

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

California Independent System) Docket No. ER21-____-000
Operator Corporation)

**PETITION OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF DISPOSITION OF PENALTY ASSESSMENT
PROCEEDS AND NON-REFUNDABLE INTERCONNECTION FINANCIAL SECURITY**

Pursuant to Rule 207 of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure¹ and section 37.9.4 of the California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) tariff, the CAISO seeks Commission approval of how it intends to distribute the proceeds of penalties collected for violations of the CAISO’s Rules of Conduct for the calendar year 2020.²

Under the Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff (WDAT) of Southern California Edison Company (SCE), the CAISO also seeks Commission approval of how it intends to distribute non-refundable study deposits for projects interconnecting to SCE’s distribution system for the calendar year 2020.

The CAISO proposes to distribute the proceeds under the allocation in Attachments A and B to this filing. Both proposed distributions follow the methodologies the Commission previously approved to distribute the two sets of proceeds in prior years.³ The CAISO requests the Commission afford these attachments confidential

¹ 18 C.F.R. § 385.207

² See Section 37 of the CAISO tariff.

³ See, e.g., *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, 157 FERC ¶ 61,220 (2016).

treatment under 18 C.F.R. § 388.112. The CAISO believes the scheduling coordinators involved would consider their CAISO settlement information to be confidential business information, which is information of the type that the CAISO typically does not release to the public.⁴ Attachment C to this filing is a proposed form of protective agreement acceptable to the CAISO it is prepared to utilize for purposes of 18 CFR § 388.112(b)(2).

I. DISCUSSION

A. Distribution of Rules of Conduct Proceeds

Section 37.9.4 of the CAISO tariff requires the CAISO to place all proceeds of penalties collected under section 37 into a trust account. After the end of the year, the CAISO must allocate those proceeds, with interest, to scheduling coordinators representing eligible market participants. Eligible market participants are those that were not assessed a financial penalty under section 37 during the calendar year. In distributing the funds, the CAISO pays eligible market participants based on the product of: (a) the amount in the trust account, including interest; and (b) the ratio of grid management charge payments by the scheduling coordinator on behalf of eligible market participants to the total of such amounts paid by all scheduling coordinators. The payment cannot be more than the grid management charge paid by the scheduling coordinator on behalf of all eligible market participants it represents. After the disposition, the scheduling coordinator is responsible for distributing the amounts to the

⁴ *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, 166 FERC ¶ 61,139 (2019) (approving request to maintain confidentiality of the specific payments over an intervenor's objection) (Order Approving 2017 Calendar Year Filing).

eligible market participants in proportion to their share of the grid management charge paid by the scheduling coordinator on their behalf.

Section 37.9.4 requires the CAISO to “obtain FERC’s approval of its determination of eligible Market Participants and their respective shares of the trust account proceeds” before distributing the penalty proceeds. Through this filing, the CAISO seeks approval to distribute the proceeds from penalties assessed in calendar year 2020.⁵ In 2020, the CAISO assessed \$2,707,168.51 in penalties. Once the CAISO receives Commission approval to distribute the penalty proceeds, the CAISO will recalculate the total amount to pay out to reflect the accrued interest earned in the interest-bearing accounts that correspond to the actual day on which the distribution will occur. As noted in the CAISO’s prior penalty disposition filings, the CAISO used the trading day of the settlement statement on which the CAISO invoiced the penalty to determine the calendar year in which it assessed the penalty.⁶ However, where the CAISO tolled a penalty under section 37.8.10 while an appeal of the penalty is pending before the Commission, the CAISO does not consider the penalty assessed for these purposes unless the CAISO subsequently re-invoices the penalty because the Commission rejects the appeal. The breakdown of penalties is reflected below:

⁵ Historically, the CAISO has sought Commission approval of its proposed distribution of penalty proceeds by filing a petition pursuant to Rule 207. The Commission previously has approved such filings. *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, Docket No. ER13-439-000 (February 19, 2013) (unpublished letter order); *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, Docket No. ER12-77-000 (January 6, 2012) (unpublished letter order); *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, Docket No. ER11-2086-000 (February 17, 2011) (unpublished letter order); *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, Docket No. ER10-891-000 (Aug. 27, 2010) (unpublished letter order).

⁶ See, e.g., *Petition of the California Independent System Operator Corporation for Approval of Disposition of Penalty Assessments Proceeds and Non-Refundable Interconnection Financial Security*, FERC Docket No. ER19-208-000 (Nov. 8, 2018) (2017 Calendar Year Distribution Filing).

2020 Calendar Year Violations & Sanctions

Tariff Section	Number of Violations	Amount
37.4 Comply with Availability Reporting Requirements		
37.4.1 (Reporting Availability)	0	\$0.00
37.4.2 (Scheduling And Final Approval Of Outages)	0	\$0.00
37.5 Provide Factually Accurate Information		
37.5.2 (Inaccurate or Late Actual SQMD)		
Inaccurate ASQMD	27	\$475,668.51 ⁷
Late ASQMD	25	\$43,000.00
37.6 Provide Information Required By CAISO Tariff		
37.6.1 (Required Information Generally)		
Late RA & Supply Plans	36	\$24,500.00
Late Generator Modeling Data	33	\$557,500.00
Late Telemetry Compliance	116	\$1,599,000.00 ⁸
Late Masterfile Resource Characteristics	1	\$7,500.00
		<u>\$2,707,168.51</u>

As contemplated by section 37.9.4, the CAISO contacted each scheduling coordinator assessed a penalty during the 2020 calendar year to determine which market participants were served by that scheduling coordinator and the grid management charge paid by each such market participant. Based on the information scheduling coordinators provided the CAISO in response to the inquiry, the CAISO

⁷ Pursuant to the Commission's April 15, 2021, order in docket no. ER21-395, this total for inaccurate meter data includes an approximately \$36,000 market adjustment the CAISO charged in 2020 that the Commission has permitted the CAISO to treat as if it were a rules of conduct penalty. *Cal. Indep. Sys. Operator Corp.*, 175 FERC ¶ 61,043 (2021).

⁸ This total for telemetry penalties in 2020 does not include the penalties addressed in docket nos. ER20-2031 and ER21-1492. The CAISO first invoiced the penalties in both dockets in 2020 but the penalties were tolled pending appeal to the Commission. The Commission denied the appeal in docket no ER20-2031 in a January 8, 2021, order. *Mission Solar, LLC*, 174 FERC ¶ 61,014 (2021). The CAISO will treat the penalties at issue in that case as assessed in 2021. The penalties at issue in docket no. ER21-1492 are still under Commission consideration.

calculated the allocation of penalty proceeds under the methodology in section 37.9.4. The results are included in confidential Attachment A.⁹

B. Distribution of Interconnection Study Deposits

The WDAT on file with the Commission for SCE in certain cases calls for funds from an “Interconnection Study Deposit not otherwise reimbursed to the Interconnection Customer or applied to costs incurred or irrevocably committed to be incurred for the Interconnection Studies [to be] remitted to the ISO and treated in accordance with ISO Tariff Section 37.9.4.”¹⁰ Although Section 37.9.4 contemplates that the penalty proceeds would be allocated to eligible market participants not assessed a financial penalty under section 37 of the CAISO tariff, consistent with previous Commission-approved disbursements of such proceeds, it is not appropriate to apply the “eligible market participant” standard because the interconnection proceeds are not related to whether a market participant complied with the Rules of Conduct.¹¹ Each scheduling coordinator should receive an allocation of the total forfeited funds based on its pro rata share of grid management charge payments made by that scheduling coordinator during the year in which the funds were forfeited; the pro rata allocation should not

⁹ The allocation for some scheduling coordinators is under \$10. Per section 11.29.7.2.1, Invoices and Payment Advices “for amounts less than \$10.00 will be adjusted to \$0.00 and no amount will be due to or from that Scheduling Coordinator” The Invoices/Payment Advices on which the CAISO will allocate the penalty proceeds are likely to have other debits and credits that bring the total amount of the Invoice/Payment Advice above \$10. If that is not the case and the total amount remains less than \$10, then that Scheduling Coordinator will not receive the funds identified in any of the confidential attachments to this filing.

¹⁰ SCE WDAT, Clustering Large Generator Interconnection Procedures, section 3.4.1.2, ([SCE link](#)) (“Any proceeds of the Interconnection Study Deposit not otherwise reimbursed to the Interconnection Customer or applied to costs incurred or irrevocably committed to be incurred for the Interconnection Studies shall be remitted to the ISO and treated in accordance with ISO Tariff Section 37.9.4.”).

¹¹ Order Approving 2017 Calendar Year Filing at P 20.

account for whether a scheduling coordinator was assessed a financial penalty under section 37 during the calendar year.

Attachment B reflects the allocation of the total excess WDAT interconnection study funds provided to the CAISO by SCE for 2020. The funds total \$633,850.99 for 2020. If the Commission approves the methodology proposed in Attachment B, the CAISO will distribute the excess WDAT interconnection study funds accordingly and the CAISO will recalculate the total distribution to reflect the accrued interest that corresponds to the actual day on which the distribution will occur.

II. CORRESPONDENCE AND MARKET NOTICE

In accordance with the Commission's Regulations,¹² the CAISO requests that all correspondence, pleadings, and other communications about this filing be served upon the following, whose names should be placed on the official service list established by the Commission regarding this filing:

David S. Zlotlow
Senior Counsel
California Independent System
Operator Corporation
250 Outcropping Way
Folsom, CA 95630
Tel: (916) 608-7007
Fax: (916) 608-7222
dzlotlow@caiso.com

Because this matter may be of interest to all scheduling coordinators, the CAISO will issue a market notice of this filing.

¹² 18 C.F.R. § 385.203(b).

III. CONCLUSION

The CAISO requests that the Commission approve the disposition of proceeds described in Attachments A and B, and provide confidential treatment of those attachments under 18 C.F.R. § 388.112.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ David S. Zlotlow

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Attorneys for the California Independent
System Operator Corporation

May 28, 2021

Attachment A

**[ATTACHMENT CONSISTS OF PRIVILEGED MATERIAL REDACTED
PURSUANT TO 18 C.F.R. 388.112]**

Attachment B

**[ATTACHMENT CONSISTS OF PRIVILEGED MATERIAL REDACTED
PURSUANT TO 18 C.F.R. 388.112]**

Attachment C

**Re: California Independent System Operator Corporation
Docket No. ER21-____-000**

**PETITION OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF DISPOSITION OF PROCEEDS OF
PENALTY ASSESSMENTS**

Filed May 28, 2020

Form Protective Agreement

PROTECTIVE AGREEMENT

This Protective Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into this ____ day of _____, 2021 by and between the California Independent System Operator Corporation (“CAISO”) and _____ (“Intervenor”), or *vice versa*, in connection with the proceeding before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (the “Commission”) in Docket No. _____. The CAISO and Intervenor are sometimes referred to as herein individually as a “Party” or jointly as the “Parties.”

1. The CAISO filed Protected Materials in the above-referenced Commission proceeding and Intervenor is a Participant in such proceeding, as the term Participant is defined in 18 C.F.R. Section 385.102(b), or has filed a motion to intervene or a notice of intervention in such proceeding. The CAISO and Intervenor enter into this Agreement in accordance with their respective rights and obligations set forth in 18 C.F.R. Section 388.112(b)(2). Notwithstanding any order terminating such proceeding, this Agreement shall remain in effect until specifically modified or terminated by the Commission or court of competent jurisdiction.

2. This Agreement applies to the following two categories of Protected Materials: (A) a Party may designate as protected those materials which customarily are treated by that Party as sensitive or proprietary, which are not available to the public, and which, if disclosed freely, would subject that Party or its customers to risk of competitive disadvantage or other business injury; and (B) a Party shall designate as protected those materials which contain privileged trade secret, commercial and financial information, as defined in 18 C.F.R. Section 388.107.

3. Definitions – For purposes of this Agreement:

(a) (1) The term “Protected Materials” means (A) materials provided by a Party in association with this proceeding and designated by such Party as protected; (B) any information contained in or obtained from such designated materials; (C) notes of Protected Materials; and (D) copies of Protected Materials. The Party producing the Protected Materials shall physically mark them on each page as “PROTECTED MATERIALS” or with words of similar import as long as the term “Protected Materials” is included in that designation to indicate that they are Protected Materials. If the Protected Materials contain Critical Energy Infrastructure Information, the Party producing such information shall additionally mark on each page containing such information the words “Contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information – Do Not Release.”

(2) The term “Notes of Protected Materials” means memoranda, handwritten notes, or any other form of information (including electronic form) which copies or discloses materials described in Paragraph 3(a)(1). Notes of Protected Materials are subject to the same restrictions provided in this Agreement for Protected Materials except as specifically provided in this Agreement.

(3) Protected Materials shall not include (A) any information or document contained in the publicly-available files of the Commission or of any other federal or state agency, or any federal or state court, unless the information or document has been determined to be protected by such agency or court, or (B) information that is public knowledge, or which

becomes public knowledge, other than through disclosure in violation of this Agreement, or (C) any information or document labeled as “Non-Internet Public” by a Party, in accordance with Paragraph 30 of FERC Order No. 630, FERC Stats. & Regs. ¶ 31,140 (2003). Protected Materials do include any information or documents contained in the files of the Commission that has been designated as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information.

(b) The term “Non-Disclosure Certificate” shall mean the certificate annexed hereto by which Reviewing Representatives who have been granted access to Protected Materials shall certify their understanding that such access to Protected Materials is provided pursuant to the terms and restrictions of this Agreement, and that they have read the Agreement and agree to be bound by it. Each Party shall provide a copy of the Non-Disclosure Certificate(s) executed by its Reviewing Representative(s) to the other Party prior to such Reviewing Representative(s) receiving access to any Protected Materials.

(c) The term “Reviewing Representative” shall mean a person who has signed a Non-Disclosure Certificate and who is:

- (1) an attorney retained by a Party for purposes of this proceeding;
- (2) attorneys, paralegals, and other employees associated for purposes of this proceeding with an attorney described in Paragraph (3)(c)(1);
- (3) an expert or employee of an expert retained by a Party for the purpose of advising, preparing or testifying in this proceeding;
- (4) a person designated as a Reviewing Representative by order of the Commission; or
- (5) employees or other representatives of a Party with significant responsibility for matters involving this proceeding.

4. Protected Materials shall be made available under the terms of this Agreement only to Parties and only through their Reviewing Representative(s) as provided in Paragraphs 7-9.

5. Protected Materials shall remain available to a Party until the later of the date that an order terminating this proceeding becomes no longer subject to judicial review, or the date that any other Commission proceeding relating to the Protected Material is concluded and no longer subject to judicial review. If requested to do so in writing after that date, the Party shall, within fifteen days of such request, return the Protected Materials (excluding Notes of Protected Materials) to the Party that produced them, or shall destroy the materials, except that copies of filings, official transcripts and exhibits in this proceeding that contain Protected Materials, and Notes of Protected Materials may be retained, if they are maintained in accordance with Paragraph 6, below. Within such time period the Party, if requested to do so, shall also submit to the producing Party an affidavit stating that, to the best of its knowledge, all Protected Materials and all Notes of Protected Materials have been returned or have been destroyed or will be

maintained in accordance with Paragraph 6. To the extent Protected Materials are not returned or destroyed, they shall remain subject to this Agreement.

6. All Protected Materials shall be maintained by the Party in a secure place. Access to those materials shall be limited to those Reviewing Representatives specifically authorized pursuant to Paragraphs 8-9.

7. Protected Materials shall be treated as confidential by the Party and its Reviewing Representative(s) in accordance with the certificate executed pursuant to Paragraph 9. Protected Materials shall not be used except as necessary for the conduct of this proceeding, nor shall they be disclosed in any manner to any person except a Reviewing Representative who is engaged in the conduct of this proceeding and who needs to know the information in order to carry out that person's responsibilities in this proceeding. Reviewing Representatives may make copies of Protected Materials, but such copies become Protected Materials. Reviewing Representatives may make notes of Protected Materials, which shall be treated as Notes of Protected Materials if they disclose the contents of Protected Materials.

8. (a) If a Reviewing Representative's scope of employment includes the marketing of energy or the buying or selling of generating assets, the direct supervision of any employee or employees whose duties include the foregoing, the provision of consulting services to any person whose duties include the foregoing, or the direct supervision of any employee or employees whose duties include the foregoing, such Reviewing Representative may not use information contained in any Protected Materials obtained through this proceeding to give any Party or any competitor of any Party a commercial advantage.

(b) In the event that a Party wishes to designate as a Reviewing Representative a person not described in Paragraph 3(c) above, the Party shall seek agreement from the Party providing the Protected Materials. If an agreement is reached that person shall be a Reviewing Representative pursuant to Paragraphs 3(c) above with respect to those materials. If no agreement is reached, the Party shall submit the disputed designation to the Commission for resolution.

9. (a) A Reviewing Representative shall not be permitted to inspect, participate in discussions regarding, or otherwise be permitted access to Protected Materials pursuant to this Agreement unless that Reviewing Representative has first executed a Non-Disclosure Certificate; provided, that if an attorney qualified as a Reviewing Representative has executed such a certificate, the paralegals, secretarial and clerical personnel under the attorney's instruction, supervision or control need not do so. A copy of each Non-Disclosure Certificate shall be provided to counsel for the Party asserting confidentiality prior to disclosure of any Protected Material to that Reviewing Representative.

(b) Attorneys qualified as Reviewing Representatives are responsible for ensuring that persons under their supervision or control comply with this Agreement.

10. Any Reviewing Representative may disclose Protected Materials to any other Reviewing Representative as long as the disclosing Reviewing Representative and the receiving Reviewing Representative both have executed a Non-Disclosure Certificate. In the event that any Reviewing

Representative to whom the Protected Materials are disclosed ceases to be engaged in these proceedings, or is employed or retained for a position whose occupant is not qualified to be a Reviewing Representative under Paragraph 3(c), access to Protected Materials by that person shall be terminated. Even if no longer engaged in this proceeding, every person who has executed a Non-Disclosure Certificate shall continue to be bound by the provisions of this Agreement and the certification.

11. Subject to Paragraph 17, the Commission shall resolve any disputes arising under this Agreement. Prior to presenting any dispute under this Agreement to the Commission, the Parties shall use their best efforts to resolve it. If a Party contests the designation of materials as protected, it shall notify the Party that provided the Protected Materials by specifying in writing the materials whose designation is contested. This Agreement shall automatically cease to apply to such materials five (5) business days after the notification is made unless the Party, within said 5-day period, files a motion with the Commission, with supporting affidavits, demonstrating that the materials should continue to be protected. In any challenge to the designation of materials as protected, the burden of proof shall be on the Party seeking protection. If the Commission finds that the materials at issue are not entitled to protection, the procedures of Paragraph 17 shall apply. The procedures described above shall not apply to Protected Materials designated by a Party as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information. Materials so designated shall remain protected and subject to the provisions of this Agreement unless a Party requests and obtains a determination from the Commission's Critical Energy Infrastructure Information Coordinator that such materials need not remain protected.

12. All copies of all documents reflecting Protected Materials, including the portion of any hearing testimony, exhibits, transcripts, briefs and other documents which refer to Protected Materials, shall be filed and served in sealed envelopes or by other appropriate means endorsed to the effect that they are protected pursuant to this Agreement. Such documents shall be marked "PROTECTED MATERIALS" and shall be filed under seal and served under seal upon the Commission and all Reviewing Representatives who are on the service list. Such documents containing Critical Energy Infrastructure Information shall be additionally marked "Contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information – Do Not Release." For anything filed under seal, redacted versions or, where an entire document is protected, a letter indicating such, will also be filed with the Commission and served on all parties on the service list. Counsel for the producing Party shall, upon the request of a Party, provide a list of Reviewing Representatives who are entitled to receive such material. Counsel shall take all reasonable precautions necessary to assure that Protected Materials are not distributed to unauthorized persons. If any Party desires to include, utilize or refer to any Protected Materials or information derived therefrom in pleadings, testimony or exhibits to these proceedings in such a manner that might require disclosure of such material to persons other than Reviewing Representatives, such Party shall first notify both counsel for the disclosing Party and the Commission of such desire, identifying with particularity each of the Protected Materials. Thereafter, use of such Protected Materials will be governed by procedures determined by the Commission.

13. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as precluding any Party from objecting to the use of Protected Materials on any legal grounds.

14. Nothing in this Agreement shall preclude any Party from requesting the Commission or any other body having appropriate authority to find that this Agreement should not apply to all or any materials previously designated as Protected Materials pursuant to this Agreement. The Commission may alter or amend this Agreement as circumstances warrant at any time during the course of this proceeding.

15. The Parties may amend this Agreement only by mutual consent and in writing, provided, however, that a Party has the right to seek changes to this Agreement as appropriate from the Commission.

16. All Protected Materials filed with the Commission, or any other judicial or administrative body, in support of, or as a part of, a motion, other pleading, brief, or other document, shall be filed and served in sealed envelopes or by other appropriate means bearing prominent markings indicating that the contents include Protected Materials subject to this Agreement. Such documents containing Critical Energy Infrastructure Information shall be additionally marked "Contains Critical Energy Infrastructure Information – Do Not Release."

17. If the Commission finds at any time in the course of this proceeding that all or part of the Protected Materials need not be protected, those materials shall, nevertheless, be subject to the protection afforded by this Agreement for three (3) business days from the date of issuance of the Commission's decision, and if the Party seeking protection files an interlocutory appeal or requests that the issue be certified to the Commission, for an additional seven (7) business days. No Party waives its rights to seek additional administrative or judicial remedies after the Commission's decision respecting Protected Materials or Reviewing Representatives, or the Commission's denial of any appeal thereof. The provisions of 18 C.F.R. Sections 388.112 and 388.113 shall apply to any requests for Protected Materials in the files of the Commission under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552).

18. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to preclude either Party from independently seeking through discovery in any other administrative or judicial proceeding information or materials produced in this proceeding under this Agreement.

19. Neither Party waives the right to pursue any other legal or equitable remedies that may be available in the event of actual anticipated disclosure of Protected Materials.

20. The contents of Protected Materials or any other form of information that copies or discloses Protected Materials shall not be disclosed to anyone other than in accordance with this Agreement and shall be used only in connection with this proceeding. Any violation of this Agreement and of any Non-Disclosure Certificate executed hereunder shall constitute a violation of an order of the Commission.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties each have caused this Protective Agreement to be signed by their respective duly authorized representatives as of the date first set forth above.

By: _____

By: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Title: _____

Representing CAISO

Representing Intervenor

NON-DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify my understanding that access to Protected Materials is provided to me pursuant to the terms and restrictions of the Protective Agreement dated _____, 2018 by and between the CAISO and _____ concerning materials in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Docket No. _____, that I have been given a copy of and have read the Protective Agreement, and that I agree to be bound by it. I understand that the contents of the Protected Materials, any notes or other memoranda, or any other form of information that copies or discloses Protected Materials shall not be disclosed to anyone other than in accordance with the Protective Agreement. I acknowledge that a violation of this certificate constitutes a violation of an order of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

By: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Representing: _____