

SYSTEM CONDITIONS BULLETIN

Tuesday, September 8, 4 p.m UPDATE

Despite very challenging weather and wildfire conditions, the ISO avoided rotating power outages throughout the Labor Day weekend.

Conservation was a key factor in relieving stress on the grid and absorbing major outages caused by fires.

A restricted maintenance operations order (RMO) issued on Sept. 5, and scheduled to end on Monday, Sept. 7, has been extended to 10 p.m. tonight. The ISO extended the RMO due to anticipated high loads and high temperatures across the ISO balancing area.

An RMO requires generators and transmission operators to postpone any planned outages for routine equipment maintenance, ensuring all grid assets are available for use.

Late Monday night, Pacific, Gas & Electric began a Public Safety Power Shutoff event affecting customers in several Northern California counties. Here's a [link](#) that explains the ISO's role in PSPS events.

The ISO does not anticipate issuing Flex Alerts this week. The ISO continues to closely monitor the weather and wildfires conditions. Fires and unscheduled transmission line or generation unit outages can also quickly change our ability to reliably serve demand.

Resources that were lost to high heat and wildfire Sunday afternoon were restored to service yesterday, and the grid operator anticipates sufficient supply. However, weather and fire conditions can change quickly

A fast change in weather patterns is forecast for the western US.

- Temperatures are cooler today, but still remain between 10 and 15 degrees above normal for Northern California.
- Northern California temperatures are expected to gradually cool this week. Southern California temperatures will be their coolest today, and warm back above normal for the rest of the week.
- Extreme Fire Risk; leading to a Red Flag warning for the majority of Northern CA continues through Wednesday morning.
- First Santa Ana event of the year: the Santa Ana winds are expected to move in the high desert and Los Angeles mountains today.
- Southern CA coastal areas increasing in temperatures again Wednesday and Thursday as offshore flow is strong due to Santa Ana winds. This will take us to temperatures 5-15 degrees above normal in Southern CA again.
- Windy conditions throughout the state Monday night through the end of the week, peaking fire risk concerns. For the latest alerts please look at: <https://www.weather.gov/>

During this heat wave, some areas of the state broke September record levels.

The heat wave has impacted other western states, which could impact the ISO's ability to import energy from surrounding areas:

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- Large drop in temperatures for Las Vegas, Denver, Albuquerque and Boise on Tuesday while Seattle and Portland will see an increase in temperatures
- Monitor www.weather.gov for Fire Weather Watches or Red Flag Warnings.

No Flex Alerts have been issued for Tuesday.

If a Flex Alert is called, conservation measures include:

- "Pre-cooling" homes in the morning, and then setting A/C thermostats to 78 degrees after 3 p.m.
- Charging vehicles, computers and mobile devices in the morning.
- Defer use of large appliances, such as washers/dryers and dishwashers, to mornings and after 9 p.m.
- Draw drapes or blinds
- Turn off unnecessary lights
- Use fans

The ISO declared a statewide Stage 2 Emergency at 5:55 p.m. Sunday, due to excessive heat driving up electricity use and putting strain on the grid. It was lifted just before 9 p.m.

The grid operator declared the emergency when a transmission line from Oregon reduced capacity by 900 megawatts (MW) due to the heat. At the same time, generation totaling 260 megawatts (MW) tripped offline. Conservation helped grid operators overcome those challenges and avoid rotating power outages.

The emergency declaration allows the grid operator to use reserve power and to tap into emergency assistance from neighboring balancing authorities. During this stage of emergency, if system conditions do not improve, the ISO may declare a Stage 3 Emergency, which will lead to rotating power outages.

The ISO also called on demand response totaling 951 MW starting at 4 p.m. Sunday. The utilities actively and directly engaged customers who could have been impacted by any outages.

Conservation efforts are vital and can improve the amount of supply shortages, and reduce or eliminate outages.

The California ISO requested the Department of Energy to recognize the energy shortage as an emergency and direct specific generators to produce to their maximum capability when needed. The order was granted, and can be found [here](#). We estimate that the Department of Energy's order could make up to 100 megawatts (MW) of additional supply available to serve electric demand in California.

The California ISO also declared a Stage 2 Emergency on Saturday, when the grid lost about 1,600 MW in resources to wildfire.

Gov. Gavin Newsom has proclaimed a [state of emergency](#) during the heat wave, which will temporarily relax regulatory rules to free up more energy capacity, including allowing stationary generators to run, and ships in ports to use auxiliary generators on hot days.

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While hot temperatures are forecast statewide during the upcoming Labor Day weekend, we are taking all precautions to mitigate and avoid energy deficiencies.

Load forecast:

9/8/2020: 42,400 MW

9/9/2020: 37,448 MW

9/10/2020: 37,966 MW

Load forecast at 8 p.m., when demand is high and solar production is near or at zero:

9/8/2020: 39,919 MW

9/9/2020: 36,106 MW

9/10/2020: 36,672 MW

The California ISO will update this bulletin as needed. For breaking news and grid updates, follow us on Twitter at @California_ISO, and at @FlexAlert.

For information on the August 2020 Heat wave, visit our [News webpage](#).

View system conditions in real time at [Today's Outlook](#).

To sign up to receive our news releases, Daily Briefings, Flex Alerts, and Energy Matters newsletter, go to the [Subscriptions and notifications](#) webpage.

Note that we are receiving a high volume of media queries, and social media is the best way to monitor developments. We will try to accommodate your query.