



California ISO

Parallel operations plan Spring 2026 release


Initiatives –

Day-ahead market enhancements

Extended day-ahead market

Version: 1.0

Apr 15, 2024

 California ISO	Parallel Operations Plan Project Office	Template Version:	1.1
		Template Date:	03/30/2011
ISO Parallel Operations Plan		Document Version:	1.0
		Effective Date	

Location of Document – [\(link\)](#)

Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
04/15/2024	1.0	Initial draft	Anshuman Vaidya



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1. Introduction

The objective of this document is to provide the information needed by market participants in order to engage in the parallel operation’s activities for the Spring 2026 release initiatives, enabling market participants to smoothly transition and utilize the new features.

1.1 Scope of Initiatives


ISO release planning sites for the Spring 2026 release initiatives – [\(link\)](#)

1. Day-Ahead Market Enhancements [\(link\)](#)
2. Extended Day-Ahead Market [\(link\)](#)

1.2 Parallel operation

The ISO conducts parallel operation activities on a regular basis as part of its bringing new capabilities to its markets. This provides market participants an opportunity to test their systems and procedures in advance of the market implementation. The parallel operation process facilitates an effective market operations “dress rehearsal” and helps expedite a smooth production launch. The benefits of parallel operation may include but are not limited to:

- Allowing for system or procedural problem identification and mitigation before the market is operationally or financially binding.
- Enabling market participants to observe the behavior of ISO systems and markets in a simulated production environment, particularly in regards to new functions and features introduced through the addition of the modifications included in the Spring 2026 Release initiatives.
- Establishing confidence in the operational processes and systems associated with the new market functionality implementation.
- Providing a hands-on environment to allow participants to interact with new and unique features and functionality.
- Providing an environment where market participants can scrutinize and tailor their own tools, applications, and business practices to participate in new market functionality.

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- Providing a means of capturing additional market participant input and feedback regarding the implementation of the new market features and functionality, beyond what might have been received in the stakeholder process.
- Providing market participants the tools to help determine:
 - Proper exchange of market-related data and validation of new timelines.
 - Common understanding of data submittal requirements and timelines.
 - Familiarity with market rules and timelines.
- An opportunity to verify the ISO bid-to-bill process in a pre-production environment that includes simulated market and operational data inputs. Allowing the market participants to verify systems, processes, and procedures which may need modifying due to the functional changes tied to the release.

1.3 Schedule Summary

Spring Release 2026 parallel operation high-level timeline is the following:

Parallel operation timeline	Start	End
Connectivity testing	01/05/2026	01/15/2026
Parallel operation	01/16/2026	03/15/2026

The Stage environment will be available for EDAM and WEIM onboarding entities after the parallel operation activities end date until go live in production.

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2. Parallel Operation Approach

2.1 High-Level Overview


The timeline for the Spring 2026 release initiatives parallel operations is identified below. Critical pre-parallel operations activities are identified in Section 2.2 of this document.

<u>Spring 2026 Initiatives</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Start Date (Trade Date)</u>	<u>End Date</u>	<u>Parallel Operations Start (Trade Date)</u>
<u>Spring 2026 Parallel Operation</u>				
Day-Ahead Market Enhancements	01/16/26	01/16/26	03/15/26	01/16/26
Extended Day-Ahead Market	01/16/26	01/16/26	03/15/26	01/16/26

2.2 Pre-Parallel Operations Activities

The Spring 2026 release initiatives parallel operations will be conducted in the Stage environment. Participants will need to obtain access to this environment if they do not already have access. The ISO envisions participants may wish to access:

- Master File (MF),
- Market Participant Portal (MPP),
- Outage Management System (WebOMS),
- Demand Response Registration System (DRRS),
- Customer Interface for Resource Adequacy (CIRA),
- Scheduling Infrastructure and Business Rules (SIBR),
- Base Schedule Aggregation Portal (BSAP),
- Balancing Authority Area Operations Portal (BAAOP),
- CAISO Market Results Interface (CMRI),
- Automated Dispatch System (ADS), and
- Market Results Interface Settlements (MRIS).

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For those who do not already have access to the Stage systems, access can be requested by completing an Application Access Request Form ([AARF](#)) or modifying existing certificates through the Access Identity Management ([AIM](#)) application. Information regarding the completion of AIM and AARF forms can be found on the ISO portal under the application access request forms and application installation instructions heading.

Information pertaining to accessing the externally facing ISO environments is detailed in the System Access Information (SAI) for market participants document located on the ISO public site in the “Application Access” ([link](#)).

Systems Access Information Document – ([link](#))

2.3 Pre-Parallel Operations and Parallel Operations Activities Calendar

Activity	Description	Timeframe
Stage maintenance	Stage maintenance for parallel operation preparation for the Spring 2026 release.	01/05/2026 - 01/15/2026
Spring 2026 releases parallel operation kick-off notification	ISO to publish notification for market participants.	01/16/2026
Resource registration for parallel operations	Registration for the resources to be included during the parallel operation	01/05/2026
Spring 2026 parallel operation begins	Spring 2026 releases parallel operation in the Stage environment	01/16/2026
Spring 2026 connectivity testing for parallel operations	Stage open for interface access validation	01/05/2026

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3. General Information

3.1 Participant Observation and Inputs

During the Spring 2026 release parallel operations, market participants will be able to observe market results in the same applications that are available in production: OASIS, CMRI, ADS, etc.

- The ISO will seed/copy bids and base schedules from production, on market participant's behalf, into the Stage environment.
- The participants are encouraged to input any change in data into the ISO bid-to-bill using all systems available in the Stage environment: MRI-S, SIBR/BSAP, ADS and OMS etc., for a more realistic parallel operations.
- The participants should also submit confidence factors for non-RSE eligible resources, Demand and VER forecast (if not submitted via ALFS), TSR (self-schedules, limits, contracts), DA DR Load forecast adjusted values and AS self-schedules.

Day Ahead Market (DAM) bids are submitted for T+4 >> (**NOTE:** CB bids are submitted for T+2, if participant submits for T+4 they will be over-written)

- Example: on 9/10 bids are submitted for 9/14

Participants wishing to check and or submit DA bids for T+1 – T+4 can do so after 7am on T.


- Example T=9/10 - DA bids can be submitted for 9/11, 9/12, 9/13 and if after 8am for 9/14
- In the example no seeded bids will over-write submitted bids for T+1, T+2, T+3. For T+4 if the submitted bids come in after 7am they will not be over-written by seeded bids.

Participants would tag there DA awards to enable Flexible Ramping requirements calculated in line with DA award.

Real Time Market (RTM) bids are submitted for T+1 at 11:00am

- Example: on 9/10 static bids are submitted at 11:00am for 9/11
- Participants wishing to check and or submit RT bids for T+1 can do so after 12:00pm (noon), no seeded data will over-write submitted bids.

Day Ahead Base Schedules BSAP (DAM) base schedules are submitted for T+4 for WEIM entities

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Real Time Base Schedules BSAP (RTM) base schedules are submitted for T+ 4 for WEIM entities

- Example: on 9/10 base Schedules (DAM/RTM) are submitted for 9/14

EDAM participants would submit self-schedules in DAM and RTM.

WEIM Participants wishing to check and or submit base schedules for T+1 – T+4 can do so after 8am on T.

- Example T=9/10 - DA/RT base schedules can be submitted for 9/11, 9/12, 9/13 and if after 7am for 9/14
- In the example no seeded base schedules will over-write submitted base schedules for T+1, T+2, T+3. For T+4 if the submitted base schedules come in after 8am they will not be over-written by seeded base schedules.

SIBR RTM functionality for validating submitted bids or generating submitted bid based on DA market results will still apply. Typically Stage market results are not published until after 12pm.

All RTM bids are revalidated between 22:10 and 23:00 for the next day based on the latest commitment cost data received.

All DAM bids are revalidated beginning at 03:10 and again at 09:10 for future dates based on the latest Master File and commitment cost data received.


All base schedules are revalidated beginning at 08:25 for the next day only based on the latest Master File data received.

Bids and base schedules must be submitted or verified by participants wanting to validate functionality in SIBR and BSAP or downstream applications with regard to project expectations.

3.2 Release Web Service Changes

The ISO has provided all the necessary technical specifications for the web service changes in scope for Spring 2026 Release on the developer web site ([link](#)) .

Resource Data Template (RDT) submission and/or modifications for the Spring 2026 Release will take 10 business days to process. Prior to the start of parallel operations all modified RDT's for the Spring 2026 release should be emailed to RDT@caiso.com please also Cc MarketSim@caiso.com. Once parallel operations begins RDT's should be

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submitted to the Stage Master File with an expected turnaround time of 10 business day, similar to Production.

ISO will be settling two trade dates per week and offering settlements statements during the Spring 2026 release parallel operation. Similar to how the process is performed in our production environment, the ISO will be using estimated meter data with our initial statements and market participant submitted meter data where applicable, for the re-calc statements.

3.3 Known Issue List

The ISO will create and publish a known issues list and post in on the release planning site – ([link](#))

3.4 Configurable Parameter Testing

Market participants will need to register their request with the ISO to participate in this parallel operations via the MarketSim@caiso.com mailbox.

Please submit the information requested by 01/05/26.


3.5 ISO’s Approach for configurable parameter testing in Parallel operations

The ISO will set default values for the configurable parameters listed below. These default values will be published on the release planning site before the start of parallel operations. These default values for the configurable parameters will be fine-tuned and changed during the course of parallel operations. The ISO will create a configurable parameter implementation working group to get feedback from stakeholders in order to fine tune parameter values for parallel operation and production deployment.

1) *Set of transmission constraints enforced in the deployment scenarios during market simulation.*

Maximum set of flowgates, nomograms and contingencies will be enforced based on the optimal computational load for the market run. Ongoing evaluation of transmission constraint parameter in parallel operations will be conducted and fine-tuned. EDAM onboarding entities can provide input for changing these values.

2) *Tunable parameter for proportion of imbalance reserves that are “deployed” in deployment scenarios during market simulation.*

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The ISO will perform sensitivity analysis around a stable middle value for imbalance reserve available for market simulation. Stakeholders will be able to provide input on the value of the parameter chosen for production after evaluating parallel operations performance.

3) *Energy storage “envelope constraint” multipliers*

The ISO will perform sensitivity analysis for energy storage “envelope constraint” multipliers around a starting point gathered from already collected production data for energy storage resources. Stakeholders will be able to provide input on the value of the parameter chosen for production after evaluating parallel operations performance.

4) *Imbalance reserve demand curve cap*

Parallel operations will run on a default value set as \$55 and assess if the imbalance reserve demand curve cap works as intended. ISO may perform a sensitivity analysis around this parameter if needed.

5) *Default availability bid prices for IRU/RCU mitigation*


Parallel operations will run on a default value set as \$55 and assess if LMPM functionality works as intended. ISO may perform a sensitivity analysis around this parameter if needed.

3.6 Configuration Guides and Payment Calendars


ISO Settlements Calendar and configuration guides for the Spring 2026 release -

- Draft Settlements Configuration Guides – ([Tier 1](#)) ([Tier 2](#))


Calendar Day	Day	CMRI T+1B	Submit Meter Data by T+2B 10:00 for Initial	Publish Initial Statement T+5B	Submit Meter Data by T+5B 18:00 for Recalc	Publish Recalc Statement T+8B	Publish Market Invoice
			T+9B	T+9B	T+70B	T+70B	
16-Jan-26	Friday						
17-Jan-26	Saturday						
18-Jan-26	Sunday						
19-Jan-26	Monday	ISO Holiday					
20-Jan-26	Tuesday						
21-Jan-26	Wednesday	20-Jan					
22-Jan-26	Thursday		20-Jan				

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23-Jan-26	Friday	22-Jan						
24-Jan-26	Saturday							
25-Jan-26	Sunday							
26-Jan-26	Monday		22-Jan					
27-Jan-26	Tuesday			20-Jan	20-Jan			
28-Jan-26	Wednesday	27-Jan						
29-Jan-26	Thursday		27-Jan	22-Jan	22-Jan			
30-Jan-26	Friday	29-Jan		Monthly Initial 20-Jan - 22-Jan		20-Jan	Daily Initial 20-Jan; Daily Initial 22-Jan; Monthly Initial 20-Jan - 22-Jan	
31-Jan-26	Saturday							
01-Feb-26	Sunday							
02-Feb-26	Monday		29-Jan					
03-Feb-26	Tuesday			27-Jan	27-Jan	22-Jan		
04-Feb-26	Wednesday	3-Feb				Monthly Recalc 20-Jan - 22-Jan	Daily Recalc 20-Jan; Daily Recalc 22-Jan; Monthly Recalc 20-Jan - 22-Jan	
05-Feb-26	Thursday		3-Feb	29-Jan	29-Jan			
06-Feb-26	Friday	5-Feb		Monthly Initial 27-Jan - 29-Jan		27-Jan	Daily Initial 27-Jan; Daily Initial 29-Jan; Monthly Initial 27-Jan - 29-Jan	
07-Feb-26	Saturday							
08-Feb-26	Sunday							
09-Feb-26	Monday		5-Feb					
10-Feb-26	Tuesday			3-Feb	3-Feb	29-Jan		
11-Feb-26	Wednesday	10-Feb				Monthly Recalc 27-Jan - 29-Jan	Daily Recalc 27-Jan; Daily Recalc 29-Jan; Monthly Recalc 27-Jan - 29-Jan	
12-Feb-26	Thursday		10-Feb	5-Feb	5-Feb			
13-Feb-26	Friday	12-Feb		Monthly Initial 03-Feb - 05-Feb		3-Feb	Daily Initial 03-Feb; Daily Initial 05-Feb; Monthly Initial 03-Feb - 05-Feb	
14-Feb-26	Saturday							
15-Feb-26	Sunday							
16-Feb-26	Monday	ISO Holiday						
17-Feb-26	Tuesday		12-Feb					
18-Feb-26	Wednesday	17-Feb		10-Feb	10-Feb	5-Feb		
19-Feb-26	Thursday		17-Feb			Monthly Recalc 03-Feb - 05-Feb	Daily Recalc 03-Feb; Daily Recalc 05-Feb; Monthly Recalc 03-Feb - 05-Feb	
20-Feb-26	Friday	19-Feb		12-Feb	12-Feb			

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21-Feb-26	Saturday						
22-Feb-26	Sunday						
23-Feb-26	Monday		19-Feb	Monthly Initial 10-Feb - 12-Feb		10-Feb	Daily Initial 10-Feb; Daily Initial 12-Feb; Monthly Initial 10-Feb - 12-Feb
24-Feb-26	Tuesday			17-Feb	17-Feb		
25-Feb-26	Wednesday	24-Feb				12-Feb	
26-Feb-26	Thursday		24-Feb	19-Feb	19-Feb	Monthly Recalc 10-Feb - 12-Feb	Daily Recalc 10-Feb; Daily Recalc 12-Feb; Monthly Recalc 10-Feb - 12-Feb
27-Feb-26	Friday	26-Feb		Monthly Initial 17-Feb - 19-Feb		17-Feb	Daily Initial 17-Feb; Daily Initial 19-Feb; Monthly Initial 17-Feb - 19-Feb
28-Feb-26	Saturday						
01-Mar-26	Sunday						
02-Mar-26	Monday		26-Feb				
03-Mar-26	Tuesday			24-Feb	24-Feb	19-Feb	
04-Mar-26	Wednesday	3-Mar				Monthly Recalc 17-Feb - 19-Feb	Daily Recalc 17-Feb; Daily Recalc 19-Feb; Monthly Recalc 17-Feb - 19-Feb
05-Mar-26	Thursday		3-Mar	26-Feb	26-Feb		
06-Mar-26	Friday	5-Mar		Monthly Initial 24-Feb - 26-Feb		24-Feb	Daily Initial 24-Feb; Daily Initial 26-Feb; Monthly Initial 24-Feb - 26-Feb
07-Mar-26	Saturday						
08-Mar-26	Sunday						
09-Mar-26	Monday		5-Mar				
10-Mar-26	Tuesday			3-Mar	3-Mar	26-Feb	
11-Mar-26	Wednesday	10-Mar				Monthly Recalc 24-Feb - 26-Feb	Daily Recalc 24-Feb; Daily Recalc 26-Feb; Monthly Recalc 24-Feb - 26-Feb
12-Mar-26	Thursday		10-Mar	5-Mar	5-Mar		
13-Mar-26	Friday	12-Mar		Monthly Initial 03-Mar - 05-Mar		3-Mar	Daily Initial 03-Mar; Daily Initial 05-Mar; Monthly Initial 03-Mar - 05-Mar
14-Mar-26	Saturday						
15-Mar-26	Sunday						
16-Mar-26	Monday		12-Mar				
17-Mar-26	Tuesday			10-Mar	10-Mar	5-Mar	
18-Mar-26	Wednesday					Monthly Recalc 03-Mar - 05-Mar	
19-Mar-26	Thursday			12-Mar	12-Mar		

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20-Mar-26	Friday			Monthly Initial 10-Mar - 12-Mar		10-Mar	Daily Initial 10-Mar; Daily Initial 12-Mar; Monthly Initial 10-Mar - 12-Mar
21-Mar-26	Saturday						
22-Mar-26	Sunday						
23-Mar-26	Monday						
24-Mar-26	Tuesday					12-Mar	
25-Mar-26	Wednesday					Monthly Recalc 10-Mar - 12-Mar	Daily Recalc 10-Mar; Daily Recalc 12-Mar; Monthly Recalc 10-Mar - 12-Mar
26-Mar-26	Thursday						
27-Mar-26	Friday						
28-Mar-26	Saturday						
29-Mar-26	Sunday						

4. Parallel Operation Support


4.1 Routine Functions

For system connectivity issues, system availability issues, user account and permissions issues, and other technical issues, please contact the ISO Service Desk 24x7, 365 days a year @ (916) 351-2309.

4.2 Parallel Operation-Specific Support

The ISO will operate a parallel operation support center throughout the parallel operation. This support center is focused on providing support for parallel operation specific issues. Hours of operation of the parallel operation support center are 09:00 – 18:00 PPT, Monday through Friday.

Issues will be tracked through the ISO’s Case Management System, CIDI through the market participant portal ([link](#)). Simple questions that can be answered in a single call can be asked without opening a CIDI case, but if the issue cannot be resolved on the call, then participants will need to open a CIDI case. Using the “Functional Environment” field please identify the CIDI case as “Parallel operations” for Parallel operations related question and not a “Production” question.

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4.3 Parallel Operation Communication

Links to online conferences, dial in numbers, and call schedules to be posted on the ISO Calendar – ([link](#))

4.4 Parallel Operation Environment Maintenance

Spring 2026 release parallel operation’s maintenance will take place Monday morning through Tuesday morning as the weekly maintenance window. At this time, the parallel operation environment will not be available for parallel operation activities.

5. Parallel Operation Trainings

Please find information regarding Spring 2026 release training offerings at the following locations -

- Training calendar – ([link](#))
- ISO training contact – CustomerTraining@caiso.com


6. Parallel Operation Execution and Exceptions

The Stage environment has been setup with specific application characteristics and data flows to foster successful parallel operations. Please note these changes are made to facilitate parallel operations and will not be implemented in the production environment –

The ISO will upload a current day’s production based bid set for the Day Ahead Markets (DAM) run by 10:15 PPT daily.

Market participants can overwrite these bids between 10:15 PPT and 11:00 PPT when the DAM closes.

DAM will close @ 11:00 PPT and the results will be published by 14:00 PPT daily.

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Real Time (RT) template bids will be built from DAM awards as the standard process. The ISO will seed RT bids and base schedules for WEIM entities. EDAM onboarding participants will submit the bids live in Stage.

RT bid markets for a specific trade date open automatically @ 11:00 PPT T-1. Market participants are encouraged to bid and base schedule in the Real Time Markets (RTM) to foster a more realistic Parallel operations. Market participants will need to register for a tagging test bed user identification if they would like to simulate E-Tagging, if no E-Tag is submitted the ISO will “auto tag” on market participants’ behalf, limited to one registration per SCID.

ISO has activated auto approval for all OMS submissions and changes in Stage.

Please note the timeframes for each Settlements statement publication period are different.


Settlement timelines are covered in section 3.5 above.

7. Documentation Links

Spring 2026 release web site – [\(link\)](#)

8. ISO Parallel operation Contact

Please contact MarketSim@caiso.com for any questions or concerns regarding this plan and its content.

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9. Appendix

Acronyms	Name
AARF	Application Access Request Form
ADS	Automated Dispatch System
AIM	Access Identity Management
ALFS	Automated Load Forecast System
AS	Ancillary Service
BAAOP	Balancing Authority Area Operations Portal
BSAP	Base Schedule Aggregation Portal
CB	Convergence Bid
CIRA	Customer Interface for Resource Adequacy
CMRI	CAISO Market Results Interface
DAM	Day Ahead Market
DRRS	Demand Response Registration System
EDAM	Extended Day Ahead Market
IRU	Imbalance Reserve Up (award)
ISO	Independent System Operator
MF	Master File
MPP	Market Participant Portal
MRIS	Market Results Interface Settlements
RCU	Reliability Capacity Up (award)
RDT	Resource Data Template
RSE	Resource Sufficiency Evaluation
RTM	Real Time Market
SAI	System Access Information
SIBR	Scheduling Infrastructure and Business Rules
TSR	Transmission Service Reservation
VER	Variable Energy Resource
WebOMS	Outage Management System
WEIM	Western Energy Imbalance Market