

### EID spending another \$60 million it doesn't have

**By Letters to the Editor - Mountain Democrat**

September 14, 2012

On Sept. 26, at 6 p.m., EID is holding a public meeting at its Mosquito Road headquarters to propose tens of millions of dollars of new capital spending. Ratepayers concerned about their 102 percent of water rate hikes for 2010-2015, and sewer bills double those of Folsom, should let their voices be heard.

With more than 120 projects being proposed, EID plans to charge more than one-fourth of the proposed new capital spending to more extra capacity for new home development. Yet EID's existing extra capacity has been valued by EID's Finance Director at \$137 million ... more than one-third of EID's \$380 million debt. Extra capacity already costs ratepayers \$8 million in interest and debt service annually ... adding 21 percent to current customer rates.

Rate-hike weary ratepayers further should note that from 2009-2011 EID annually sold an average of just 29,000 of their 65,000 acre feet of water ... far more than 50 percent extra. Similarly, EID has wastewater treatment capacity for 31,000 homes but currently has just 21,000 sewer customers ... 50 percent extra.

With 35 percent of rates already going for interest and debt service, sane minds wonder why EID is planning to raise \$60 million more debt and continue its \$15 million annual deficit spending ... on more capital spending than is needed or affordable by EID's current 38,000 regular ratepayers.

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