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California faces several more days of heat and grid stress

High electricity demand, wildfire threats combine to create supply uncertainty

FOLSOM, Calif. – With increased heat gripping much of the state, the California Independent System Operator (ISO) power grid maintained reliability yesterday, thanks to consumer conservation and reduced commercial use, but the heat will cause continued strain on the system today and through the Labor Day weekend.

The major concern now is even higher temperatures forecast for Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, with projected loads climbing to more than 49,000 megawatts (MW) on Tuesday. The ISO is working with state agencies and market participants to bring all available energy resources online for what are expected to be the most challenging days of the heat wave.

Electricity demand on Thursday hit a peak of 47,357 megawatts (MW), the highest since September 2017.

Multiple generators have been forced out of service due to the extreme heat, making energy supplies tighter. Grid operators are also watching at least two major wildfires threatening transmission lines and power plants in the Los Angeles and San Diego areas.

Consumer and commercial energy conservation through demand response programs, including Flex Alert, eased strained conditions on the grid at the critical hours yesterday, giving operators a better cushion of supply.

[In this video](#), ISO CEO Elliot Mainzer recaps yesterday's grid conditions and gives a preview of the system's challenges today and over the weekend.

Another [Flex Alert](#) will be in effect today from 4 to 9 p.m. to alleviate stress on the grid and stretch tight supplies in the late afternoon to evening when solar production rolls off the system and demand remains high. A Flex Alert is a voluntary call for consumers to lower electricity use during periods of high heat and demand.

During a Flex Alert, consumers are asked to set thermostats to 78 degrees or higher, avoid using major appliances, and turn off unnecessary lights.

Today's temperatures across the state are expected to be 10-20 degrees above normal. Forecasts show temperatures of 95-110 degrees inland and 105-115 for the desert areas. Still, peak demand is anticipated to be a bit lower, just above 46,000 MW. Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued an [emergency proclamation](#), requested by the ISO, to free up additional resources.

The ISO extended Restricted Maintenance Operations (RMO) through Thursday, Sept. 8, from noon to 10 p.m. each day. The RMO instructs market participants to avoid routine scheduled equipment maintenance, to ensure that all available generation and transmission is in service. Click [here](#) to learn more about emergency notifications.

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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.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) is a real-time wholesale energy trading market that enables participants anywhere in the West to buy and sell energy when needed. The WEIM Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders and has shared authority with the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the WEIM.