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Folsom, EID to joins pipes in case of emergency

By Michael Raffety | Editor | March 17, 2009 12:41

After a 42-inch pipeline below Folsom Dam collapsed from pure suction the city of Folsom decided it needed some more backup water sources in case of another such emergency. Feb. 23 the city came to the El Dorado Irrigation District board meeting and got a sympathetic hearing.

The board voted 4-0, with Board President George Wheeldon not present, to allow Folsom to extend a pipeline across the county line to a 10-inch water line EID has at Sophia Parkway. Folsom would pay the cost of extending its 8-inch line, creating an intertie and a pressure reducing station.

It would only be used in event of an emergency and not for drought relief. Likewise it would include a line tap where EID could attach a pump and use Folsom's water in an emergency.

"Each party has to agree at all times and retain the right to cease delivery," said EID General manager Tom Gallier. "In a way it is not dissimilar to an interagency fire agreement."

"The city of Folsom has a similar agreement with the San Juan Water District," said EID Director John Fraser.

Folsom Utilities Director Ken Payne told the EID board that it used its backup agreement with San Juan to provide water while replacing the collapsed Natomas pipeline in front of Folsom Dam Feb. 12. Folsom had a supply of water stored and between that and San Juan water was able to get by during the 48 hours it took to replace the huge pipeline.

Payne also noted that Folsom has an emergency intertie with Golden State Water Co. on its western border.

The emergency intertie with EID would only serve a thin strip along the eastern edge of Folsom.

"I assume we're selling, not giving away, the water at wholesale cost. I think it's a good thing to do," said EID Director Harry Norris.

"As long as we cooperate it's for the good of all ... so forge ahead," Fraser said.

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