

Call for state audit of El Dorado Irrigation District rejected

Published Friday, Feb. 19, 2010

A request for a state audit of the El Dorado Irrigation District's finances failed to garner the support of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee.

Assemblywoman Alyson Huber, D-El Dorado Hills, chairs the committee. In a news release Wednesday, Huber said she believes concerns about the district's financial operations, fueled by steep rate increases, are local issues that should be handled at a local level.

Assemblyman Ted Gaines, R-Roseville, asked the committee to order an audit of the district's finances after receiving complaints from constituents about the rate increases. Both Huber and Gaines represent portions of the El Dorado Irrigation District's service area, which includes about 100,000 customers on El Dorado County's west slope.

A spokeswoman for Huber's office said the audit request failed on a 7-3 vote. Two Republicans voted against the audit, she said, stressing that the vote was not along party lines.

"Our state is facing an unprecedented budget deficit and we have to be fiscally prudent, which is why I have been working with parties involved to take steps at the local level before we seek a state audit," Huber said in the news release. "We should exhaust all local, existing resources ... to address this issue and not spend hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars."

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