California ISO board approves 2019-2020 Transmission Plan
The plan calls for nine projects to meet NERC and ISO reliability standards

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) Board of Governors yesterday approved the 2019-2020 Transmission Plan that ensures consumers are served by a reliable bulk electric system and sets the foundation to meet the state’s renewable energy goals.

The 2019-2020 Transmission Plan, a comprehensive assessment of the transmission needs of the electric system over a 10-year period, recommends only a modest capital increase when compared to previous plans.

Over the past 15 months, the grid was analyzed to identify upgrades needed to successfully meet the system’s reliability needs, California’s policy goals, and transmission projects that can bring economic benefits to consumers.

A total of nine transmission projects at an estimated cost of $141.7 million were identified as essential for maintaining reliability of the ISO transmission system.

Of this year’s projects, seven are located in Pacific Gas & Electric’s service territory at an estimated cost of $120.7 million. The remaining two projects are located within the Valley Electric Association/GridLiance West and Southern California Edison service territories at an estimated cost totaling $21 million.

This year’s plan recognized there was no additional need for any policy driven projects to be approved at this time to achieve the state’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal of 60 percent by 2030.

In a separate item, the ISO Board of Governors also approved establishing reliability must-run designations for Greenleaf II Cogen, Channel Island Power and E.F. Oxnard Incorporated to keep these resources online.

The ISO’s analysis demonstrates these generation resources, which are earmarked for retirement, are necessary for the reliable operation of the ISO transmission system as well as the local distribution systems.

View the 2019-2020 Transmission Plan on the ISO’s transmission planning process webpage.
The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.