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Conservation helped reliability; another Flex Alert today

Power grid rode out challenging conditions; now facing higher heat and demand

FOLSOM, Calif. – Consumer conservation efforts helped maintain power grid stability yesterday, and the California Independent System Operator (ISO) is calling for additional conservation and preparing for possible emergency actions as the state and much of the Western U.S. endure the worst heat wave so far this summer.

Due to extreme heat and increased electricity demand, the ISO's Flex Alert has been extended through today, from 4 to 9 p.m. Additional calls for conservation are likely through the Labor Day Holiday.

The ISO is also in an [Energy Emergency Alert \(EEA\) Watch](#) from 6-7 p.m. today, and is prepared to declare further emergency actions if needed. No rotating outages are anticipated at this time.

[In this video](#), ISO CEO Elliot Mainzer gives a recap of yesterday's grid challenges and highlights system conditions for today.

Besides heat and high demand, ISO grid operators yesterday managed through stressful conditions caused when power plants unexpectedly failed due to extreme weather, taking about 1,000 MW offline. The system was further strained when a wildfire in Southern California tripped transmission lines, knocking out 700 MW of resources. Some of the resources lost yesterday have partially returned to service, but hot weather and the highest forecasted loads of the year continue to threaten grid reliability throughout the Labor Day weekend.

Grid operators did get some help on Wednesday as more energy imports were available in the market than anticipated earlier in the day, and the [emergency proclamation from Gov. Gavin Newsom](#), requested by the ISO, freed up still more crucial resources. With that and conservation, no additional emergencies were declared.

A Restricted Maintenance Operations (RMO) is in place through Tuesday, Sept. 6, each day from noon to 10 p.m. The declaration orders market participants to avoid any scheduled routine maintenance during those times to ensure all available resources are in service.

Both daily maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be well above normal into next Wednesday and some computer modeling shows that Northern California temperatures may come in even higher than currently forecast.

The ISO continues to urge Californians to observe Flex Alerts to help stretch energy supplies at the most stressful times on the grid, in the late afternoons and evenings, when solar production rolls off the system and demand remains high, due to air conditioning use.

Reducing energy use during a Flex Alert can help stabilize the power grid during tight supply conditions and prevent further emergency measures, including rotating power outages.

During Flex Alerts from 4 to 9 p.m., consumers can help the most by setting thermostats to 78 degrees, avoid using major appliances, and turning off all unnecessary lights.

For more conservation ideas and to sign up for Flex Alert notifications, visit FlexAlert.org.

Follow grid conditions in real time at ISO's [Today's Outlook](#), download the free ISO Today mobile app, and follow us on Twitter at [@California_ISO](#).

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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.