



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 15, 2001

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### **CALIFORNIA ISO ISSUES STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY AFTER NORTHWEST POWER IMPORT FLOWS SLOW**

**All Consumers Urged to Step Up Conservation Efforts  
No forecast for rotating blackouts today**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Two Electrical Emergency this morning, Thursday, March 15, 2001 at 10:30 a.m., in effect until 10:00 p.m. tonight. Operating reserves the ISO maintains to ensure reliability of the Grid were impacted after imported power from the Northwest was reduced by approximately 1,600 megawatts from yesterday. Only 1,500 megawatts are currently flowing into California from Oregon, Washington and Canada vs. approximately 2,700 megawatts yesterday.

Megawatt-savings through conservation are extremely helpful to the California ISO's efforts to manage the state's electricity grid during these instances of short supply. Californians are encouraged to increase their conservation efforts as much as possible today. Demand across the California ISO Control Area is expected to peak at 28,675 megawatts around 6:00 p.m. this evening. The amount of generation offline in the California ISO control area continues to hover around 10,000 megawatts (planned and unplanned maintenance on power plants).

With the Stage Two declaration, the California ISO is able to access emergency resources that will help maintain operating reserves today. At this time, the ISO has not requested that the utilities' voluntary interruptible customers, mainly commercial and industrial users, come off line.

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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. 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 California’s electricity industry.

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 12,500 circuit mile “electron highway.”

**ISO Communications does not plan to hold news teleconferences today, unless conditions worsen.**

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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