

NEWS RELEASE

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August 7, 2006

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California ISO Joins in Fan Give Away

Free Fans for Needy May save Lives During the Next Heat Wave

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator Corporation (California ISO) is partnering with Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), KCRA 3 and the Salvation Army to give away more than 3,000 box fans to needy Northern Californians. The fans can help people stay cool and stay alive during extended heat waves like the one that gripped California in the mid July.

“We know that electricity is essential, not just for modern convenience, but in some cases for health and human safety,” said California ISO President and CEO Yakout Mansour. “The high voltage grid we operate performed extremely well during the heat storm but it is painful to know that some people died because they didn’t have something as simple as an electric fan. When KCRA came to us with this idea, we knew immediately that it is the right thing to do.”

KCRA enlisted the help of Wal-Mart, which found and delivered 3,100 box fans to Sacramento at cost. The California ISO and PG&E each donated funds to the effort, and PG&E trucks distributed the fans to 15 Salvation Army sites in 13 Northern California’s counties where the heat wave had the most impact. People who believe they meet the criteria to receive a free fan can contact their local Salvation Army service facility—916-563-3700 in Sacramento—or log onto KCRA.com for more information.

“Thankfully, it has cooled off,” said Mansour. “But there is still a lot of summer left and these fans may be essential in a couple of weeks when meteorologists predict another heat wave.”

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 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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