



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 21, 2006

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Power Demand Soars to New Heights As Mercury Climbs *California ISO Urges Consumers to Step Up Conservation Efforts For Even More Challenging Days Ahead*

(Folsom, CA) The extensive heat storm that has gripped California and much of the West since last week, produced a wave of humidity that caused air conditioning use to skyrocket and sent the peak power demand blasting past the record set only five days earlier. With even more heat on the way, the plea for conservation escalates in the coming days and especially during Monday's return to the workweek.

The peak point of electricity usage in the history of California came at 4:28 p.m. today when 49,036 megawatts of demand was drawn from the power grid. The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) reports no grid disruptions and credits conservation for reducing demand during the key peak period. Real time wholesale energy prices continued to stay relatively low, rising from an average of only \$60-per-megawatt range on Monday to an average of \$97-per-megawatt today.

Conservation is working and the California ISO urges consumers to step up their conservation efforts even more going into Monday when demand could easily surpass today's record due to the stubborn heat wave. The California ISO estimates that Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's push for conservation and his call on state buildings to reduce consumption by 25 percent is making a noticeable difference in "shaving the peak."

"We estimate that consumers are trimming about 1,000 megawatts from their electricity use after heeding the call to conserve during the late afternoon hours," said ISO President and CEO Yakout Mansour. "This is remarkable because if you add the 400 megawatts of aqueduct pump load that the state is curtailing during peak period, the amount of "negawatts" in conservation consumers are producing equals the size of two large power plant units. We just really need it to continue."

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POWER DEMAND

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The new record set today exceeds the old record, set last Monday by 2,475 megawatts:

Today's record peak	49,036 megawatts
Previous record (July 17, 2006)	46,561 megawatts
Pre-Summer All-Time Record (July 20, 2005)	45,431 megawatts
Energy Crisis Peak Demand	41,419 megawatts

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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