



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CALIFORNIA ISO MOVES TO STAGE TWO EMERGENCY AT 3:45 p.m. Southern California Edison Initiating Two Curtailment Programs**

(Folsom, CA) High humidity in Southern California and hot temperatures throughout the western states prompted the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) to move to a Stage Two Emergency at 3:45 p.m. today. The California ISO has requested that Southern California Edison initiate curtailment programs with select customers, including the cycling of agriculture water pumps and air conditioning units.

Unavailable generation has limited the ability of the northwest and southwest to export electricity to California. This in combination with increased statewide demand – prompted by hot weather in the valley and high humidity in the south -- has resulted in narrow energy reserves. The California ISO anticipates reaching a peak load of 43,039 megawatts today. The Stage Two will last until 7:00 p.m. tonight. Continuously updated information about California ISO operations is available on the web at [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com).

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. At this time, only the specific curtailment programs mentioned above have been implemented. Interruptible load management programs managed by the state's utilities have not been activated. 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.

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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

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