via the ISO's electric-powered pick-up truck. The wrapped presents will arrive at the *Gifts From the Heart 2000* headquarters located at 3701 Branch Center

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Road, Sacramento at 11:00 a.m. today, Wednesday, December 20, 2000.

“The response from the employees and contractors at the California ISO has been tremendous,” said *Gifts From the Heart 2000* Volunteer Coordinator Jane West. “We are amazed how quickly at this late date they were able to scramble to collect the gifts for these children who so desperately need an emotional lift this time of year.”

The 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.”

Structure Consulting Group LLC, based in the San Francisco Bay Area, serves independent system operators nationwide and in Europe, assisting with expertise in forecasting, scheduling and energy management, as well as market and settlement systems.

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