



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 22, 2000

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### **SUDDEN HEAT WAVE TRIGGERS STAGE ONE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY California ISO Requests Consumers to Curtail Energy**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage One Emergency at 10:30 a. m. today, May 22, 2000, as the state's electric system responds to unseasonably hot temperatures. Additionally, generation within California is limited by 6,000 megawatts due to planned maintenance and unplanned outages that have left several large power plants unavailable.

The California ISO is asking customers to voluntarily reduce their use of electricity, to prevent more severe curtailment measures. The Stage One Emergency is in effect until 10 p.m. tonight. The peak demand on the transmission system is continuing to rise and is expected to reach approximately 40,915 megawatts by late afternoon.

Stage One of the state's Electrical Emergency Plan 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 California ISO will acquire by any means, including non-competitive bid, additional resources in an amount sufficient to maintain minimum operation reserves. The California ISO's Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) is part of the state's enhanced reliability standards enacted by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890 that led to the restructuring of California's electricity industry.

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STAGE ONE-2-2-2

Stage One 5-22-00

A Stage One Emergency takes effect when electricity operating reserves fall to 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 days 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. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers including “rolling blackouts” are probable during this emergency declaration.

California 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 open-market power grid. The mission of the California 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.

Other helpful contacts (for media only):

PG&E	415 973-5930
SCE	626 302-2255
SEMPRA ENERGY	619 696-4292

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