

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

**DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS**

**ORDER WR 2008-0036-DWR**

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**IN THE MATTER OF PERMIT 21112 (APPLICATION 5645B)  
OF EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
PETITION FOR TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGES IN  
PERMIT CONDITIONS, PLACE OF STORAGE AND  
POINTS OF REDIVERSION**

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**SOURCES:** Silver Lake, Caples Lake, Lake Aloha and South Fork American River

**COUNTIES:** Amador, Alpine and El Dorado

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**ORDER APPROVING TEMPORARY URGENCY CHANGES IN PERMIT CONDITIONS, PLACE OF  
STORAGE AND POINTS OF REDIVERSION**

BY THE CHIEF OF THE DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS:

**1.0 SUBSTANCE OF PETITION**

On August 1, 2008, El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) filed a petition with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) requesting approval of Temporary Urgency Changes to Permit 21112 pursuant to Water Code section 1435. The petition requests authorization to temporarily store 4,000 acre-feet (af) of water released from Caples Lake in Jenkinson Lake by (1) adding Jenkinson Lake as a temporary place of storage; (2) adding a point of rediversion at Sly Park Dam (which forms Jenkinson Lake); (3) adding a point of rediversion at El Dorado Canal to convey water from South Fork American River to Jenkinson Lake; (4) providing relief from permit condition 9 regarding maintenance of Caples Lake at specified levels for recreational purposes during the recreation season; and (5) providing relief from permit condition 12 regarding the bypass, release, and lake capacity requirements imposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license for Project 184.

**2.0 BACKGROUND**

EID inspected the dam at Caples Lake in June 2008 and determined that repair work at the outlet gate valves was required due to the high risk of gate failure. The outlet works have been in continuous operation, without any known replacement or major repairs, for more than 85 years. EID staff has experienced recent and increasing operational difficulties, including binding, strain accumulation, lurching, and leakage through closed slide gates, debris blockages of the trash rack, and faulty operation of the lower slide gate. On June 10 and 11, 2008, a dive team conducted a two-day dive investigation of the outlet works that revealed a number of structural problems. Based on the inspection, EID concluded that any attempt to operate the lower slide gate carries a substantial risk of gate failure. If this gate were to fail in an open position, the result would be an uncontrolled release of the entire active storage of Caples Lake. Similarly, if the upper gate were to fail in an open position, the result would be an uncontrolled release of all water stored in Caples Lake above the elevation of the upper slide gate. If either gate were to fail in a closed position, EID would be unable to control releases of water from Caples Lake and