

EID raising rates again

By [Letters to the Editor](#)

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EDITOR: Get ready for another big El Dorado Irrigation District rate increase of 28 percent for the average residential customer in 2012.

We just got past an 18 percent rate increase in March 2010 and another 15 percent in January 2011... but EID spends on. While government agencies everywhere are hunkering down, EID's board still has its foot on the spending accelerator, a \$3.6 million operating budget increase for 2011 and another \$1.2 million increase approved for 2012.

EID's board also just approved an \$87 million capital improvement plan that will require \$60 million more debt, interest on which will add a further 11 percent of rate increase for 2013. When does it end?

A whopping 35 percent of EID rates already go to pay for EID's huge \$390 million of debt. Some \$137 million of the debt is for excess capacity, which doesn't benefit current ratepayers but we are forced to pay for it. Why? Because the board spends money like water, then leaves ratepayers to pick up the check.

The only way to stop this debt spiral and huge EID rate increases year after year is to cut back on spending. It's the board's job to look out for the ratepayers, not to enrich big developers and contractors, consultants and bond salesmen cronies at ratepayer expense.

Whether you are a Pollock Pines-Camino residential ratepayer or an El Dorado Hills-Cameron Park ratepayer, EID's current board hasn't put your financial interests ahead of themselves and their cronies.

So send EID a message to put their spending on a crash diet. Vote your wallet on Nov. 8. Elect new EID directors.

GREG PRADA