

WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



News Release

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Western EIM posts record \$119 million in quarterly benefits results

Real-time energy market cumulative benefits exceed more than \$1.1 billion

FOLSOM, Calif. – The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM), operated by the California Independent System Operator (ISO), set a second record in 2020 with \$119.3 million in quarterly economic benefits.

This year's [third quarter](#) results marks the highest level of gross benefits achieved for the Western EIM since the real-time energy market launched in 2014, and raises the cumulative benefits to \$1.11 billion.

“These strong results are further indication of the value of the EIM to market participants and consumers across the West,” said ISO President and CEO Elliot Mainzer. “I look forward to continuing the ISO’s efforts to increase the economic, environmental and reliability benefits of the EIM through the continued growth in participants and future market enhancements.”

Results of the third quarter – July, August and September – can be partially attributed to high load conditions during the extreme August heatwave which drove tighter supply conditions and high prices across the West.

During the third quarter of 2020, the economic benefits by participant includes:

| | <i>(millions \$)</i> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Arizona Public Service | \$ 22.60 |
| BANC | \$ 8.70 |
| California ISO | \$ 23.68 |
| Idaho Power | \$ 8.51 |
| NV Energy | \$ 8.81 |
| PacifiCorp | \$ 13.47 |
| Portland General Electric | \$ 9.95 |
| Powerex | \$ 0.88 |
| Puget Sound Energy | \$ 3.44 |
| Seattle City Light | \$ 2.87 |

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|--------------------|-----------------|
| Salt River Project | \$ 17.41 |
| Total | \$119.32 |

As the amount of renewable energy on the grid increases, there are times when output from variable resources exceeds the demand for electricity. To balance the grid, those resources are often curtailed. But because of the regional collaboration among EIM participants, clean energy resources are now transferred across the West to serve demand where needed, leading to a 37,548 megawatt hour (MWh) reduction in curtailments in the third quarter and more than 1,280 gigawatt hours (GWh) overall since 2015.

With the increased generation of carbon-free electricity, the cumulative CO₂ emissions have been reduced by 549,452 metric tons, or the equivalent of taking 115,520 passenger cars off the road.

Over the next two years, the Western EIM is scheduled to add nine new balancing authorities. When these participants are operational in 2022, the EIM will serve 82 percent of the Western Electricity Coordinating Council's (WECC) total load.

Visit the [Western EIM](#) website to learn more about the market, benefits, participants, initiatives, and upcoming meetings.

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| <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> | |