

News Release

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California ISO roundtable focuses on preparing grid for summer heat Energy leaders from across the West gathered to discuss power grid reliability

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) today hosted a roundtable discussion with a group of energy industry leaders from throughout the western United States to help ensure the region’s electricity infrastructure and grid operations are as prepared as possible for the upcoming summer.

“One of the key lessons from last summer was the importance of effective communication and coordination in providing reliable and resilient power system operations,” said Elliot Mainzer, president and CEO of the California ISO. “Today’s frank and productive conversation was very useful as we work together across the West to prepare for another potentially extremely hot summer.”

The Summer 2021 Readiness Leadership Roundtable brought together leaders from western utilities, energy trade associations, and other power providers to review the lessons learned from last summer’s west-wide heat wave and rotating outages in California, to outline the supply and demand picture for the upcoming summer, and to determine if there are additional individual or collective actions that can be taken to further support reliable operations this summer. Beginning early next week, the ISO will also be running tabletop exercises with adjacent system operators to ensure preparedness for a range of potential scenarios and operational conditions that may play out this summer.

“As we continue to see extreme weather, like heat waves, as a result of climate change, it is important for Southern California Edison to continue to work closely with the ISO and others across the industry to ensure the reliability of the grid this summer and beyond,” said William Walsh, Southern California Edison Vice President of Energy Procurement & Management. “Roundtables like today’s event provide another opportunity for increased collaboration for the benefit of our customers. The events of last summer illustrate the need to accelerate our efforts in creating a clean energy future.”

“The Summer Readiness Roundtable was an important opportunity for PGE to share its perspectives about last summer’s extreme weather, and gain a better understanding of its impact on other regional entities,” said Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric (PGE). “Today’s thoughtful discussion exhibits our mutual commitment to develop solutions to maintain grid reliability in the West.”



At the Readiness Roundtable, the ISO and other participants detailed steps they have taken to further fortify grid operations since last summer. In California, these steps include policy initiatives to improve operational readiness, the construction of an additional 1,500 MW of battery storage resources to support reliability after sunset, and communication strategies for informing stakeholders and the public about impending power supply shortages and steps they can take to help reduce demand during stressed grid conditions.

Given that the ISO now operates an Energy Imbalance Market that spans nine western states and provides Reliability Coordinator services for a significant portion of the western United States, Mainzer emphasized the importance of working together to ensure reliability for California and its many partners across the West.

To further broaden and strengthen the coalition-building effort, the ISO is planning additional meetings with other industry partners in advance of this summer's heat.

For more information on the ISO's activities to prepare for hot weather, visit our [Summer Readiness webpage](#).

View additional participants' comments on the next page.

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<p>California ISO Media Email ISOMedia@caiso.com</p> <p>250 Outcropping Way Folsom, California 95630 www.caiso.com</p> <p>     </p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

SUMMER READINESS ROUNDTABLE



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“ California CCAs share the state’s strong interest in ensuring reliable energy supply and grid operations and we are actively engaged on all fronts - regulatory, planning, procurement, communications - to boost summer readiness. We look forward to continued collaboration with the California Independent System Operator and all key market participants as we work toward this shared goal. ”

Beth Vaughan, Executive Director, California CCA

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Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric (PGE)

“ As we continue to see extreme weather, like heat waves, as a result of climate change, it is important for SCE to continue to work closely with CAISO and others across the industry to ensure the reliability of the grid this summer and beyond. Roundtables, like today’s, provide another opportunity for increased collaboration for the benefit of our customers. The events of last summer illustrate the need to accelerate our efforts in creating a clean energy future. ”

William Walsh, Vice President of Energy Procurement & Management, SCE

“ This roundtable highlighted how summer grid reliability is a key issue for many grid stakeholders – including CESA and the energy storage community – and that we will need much more storage in the coming years to enhance system resiliency and mitigate potentially tight grid conditions. The CESA members are some of the most experienced energy storage experts in the world and will be ready to pitch in solutions. ”

Alex J. Morris, Executive Director, California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA)

SUMMER READINESS ROUNDTABLE



“ “ IEP Member companies are preparing to meet the electricity challenges of another hot and dry summer. Generating facilities and storage assets have been working with the CPUC and the CAISO to ensure resource availability in another extreme weather event. The Summer Readiness Roundtable is helpful in exchanging views related to preparedness and operational needs to better coordinate regional responses to another extreme weather event. ” ”

Jan Smutny-Jones, CEO, Independent Energy Producers

“ “ The roundtable offered an opportunity to collaborate in planning and assessing the conditions of the California and Western grid, anticipating another potentially very hot summer this year. Last summer we were able to provide a significant amount of excess power to the California Independent System Operator (ISO) to help keep the lights on across the state. Now that we are participating in the Western Energy Imbalance Market, we are even more equipped to support electric utilities in the ISO and across the West. We all support reliability, and LADWP is committed to assisting the state and the West this summer too, to the extent we are able. ” ”

Reiko Kerr, Senior Assistant General Manager, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Power System Engineering, Planning and Technical Services

“ “ PacifiCorp understands the important collaborative role all entities have within the Western Interconnect to maintain system reliability and customer load service. The events experienced in 2020 highlight the critical need to have all generation and transmission assets across the interconnect ready and available to meet customer needs and expectations. ” ”

Erik Brookhouse, Vice President of System Operations, PacifiCorp