



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
August 11, 2000

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### **LEVEL OF ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY RAISED TO STAGE TWO**

#### *Voluntary Power Curtailment Programs Activated*

(Folsom, CA) A Stage Two Emergency was declared by the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) from 2:30-8:00 p.m. today, August 11, 2000, due to higher than anticipated demand on the power grid as temperatures rise in Southern California. Peak demand on the statewide electrical grid is expected to reach 42,200 megawatts by 4:30 p.m. today, exceeding an earlier forecast of 41,833 megawatts.

The California ISO is requesting investor-owned utilities in the state activate 500 megawatts worth of load curtailment programs. **The ISO urges interruptible customers to wait to shed their electrical load until specified to do so by their local utility.** Interruptible customers, mainly commercial and industrial users, receive a reduced rate in exchange for a commitment to come off line when asked to do so for reliability purposes.

A Stage One Emergency, urging Californians to conserve as much energy as possible, was called at 2 p.m. and is effective through 8 p.m. this evening.

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three will be initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers, including "rotating 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

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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:

Pacific Gas and Electric	415/973-5930
Southern California Edison	626/302-2255
San Diego Gas and Electric	877/866-2066

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