

California Independent System Operator

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 3, 2004 Contact: Stephanie McCorkle Director of Communications 1 (888) 516-NEWS

CONSERVATION URGED AS CALIFORNIA ISO DECLARES TRANSMISSION EMERGENCY Unseasonably High Temperatures Drive Up Demand for Power As Voluntary Interruptible Customers are Called Upon in Southern California Only

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) issued a Transmission Emergency at 2:30 p.m. as a Southern California transmission path reached its capacity limit. To maintain stability of the grid and keep the lines operating within safety limitations, voluntary interruptible customers in Southern California were called upon to shed electrical load. The California ISO asked Southern California Edison to call upon 600 megawatts of commercial customers that have signed up to voluntarily curtail power during high demand days.

The California ISO does not anticipate additional curtailments of service (aka "rotating blackouts") today. Today's Emergency comes as the ISO Control Area reaches its highest demand for power so far this year. The expected peak demand on the transmission system is expected to reach 40,451 megawatts at approximately 4 p.m. The general public can help by avoiding the use of heavy electrical appliances and keeping the thermostat no lower than 78 degrees between the hours of 2 and 6 p.m. today.

The California ISO is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation charged with managing the flow of electricity on California's 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 and demand in real time.

Conservation tips and continuous system condition updates are available on the ISO website at <u>www.caiso.com</u>.

-ISO-