

News Release

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ISO Board honors Berberich's service; Welcomes new CEO Mainzer

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) Board of Governors honored retiring President and CEO Steve Berberich with a resolution today for his leadership during a transformative era for the electric grid operator and welcomed new President and CEO Elliot Mainzer.

The Board of Governors resolution recognized Berberich's 15-year career during which the ISO has become known globally as a leader in renewable energy integration and grid modernization efforts.

The Board also praised Berberich for steering the organization towards expanding power markets regionally, including one of his most significant accomplishments in creating the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM). The EIM enables utilities and energy companies in eight states to participate in the ISO's real-time energy market and has generated more than \$1 billion in savings while significantly reducing carbon emissions.

"Steve Berberich's leadership has laid the foundation for the ISO to reach new milestones that will help us meet the challenges of a changing grid," said Chair David Olsen. "We appreciate his service and dedication to the ISO and wish him the best."

Berberich announced his retirement in February 2020, and officially stepped down from his role on Tuesday following the arrival of his successor, Elliot Mainzer. Mainzer began serving as ISO President and CEO on Wednesday.

"I am pleased to leave the ISO in the hands of Elliot Mainzer," Berberich said. "Beyond his profound understanding of the industry and challenges facing the ISO, Elliot is a thoughtful and engaging leader who will build strong relationships with stakeholders and the ISO team as they work together to achieve great success."

Mainzer, who had decades of leadership experience in the energy industry, served as administrator and CEO of the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) before joining the ISO as its new CEO.

"I congratulate Steve on his remarkable career at the ISO and his legacy of operational excellence, market transformation and collaborative relationships," said Mainzer. "I am



committed to continuing the ISO’s work with stakeholders, partners, and regulators to decarbonize the grid while maintaining system reliability.”

Mainzer worked at BPA for a total of 18 years, and held a variety of management positions in the agency’s Power, Transmission and Corporate organizations, including trading floor manager and manager of transmission policy and strategy. As executive vice president of Corporate Strategy, Mainzer led BPA’s strategic planning process and provided policy leadership and cross-agency coordination on renewable resources, market design, climate change and integrated planning.

He also led BPA’s ambitious grid modernization initiative, investing in business processes and operating systems essential for BPA’s participation in the evolving electricity market. Mainzer transformed BPA’s Transmission Services business unit through negotiation of a new open access tariff, enhanced transmission planning and establishment of performance metrics for customer responsiveness. Under Mainzer, BPA also achieved its best safety record in the agency’s history.

Mainzer, a native of San Francisco, earned his bachelor’s degree in geography from the University of California, Berkeley and master’s degrees in business administration and environmental studies from Yale University.

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<p>California ISO Media Email ISOMedia@caiso.com 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>
