



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2000

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

**CONTINUED CONSERVATION URGED AS
ANOTHER STAGE ONE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY IS DECLARED**

Media Teleconference Scheduled for 11 a.m.

(Folsom, CA) California residents are urged to continue conservation efforts, as electricity in the western U.S. remains in short supply. The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage One Emergency at 9:15 a.m. today, Tuesday, December 20, 2000 effective through 12 midnight.

Last night for the first time, California ISO invoked the federal order issued late last week by Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. Additional resources have been made available as a result of the order, but additional supply is still needed to meet the forecasted peak of 33,720 megawatts at around 6:00 p.m. tonight. Transmission constraints in the middle of the state continue to limit the ability of the California ISO to get additional power from Southern California up to the northern portion of the state.

CALIFORNIA ISO TELECONFERENCE

DATE: Tuesday, December 20, 2000

PHONE NUMBER: 800/374-1387

TIME (PST): 11:00 a.m.

PASSCODE: 982640

-MORE-

A Stage One Emergency triggers a public request for conservation of electricity. This request 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. 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.

California ISO is charged with managing 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.

Other helpful contacts:

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

###