Who Decides Transmission Line Routes?

Line routing decisions are made by state, local, or federal regulatory agencies, depending upon the project sponsor.

The California ISO has no authority or involvement in line routing decisions.

The California ISO’s role in transmission planning is limited to determining the need for a project. If the project sponsor proposes a new transmission line, the California ISO determines if there is a need for a connection between substations, not actually the path over which a line should travel.

The California ISO does not decide whether a line should go underground or overhead. Decisions about that are made by the state, local, or federal regulatory agency.