



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
June 28, 2000

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

### **VOLUNTARY POWER CURTAILMENT PROGRAMS ACTIVATED State-wide Electrical Emergency Reaches STAGE TWO at 2:15 p.m.**

(Folsom, CA) A Stage Two Emergency was declared by the California Independent System Operation (California ISO) for 2:15-8:00 p.m. today due to a continuing a heat wave throughout much of the Western U.S. The state's investor-owned utilities -- Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Electric -- activated voluntary load management programs in phases, requiring the curtailment of enough megawatts to maintain a five percent operating reserve with minimal impact to customers. **The ISO urges interruptible customers to wait to shed their electrical load until specified to do so by their local utility.** Interruptible customers are mainly commercial users who receive a reduced rate in exchange for curtailing power when asked to do so for reliability purposes.

Operating reserves for much of the western United States are slim because of the widespread heat. Electricity imported by California from the northwest is particularly scarce since the power is needed within the region, due to lingering hot weather. Meanwhile, Arizona and Nevada are also sweltering, so power imported from those states is limited as well. The California ISO anticipates reaching a revised peak load of 42,837 megawatts later today. A Stage One Emergency, calling for general conservation practices, was issued at 12:00 p.m. and will also remain in effect until 8:00 p.m.

-MORE-

STAGE TWO-2-2-2

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. 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.

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](http://www.caiso.com).**

Other helpful contacts (for media only):	
PG&E	415 973-5930
SCE	626 302-2255
SEMPRA ENERGY	619 696-4292