

News Release

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Media Email | ISOMedia@caiso.com

For more information, contact:

Anne Gonzales | agonzales@caiso.com

Vonette Fontaine | vfontaine@caiso.com

California ISO launches webpage to track 2021 summer readiness

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) today launched a webpage dedicated to helping the public understand the August 2020 outages and monitor progress to fortify grid reliability in preparation for next summer’s hot weather.

The [2021 Summer Readiness webpage](#) offers quick access to data, reports, and all ongoing activities surrounding the rotating power outages implemented in August, offering a full picture of the causes, the lessons learned, and enhancements in the pipeline.

“We are committed to providing the public with the most comprehensive and up-to-date information on the challenges the system faced this past summer, and the steps we are taking to lessen the impacts of heat-related stress on the grid,” said Elliot Mainzer, president and CEO of the ISO. “We are coordinating with the Governor’s office, state agencies, the Legislature, and our stakeholders throughout California and the West to make operational and market design improvements to protect grid reliability going into another potentially very hot summer.”

In mid-August 2020, record-breaking temperatures lasting several days across the western United States drove up electricity demand. When forecasts showed the system starting to dip into reserves to serve load, the ISO declared a Stage 3 Emergency on Aug. 14 and 15, triggering rotating power outages.

A joint [Preliminary Root Cause Analysis](#) – conducted by the ISO, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), and the California Energy Commission (CEC) – found that extreme heat, inadequate resource planning targets, and certain day-ahead market practices combined to create the supply gaps. The analysis included actions to avert a repeat of the resource shortages in summer 2021 and beyond.

The new webpage, housed prominently on the caiso.com website, provides the most recent evaluations of the outages, including the [findings](#) of the independent Department of Market Monitoring (DMM), which uncovered no evidence of market manipulation leading up to or following the power shortages. The webpage includes updates on specific actions and initiatives to ensure reliable system operations and information about how stakeholders can provide input and stay informed.



The new page also provides archival press briefings, bulletins and staff presentations from the 2020 outages; related news releases about the outages; and information on Flex Alerts.

To stay informed on the latest ISO news and alerts, visit the ISO's subscriptions and notifications page [here](#).

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California ISO Media Email | ISOMedia@caiso.com

250 Outcropping Way | Folsom, California 95630 | www.caiso.com



The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated, with its partners, to continuous improvement and secure operation of a reliable grid operated for the benefit of consumers. It provides comprehensive grid planning, open and nondiscriminatory access to one of the largest networks of high-voltage transmission power lines in the world, and operates a \$9 billion competitive electricity market. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help provide a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders with delegated authority from the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the Western EIM.