



News Release

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California ISO CEO Steve Berberich announces retirement

Led the transition to renewable resources, expansion of regional markets

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) today announced the retirement of Steve Berberich, its President and Chief Executive Officer. Berberich has been at the helm of California’s power grid and wholesale market operator for nearly a decade, steering the organization during the integration of record amounts of renewable resources and expanding power markets regionally to benefit consumers across the western United States.

Berberich will continue to serve as CEO through the early summer. The ISO Board of Governors has begun a nationwide search for his successor.

“It has been an honor and privilege to lead such an extraordinary and talented team of professionals here at the ISO,” Berberich said. “I’m incredibly proud of their work and the successes we have had together in this historic energy sector transformation. I have witnessed this organization perform at the highest of levels, reaching milestones not thought possible before.”

Berberich, who served 14 years with the ISO and nine as CEO, was instrumental in installing industry-leading energy management and market systems, reducing reliance on fossil fuels in the electricity supply, and in welcoming new resources into the ISO’s wholesale markets. In 2014, he was recognized as one of the top 10 most influential energy leaders in the nation. Under his leadership, the ISO has been recognized internationally as a leader in renewable resource integration.

“Steve Berberich transformed the California ISO into an organization respected for operational excellence by our customers, regulators, and stakeholders across the energy industry,” said Dave Olsen, Chair of the ISO Board of Governors. “He created a culture to challenge and support all of us to deepen our skills, learn more, and care more. His visionary leadership has put the ISO at the forefront of the worldwide transition to low-carbon electricity. His legacy is in an organization now thoughtfully positioned and more determined than ever to push toward that goal.”

The creation of the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) is one of Berberich’s marquee accomplishments. This groundbreaking initiative enables utilities and energy companies from eight western states to participate in the ISO’s real-time bulk power market. Since its launch in November 2014, the EIM has saved participants more than \$860 million while significantly reducing carbon emissions throughout the West.



Building on the success of the EIM, the ISO has launched a collaborative effort to enable EIM entities to participate in an Extended Day-Ahead Market, which promises to extend Berberich's vision for bringing significant economic and environmental benefits to California and the West.

In 2019, Berberich led the organization to assume reliability coordinator responsibilities for most of the Western Interconnection. This service, RC West, now monitors real-time reliability compliance functions for balancing authorities and transmission operators responsible for 87 percent of the load in the western US.

Berberich is a sought-after speaker both nationally and internationally on the challenges of the 21st century grid. He is the current president of GO15, an organization of the CEOs of the largest grid operators across the globe.

Supporting ISO employees has been one of Berberich's foremost priorities, with a particular emphasis on improving staff engagement and career development opportunities. A hands-on leader, Berberich knows most of the ISO's nearly 600 employees by name.

Prior to becoming CEO, Berberich served in a series of executive positions at the ISO, including Vice President of Technology, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. He has 35 years of experience from fields such as utility leadership, business consulting, financial services, banking and finance. He holds a bachelor's degree in finance and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Tulsa.

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<p>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.</p>	