

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014



California Independent System Operator Corporation

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December 31, 2015 and 2014

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Independent Auditor's Report

To Members of the Board of Governors
California Independent System Operator Corporation

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the California Independent System Operator Corporation, which comprise the statements of net position as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position and of cash flows for the years then ended.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the California Independent System Operator Corporation at December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

The accompanying management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 12 is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in the appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audits of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Sacramento, CA
April 20, 2016

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

December 31, 2015 and 2014

The following discussion and analysis of the California Independent System Operator Corporation (the Company) provides an overview of the Company's financial activities for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Company's financial statements and accompanying notes, which follow this section.

Background

The Company is a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated in May 1997, and is responsible for the operation of long-distance, high-voltage power lines throughout most of California that also deliver power to and from neighboring control areas and states, along with Canada and Mexico. At present, the ISO controls the transmission systems owned by 16 entities that have contracted with the Company to operate them.

The Company's purpose is to ensure the efficient and reliable use of this transmission system. The Company offers open access to the transmission system through a market for electricity and related services. These services foster a competitive wholesale marketplace for electrical generation and related services. The Company operates pursuant to tariffs filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The Board of Governors (the Board) of the Company is appointed by the California Governor and subject to confirmation by the California State Senate. A full Board is comprised of five members.

Financial Reporting

The Company's accounting records are maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for proprietary funds as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and where not in conflict with GASB pronouncements, accounting principles prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).

Cash held by the Company on behalf of market participants is recorded in a restricted asset account with a corresponding liability due to market participants in the statements of net position. Except for the retention of restricted assets noted above, the financial statements reflect a net reporting of market activities wherein the financial statements do not include the revenues and expenses, cash flows, or assets and liabilities associated with the market transactions the Company facilitates.

Revenue and Rates

The Company charges a Grid Management Charge (GMC) to market participants to recover the Company's operating costs, capital expenditures, debt service costs, and to provide for an operating reserve.

The GMC is comprised of the following three service categories: market services, system operations and congestion revenue rights services.

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Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
December 31, 2015 and 2014

The following table summarizes the pro forma bundled GMC rate based on the budgeted revenue requirement divided by the estimated control area transmission volume. As reflected below, the GMC rate has been stable for the past three years.

| | 2015 | | 2014 | | 2013 |
|--|----------|----|-------|----|-------|
| Revenue requirement (in millions) | \$ 198.5 | \$ | 198.0 | \$ | 196.0 |
| Estimated transmission volume (in millions of MWh) | 248.5 | | 247.3 | | 244.8 |
| Pro forma GMC rate per MWh | \$ 0.80 | \$ | 0.80 | \$ | 0.80 |

Liquidity

The Company sets its annual revenue requirement at a level to cover three major expense groups: operations and maintenance, debt service, and capital projects. Those costs are offset by the revenues collected outside of the GMC. The Company's tariff allows for the GMC rates to be adjusted during the year to ensure collection of the revenue requirement.

Per the tariff, the revenue requirement contains an operating reserve, which is based on 15% of the current year's operating and maintenance budget, and a debt service reserve, which is based on 25% of the debt service to be paid during the year. The Company's operating and debt service reserves were fully funded in 2015 and 2014. Furthermore, the Company maintains capital reserves in its unrestricted funds, which consist of funds collected through the revenue requirement for capital expenditures, although not expensed to date.

In November 2013, the Company issued \$191.8 million of fixed rate refunding revenue bonds, ("Series 2013 bonds") for the purpose of, together with other funds of the Company, providing funds to defease all of the Series 2009 bonds and pay costs of issuance of the Series 2013 bonds. Issuing the new bonds also allowed the Company to retire a reserve fund established to pay debt service on the Series 2009 bonds in the amount of \$15.0 million. These funds have been transferred to the 2009 construction fund and will be used to fund future capital expenditures. As of December 31, 2015, there are \$7.3 million of bond proceeds in the construction fund.

The Market

The Company operates a day-ahead market for all twenty-four hours of the next operating day, and a real-time market that enables resources to schedule in 15 minute intervals with 5 minute dispatching. This market structure is the vehicle for providing open-access transmission service to users of the transmission grid. The market clears energy bids and offers short-term energy purchases and sales, thus enabling economic dispatch of generating resources to maintain continuous balance of supply and demand and management of congestion on the grid. The market also procures reserve capacity or ancillary services to maintain reliable operation under unexpected changes in grid conditions. In addition, the Company performs a settlement and clearing function by charging and collecting payments from users of these services and paying providers of such services.

The Company continues to develop market enhancements to increase reliability, efficiency and provide accuracy of market results in the future. The current market enables electricity to be priced for production and delivery at the point of its grid interconnection, which increases transparency by sending signals for competitive investments in transmission and generation. The market operates on an advanced and flexible platform helping to integrate renewable resources as well as demand response. These enhancements increase the functionality and flexibility of the market system to meet the on-going needs of market participants.

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On November 1, 2014, the Company's Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) went into operation with PacifiCorp as its first participant. On December 1, 2015, NV Energy, became the Company's second participant in the EIM. EIM is an automated system that allows entities to balance supply and demand across geographical areas using the Company's existing state-of-the-art systems. With EIM, the Company and its inter-regional partners bring significant reliability and renewable energy integration benefits to the West.

New Backup Operations Facility

In March 2015, the Company purchased a parcel of vacant land in Lincoln, CA, which is the site for the Company's new backup operations and data center. The new site replaces the existing leased facility in Alhambra, CA, which is projected to close in December 2016 at which time the new facility will be substantially complete. The Company has restructured its workforce and has determined that the employee restructuring costs are not material to the Company's financial statements. The Company plans to use existing capital reserves to finance this project and does not intend to use debt financing.

Financial Highlights

Statements of Net Position, Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

In 2015, the Company implemented GASB Statement No. 72, Fair Value Measurement and Application (GASB 72). The new standard has no impact on the financial statements but additional fair value disclosures have been added in accordance with this guidance.

The Company's financial assets and liabilities recorded at fair value on a recurring basis are bonds (government, agency and corporate), money market funds, mutual funds, CDs and investments held in employee retirement plan trust accounts. The Company utilizes the Level 1 approach to measure the fair value for all of these assets.

The Level 2 asset inputs are based on prices for the same or similar bonds at or near the measurement date. The Company uses Level 2 inputs for the corporate bonds.

The Level 3 assets are non-negotiable instruments which require the use of unobservable inputs in determining fair value.

The financial statements provide both short-term and long-term information about the Company's financial status. The statements of net position include all of the Company's assets and liabilities, using the accrual method of accounting, and identify any assets which are restricted as a result of bond covenants or external commitments. The statements of net position provide information about the nature and amount of resources and obligations at specific points in time.

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Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)
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The statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position report all of the Company's revenues and expenses during the year. The statements of cash flows report the cash provided and used during the year by operating activities, as well as other cash sources such as investment income and debt financing, and other cash uses such as payments for bond principal and capital additions.

Condensed Statements of Net Position (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Assets and Deferred Outflows | | | |
| Current assets | \$ 402.6 | \$ 510.2 | \$ 505.9 |
| Fixed assets, net | 175.0 | 180.3 | 193.9 |
| Other noncurrent assets | 142.4 | 125.5 | 110.4 |
| Deferred outflows | 9.8 | 10.4 | 11.1 |
| | <u>\$ 729.8</u> | <u>\$ 826.4</u> | <u>\$ 821.3</u> |
| Liabilities and Net Position | | | |
| Current liabilities | \$ 391.5 | \$ 495.6 | \$ 486.0 |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion | 192.0 | 197.2 | 202.3 |
| Other noncurrent liabilities | 21.5 | 22.1 | 22.1 |
| Net position | 124.8 | 111.5 | 110.9 |
| | <u>\$ 729.8</u> | <u>\$ 826.4</u> | <u>\$ 821.3</u> |

Assets

Current Assets (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 326.9 | \$ 429.3 | \$ 416.0 |
| Short-term investments | 52.1 | 63.9 | 62.4 |
| Accounts receivable and other assets | 23.6 | 17.0 | 27.5 |
| | <u>\$ 402.6</u> | <u>\$ 510.2</u> | <u>\$ 505.9</u> |

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2015 Compared to 2014

As of December 31, 2015, current assets decreased by \$107.6 million during the year. This decrease is largely due to the decrease in cash and cash equivalents of \$102.4 million caused by decreases in collateral funds held for market participants and to the distribution of non-refundable interconnection funds, and to lower short-term investments of \$11.8 million. This was offset by an increase of \$6.6 million in accounts receivable, primarily due to grid management charges billed but not collected by the Company until early 2016.

2014 Compared to 2013

As of December 31, 2014, current assets increased by \$4.3 million during the year. This increase is largely due to the increase in cash and cash equivalents of \$13.3 million caused by increases in deposits from market participants for generator interconnection studies and to higher short-term investments of \$1.5 million. This was offset by a decrease of \$10.5 million in accounts receivable, primarily due to a reimbursement of \$8.0 million from market funds for payment of regulatory fees made on behalf of the market.

Fixed Assets, Net (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Net assets in service | \$ 161.9 | \$ 176.2 | \$ 188.1 |
| Work-in-progress | 13.1 | 4.1 | 5.8 |
| | <u>\$ 175.0</u> | <u>\$ 180.3</u> | <u>\$ 193.9</u> |

2015 Compared to 2014

Total fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, decreased in 2015 by \$5.3 million compared to 2014. The decrease is primarily due to the current year depreciation expense of \$24.3 million, offset by new assets placed in service of \$10.0 million. Work in-progress increased by \$9.0 million compared to 2014 due to the ongoing work on the new backup facility and to new capital projects during the year.

2014 Compared to 2013

Total fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, decreased in 2014 by \$13.6 million compared to 2013. The decrease is primarily due to the current year depreciation expense of \$39.7 million, offset by new assets placed in service of \$28.0 million. Work in-progress decreased by \$1.7 million compared to 2013 due to the completion of capital projects during the year.

Other Noncurrent Assets (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Long-term investments | \$ 138.3 | \$ 120.6 | \$ 105.7 |
| Other assets | 4.1 | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| | <u>\$ 142.4</u> | <u>\$ 125.5</u> | <u>\$ 110.4</u> |

2015 Compared to 2014

Other noncurrent assets increased by \$16.9 million in 2015. This change is largely attributable to increased investments amounting to \$17.7 million during the year due to transfers of cash and cash equivalents to long-term securities.

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2014 Compared to 2013

Other noncurrent assets increased by \$15.1 million in 2014. This change is largely attributable to increased investments amounting to \$14.9 million during the year due to transfers of cash and cash equivalents to long-term securities.

Deferred Outflows (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|--|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Unamortized loss on refunding of bonds | \$ 9.8 | \$ 10.4 | \$ 11.1 |
| | <u>\$ 9.8</u> | <u>\$ 10.4</u> | <u>\$ 11.1</u> |

2015 Compared to 2014

The decrease in the deferred outflows balance of \$0.6 million is due to the current year amortization of the unamortized loss on refunding.

2014 Compared to 2013

The decrease in the deferred outflows balance of \$0.7 million is due to the current year amortization of the unamortized loss on refunding.

Liabilities

Current Liabilities (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 11.8 | \$ 10.5 | \$ 14.2 |
| Accrued salaries and compensated absences | 30.6 | 29.9 | 29.5 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 4.5 | 4.4 | 23.4 |
| Due to market participants | 342.3 | 448.8 | 416.2 |
| Generator noncompliance fines refund obligation | 2.3 | 2.0 | 2.7 |
| | <u>\$ 391.5</u> | <u>\$ 495.6</u> | <u>\$ 486.0</u> |

2015 Compared to 2014

Current liabilities at December 31, 2015 decreased by \$104.1 million during the year. This decrease is primarily due to lower amounts held for generator interconnection study deposits of \$ 46.7 million, and the distribution of non-refundable interconnection funds during the year amounting to \$62.4 million. The decrease is offset by increases in the balances of new project deposits and new non-refundable amounts. Collateral deposits were lower by \$28.6 million due to timing of the return of funds at year end and market funds were lower by \$31.2 million due to lower proceeds from annual congestion revenue rights auction.

2014 Compared to 2013

Current liabilities at December 31, 2014 increased by \$9.6 million during the year. This increase is primarily due to higher amounts held for generator interconnection study deposits of \$32.6 million, as a result of new projects added during the year and to an increase in non-refundable amounts pending distribution in 2015. . These increases were offset by a lower liability amount for the current portion of long-term debt of \$19.0 million and lower accounts payable of \$3.7 million.

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Long-Term Debt (in millions)

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2015, is as follows:

| | Beginning of Year | Issuances (Payments/ Amortization) | End of Year |
|--|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 | \$ 191.8 | \$ (4.4) | \$ 187.4 |
| Unamortized net premium | | | |
| Series 2013 bonds | 9.8 | (0.7) | 9.1 |
| Total long-term debt | <u>\$ 201.6</u> | <u>\$ (5.1)</u> | <u>\$ 196.5</u> |
| Less: Current portion | 4.4 | 0.1 | 4.5 |
| Total long-term debt, net of current portion | <u>\$ 197.2</u> | <u>\$ (5.2)</u> | <u>\$ 192.0</u> |

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2014, is as follows:

| | Beginning of Year | Issuances (Payments/ Amortization) | End of Year |
|--|----------------------|--|-----------------|
| CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2008 | \$ 23.5 | \$ (23.5) | \$ - |
| CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 | 191.8 | - | 191.8 |
| Unamortized net premium | | | |
| Series 2013 bonds | 10.5 | (0.7) | 9.8 |
| Total long-term debt | <u>\$ 225.8</u> | <u>\$ (24.2)</u> | <u>\$ 201.6</u> |
| Less: Current portion | 23.5 | \$ (19.1) | 4.4 |
| Total long-term debt, net of current portion | <u>\$ 202.3</u> | <u>\$ (5.1)</u> | <u>\$ 197.2</u> |

As of December 31, 2015, the Company had an underlying rating of A+ from S&P, A1 by Moody's and A+ by Fitch. Fitch rates the Company's outstanding Series 2013 bonds at AA- due to the additional support of the pledged deed of trust on the Company's primary building.

2015 Compared to 2014

At December 31, 2015 the Company had \$187.4 million of outstanding bonds issued through the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (CIEDB). The decrease in long-term debt is primarily attributable to scheduled debt payments on the Series 2013 bonds in the amount of \$4.4 million in 2015.

2014 Compared to 2013

At December 31, 2014 the Company had \$191.8 million of outstanding bonds issued through the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (CIEDB). The decrease in long-term debt is primarily attributable to scheduled debt payments on the Series 2008 bonds in the amount of \$23.5 million in 2014.

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In November 2013, the Company issued its Series 2013 bonds for the purpose of defeasing the Series 2009 bonds and paying for the costs of issuance. The refinancing provides a savings over the remaining term of the bonds of \$30.5 million, or nearly \$1.3 million per year due to lower interest rates.

Other Noncurrent Liabilities (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Employee retirement plan obligations | \$ 21.5 | \$ 22.1 | \$ 22.1 |
| | <u>\$ 21.5</u> | <u>\$ 22.1</u> | <u>\$ 22.1</u> |

2015 Compared to 2014

Other noncurrent liabilities at December 31, 2015 were lower by \$0.6 million. The decrease is primarily due to a lower post-retirement liability of \$0.9 million, offset by an increase of \$0.3 million in liabilities associated with other benefit plans.

2014 Compared to 2013

Other noncurrent liabilities at December 31, 2014 remained unchanged during the year. There were disbursements for retiree insurance premiums and trust account withdrawals, which were offset by contributions during the year.

Net Position (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Net investment in capital assets | \$ 20.6 | \$ 3.8 | \$ 15.4 |
| Unrestricted | <u>104.2</u> | <u>107.7</u> | <u>95.5</u> |
| Total net position | <u>\$ 124.8</u> | <u>\$ 111.5</u> | <u>\$ 110.9</u> |

2015 Compared to 2014

Net investment in capital assets at December 31, 2015 increased by \$16.8 million during the year. This change is primarily attributable to the commitment of additional funds for capital projects, offset by normal depreciation. The unrestricted component of the net position at December 31, 2015 decreased by \$3.5 million during the year primarily as a result of net cash flows from operations.

2014 Compared to 2013

Net investment in capital assets at December 31, 2014 decreased by \$11.6 million during the year. This change is primarily attributable to the depreciable lives of fixed assets being shorter than the repayment term of associated debt. The unrestricted component of the net position at December 31, 2014 increased by \$12.1 million during the year primarily as a result of net cash flows from operations.

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Changes in Net Position

Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Operating revenues | \$ 213.5 | \$ 213.7 | \$ 210.4 |
| Operating expenses | 191.9 | 205.9 | 243.4 |
| Operating income (loss) | <u>21.6</u> | <u>7.8</u> | <u>(33.0)</u> |
| Other expenses, net | <u>(8.3)</u> | <u>(7.3)</u> | <u>(9.4)</u> |
| Change in net position | <u>\$ 13.3</u> | <u>0.5</u> | <u>\$ (42.4)</u> |

Operating Revenues

2015 Compared to 2014

Total operating revenues decreased during the year by \$0.2 million. This is primarily due to a decrease in GMC revenues of \$1.0 million due to reduced volumes subject to GMC during the year, partially offset by higher other revenues of \$0.6 million primarily due to higher EIM charges.

2014 Compared to 2013

Total operating revenues increased during the year by \$3.3 million. This is primarily due to increased GMC revenues and other revenues associated with the implementation of the EIM, which commenced in 2014.

Operating Expenses and Percentages (dollars in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Salaries and related benefits | \$ 113.0 | \$ 109.0 | \$ 108.7 |
| Communication and technology costs | 20.1 | 21.1 | 21.5 |
| Legal and consulting costs | 21.3 | 23.8 | 25.4 |
| Leases, facilities and other administrative costs | 13.2 | 12.3 | 11.0 |
| Other | - | - | 2.2 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 24.3 | 39.7 | 74.6 |
| | <u>\$ 191.9</u> | <u>\$ 205.9</u> | <u>\$ 243.4</u> |
| Salaries and related benefits | 59 % | 53 % | 45 % |
| Communication and technology costs | 10 | 10 | 9 |
| Legal and consulting costs | 11 | 12 | 10 |
| Leases, facilities and other administrative costs | 7 | 6 | 5 |
| Other | - | - | 1 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 13 | 19 | 30 |
| | <u>100 %</u> | <u>100 %</u> | <u>100 %</u> |

2015 Compared to 2014

Operating expenses were \$14.0 million lower for the year ended December 31, 2015, compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. This is primarily due to the decrease in depreciation expense of \$15.4 million, as most of the market systems are now fully depreciated and to lower communication and technology and legal and consulting costs. This was offset by higher salaries and related benefits of \$4.0

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million as a result of merit and incentive compensation increases with no change in total budgeted headcount during the year

2014 Compared to 2013

Operating expenses were \$37.5 million lower for the year ended December 31, 2014, compared to the year ended December 31, 2013. This is primarily due to the decrease in depreciation expense of \$34.9 million, as most of the market systems were fully depreciated as of April 2014. Legal and consulting costs decreased in 2014 by \$1.6 due to lower consulting costs for generator interconnection studies compared to 2013. Other expenses decreased by \$2.2 million in 2014 because there were no actual or estimated settlement costs in 2014 compared to 2013. These reduced costs were offset by increased leases, facilities and other administrative costs amounting to \$1.3 million as a result of non-capitalizable software purchases in 2014.

Other Income (Expense), Net (in millions)

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Interest income | 0.9 | \$ 1.2 | \$ 3.4 |
| Interest expense | (9.2) | (8.5) | (11.2) |
| Debt issuance expenses | | - | (1.6) |
| Total | \$ (8.3) | \$ (7.3) | \$ (9.4) |

2015 Compared to 2014

Total other income decreased by \$1.0 million for the year ended December 31, 2015 compared to the year ended December 31, 2014. This decrease is attributable to \$0.3 million of lower interest income and \$0.7 million of higher interest expense. Rising short term interest rates and larger investment balances allowed for greater gross interest income, although these gains were offset by larger unrealized losses on the market value of investments. The increase in interest expense is primarily due to adjustments made to the generator refund liability.

2014 Compared to 2013

Interest income at December 31, 2014 was lower by \$2.2 million compared to December 31, 2013. The decrease is attributable to the recognition in 2013 of a one-time gain on the termination of a guaranteed investment contract, which did not occur in 2014. Interest expense decreased by \$2.7 million due primarily to the defeasance of the Series 2009 bonds and the retirement of the Series 2008 bonds.

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Statements of Net Position
December 31, 2015 and 2014

(in thousands of dollars)

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Assets and deferred outflows | | |
| Current assets | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents, including restricted amounts | \$ 326,879 | \$ 429,324 |
| Accounts receivable | 17,266 | 10,163 |
| Short-term investments, including restricted amounts | 52,072 | 63,919 |
| Other current assets | 6,428 | 6,787 |
| Total current assets | 402,645 | 510,193 |
| Noncurrent assets | | |
| Long-term investments, including restricted amounts | 138,302 | 120,539 |
| Fixed assets, net | 175,013 | 180,296 |
| Other assets | 4,095 | 4,922 |
| Total noncurrent assets | 317,410 | 305,757 |
| Total assets | 720,055 | 815,950 |
| Deferred outflows | | |
| Unamortized loss on refunding of bonds | 9,713 | 10,417 |
| Total deferred outflows | 9,713 | 10,417 |
| Total assets and deferred outflows | \$ 729,768 | \$ 826,367 |
| Liabilities, deferred inflows and net position | | |
| Current liabilities | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | \$ 11,844 | \$ 10,524 |
| Accrued salaries and compensated absences | 30,601 | 29,909 |
| Current portion of long-term debt | 4,500 | 4,415 |
| Due to market participants | 342,242 | 448,812 |
| Generator noncompliance fines refund obligation | 2,316 | 1,981 |
| Total current liabilities | 391,503 | 495,641 |
| Noncurrent liabilities | | |
| Long-term debt, net of current portion | 192,039 | 197,202 |
| Employee retirement plan obligations | 21,495 | 22,073 |
| Total noncurrent liabilities | 213,534 | 219,275 |
| Total liabilities | 605,037 | 714,916 |
| Deferred inflows | | |
| | - | - |
| Net position | | |
| Net investment in capital assets | 20,525 | 3,812 |
| Unrestricted | 104,206 | 107,639 |
| Total net position | 124,731 | 111,451 |
| Total liabilities, deferred inflows and net position | \$ 729,768 | \$ 826,367 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

California Independent System Operator Corporation
Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position
Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

(in thousands of dollars)

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|------------|------------|
| Operating revenues | | |
| GMC revenue | \$ 196,718 | \$ 197,654 |
| Other revenues | 16,734 | 16,060 |
| Total operating revenues | 213,452 | 213,714 |
| Operating expenses | | |
| Salaries and related benefits | 112,995 | 109,039 |
| Equipment leases and facility costs | 2,973 | 2,834 |
| Communications, technology and temporary staffing contracts | 20,141 | 21,099 |
| Legal and consulting services | 21,297 | 23,795 |
| Training, travel and professional dues | 4,353 | 3,430 |
| Insurance, administrative and other expenses | 5,799 | 6,015 |
| Lease termination, fines and loss on retirement of assets | - | 35 |
| Depreciation and amortization | 24,328 | 39,654 |
| Total operating expenses | 191,886 | 205,901 |
| Operating income from operations | 21,566 | 7,813 |
| Other income (expense) | | |
| Interest income | 913 | 1,237 |
| Interest expense | (9,199) | (8,509) |
| Total other expense, net | (8,286) | (7,272) |
| Change in net position | 13,280 | 541 |
| Net position | | |
| Beginning of year | 111,451 | 110,910 |
| End of year | \$ 124,731 | \$ 111,451 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

California Independent System Operator Corporation
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

(in thousands of dollars)

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | |
| Receipts from scheduling coordinators for GMC | \$ 192,346 | \$ 200,296 |
| Other receipts | 14,004 | 25,772 |
| Payments to employees and to others for related benefits | (112,573) | (108,637) |
| Payments to vendors/others | (52,911) | (65,271) |
| Receipts from market participants | 704,974 | 767,468 |
| Payments to market participants | (811,545) | (734,850) |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | <u>(65,705)</u> | <u>84,778</u> |
| Cash flows from capital and related financing activities | | |
| Repayment of bonds | (4,415) | (23,465) |
| Purchases and development of fixed assets | (18,227) | (26,017) |
| Interest on debt | (9,063) | (7,087) |
| Net cash used in capital financing activities | <u>(31,705)</u> | <u>(56,569)</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | |
| Purchases of investments | (94,846) | (113,825) |
| Sales and maturities of investments | 88,931 | 97,420 |
| Interest received | 880 | 1,525 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | <u>(5,035)</u> | <u>(14,880)</u> |
| Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents, restricted and unrestricted | (102,445) | 13,329 |
| Cash and cash equivalents, restricted and unrestricted | | |
| Beginning of year | <u>429,324</u> | <u>415,995</u> |
| End of year | <u>\$ 326,879</u> | <u>\$ 429,324</u> |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

California Independent System Operator Corporation
Statements of Cash Flows
Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

(in thousands of dollars)

Supplemental information

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Cash paid for interest for bonds | \$ 9,063 | \$ 7,087 |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|

**Reconciliation of income from operations to net cash
(used in)/provided by operating activities**

| | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|
| Operating income from operations | \$ 21,566 | \$ 7,813 |
| Adjustments to reconcile income from operations to net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | | |
| Depreciation and amortization | 24,328 | 39,654 |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities | | |
| Accounts receivable and other assets | (5,885) | 10,139 |
| Accounts payable and other accrued expenses | 856 | (5,445) |
| Due to market participants | (106,570) | 32,617 |
| Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities | <u>\$ (65,705)</u> | <u>\$ 84,778</u> |

**Supplemental disclosure of noncash financing and
investing activities**

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| Amortization of bond premium | \$ 663 | \$ 708 |
| Amortization of loss on refunding | (704) | (720) |
| Generator fines interest included in interest expense | (335) | 331 |
| Change in purchases and development of fixed assets included in accounts payable and accrued expenses | (615) | 283 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

1. Organization and Operations

The Company is a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated in May 1997, and is responsible for the operation of long-distance, high-voltage power lines throughout most of California that also deliver power to and from neighboring control areas and states, along with Canada and Mexico. At present, the ISO controls the transmission systems owned by 16 entities that have contracted with the Company to operate them. The Company's purpose is to ensure the efficient and reliable use of this transmission system.

The Company charges a Grid Management Charge ("GMC") to market participants to recover the Company's costs and to provide an operating reserve. The Company operates pursuant to tariffs filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The Company operates a day-ahead market for all twenty-four hours of the next operating day, and a real-time market that enables resources to schedule in 15 minute intervals with 5 minute dispatching. This market structure is the vehicle for providing open-access transmission service to users of the transmission grid. The market clears energy bids and offers short-term energy purchases and sales, thus enabling economic dispatch of generating resources to maintain continuous balance of supply and demand and management of congestion on the grid. The market also procures reserve capacity or ancillary services to maintain reliable operation under unexpected changes in grid conditions. In addition, the Company also performs a settlement and clearing function by charging and collecting payments from users of these services and paying providers of such services. Cash held by the Company on behalf of market participants is recorded in a restricted asset account with a corresponding liability due to market participants in the statements of net position. Except for the retention of restricted assets noted above, the Company's financial statements reflect a net reporting of market activities wherein the financial statements do not include the revenues and expenses, cash flows, or assets and liabilities associated with the market transactions it facilitates. GMC revenues have a priority claim against any market-related receipts. Any market defaults are allocated to market participants.

The Board of the Company is appointed by the California Governor and is subject to confirmation by the California State Senate. A full Board is comprised of five members.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Method of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles for proprietary funds as prescribed by the Government Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"), and where not in conflict with GASB pronouncements, accounting principles prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"). The Company uses the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

Net Presentation of Market Activity

The Company is a central counterparty to the market transactions that it financially settles, with certain limited exceptions. The Company is a buyer to every seller and a seller to every buyer, but market participants are responsible for supplying electricity and other services to their customers. The Company's market participants are the primary obligors with respect to those obligations. In the event of a market default, the defaulted amount is allocated among market participants, in accordance with the tariff. Market participants continue to bear the credit risk associated with any financial defaults by other market participants. Accordingly, the Company's financial statements continue to reflect a net reporting of market activities and exclude the revenues and expenses, cash flows, and assets and liabilities associated with the market transactions the Company facilitates.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could materially differ from those estimates.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, restricted and unrestricted, include cash in bank accounts, money market funds, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. Cash and cash equivalents are unrestricted unless specifically restricted by bond indentures or the tariff.

Accounts Receivable and Revenue Recognition

The GMC is based on rates filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is designed to recover the Company's operating costs, capital expenditures, debt service costs, and to provide for an operating reserve. The GMC billings are recognized as revenue. The initial billings are based on estimated meter data submitted by market participants and therefore may be subject to adjustment over time to reflect the difference between actual meter data and initial estimates.

The GMC is comprised of the following three service categories: market services, system operations and congestion revenue rights services.

The operating reserve is calculated separately for each GMC service category and accumulates until the reserve becomes fully funded (at 15% of budgeted annual operating costs for each rate service category). At December 31, 2015, the operating reserve for each service category was fully funded. In accordance with the tariff, any surplus operating reserve balance is applied as a reduction in revenue requirements in the following year. The tariff requires GMC rates to be adjusted not more than once per quarter based on the greater of a 2% difference in actual versus projected GMC volumes used to set rates or \$1.0 million in actual versus estimated annual GMC revenues. During 2014, adjustments were made to certain GMC rates pursuant to these provisions. No adjustments were made in 2015.

Generator Interconnection Studies

The Company is responsible for conducting generator interconnection studies at the request of project sponsors who are developing generating plants to become connected to the transmission grid operated by the Company. The project sponsors are required to make a deposit before any studies are performed. Sponsors may withdraw their projects from the studies at any time.

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

In accordance with the tariff, the Company charges the project sponsors the actual costs of the studies. Related study costs include both internal costs and external costs and are recorded, when incurred, as operating expenses. As costs are incurred, the Company recognizes revenue for the same amount, which is recorded as a component of other revenues. The Company applies the deposits against the related receivable as costs are incurred. Certain deposits related to projects abandoned by the project sponsors are retained by the Company and distributed in accordance with the tariff. These distributions do not result in revenues or expenses recognized by the Company.

Generator Noncompliance Fines

From December 8, 2000 through June 30, 2001, the Company assessed noncompliance fines on participating generators that failed to fully comply with dispatch instructions when the Company was seeking to prevent an imminent or threatened system emergency. In accordance with the tariff, these fines are retained by the Company. The Company recorded the net realizable amount of such fines as revenue when the underlying noncompliance event occurred. However, this amount has changed over time in response to developments in the still ongoing litigation over the California electricity crisis. The Company adjusts such amounts in recognition of these developments, which affect the ultimate recognition of the fines charged and payments of the liability.

Investments

Investments, whose use is either unrestricted or restricted, include instruments with original maturities of greater than three months or, in the case there are instruments with no stated maturity, when the holding period is intended to be long-term in nature. These investments include U.S. government and agency securities, corporate bonds, and equity and fixed income mutual funds. Income on investments and the gain or loss on the fair value of investments is recorded as a component of interest income.

Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets. Most of the Company's investment in fixed assets consists of the headquarters building and related assets which are being depreciated over twenty to thirty years and information systems, which are being depreciated over three to seven years. The cost of improvements to or replacement of fixed assets is capitalized. Interest incurred during development is capitalized. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related depreciation are removed from the accounts and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in the Company's statement of changes in revenues, expenses and changes in net position for the period. Repair and maintenance costs are expensed when incurred. The Company capitalizes direct costs of salaries and certain indirect costs to develop or obtain software for internal use. Costs related to software development during the preliminary stage of a project and training and maintenance costs are expensed as incurred. Costs related to abandoned projects are expensed when the decision to abandon is made.

Other Assets

Other assets include certain employee retirement plan trust accounts.

Compensated Absences

The Company accrues vacation leave when the employee becomes eligible for the benefit. The Company does not record sick leave or other leave as a liability since there are no cash payments for sick leave or other leave made when employees terminate or retire. At December 31, 2015 and 2014, the total accrued liability for vacation was \$8.5 million.

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

Income Taxes

The Company is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code and is exempt from California State franchise income taxes.

Net Position

The Company classifies its net position into three components:

- **Net Investment in capital assets** - This component consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation reduced by the outstanding debt balances, net of unamortized debt expenses.
- **Restricted** - This component consists of net assets with constraints placed on their use. Constraints include those imposed by debt covenants (excluding amounts considered in net capital, above) and by the Company's tariff and agreements with external parties.
- **Unrestricted** - This component consists of net assets that do not meet the definition of "invested in capital, net of related debt" or "restricted".

The Company had no restricted component of the net position at December 31, 2015 or 2014.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that subject the Company to credit risk consist primarily of accounts receivable relating to GMC billings due from market participants and cash and cash equivalents and investments.

Most of the Company's receivables are due from entities in the energy industry, including utilities, generation owners and other electricity market participants. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, approximately 54% and 55% of GMC revenues, respectively, were from two market participants.

GMC revenues have a priority claim against any market-related receipts, which means that even if an entity defaults on an invoice containing a GMC charge, the Company receives the full GMC so long as sufficient funds were received on other market invoices.

The Company's concentration of credit risk related to cash and cash equivalents, and investments is described in Note 3.

3. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

Investment Policy

The Company maintains an investment policy approved by its Board of Governors, which provides for the investment guidelines of the majority of the Company's unrestricted funds. The policy's guidelines address permissible investment types, credit risk, concentration of credit risk, interest rate risk, custodial credit risk and other investment portfolio parameters.

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

Restricted funds, such as bond proceeds and amounts due to market participants, are invested according to the Company's bond indentures and tariff, respectively, both of which are more restrictive than the investment policy. A portion of the Company's unrestricted funds, \$10.2 million as of December 31, 2015, has been designated by the Company as assets related to the liabilities associated with the Company's Retiree Medical Plan. These assets are governed by a separate investment policy approved by the Board of Governors which is aligned with the Company's long-term pension obligations to fund postretirement health benefits.

Credit Risk

To mitigate the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment, the Company limits purchases of investments to those rated at the time of purchase by at least two of the following nationally recognized statistical rating organizations: Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch. The investment must have at least two ratings that meet a minimum rating of at least A-1 (or equivalent) for short-term obligations such as commercial paper and at least A- (or equivalent) for longer term obligations like corporate medium-term notes. In the event of split ratings, the lowest rating is considered the overall credit rating. Exceptions exist in the investment policy that allow the Company to invest in certificates of deposit issued by lower rated banks up to the FDIC insured limit and to hold investments that have been downgraded below the policy rating minimums if approved to do so by the Company's internal investment committee.

Concentration of Credit Risk

This is the risk of loss associated with the percentage of an entity's investment in a single issuer. The Company's investment policy limits investments in any single issuer to no more than 5% of the portfolio, with exceptions relating to obligations issued by or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, federal agencies or United States government sponsored enterprises, pooled investments such as money market funds, and investments procured in connection with Company bond offerings. As of December 31, 2015, other than the security exceptions described above, the Company had no investments in any one issuer representing more than 5% of total cash and cash equivalents and investments.

Custodial Credit Risk

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution or counterparty, the Company will not be able to recover the value of its deposits, investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

The Company may maintain balances in bank accounts exceeding the FDIC insured level of \$250,000. In the event of a bank default, the Company's deposits may not be returned. The Company had unrestricted noninterest-bearing bank deposits in amounts of \$5.2 million and \$35.8 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. Additionally, the Company had restricted noninterest-bearing bank deposits in amounts of \$4.8 million and \$4.3 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively. All other investments purchased by the Company, by policy, are held in custodial accounts by third-party custodians and are registered in the Company's name, thereby minimizing any custodial credit risk.

California Independent System Operator Corporation

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015 and 2014

Interest Rate Risk

Changes in interest rates may adversely affect the fair value of the Company's investments and its cash flows. The nature of the Company's investment needs and cash flows requires the majority of its investments to have maturities of one year or less. The investment policy further limits the maximum maturity of any investment to five years with the exception of bond proceeds and the assets associated with the Retiree Medical Plan liabilities. The fair value of the resulting short-term investment portfolio is therefore, less affected by rising interest rates. The cash flows from short-term portfolios can be more affected by declining interest rates as maturing investments are reinvested at lower interest rates.

Summary of Balances

At December 31, 2015, the Company's cash, cash equivalents and investments consist of the following (in thousands):

| Description | Credit Rating* | Remaining Maturities (in Years) | | | Total |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | Less than 1 | 1 - 5 | More than 5 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted | | | | | |
| Deposits | | \$ 4,774 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 4,774 |
| Money Market Funds | AAAm | 25,717 | - | - | 25,717 |
| | | <u>30,491</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>30,491</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents - restricted | | | | | |
| Deposits | | 5,296 | - | - | 5,296 |
| Money Market Funds | AAAm | 291,092 | - | - | 291,092 |
| | | <u>296,388</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>296,388</u> |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | | <u>326,879</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>326,879</u> |
| Short term investments - unrestricted | | | | | |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | 4,575 | - | - | 4,575 |
| Government-sponsored Enterprises | AA+ | 9,508 | - | - | 9,508 |
| U.S Treasury | AA+ | 11,035 | - | - | 11,035 |
| Corporate Notes | AA- | 5,017 | - | - | 5,017 |
| Corporate Notes | A+ | 2,006 | - | - | 2,006 |
| Corporate Notes | A | 4,502 | - | - | 4,502 |
| Corporate Notes | A- | 2,215 | - | - | 2,215 |
| Corporate Notes | BBB+ | 1,006 | - | - | 1,006 |
| Commercial Paper | Unrated | 998 | - | - | 998 |
| | | <u>40,862</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>40,862</u> |
| Short term investments - restricted | | | | | |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | 11,210 | - | - | 11,210 |
| | | <u>11,210</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>11,210</u> |
| Total short-term investments | | <u>52,072</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>52,072</u> |
| Long-term investments - unrestricted | | | | | |
| Affinity Insurance Ltd. | Unrated | - | - | 37 | 37 |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | - | 2,918 | - | 2,918 |
| Mutual Funds | Unrated | - | 10,155 | - | 10,155 |
| U.S. Treasury | AA+ | - | 40,985 | - | 40,985 |
| Government-sponsored enterprises | AAA | - | 1,997 | - | 1,997 |
| Government-sponsored enterprises | AA+ | - | 23,393 | - | 23,393 |
| Corporate Notes | AAA | - | 1,002 | - | 1,002 |
| Corporate Notes | AA+ | - | 982 | - | 982 |
| Corporate Notes | AA | - | 1,608 | - | 1,608 |
| Corporate Notes | AA- | - | 2,891 | - | 2,891 |
| Corporate Notes | A+ | - | 3,269 | - | 3,269 |
| Corporate Notes | A | - | 3,630 | - | 3,630 |
| Corporate Notes | A- | - | 4,140 | - | 4,140 |
| Corporate Notes | Unrated | - | 1,001 | - | 1,001 |
| Long-term investments - restricted | | | | | |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | - | 40,294 | - | 40,294 |
| Total long-term investments | | <u>-</u> | <u>138,265</u> | <u>37</u> | <u>138,302</u> |
| Total cash, cash equivalents and investments | | <u>\$ 378,951</u> | <u>\$ 138,265</u> | <u>\$ 37</u> | <u>\$ 517,253</u> |

* Represents S&P rating.

California Independent System Operator Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015 and 2014

At December 31, 2014, the Company's cash, cash equivalents and investments consist of the following (in thousands):

| Description | Credit Rating* | Remaining Maturities (in Years) | | | Total |
|--|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | Less than 1 | 1 - 5 | More than 5 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted | | | | | |
| Deposits | | \$ 33,717 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 33,717 |
| Money Market Funds | AAAm | 182 | - | - | 182 |
| | | <u>33,899</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>33,899</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents - restricted | | | | | |
| Deposits | | 4,324 | - | - | 4,324 |
| Money Market Funds | AAAm | 391,101 | - | - | 391,101 |
| | | <u>395,425</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>395,425</u> |
| Total cash and cash equivalents | | <u>429,324</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>429,324</u> |
| Short term investments - unrestricted | | | | | |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | 3,267 | - | - | 3,267 |
| Government-sponsored Enterprises | AA+ | 6,034 | - | - | 6,034 |
| U.S Treasury | AA+ | 12,026 | - | - | 12,026 |
| Corporate Notes | AA+ | 1,009 | - | - | 1,009 |
| Corporate Notes | A+ | 1,005 | - | - | 1,005 |
| Corporate Notes | A- | 2,729 | - | - | 2,729 |
| | | <u>26,070</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>26,070</u> |
| Short term investments - restricted | | | | | |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | 30,985 | - | - | 30,985 |
| Government-sponsored enterprises | AA+ | 2,863 | - | - | 2,863 |
| U.S Treasury | AA+ | 4,001 | - | - | 4,001 |
| | | <u>37,849</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>37,849</u> |
| Total short-term investments | | <u>63,919</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>63,919</u> |
| Long-term investments - unrestricted | | | | | |
| Affinity Insurance Ltd. | Unrated | - | - | 37 | 37 |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | - | 4,123 | - | 4,123 |
| Mutual Funds | Unrated | - | 11,456 | - | 11,456 |
| U.S. Treasury | AA+ | - | 26,087 | - | 26,087 |
| Government-sponsored enterprises | AAA | - | 1,997 | - | 1,997 |
| Government-sponsored enterprises | AA+ | - | 30,031 | - | 30,031 |
| Corporate Notes | AA | - | 1,700 | - | 1,700 |
| Corporate Notes | AA- | - | 5,096 | - | 5,096 |
| Corporate Notes | A+ | - | 4,780 | - | 4,780 |
| Corporate Notes | A | - | 3,368 | - | 3,368 |
| Corporate Notes | A- | - | 2,111 | - | 2,111 |
| Corporate Notes | BBB+ | - | 1,016 | - | 1,016 |
| Long-term investments - restricted | | | | | |
| Certificate of Deposits | FDIC Insured | - | 28,737 | - | 28,737 |
| Total long-term investments | | <u>-</u> | <u>120,502</u> | <u>37</u> | <u>120,539</u> |
| Total cash, cash equivalents and investments | | <u>\$ 493,243</u> | <u>\$ 120,502</u> | <u>\$ 37</u> | <u>\$ 613,782</u> |

* Represents S&P rating.

California Independent System Operator Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015 and 2014

The Company's cash, cash equivalents and investments at December 31 consist of unrestricted and restricted funds as follows (in thousands):

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Unrestricted funds, operating account | \$ 169,361 | \$ 151,771 |
| Restricted funds | | |
| Market participants | 341,219 | 448,812 |
| Capital reserve fund | 6,673 | 13,199 |
| | <u>\$ 517,253</u> | <u>\$ 613,782</u> |

Cash, cash equivalents and investments restricted for market participants consist of the following at December 31 (in thousands):

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Security deposits | \$ 206,060 | \$ 234,689 |
| Market funds pending settlement | 61,436 | 92,631 |
| Pass-through fees due to others | 9,074 | 10,129 |
| Generator interconnection study deposits | 59,759 | 54,208 |
| Non-refundable deposits pending distribution | 4,890 | 57,155 |
| Total amounts restricted for market participants | <u>\$ 341,219</u> | <u>\$ 448,812</u> |

Cash, cash equivalents and investments restricted for market participants consist of amounts held by the Company to be remitted to market participants or others on their behalf. Security deposits are amounts received from market participants who are required to post collateral for their transactions in the Company's markets. Market funds pending settlement consist of amounts collected during the settlement and clearing function that will pass-through to market participants in subsequent periods. Pass-through fees due to others consist of amounts collected from market participants that will be paid to market participants for summer reliability, startup costs and emission costs. Generator interconnection study deposits are amounts collected for future studies. Non-refundable deposits consist of interconnection amounts which are non-refundable to project sponsors in accordance with tariff requirements.

California Independent System Operator Corporation
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2015 and 2014

4. Fixed Assets

Changes in the Company's fixed assets for the year ended December 31, 2015, are as follows (in thousands):

| | 2014 | Additions and Transfers In | Disposals and Transfers Out | 2015 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Nondepreciable fixed assets | | | | |
| Land | \$ 9,098 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 9,098 |
| Work-in-progress | 4,128 | 19,045 | (10,062) | 13,111 |
| | <u>13,226</u> | <u>19,045</u> | <u>(10,062)</u> | <u>22,209</u> |
| Depreciable fixed assets | | | | |
| Regional transmission operator software | 389,605 | 8,571 | (2,932) | 395,244 |
| Regional transmission operator hardware | 29,092 | 426 | (1,784) | 27,734 |
| Communication equipment | 8,593 | 839 | (44) | 9,388 |
| ISO Facilities (HQ and Alhambra) | 143,817 | - | - | 143,817 |
| Furniture, fixtures and other | 14,952 | 227 | - | 15,179 |
| | <u>586,059</u> | <u>10,063</u> | <u>(4,760)</u> | <u>591,362</u> |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation | <u>(418,989)</u> | <u>(24,328)</u> | <u>4,759</u> | <u>(438,558)</u> |
| | <u>167,070</u> | <u>(14,265)</u> | <u>(1)</u> | <u>152,804</u> |
| Total fixed assets, net | <u>\$ 180,296</u> | <u>\$ 4,780</u> | <u>\$ (10,063)</u> | <u>\$ 175,013</u> |

Changes in the Company's fixed assets for the year ended December 31, 2014, are as follows (in thousands):

| | 2013 | Additions and Transfers In | Disposals and Transfers Out | 2014 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Nondepreciable fixed assets | | | | |
| Land | \$ 9,098 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 9,098 |
| Work-in-progress | 5,822 | 26,132 | (27,826) | 4,128 |
| | <u>14,920</u> | <u>26,132</u> | <u>(27,826)</u> | <u>13,226</u> |
| Depreciable fixed assets | | | | |
| Regional transmission operator software | 372,549 | 24,956 | (7,900) | 389,605 |
| Regional transmission operator hardware | 34,270 | 1,328 | (6,506) | 29,092 |
| Communication equipment | 8,593 | 1,073 | (1,073) | 8,593 |
| ISO Facilities (HQ and Alhambra) | 143,791 | 26 | - | 143,817 |
| Furniture, fixtures and other | 14,677 | 575 | (300) | 14,952 |
| | <u>573,880</u> | <u>27,958</u> | <u>(15,779)</u> | <u>586,059</u> |
| Less: Accumulated depreciation | <u>(394,947)</u> | <u>(39,654)</u> | <u>15,612</u> | <u>(418,989)</u> |
| | <u>178,933</u> | <u>(11,696)</u> | <u>(167)</u> | <u>167,070</u> |
| Total fixed assets, net | <u>\$ 193,853</u> | <u>\$ 14,436</u> | <u>\$ (27,993)</u> | <u>\$ 180,296</u> |

The Company capitalized interest related to the development of fixed assets of \$0.2 million and \$0.4 million for the years ending December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively.

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5. Generator Noncompliance Fines

In 2000 and 2001, the Company billed generator noncompliance fines to market participants, of which the Company collected \$60.7 million. Generally, these fines were assessed at a rate corresponding to twice the highest price paid in the Company's markets for energy. Because the prices for this period are being adjusted as a result of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case, as described in Note 12, the amount of the fines to be retained by the Company is being reduced, with any surplus collections being refunded with interest to market participants. The Company accrues interest in accordance with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rulings on the portion of fines collected in excess of the estimated realizable amount, which is to be refunded to market participants when the amounts are settled. The ultimate settlement of fines is expected after the conclusion of the proceedings in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case and the financial settlement of the California Power Exchange (Cal PX).

Based on estimates of the mitigated energy prices, the Company recorded fine revenues totaling \$29.5 million, resulting in a refund liability of \$31.2 million before interest. The Company reduced its refund liability (and associated interest obligation) by distributing \$43.9 million on December 31, 2010, in connection with a settlement agreement that was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

In 2012, the Company increased its estimated refund liability based on updated information it obtained related to interest and other factors that will serve to reduce the estimated amount of generator fine proceeds the Company will ultimately retain, which consequently increases the generator fine collections that will be returned to market participants.

Based on estimates obtained in 2015 from parties involved in these proceedings and an updated estimate of the proportionate allocation of shortfalls to the Company in 2015, there was an increase in the estimated liability of \$0.3 million, plus interest. As of December 31, 2015, the Company estimates the remaining liability (including interest) related to generator noncompliance fines to be \$2.3 million.

There are significant uncertainties associated with the final settlement of generator noncompliance fines. While management's estimated liability at December 31, 2015 is based on the best information available, adjustments are likely to occur in the future to the estimated liability associated with interest and other shortfalls that will be incurred by the Cal PX, and allocated to the Company in connection with final disposition of the funds and obligations arising from the events of 2000 and 2001.

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6. Long-term Debt and Related Agreements

Long-term debt consists of the following at December 31 (in thousands):

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 Fixed interest rates of 1.00% - 5.25% with maturities through 2039 | \$ 187,405 | \$ 191,820 |
| Unamortized net premium Series 2013 bonds | 9,134 | 9,797 |
| Total long-term debt | <u>196,539</u> | <u>201,617</u> |
| Less: Current portion | <u>(4,500)</u> | <u>(4,415)</u> |
| Total long-term debt, net of current portion | <u>\$ 192,039</u> | <u>\$ 197,202</u> |

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2015, is as follows (in thousands):

| | Beginning of Year | Payments | End of Year |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 | \$ 191,820 | \$ (4,415) | \$ 187,405 |
| Total long-term debt | <u>\$ 191,820</u> | <u>\$ (4,415)</u> | <u>\$ 187,405</u> |

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2014, is as follows (in thousands):

| | Beginning of Year | Payments | End of Year |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 | \$ 191,820 | \$ - | \$ 191,820 |
| CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2008 | 23,465 | (23,465) | - |
| Total long-term debt | <u>\$ 215,285</u> | <u>\$ (23,465)</u> | <u>\$ 191,820</u> |

Scheduled future debt service payments for these bonds as of December 31, 2015, are as follows (in thousands):

| | Principal | Interest | Total |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 2016 | \$ 4,500 | \$ 8,957 | \$ 13,457 |
| 2017 | 4,625 | 8,825 | 13,450 |
| 2018 | 4,765 | 8,655 | 13,420 |
| 2019 | 4,970 | 8,456 | 13,426 |
| 2020 | 5,165 | 8,242 | 13,407 |
| 2021 – 2039 | 163,380 | 89,463 | 252,843 |
| | <u>\$ 187,405</u> | <u>\$ 132,598</u> | <u>\$ 320,003</u> |

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The Series 2013 bonds are supported by a pledge of the Company's revenues and operating reserves. In addition, the bonds are supported by a deed of trust on the Company's headquarters building and land.

Interest expense recorded by the Company related to long-term debt includes interest paid on the bonds (net of interest capitalized to fixed assets) and amortization of the bond premium.

7. Derivative Financial Instrument – CRRs

As described in Note 2, the Company is the central counterparty to market participant transactions which includes Congestion Revenue Rights (CRRs). CRRs are financial instruments that enable market participants to reduce their congestion-related price risk when delivering or selling energy on the grid. A CRR provides an economic hedging mechanism against congestion charges that can be transacted by market participants separately from transmission service. These instruments are considered derivative financial instruments for accounting purposes, which would require presentation at fair value if they were recognized as assets and liabilities of the Company.

Consistent with its role in facilitating other market transactions, the Company facilitates the allocation, auctioning and ultimate settlement of CRRs in its market, but does not have economic risks and rewards associated with these financial instruments. Any market defaults are allocated to market participants. As such they are not recognized as assets and liabilities in the Company's statements of net position. However, unlike other market transactions administered by the Company, CRRs can be outstanding for extended periods of time. At December 31, 2015, the average life of the Company's CRRs was 3.1 years and there are a total of 86 CRR holders, compared to 3.2 years and 79 CRR holders at December 31, 2014. The estimated net fair value of both the CRR assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2015 was \$590.4 million related to a total of 757,291 megawatts, which vary in length from one month to several years. This is compared to \$877.0 million related to a total of 932,270 megawatts at December 31, 2014. The value of each megawatt of CRR is a function of numerous factors including the length of period the CRR covers.

While these amounts are not presented in the statements of net position, their estimated net fair value is disclosed for informational purposes given their longer term nature. Their fair value was determined based on several factors including actual auction prices transacted in the most recent annual and monthly auction processes, the Company's models which calculate the estimated value of all transmission constraints, net present value discounting and other factors. In addition to the high level of uncertainty associated with these inputs to the valuation calculation model, changes to actual or anticipated flows and constraints on the transmission system managed by the Company or in the value of electricity flowing on the transmission system create volatility that can significantly affect CRR values. Changes in generation, load, weather, and transmission outages are other factors that can have immediate and significant impact on CRR values.

The following is a summary of CRR megawatts, by type, outstanding at December 31, 2015:

| Type (in Megawatts) | |
|--|---|
| Monthly (January 2016) | 71,079 |
| Annual (February - December 2016) | 417,952 |
| Long Term (January 2016 - December 2025) | 268,260 |
| | <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> |
| | 757,291 |
| | <hr style="width: 100%; border: 0.5px solid black;"/> |

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The following is a summary of CRR megawatts, by type, outstanding at December 31, 2014

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Type (in Megawatts) | |
| Monthly (January 2015) | 125,995 |
| Annual (February - December 2015) | 504,733 |
| Long Term (January 2015 - December 2024) | <u>301,542</u> |
| | <u>932,270</u> |

8. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Accounting guidance establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy that prioritizes inputs to valuation techniques used for fair value measurements. This guidance is applied under other accounting pronouncements that require or permit fair value measurements and, accordingly, does not require any new fair value measurements.

The levels of fair value input hierarchy are described below:

Level 1: Quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar assets and liabilities in markets that are not active; and model-derived valuations in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets.

Level 3: Unobservable inputs that are supported by little or no market activity and that are significant to the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment, and considers factors specific to the asset or liability. Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the level of input that is considered most significant to the fair value measurement.

The Company's financial assets and liabilities recorded at fair value on a recurring basis are bonds (government, agency and corporate), money market funds, mutual funds, CDs and investments held in employee retirement plan trust accounts. The Company utilizes the market approach to measure fair value for all of these assets. The Level 2 asset inputs are based on prices for the same or similar bonds at or near the measurement date. The Level 3 assets are non-negotiable instruments which require the use of unobservable inputs in determining fair value.

The Company's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2015, were as follows (in thousands):

| | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
|--|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| Bonds | \$ 121,222 | \$ - | \$ 121,222 | \$ - |
| Employee retirement plan trust accounts | 2,452 | 2,452 | | |
| Money market funds, CDs and mutual funds | 385,973 | 385,973 | - | - |

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The Company's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2014, were as follows (in thousands):

| | Total | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 |
|--|------------|---------|------------|---------|
| Bonds | \$ 105,891 | \$ - | \$ 105,891 | \$ - |
| Employee retirement plan trust accounts | 2,144 | 2,144 | | |
| Money market funds, CDs and mutual funds | 469,671 | 469,671 | - | - |

The bonds, money market funds, mutual funds, and CDs are components of cash and cash equivalents and investments.

The fair value of the Company's long-term debt as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 was \$210.8 million and \$218.0 million respectively. The fair value of fixed rate long-term debt, which includes the short-term portion, is based on current market quotes which are classified as a Level 1 on the fair value hierarchy at both December 31, 2015 and 2014.

The carrying values reported in the balance sheet for current assets and liabilities, excluding amounts discussed above, approximate fair value.

Additionally, the Company had \$9.0 million and \$9.1 million at December 31, 2015 and 2014, respectively, in trust related to the post-employment medical benefit plan (see Note 9). At December 31, 2015 and 2014, these trust assets consist primarily of mutual funds and are classified as Level 1 within the fair value hierarchy.

As described in Note 7, the Company is counterparty to CRRs at December 31, 2015 and 2014, with an estimated net fair value of both the CRR assets and liabilities of \$590.4 million and \$877.0 million, respectively. These derivative instruments are classified as a Level 3 on the fair value hierarchy at December 31, 2015 and 2014. The fair market value was determined based on several factors including actual auction prices transacted in the most recent annual and monthly auction processes, the Company's models which calculate the estimated value of all transmission constraints, net present value discounting and other factors.

9. Employee Benefit Plans

The Company maintains a number of employee benefit plans. A description of the plans and key provisions is included below. Obligations included in the Company's statements of net position related to these plans consist of the following at December 31 (in thousands):

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Post-employment medical benefit plan | \$ 19,043 | \$ 19,929 |
| Executive pension restoration plan | 1,624 | 1,432 |
| Executive savings plan | 828 | 712 |
| Total employee retirement plan obligations | <u>\$ 21,495</u> | <u>\$ 22,073</u> |

Post-Employment Medical Benefit Plan

Plan Description

The Company sponsors the California ISO Retirees Medical Plan, a defined benefit plan, to provide post-employment health care benefits to all eligible employees who retire from the Company on or after attaining age 60. The required years of service to qualify for plan benefits is five years for

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employees hired prior to January 1, 2013 and ten years for employees hired on or after January 1, 2013. Depending on years of service, the Company pays between 60% and 70% of the premiums on the coverage elections made by the beneficiaries not to exceed \$8,000 per year for individual retiree coverage and \$16,000 per year for retiree plus spouse and/or dependent. Plan benefits are available to eligible retirees and to their spouses, domestic partners and eligible dependents, as provided for under the terms of the plan. Current plan coverage extends for the lifetime of the participants and their beneficiaries, except for dependents, which generally terminates at age 25. There are 41 active employees and 44 retirees eligible to receive benefits pursuant to the plan as of December 31, 2015.

Effective January 1, 2015, the Company amended the Plan for its post-65 retirees and their post-65 dependents. The post-65 retirees and their post-65 dependents transitioned from the active group coverage to individual Medicare Supplemental plan programs. The Plan provides a fixed amount of \$200 per month per post-65 retiree or \$2,400 per year. Based on the discretion of the Company, the amount will be increased to \$400 per month or \$4,800 per year for a post retiree with an eligible post-65 dependent.

Funding and Investment Policy

The Company has established a trust for the purposes of funding the plan. The trust was established as a tax-exempt voluntary employees' beneficiary association. All assets of the trust are to be used for the exclusive benefit of the participants and beneficiaries of the plan. Although the Company has fiscal accountability for these assets and holds them in a fiduciary capacity, the assets are not considered assets of the Company and are therefore not included in the statements of net position of the Company. As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the trust assets were \$9.0 million and \$9.1 million, respectively.

The Company's current funding policy is to annually contribute an amount such that the total amount in the trust approximates the actuarially determined liability attributable to retirees and their spouses and to active participants who are fully eligible to retire. The Company does not provide funding into the trust related to future obligations associated with employees who have not become eligible to retire, although any excess investment returns remain in the trust. As part of its rate structure, the Company collects annual amounts associated with the future obligations and those assets, while segregated, are reported in the Company's statements of net position. Based on its current funding policy, the trust is fully funded at December 31, 2015.

The assets of both the trust and the Company's segregated funds are invested in accordance with the Board approved California ISO Retirees Medical Plan Investment Policy. In general, the assets are invested in a mix of equity and fixed income mutual funds.

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Annual Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Cost and Net OPEB Obligation

The Company's annual OPEB cost for the California ISO Retirees Medical Plan is calculated based on the annual required contribution (ARC) of the employer, an amount actuarially determined in accordance with GASB Statement No. 45 "Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions". The ARC represents a level of funding that, if paid on an ongoing basis, is projected to cover normal costs each year and to amortize any unfunded actuarial liabilities (or funding excess) over a period not to exceed 15 years (using the level dollar open method). The ARC is adjusted for the amortized amount of the discounted present value (ordinary annuity) of the balance of the net OPEB obligation at the beginning of the year.

The Company's annual OPEB cost at December 31, 2015 and 2014 and for the years then ended, is as follows (in thousands):

| | 2015 | 2014 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Annual required contribution | \$ 197 | \$ 962 |
| Interest on net OPEB obligation | 1,246 | 1,615 |
| Adjustment to annual required contribution | (2,086) | (2,344) |
| Annual OPEB (benefit)/cost | <u>(643)</u> | <u>233</u> |
| Contributions made | <u>(243)</u> | <u>(244)</u> |
| Decrease in net OPEB obligation | (886) | (11) |
| Net OPEB obligation | | |
| Beginning of year | 19,929 | 19,940 |
| End of year | <u>\$ 19,043</u> | <u>\$ 19,929</u> |

The Company's annual OPEB cost, the percentage of annual OPEB cost contributed to the plan, and net OPEB obligation for the years ended December 31, 2015, 2014 and 2013 were as follows (in thousands):

| Year Ended | Annual OPEB Cost/(Benefit) | Percentage of Annual OPEB Cost Contributed | Net OPEB Obligation |
|------------|----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| 2013 | \$ 1,995 | 105 % | \$ 19,940 |
| 2014 | 233 | 104 % | 19,929 |
| 2015 | (643) | (38)% | 19,043 |

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

Projections of benefits for financial reporting purposes are based on the substantive plan and include types of benefits provided at the time of each valuation and the historical pattern of sharing of benefit costs between the employer and plan members to that point. The methods and assumptions used include techniques that are designed to reduce the effects of short-term volatility in actuarial accrued liabilities and the actuarial value of assets, consistent with the long-term perspective of the calculations.

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The following significant actuarial methods and assumptions were used in the calculation of annual OPEB cost for the year ending December 31, 2015.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Valuation date | January 1, 2015 |
| Actuarial cost method | Projected unit credit |
| Amortization method | Level dollar, open |
| Remaining amortization period | 15 years |
| Asset valuation method | Market |
| Investment rate of return | 6.25% |
| Healthcare cost trend rate | 7.0% initial, 5.0% ultimate |
| Morbidity | 1.00% |

The projection of future benefit payments for an ongoing plan involves estimates of the value of reported amounts and assumptions about the probability of occurrence of events far into the future. Examples include assumptions about future employment, mortality, and the healthcare cost trend. Amounts determined regarding the funded status of the plan and the annual required contributions of the employer are subject to continual revision as actual results are compared with past expectations and new estimates are made about the future.

The schedule below reflects multiyear trend information to show the status of funding based on the actuarial value of plan assets relative to the actuarial accrued liabilities. This information is required supplementary information (dollars in thousands):

| Actuarial Valuation Date | Actuarial Value of Assets (a) | APBO (b) | Unfunded APBO (b - a) | Funded Ratio (a/b) |
|---|--|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 1, 2014 | \$ 8,773 | \$ 10,650 | \$ 1,877 | 82% |
| January 1, 2015 | 9,074 | 6,738 | (2,336) | 135% |
| January 1, 2016 | 8,991 | 9,059 | 68 | 99% |

The Accumulated Postretirement Benefit Obligation (APBO) increased by \$2.3 million between 2016 and 2015. This increase is primarily due to changes in plan assumptions, which increased the liability by \$1.8 million and to the actuarial loss during the period of \$0.5 million resulting from the decrease in interest rates used for the valuation from 6.25% to 5.90%.

The actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2016, incorporated changes to actuarial assumptions which are different from the assumptions used in the calculation of the annual pension costs for the year ending December 31, 2015. Such changes included a decrease in the investment rate of return from 6.25% to 5.90% based on future forecasted earnings that are projected to provide lower forward returns overall, the full adoption of the latest industry mortality table based on 2015 scales and a change in health care cost assumptions. The change in the health care cost assumptions contributed to the majority of the increase in the APBO.

The actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2015, incorporated changes to actuarial assumptions which are different from the assumptions used in the calculation of the annual pension costs for the year ending December 31, 2014. Such changes included a decrease in the investment rate of return from 8.1% to 6.25% based on future forecasted earnings that are projected to provide lower forward returns overall and the full adoption of the latest industry mortality table based on 2015

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scales. The 2015 plan amendment (described above) contributed to the majority of the decrease in the APBO, offset by a lower investment rate of return and the adoption of the new mortality table.

Executive Pension Restoration Plan

The Company sponsors the Executive Pension Restoration Plan, a nonqualified defined contribution plan, which allows certain officers of the Company to make contributions and receive Company contributions in excess of the 401(k) contribution limits set forth by IRS regulations as described in the retirement savings benefits plan below.

The contributions and earnings thereon are held in a trust and the balances as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, were \$1.6 million and \$1.4 million, respectively, and are included in Other Assets with a corresponding liability in Employee Retirement Plan Obligations. In connection with this plan, the Company recognized expenses for contributions of \$77,000 and \$150,000 in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Executive Savings Plan

The Company sponsors the Executive Savings Plan, a nonqualified defined contribution plan under section 457(b) of the IRS Code. The Company contributes a percentage of each officer's annual base compensation to the plan. Officers may elect to make voluntary contributions, subject to statutory limitations. The contributions and earnings thereon are held in a trust and the balance as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 was \$828,000 and \$712,000, respectively, and are included in Other Assets, with a corresponding liability in Employee Retirement Plan Obligations. In connection with this plan, the Company recognized expenses of \$121,000 and \$113,000 in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Retirement Savings Benefits Plan

The Company sponsors a defined contribution retirement plan, the California ISO Retirement Savings Benefits Plan (the Retirement Plan) that is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and covers substantially all employees. The Retirement Plan is administered by the Company with the assistance of a third party. The assets of the plan are held separately from Company assets and are not combined with the assets in the statements of net position.

Employees may elect to contribute up to fifty percent of their eligible compensation to the Retirement Plan, subject to statutory limitations. The Company matches contributions up to six percent of an employees' eligible compensation and an additional contribution equal to five percent of eligible compensation for employees with less than five years of service, or seven percent for employees who have at least five years but not more than ten years of service. An additional contribution of one percent of eligible compensation is also made by the Company for each five year increment of service after an employees' ten year anniversary.

Employee contributions to the Retirement Plan for 2015 and 2014 were \$8.4 million and \$7.6 million, respectively. The Company contributions to the Retirement Plan for 2015 and 2014 were \$9.4 million and \$8.7 million, respectively.

10. Insurance Programs and Claims

The Company is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; nonperformance of duty; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Company maintains various commercial and mutual insurance plans that provide coverage for most claims in excess of specific dollar thresholds. Primary insurance policies have

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coverage limits set based on the Company's assessment of reasonable exposure within that risk category, with consideration of insurance types and coverage limits for comparable entities. Additionally, the Company maintains excess liability coverage that provides umbrella coverage for certain exposures. Losses incurred below insurance deductibles are expensed as incurred. In the last three years, the Company did not incur any claims in excess of the coverage described above.

The Company is a participant in a group captive insurance company for workers compensation insurance coverage. The Company's annual net insurance costs for such coverage vary based on claims incurred at the Company, and to a lesser extent, claims activity of other members of the captive insurance company. The Company's annual insurance expense is limited through reinsurance and risk sharing arrangements of the captive to an additional percentage of the initial base premium paid.

11. Lease Commitments

The Company has long-term operating leases that expire at various times through 2030.

The following are the future minimum payments under these agreements as of December 31, 2015 (in thousands):

| | | |
|-----------|----|--------------|
| 2016 | \$ | 810 |
| 2017 | | 603 |
| 2018 | | 186 |
| 2019 | | 190 |
| 2020 | | 195 |
| 2021–2031 | | 2,198 |
| | \$ | <u>4,182</u> |

Lease costs of approximately \$0.8 were charged to operating expense in 2015 and 2014, respectively.

The Company leases office space which serves as the backup operations facility in Alhambra until the new backup operations facility in Lincoln is fully completed. Although the company plans to move from the leased premises in December 2016, the Company is required to pay monthly rent and other on-going costs associated with the lease through August 2017.

The Company will record an expense for the net unrecoverable lease and on-going costs in 2016, the period in which the leased property is vacated and no longer being used in operations. The Company currently estimates the total future costs associated with the abandoned facilities to be \$0.8 million.

12. Contingencies

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case

In 2000 and 2001, the California energy markets, including those managed by the Company, experienced high prices, shortages of energy and reserves, rolling blackouts and liquidity problems for many market participants. Several of them, including the California Power Exchange (Cal PX), filed for bankruptcy.

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Purchasers of energy during this period sought refunds at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In a proceeding that is still ongoing, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued a series of orders related to mitigating the clearing prices in markets administered by the Company and the Cal PX for the period from October 2, 2000 through June 20, 2001 (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case). Several of the Company's market participants have settled their liability arising from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case and related proceedings. Management believes the ultimate outcome of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case will have no material financial impact on the Company as these refund amounts are funded and will ultimately be resettled among market participants, except for the Generator Noncompliance Fines, as described in Note 5.

Market Billing Disputes in Good Faith Negotiations

As part of the tariff and applicable contracts, the Company has dispute resolution processes for market participants to register disagreements regarding information reflected in the settlement statements or billing amounts for market activity.

Market disputes are addressed in the normal course of operations, some of which result in adjustments to previously issued settlement statements. When adjustments are made, the adjustment amounts are reallocated to market participants, with no net cost or credit being realized by the Company. With respect to pending market disputes at December 31, 2015, including those that have escalated to good faith negotiations, management believes that any settlements or market awards would be resettled against the market with no liability to the Company.

Indemnifications

The Company's bylaws require its annual financial statements to include disclosures about certain payments made by the Company related to indemnifications to or on behalf of officers and Board members. There were no such payments in 2015 or 2014.

Other Matters

The Company, during the ordinary course of its operations, has been involved in various lawsuits and claims. In addition, the Company is subject to compliance with mandatory reliability standards promulgated by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which if violated could result in penalties assessed to the Company.

There are no matters currently pending related to alleged violations of these standards and some pending claims against the Company. Management is of the opinion that none of these matters will have a material adverse impact on the financial position or results of the operations of the Company.

13. Subsequent Events

The Company evaluates events or transactions that occur after December 31, 2015, but before financial statements are issued for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The Company has evaluated all subsequent events through April 20, 2016, the date the financial statements were issued, and no items were noted that need to be disclosed.