



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **CALIFORNIA ISO CALLS STAGE ONE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY Tight Supply of Electricity Reserves Caused by Lingering Heat**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO), administrators of the state's Electrical Emergency Plan, issued another Stage One, the fourth in a four day run of hot weather in California and throughout much of the west. The California ISO is urging consumers to conserve electricity to prevent more severe measures. Operating reserves the California ISO depends on to maintain reliability of the power grid continue to be in short supply because of generation shortfalls.

Air conditioners continue to work overtime to cool homes and buildings in many areas in the state, particularly valley regions. But, the major cause of the limited reserves is a loss of imports from the northwest that California normally counts on this time of year. Along with higher demand than usual in the northwest due to warm weather, a major power plant in the region tripped off line earlier in the week, reducing the amount of available power on the west coast by more than 1,200 megawatts.

The California ISO is calling on all customers to voluntarily reduce their use of electricity today, especially during the peak afternoon hours. The Stage One Emergency is in effect from 2:00-7:00 p.m. today. Peak demand on the transmission system is expected to reach 42,300 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.

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A Stage One Emergency takes effect when electricity operating reserves fall 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. 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.

The 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 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 vast 12,500 circuit miles of “electron highway”.

**Continuously updated information about the California ISO control area’s electricity supply and the current demand on the power grid is available on the web at [www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com).**

Other helpful contacts:

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

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