



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION IN CALIFORNIA BREAKS NEW RECORD** **Cal-ISO Activates Day Two of Stage One Electrical Emergency** *Customers Urged to Conserve Energy*

(Folsom, CA) A severe heat wave in California prompted the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) to initiate day two of Stage One of the state's Electrical Emergency Plan at 7 a.m. today, Monday, August 4, 1998. The controller of the newly competitive power grid is asking investor-owned utilities today to, once again, urge their customers to conserve energy. Electricity consumption in the state is expected to soar above yesterday's record levels. Previously, the all-time record energy usage for the state was 44,650 megawatts (summer 1997). Californians beat that yesterday when their energy use peaked at 44,927 megawatts at 4:11 p.m. The Cal-ISO reports smooth operations during yesterday's record peak demand, but is preparing for even higher temperatures to bring heavier demand from customers today. Peak demand is expected to draw more than 45,000 megawatts today from the Cal-ISO-controlled power grid.

A Stage One Emergency is initiated to advise the public of potential power shortages and to ask all customers to conserve electricity to ensure there will be enough power to meet future demand. The request for demand reduction is not intended to disrupt employment or curtail industrial production or commerce. However, if the conservation measures are insufficient in lowering the demand for power, load management programs that implement voluntary curtailments of power are probable. The Cal-ISO will acquire by any means, including non-competitive bid, additional resources in an amount sufficient to maintain minimum operation reserves.

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## DAY TWO STAGE ONE-2-2-2

A Stage One Emergency takes effect when electricity operating reserves fall below seven percent. A Stage Two is declared when reserves drop below five percent. At this level, large commercial customers that have signed up to voluntarily curtail power during high demand will be asked to do so. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three is initiated. If a Stage Three is called, involuntary curtailments of service to customers, including "rolling blackouts", will occur.

Cal-ISO is chartered by the state to manage the flow 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 mandated the investor-owned utilities turn their private transmission power lines over to the Cal-ISO's public power grid. The mission of the Cal-ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity and ensure equal access to the state's "electron highway", which spans 124,000 miles or three-quarters of the state. The Cal-ISO is the second largest control area in the U.S. and the fifth largest in the world. Its computerized control center is located in Folsom, 22-miles from the capital city of Sacramento.

### Other helpful contacts:

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