

# WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



BALANCING AUTHORITY OF  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



## News Release

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### **BANC/SMUD joins California ISO's Western EIM**

Real-time market has generated more than a half-billion dollars in benefits

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) announced that Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), part of the Balancing Authority of Northern California (BANC), successfully began full participation in the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) today.

“The Western EIM demonstrates the economic and environmental savings achieved when participants work collaboratively across the region,” said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. “As one of the premiere community-owned utilities in the country, SMUD’s participation will only strengthen the market and add to its efficiency and diversity.”

“SMUD sees significant financial, operational and resource value in participating in the Western EIM due to its broader regional scope and dispatch,” said SMUD CEO Arlen Orchard. “The EIM’s geographic diversity allows easier and more economical balancing and integration of intermittent renewable energy resources, helping SMUD meet its and California’s aggressive renewable and carbon-reduction goals. SMUD is pleased to have forged this important partnership with the CAISO and the other EIM participants to further these goals.”

“BANC is excited to be the first publicly owned agency to become an EIM Entity in the Western EIM”, said BANC General Manager Jim Shetler. “We found the CAISO staff to be extremely helpful in assisting us in what was a very smooth transition effort. BANC is currently evaluating future participation by its other members.”

A real-time wholesale power market, the Western EIM uses state-of-the-art technology to find and deliver low-cost energy to meet real-time energy demand across eight western states, including Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Arizona.

Since launching in November 2014, the Western EIM has produced benefits of more than \$564 million while reducing carbon emissions more than 324,000 metric tons by using excess renewable energy in place of fossil-fueled generation resources.

SMUD, a member of BANC and a Participating Resource in the EIM, joins current EIM participants PacifiCorp of Portland, Ore. (2014), NV Energy of Nevada (2015), Arizona Public

Service (2016), Puget Sound Energy of Washington (2016), Portland General Electric (2017), Idaho Power (2018) and Powerex (2018).

Other entities scheduled to begin participation include Seattle City Light, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Arizona's Salt River Project in 2020; and pending regulatory approval, Albuquerque, N.M.-based Public Service Company of New Mexico in 2021; and Northwestern Energy of Butte, Montana in 2021.

For more information, visit the Western EIM website at [www.westerneim.com](http://www.westerneim.com).

### **About BANC**

BANC is the third largest balancing authority in California and the 16th largest within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. BANC is a joint powers agency whose members include the Modesto Irrigation District, Redding Electric Utility, Roseville Electric, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, the City of Shasta Lake, and the Trinity Public Utilities District. BANC began operations in May 2011. BANC's footprint currently extends from the Oregon border to Modesto and from Sacramento to the Sierra and includes the Western Area Power Administration's transmission grid and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamations' generation resources in California. BANC includes the California-Oregon Transmission Project (COTP), as well as the systems of its members. For more information, visit [www.thebanc.org](http://www.thebanc.org).

### **About SMUD**

As the nation's sixth-largest community-owned electric service provider, SMUD has been providing low-cost, reliable electricity for more than 70 years to Sacramento County (and small adjoining portions of Placer and Yolo Counties). SMUD is a recognized industry leader and award winner for its innovative energy efficiency programs, renewable power technologies, and for its sustainable solutions for a healthier environment. For more information, visit [www.smud.org](http://www.smud.org).

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The California ISO provides open and non-discriminatory access to one of the largest power grids in the world. The vast network of high-voltage transmission power lines is supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive grid planning. Partnering with about a hundred clients, the nonprofit public benefit corporation is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates for the benefit of consumers. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help meet a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.	