

EID planning 80% population growth by 2030

From: Greg Prada
To: undisclosed recipients
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:18 AM
Subject: EID planning 80% population growth by 2030

EID's recently Board-approved Water Master Plan "blueprint" effectively assumes that population from Diamond Springs to El Dorado Hills will grow 80% by the year 2030. And in EID's May 28th board meeting, these same ambitious forecasts will be included in EID's proposed Wastewater Master Plan "blueprint".

EID's planners effectively envision 53,000 new residents by 2030 and an average of 1,100 new homes annually. Apparently, to EID's management and engineering staff, we soon will re-enter the "go-go" population boom of the early 2000's all over again...and this time it will last seventeen uninterrupted years, if not decades longer.

To accommodate their forecasted return to runaway growth, EID's management and engineering leaders have proposed \$680 million of new capital spending. What's more, even though 17% of EID's current rates are needed to pay for current excess capacity valued at \$137 million, EID's "population growth visionaries" want to spend \$52 million* in the next four years... so they are good and ready a decade or more in advance of new capacity need for their envisioned next population surge to El Dorado County.

EID's Board, instead of pondering "Do these growth projections make sense?", quickly passed the proposed Water Master Plan in late March, effectively reiterating the Board's past repeatedly stated testimonials "We trust Management...these are licensed, highly skilled professionals!".

While EID has exquisite engineers who design world class infrastructure, EID repeatedly has shown they are extremely poor forecasters and extremely wasteful financial stewards of ratepayer monies. One has to look no further than their Mosquito Road headquarters, or to the two wastewater treatments plants with 33% current excess capacity, to see that EID substantially overbuilds to current ratepayers' actual need.

Perhaps the EID Board should learn from their past over-exuberance, drive around down the hill from their Mosquito Road enclave, listen to their constituents who are tired of paying for EID's premature capacity expansion investments, and then send Management back to develop realistic, appropriately time-phased forecasts.

If EID's Board does not infuse common sense, ratepayers had better love rate hikes... because it won't be the Tooth Fairy that will be picking up the check for more forecasting blunders and over-ambitious investments on Mosquito Road.

Greg Prada
Ratepayer Advocate
www.FixEID.org

*The Board-approved Water Master Plan "blueprint" includes \$30 million of 2014-2017 spending while the preliminary Wastewater Master Plan "blueprint" calls for \$22 million.