



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VOLUNTARY POWER CURTAILMENT PROGRAMS ACTIVATED

State-wide Electrical Emergency Reaches STAGE TWO for Third Consecutive Day

(Folsom, CA) A Stage Two Emergency was declared by the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) for 12:00-8:00 p.m. today due to a continuing heat wave throughout much of the Western U.S. The California ISO is asking utilities Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric to activate voluntary load management programs. A Stage One Emergency, urging Californians to conserve as much energy as possible, was called at 11 a.m., and is effective through 8 p.m. this evening.

Demand on the statewide electrical grid is expected to reach 45,723 megawatts today, which is very close to the previous record peak of 45,884 MW set on July 12 last year. A stubborn high-pressure system continues to sit over the Western states, keeping the weather hot and humid. Air conditioning systems are having to work long and hard to keep businesses and homes cool, following five days of residual heat build up. At the same time, the supply of electricity is limited within the West because the record heat is pervasive across the region.

The ISO urges interruptible customers to wait to shed their electrical load until specified to do so by their local utility. Interruptible customers, mainly commercial and industrial users, receive a reduced rate in exchange for a commitment to come off line when asked to do so for reliability purposes.

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A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three will be initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers, including “rotating blackouts”, are probable during this emergency declaration. The California ISO’s Electrical Emergency Plan (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 chartered by the state to manage 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.

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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