



**NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 9, 2001

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**ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY STEPPED UP TO STAGE TWO  
NEED FOR CONSERVATION REMAINS CRITICAL**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Two Electrical Emergency today, Wednesday, May 9, 2001, at 11:45 a.m. with operating reserves dipping below five percent.

We are predicting that a Stage 3 with rotating outages may occur between 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. lasting until 5:00 p.m., with loads of up to 800 MW being curtailed. We caution you that these are very dynamic conditions. The amount of MW is impacted by import flows, as well as, the temperature.

Consumers are asked to step up conservation efforts as the California ISO's job of balancing the supply and demand for power becomes more challenging this afternoon and into the evening peak hours. With conditions expected to remain tight throughout the day, a teleconference update has been scheduled for this afternoon.

**TIMES (ALL PST): 2:30 p.m. with additional times TBD**

**PHONE NUMBER: 800/374-1387**

**PASSCODE: ISO News**

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Today’s Stage Two Emergency is in effect until midnight. With the Stage Two declaration, the California ISO is able to access emergency resources that will help maintain operating reserves.

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 possible during this emergency declaration.

***Should rotating outages be necessary today, media is reminded of a new communication vehicle available on the California ISO’s website ([www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com)). Please access the Systems Conditions page (logo on the left) for up-to-the-minute information about outages called within the state.***

The 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 25,526 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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