

News Release

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ISO Board of Governors member David Olsen announces retirement Environmental champion built pathways to low-carbon electricity

FOLSOM, Calif. – David Olsen, longtime advocate for building a more equitable clean energy economy, today announced his retirement from the California Independent System Operator (ISO) Board of Governors, after more than eight years of overseeing the ISO's historic shift to non-fossil resources. He will step down effective Nov. 30.

“Dave Olsen has been a pioneer in the development of the renewable energy industry,” said ISO President and CEO Elliot Mainzer. “His knowledge, vision, and operating experience with highly reliable, low-carbon microgrids helped CAISO embrace the broader opportunities offered by new resources. His life's work in the fields of clean energy and corporate sustainability initiatives is reflected in thousands of megawatts of clean energy projects and progressive policies adopted across the country. All of us at the ISO thank him for his service and wish him the very best.”

Mainzer noted that before he joined the board, Olsen helped conceive and create the foundation for a regional energy imbalance market to foster collaboration among western states. His foundational work ultimately enabled the CAISO to launch the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) in 2014. This innovative market has improved reliability, reduced greenhouse gases and provided more than \$1.1 billion in benefits for millions of consumers across the West.

“Working with excellent board colleagues and outstanding management and staff has made my service on the board a privilege and an honor,” Olsen said. “Together, we've steadily improved the organization's capabilities and made it an internationally recognized leader in the transition to a low-carbon future. I'm leaving CAISO in very good hands.”

Olsen, a resident of Ventura, was first appointed to the ISO board in April 2012, and served as its chair from February 2018 to October 2020. Gov. Gavin Newsom reappointed Olsen to the board in January 2019 to a term that expires on Dec. 31, 2021. The search for Olsen's replacement has begun.

“I'm extremely grateful to Dave for his commitment to the ISO and California's decarbonization goals,” said ISO Board of Governors Chair Angelina Galiteva. “He is a thoughtful, innovative and collaborative leader and leaves a legacy of championing the transition to 100% renewable energy while safeguarding the health and well-being of all



Californians. His dedication, deep knowledge, and tireless enthusiasm for building the grid of the future will be difficult to replicate.”

Prior to joining the ISO Board of Governors, Olsen formed and led companies to develop wind, solar, geothermal, and hydroelectric pumped storage projects in more than 20 countries. He coined the term “microgrid” in 1984 to describe the wind-solar-battery systems he developed to provide highest-reliability power for critical applications.

As a climate change activist, Olsen helped develop detailed protocols for measuring, verifying and reporting GHG and used those to organize the California Climate Action Registry, which was signed into law in 2000. The first state registry of greenhouse gases, CCAR provided the foundation for The Climate Registry now used by 31 states.

To promote the transition to a clean energy economy, Olsen organized advocates to use regulatory proceedings and legislation in every western state to advance energy efficiency, demand management and renewable resources while phasing out fossil fuels. He addressed the technical and policy issues of moving to low-carbon electricity in more than 100 papers, presentations and speeches.

To minimize habitat and ecosystem impacts of renewable energy and transmission development and to build public support for clean energy, he pioneered collaborative, stakeholder-led planning, in California and across the U.S.

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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.