



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
*May 22, 2000*

Contact: Patrick Dorinson  
Director of Communications  
1 (888) 516-NEWS

### **CALIFORNIA ISO MOVES TO STAGE TWO EMERGENCY AT 12:30 p.m. Investor-Owned Utilities May Ask Commercial & Industrial Customers to Curtail Usage**

(Folsom, CA) Today's continuing statewide heat wave required the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) to move to a Stage Two Emergency as of 12:30 p.m. California ISO may request the state's utilities to reduce the power demand on the state's transmission system by activating their voluntary load curtailment program. In addition to the unseasonably high temperatures, the emergency situation can be attributed to the unavailability of 6,000 megawatts of generation; several of the state's large power plants are offline today due to planned maintenance and unplanned outages. The California ISO anticipates reaching a peak load of 40,915 megawatts today.

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. At this stage, the California ISO may ask the state's utilities to implement their load management programs. These programs rely on commercial and industrial customers who receive discounted electricity rates to voluntarily curtail their electricity use in order to lower the state's demand for power.

While not anticipated today, 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. 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.

-MORE-

STAGE TWO -2-2-2

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 mandated the investor-owned utilities turn their private transmission power lines over to the California ISO's public 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

-ISO-

ISO-05.22.00