



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 26, 2005

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## California ISO Appoints Vice President of External Affairs *Karen Edson is a Veteran in Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations*

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) Board of Governors approved the appointment of Karen Edson to the position of Vice President of External Affairs. Edson will assume her new post December 10, 2005. The public affairs and policy veteran brings to the California ISO broad expertise spanning a 30-year career. Edson served on the California Energy Commission in the 1980's. She also held senior legislative positions and has been in private practice representing local agencies, renewable power producers, energy companies, and trade associations.

"Ms. Edson's impressive career has earned her the respect of a wide cross-section of the industry and our stakeholders. This is a vital ingredient to the ISO's success in reaching out to a variety of stakeholders, regulators and policy makers," said California ISO President and CEO Yakout Mansour.

Director of Customer Services and Industry Affairs Don Fuller has been filling the vice president role in an interim capacity since early July.

"During the past few months of major organizational realignment, Don demonstrated an exceptional quality of leadership in organizing and inspiring the External Relations team and contributed greatly to the development of the new direction of the ISO," added Mansour.

The appointment of Ms. Edson is a key part of the organizational re-alignment by the ISO last July, which resulted in reducing the toll for using the wholesale power grid to the lowest rate ever. The Grid Management Charge (GMC) will decrease 15 percent next year, with a 30 percent reduction

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targeted by 2009. Reliability will be maintained while the California ISO realigns and reduces costs. In fact, the grid operator reported last week a tremendous improvement in the number of transmission bottlenecks during the high demand summer months. Upgrades to the high-voltage system are showing their value for consumers as the costs associated with handling grid congestion continue to plummet dramatically—with savings of more than \$170 million so far this year compared to the same period in 2004.

The California ISO is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation charged with managing the flow of electricity along California's open-market wholesale power grid. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity and ensure equal access to more than 25,000 circuit miles of "electron highway." As the impartial operator of the wholesale power grid in the state, the California ISO conducts a small portion of the bulk power markets. These markets are used to allocate space on the transmission lines, maintain operating reserves and match supply with demand in real time.

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