



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FIRE BURNING UNDER MAJOR TRANSMISSION LINES TRIGGERS VOLUNTARY INTERRUPTIBLE PROGRAM IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA *Conservation Encouraged*

(Folsom, CA) A brushfire in central California is burning south of Gorman, near the intersection of I-5 and Highway 138 under Path 26--one of the state's major north-south transmission links. The fire forced two major transmission lines out of service, causing a local resource deficiency in the southern portion of the state. Known as "Midway-Vincent 1 and 2", the 500 kilovolt transmission lines, part of Path 26 (just south of Path 15), tripped off line at about 3:00 p.m. The situation has stabilized, but customers in Southern California are strongly urged to conserve tonight in an effort to help California Independent System Operator (California ISO) operators maintain power grid reliability.

To compensate for the transmission line capacity limitations, the California ISO called on Southern California Edison (SCE) to initiate 800 megawatts worth of its interruptible load program. These are voluntary commercial customers who get a reduced rate on their utility bills in exchange for interrupting their service in emergency situations. The State Department of Water Resources has also reduced pump load by 100 megawatts. Additionally, the California ISO called for generation resources in Southern California as well as throughout the Southwest region of the country to increase their output. An estimated 1500 megawatts worth of emergency resources were made available to California from the Southwest alone.

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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.

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