Western EIM Governing Body adopts initiatives for summer reliability

FOLSOM, Calif. – To help maintain grid reliability this summer, the Western Energy Imbalance Market (Western EIM) Governing Body unanimously approved market and operational enhancements for Western EIM entities participating in the California Independent System Operator’s (ISO) real-time energy market.

The Governing Body’s decision yesterday is under its primary approval authority and will:

- Improve the resource sufficiency evaluation to ensure each balancing authority area participates in the Western EIM with the necessary resources; and
- Enhance real-time energy market models to provide better operational coordination among balancing authority areas in the Western EIM.

These items will be on the ISO Board of Governors’ next meeting agenda.

Additionally, the Western EIM Governing Body provided, in its advisory capacity, support for a market-pricing enhancement for contingency reserves that will strengthen incentives during tight supply conditions. This item requires the approval of the ISO Board of Governors, which is scheduled to consider it and other Market Enhancements for Summer 2021 Readiness initiatives later this month.

The Western EIM Governing Body’s action is the first of several improvements identified by the ISO to be better prepared for summer following the extreme heat event that enveloped California and the West in August 2020.

The Final Root Cause Analysis published in January 2021 found that extreme heat, resource adequacy deficiencies, and planning and market processes that were not designed to fully address an extreme heat storm contributed to rotating outages for two days in August 2020.

The Western EIM Governing Body oversees the Western EIM, an energy market comprised of 11 balancing authorities in eight states, which uses state-of-the-art technology to find and deliver low-cost energy to meet real-time demand. Since its launch in 2014, the Western EIM has provided more than $1.18 billion in economic and
environmental benefits. By 2023, 22 active Western EIM participants will represent over 83 percent of load within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) footprint.

For information about the real-time energy market, quarterly benefits, reports, governance, initiatives and upcoming meetings, visit the Western EIM website.

###