

# **California Independent System Operator Corporation**

**Financial Statements**

**December 31, 2017 and 2016**



# California Independent System Operator Corporation

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December 31, 2017 and 2016

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## **Report of Independent Auditors**

To Members of the Board of Governors  
California Independent System Operator Corporation

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the California Independent System Operator Corporation, which comprise the statements of net position as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position and of cash flows for the years then ended.

### ***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### ***Auditors' Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on our judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.



### ***Opinion***

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the California Independent System Operator Corporation at December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### ***Emphasis of Matter***

As discussed in Note 2 to the financial statements, the California Independent System Operator Corporation changed the manner in which it accounts for other postemployment benefits in 2017. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### ***Other Matters***

The accompanying management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 12 is required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in the appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audits of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sacramento, CA  
April 12, 2018

# **California Independent System Operator Corporation**

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**

### **December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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The following discussion and analysis of the California Independent System Operator Corporation (the Company) provides an overview of the Company's financial activities for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. This discussion and analysis should be read in conjunction with the Company's financial statements and accompanying notes, which follow this section.

#### **Background**

The Company is a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated in May 1997 that is responsible for ensuring the efficient and reliable use of one of the largest and most modern power grids in the world for the benefit of consumers. The Company operates the transmission grid in most of California and a part of Nevada. It conducts comprehensive planning efforts and administers a competitive energy market for more than 160 market participants that provides open and nondiscriminatory access to the transmission grid, and enables entities outside the transmission grid controlled by the Company to make efficient use of supply resources. The company also administers an energy imbalance market for several balancing authority areas in the western interconnection.

The Company's power market matches supply with demand, maintains operating reserves and allocates space on transmission lines for electricity deliveries. The Company is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and complies with standards set by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. A five-member board of governors (the Board) appointed by the Governor of California and confirmed by the California State Senate governs the Company.

#### **Financial Reporting**

The Company's accounting records are maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for proprietary funds as prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and where not in conflict with GASB pronouncements, accounting principles prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB).

Cash held by the Company on behalf of market participants is recorded in a restricted asset account with a corresponding liability due to market participants in the statements of net position. Except for the retention of restricted assets noted above, the financial statements reflect a net reporting of market activities wherein the financial statements do not include the revenues and expenses, cash flows, or assets and liabilities associated with the market transactions the Company facilitates.

#### **Revenue**

The Company charges a Grid Management Charge (GMC) to market participants to recover the Company's operating costs, capital expenditures, debt service costs, and to provide for an operating reserve. The GMC is comprised of the following three service categories: market services, system operations and congestion revenue rights services.

The Company receives other revenues outside of its GMC charges including, but not limited to: fees paid for participation in the Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM), generator interconnection studies, and for operation of the California-Oregon Intertie Path.

After accounting for other revenues, the Company establishes its annual net revenue requirement which is allocated to the three GMC service categories based on percentages established in the tariff. Category costs are then divided by forecasted volumes to establish the annual rates.

# **California Independent System Operator Corporation**

## **Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**

### **December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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#### **Liquidity**

The Company's tariff allows for the GMC rates to be adjusted during the year to ensure collection of the revenue requirement. During the year, if forecasted revenues from any of the three GMC service categories is materially different, as defined in the tariff, from budgeted revenues, the Company may adjust the rate for the affected category to realign the forecast revenue with the budgeted revenue.

Per the tariff, the revenue requirement includes an operating reserve, which is 15% of the current year's operating and maintenance budget, and a debt service reserve, which is 25% of the debt service to be paid during the year. The Company's operating and debt service reserves were fully funded in 2017 and 2016. Furthermore, the Company maintains capital reserves in its unrestricted funds which consist of funds collected through the revenue requirement for future capital expenditures.

#### **The Market**

The Company operates a day-ahead market for all twenty-four hours of the next operating day, and a real-time market that enables resources to schedule in 15 minute intervals with 5 minute dispatching. This market structure is the vehicle for providing open-access transmission service to users of the transmission grid. The market clears energy bids and offers short-term energy purchases and sales, thus enabling economic dispatch of generating resources to maintain continuous balance of supply and demand and management of congestion on the grid. The market also procures reserve capacity or ancillary services to maintain reliable operation under unexpected changes in grid conditions. In addition, the Company performs a settlement and clearing function by charging and collecting payments from users of these services and paying providers of such services.

The Company continues to develop market enhancements to increase reliability, efficiency and the accuracy of market results. The current market enables electricity to be priced for production and delivery at the point of its grid interconnection, which increases transparency by sending signals for competitive investments in transmission and generation. The market operates on an advanced and flexible platform helping to integrate renewable resources as well as demand response. These enhancements increase the functionality and flexibility of the market system to meet the on-going needs of market participants.

The Company has a Western Energy Imbalance Market (the EIM) which provides reliability, efficiency and renewable integration benefits to the West while also providing economic benefits to participants. It is an automated, real-time energy wholesale market that matches the lowest cost electricity supply with demand every 15 minutes and dispatches every five minutes. This flexibility provides more opportunities to integrate cleaner sources of energy, such as wind and solar, that may be produced in one area but needed in another. Five entities are participating as of the end of 2017 and several others have committed to participate in EIM since it went into operation in 2014.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### Backup Operations Facility

In November 2016, the backup operations facility was completed and subsequently occupied. The site replaced a leased facility in Alhambra, CA, which was vacated in December 2016 although the lease did not expire until August, 2017.

#### Financial Highlights

##### Statements of Net Position, Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position

In 2017, the Company implemented GASB Statement No. 75, *Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans* (GABS 75) which was retrospectively adopted in accordance with GASB implementation requirements. As a result, the affected 2015 amounts in the MD&A have been adjusted retrospectively to reflect those changes. Additionally, all of the 2015 column headings have been labeled "as restated" whether or not the amounts reflected were changed from the pronouncement.

The financial statements provide both short-term and long-term information about the Company's financial status. The statements of net position include all of the Company's assets and liabilities, using the accrual method of accounting, and identify any assets which are restricted as a result of bond covenants or external commitments. The statements of net position provide information about the nature and amount of resources and obligations at specific points in time.

The statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position report all of the Company's revenues and expenses during the year. The statements of cash flows report the cash provided and used during the year by operating activities, as well as other cash sources such as investment income and debt financing, and other cash uses such as payments for bond principal and capital additions.

##### Condensed Statements of Net Position (in millions)

	2017	2016 As restated	2015 As restated
<b>Assets and Deferred Outflows</b>			
Current assets	\$ 403.9	\$ 436.1	\$ 402.6
Fixed assets, net	178.9	187.2	175.0
Other noncurrent assets	149.0	157.0	142.4
Deferred outflows	8.9	11.6	9.8
Total assets and deferred outflows	<u>\$ 740.7</u>	<u>\$ 791.9</u>	<u>\$ 729.8</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Position</b>			
Current liabilities	\$ 380.2	\$ 446.7	\$ 391.5
Long-term debt, net of current portion	181.4	186.8	192.0
Other noncurrent liabilities	17.2	17.1	12.5
Net position	161.9	141.3	133.8
Total liabilities, deferred inflows and net position	<u>\$ 740.7</u>	<u>\$ 791.9</u>	<u>\$ 729.8</u>

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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**Assets**

**Current Assets (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
		<b>As restated</b>	<b>As restated</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 332.8	\$ 363.5	\$ 326.9
Short-term investments	49.0	50.4	52.1
Accounts receivable and other assets	22.1	22.2	23.6
Total current assets	<u>\$ 403.9</u>	<u>\$ 436.1</u>	<u>\$ 402.6</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

As of December 31, 2017, current assets decreased by \$32.2 million during the year. This decrease is largely due to lower cash and cash equivalents of \$30.7 million caused by decreases in collateral funds held for market participants.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

As of December 31, 2016, current assets increased by \$33.5 million during the year. This increase is largely due to higher cash and cash equivalents of \$36.6 million caused by increases in collateral funds held for market participants. Collateral increases were offset by long-term investment purchases and small decreases in short-term investments and accounts receivable.

**Fixed Assets, Net (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
		<b>As restated</b>	<b>As restated</b>
Net assets in service	\$ 162.6	\$ 173.7	\$ 161.9
Work-in-progress	16.3	13.5	13.1
Total fixed assets, net	<u>\$ 178.9</u>	<u>\$ 187.2</u>	<u>\$ 175.0</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

Total fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, decreased in 2017 by \$8.3 million compared to 2016. The decrease is primarily due to the decrease in net assets in service of \$11.1 million, as a result of the current year depreciation expense of \$27.8 million, partially offset by new assets placed-in-service of \$16.7 million. Work in-progress increased by \$2.8 million compared to 2016 due to the ongoing work to new capital projects during the year.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

Total fixed assets, net of accumulated depreciation, increased in 2016 by \$12.2 million compared to 2015. The increase is primarily due to the increase in net assets in service of \$11.8 million, as a result of the completion of the new back-up facility and other projects of \$35.5 million, less the current year depreciation expense of \$23.8 million. Work in-progress increased by \$0.4 million compared to 2015 due to the ongoing work to new capital projects during the year.



**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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**Other Noncurrent Assets (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b> <b>As restated</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>As restated</b>
Long-term investments	\$ 143.3	\$ 153.1	\$ 138.3
Other assets	5.7	3.8	4.1
Total other noncurrent assets	<u>\$ 149.0</u>	<u>\$ 156.9</u>	<u>\$ 142.4</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

Other noncurrent assets decreased by \$7.9 million in 2017. This change is largely attributable to decreased long-term investments amounting to \$9.8 million during the year due to transfers to cash and cash equivalents and to short-term securities.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

Other noncurrent assets increased by \$14.5 million in 2016. This change is largely attributable to increased investments amounting to \$14.8 million during the year due to transfers of cash and cash equivalents to long-term securities.

**Deferred Outflows (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b> <b>As restated</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>As restated</b>
Unamortized other post employment benefit costs	\$ .5	\$ 2.6	\$ -
Unamortized loss on refunding of bonds	8.4	9.0	9.8
Total deferred outflows	<u>\$ 8.9</u>	<u>\$ 11.6</u>	<u>\$ 9.8</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

The decrease in the deferred outflows balance of \$2.7 million is due to the current year amortizations of the unamortized loss on refunding and the deferred actuarial losses of the postretirement medical plan.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

The increase in the deferred outflows balance of \$1.8 million is due to the deferral of the actuarial losses of the postretirement medical plan, partially offset the current year amortization of the unamortized loss on refunding.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**  
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**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
		<b>As restated</b>	<b>As restated</b>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 10.1	\$ 10.8	\$ 11.8
Accrued salaries and compensated absences	32.7	33.2	30.6
Current portion of long-term debt	4.8	4.6	4.5
Due to market participants	330.4	395.8	342.3
Generator noncompliance fines refund obligation	2.2	2.3	2.3
Total current liabilities	<u>\$ 380.2</u>	<u>\$ 446.7</u>	<u>\$ 391.5</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

Current liabilities at December 31, 2017 decreased by \$66.5 million during the year. This decrease is primarily due to lower amounts due to market participants as a result of decreases in the balances of collateral accounts of \$69.3 million and interconnection study deposits of \$6.0 million partially offset by increases in nonrefundable deposits pending distribution of \$1.0 million and market funds of \$8.9 million.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

Current liabilities at December 31, 2016 increased by \$55.2 million during the year. This increase is primarily due to higher amounts due to market participants as a result of increases in the balances of collateral accounts of \$40.5 million, new interconnection study deposits of \$8.6 million, nonrefundable deposits pending distribution of \$3.0 million and market funds of \$2.2 million.

**Long-Term Debt (in millions)**

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2017, is as follows:

	<b>Beginning of Year</b>	<b>Issuances (Payments/ Amortization)</b>	<b>End of Year</b>
CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013	\$ 182.9	\$ (4.6)	\$ 178.3
Unamortized net premium			
Series 2013 bonds	8.5	(0.6)	7.9
Total long-term debt	191.4	(5.2)	186.2
Less: Current portion	4.6	0.2	4.8
Total long-term debt, net of current portion	<u>\$ 186.8</u>	<u>\$ (5.4)</u>	<u>\$ 181.4</u>

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2016, is as follows:

	<b>Beginning of Year</b>	<b>Issuances (Payments/ Amortization)</b>	<b>End of Year</b>
CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013	\$ 187.4	\$ (4.5)	\$ 182.9
Unamortized net premium			
Series 2013 bonds	9.1	(0.6)	8.5
Total long-term debt	196.5	(5.1)	191.4
Less: Current portion	4.5	0.1	4.6
Total long-term debt, net of current portion	<u>\$ 192.0</u>	<u>\$ (5.2)</u>	<u>\$ 186.8</u>

As of December 31, 2017, the Company had an underlying rating of A+ from S&P, A1 by Moody's and A+ by Fitch. Fitch rates the Company's outstanding Series 2013 bonds at AA- due to the additional support of the pledged deed of trust on the Company's primary building.

*2017 Compared to 2016*

At December 31, 2017 the Company had \$178.3 million of outstanding bonds issued through the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (CIEDB). The decrease in long-term debt is primarily attributable to scheduled debt payments on the Series 2013 bonds in the amount of \$4.6 million in 2017.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

At December 31, 2016 the Company had \$182.9 million of outstanding bonds issued through the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (CIEDB). The decrease in long-term debt is primarily attributable to scheduled debt payments on the Series 2013 bonds in the amount of \$4.5 million in 2016.

**Other Noncurrent Liabilities (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016 As restated</b>	<b>2015 As restated</b>
Employee retirement plan obligations	\$ 17.2	\$ 17.1	\$ 12.5
Total other noncurrent liabilities	<u>\$ 17.2</u>	<u>\$ 17.1</u>	<u>\$ 12.5</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

Other noncurrent liabilities at December 31, 2017 were higher by \$0.1 million. The increase is primarily due to liabilities associated with executive benefit plans of \$0.5 million, partially offset by a decrease in the post-retirement liability of \$0.4 million.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

Other noncurrent liabilities at December 31, 2016 were higher by \$4.6 million. The increase is primarily due to a higher post-retirement liability of \$4.3 million and an increase of \$0.3 million in liabilities associated with other benefit plans.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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**Net Position (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b> <b>As restated</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>As restated</b>
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 24.0	\$ 23.2	\$ 20.6
Unrestricted	<u>138.1</u>	<u>118.1</u>	<u>113.2</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 162.1</u>	<u>\$ 141.3</u>	<u>\$ 133.8</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

Net investment in capital assets at December 31, 2017 increased by \$0.8 million during the year. This slight increase is primarily attributable to the commitment of additional funds for capital projects, offset by normal depreciation. The unrestricted component of the net position at December 31, 2017 increased by \$20.0 million during the year primarily as a result of net cash flows from operations.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

Net investment in capital assets at December 31, 2016 increased by \$2.6 million during the year. This change is primarily attributable to the commitment of additional funds for capital projects, offset by normal depreciation. The unrestricted component of the net position at December 31, 2016 increased by \$4.9 million during the year primarily as a result of net cash flows from operations.

**Changes in Net Position**

**Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b> <b>As restated</b>	<b>2015</b> <b>As restated</b>
Operating revenues	\$ 220.6	\$ 212.0	\$ 213.5
Operating expenses	<u>194.9</u>	<u>198.0</u>	<u>191.9</u>
Operating income	25.7	14.0	21.6
Other expenses, net	<u>(5.1)</u>	<u>(6.5)</u>	<u>(8.3)</u>
Change in net position	<u>\$ 20.6</u>	<u>\$ 7.5</u>	<u>\$ 13.3</u>

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### Operating Revenues

##### *2017 Compared to 2016*

Total operating revenues increased during the year by \$8.6 million. This is primarily due to an increase in GMC revenues of \$5.1 million due to a higher revenue requirement and to increases in other revenues of \$3.5 million primarily due to increased EIM administrative charges.

##### *2016 Compared to 2015*

Total operating revenues decreased during the year by \$1.5 million. This is primarily due to a decrease in GMC revenues of \$3.5 million due to a reduced revenue requirement, partially offset by higher other revenues of \$2.0 million primarily due to increased EIM administrative charges.

#### Operating Expenses and Percentages (dollars in millions)

	2017	2016 As restated	2015 As restated
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 118.3	\$ 117.8	\$ 113.0
Communication and technology costs	19.7	20.0	20.1
Legal and consulting costs	17.7	22.9	21.3
Leases, facilities and other administrative costs	11.5	12.5	13.2
Lease termination costs	(0.1)	1.0	-
Depreciation and amortization	27.8	23.8	24.3
Total operating expenses	<u>\$ 194.9</u>	<u>\$ 198.0</u>	<u>\$ 191.9</u>
Salaries and related benefits	61 %	59 %	59 %
Communication and technology costs	10	10	10
Legal and consulting costs	9	12	11
Leases, facilities and other administrative costs	6	6	7
Lease termination costs	-	1	-
Depreciation and amortization	14	12	13
Total operating expenses (%)	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>	<u>100 %</u>

##### *2017 Compared to 2016*

Operating expenses were \$3.1 million lower for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared to the year ended December 31, 2016. This is primarily due to lower legal and consulting costs of \$5.2 million as a result of changes in projects during the year and slight decreases in other expense categories. This was partially offset by higher depreciation expense of \$4.0 million.

##### *2016 Compared to 2015*

Operating expenses were \$6.1 million higher for the year ended December 31, 2016, compared to the year ended December 31, 2015. This is primarily due to higher salaries and related benefits of \$4.8 million as a result of merit and incentive compensation increases with no change in total budgeted headcount during the year, higher legal and consulting costs of \$1.6 million and to the lease termination cost of the Alhambra back-up facility of \$1.0 million. This was offset by decreases in depreciation expenses and leases, facilities and other administrative costs.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Management's Discussion and Analysis (Unaudited)**  
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**Other Income (Expense), Net (in millions)**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
		<b>As restated</b>	<b>As restated</b>
Interest income	\$ 3.2	\$ 2.0	\$ 0.9
Interest expense	<u>(8.3)</u>	<u>(8.5)</u>	<u>(9.2)</u>
Total other expense, net	<u>\$ (5.1)</u>	<u>\$ (6.5)</u>	<u>\$ (8.3)</u>

*2017 Compared to 2016*

Total other income increased by \$1.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2017 compared to the year ended December 31, 2016. This increase is attributable to \$1.2 million of higher interest income and \$0.2 million of lower interest expense. The increase in interest income is primarily due to unrealized gains on the market value of investments as compared to losses in 2016. The decrease in interest expense is primarily due to lower outstanding debt as a result of bond repayments.

*2016 Compared to 2015*

Total other income increased by \$1.8 million for the year ended December 31, 2016 compared to the year ended December 31, 2015. This increase is attributable to \$1.1 million of higher interest income and \$0.7 million of lower interest expense. Rising short term interest rates and larger investment balances allowed for greater gross interest income in addition to lower unrealized losses on the market value of investments. The decrease in interest expense is primarily due to lower outstanding debt as a result of bond repayments.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Statements of Net Position**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

(in thousands of dollars)

	2017	2016 (As Restated See Note 2)
<b>Assets and deferred outflows</b>		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents, including restricted amounts	\$ 332,767	\$ 363,471
Accounts receivable	16,404	15,629
Short-term investments, including restricted amounts	49,050	50,431
Other current assets	5,708	6,603
Total current assets	403,929	436,134
Noncurrent assets		
Long-term investments, including restricted amounts	143,281	153,116
Fixed assets, net	178,898	187,171
Other assets	5,743	3,809
Total noncurrent assets	327,922	344,096
Total assets	731,851	780,230
<b>Deferred outflows</b>		
Unamortized other post employment benefit costs	482	2,630
Unamortized loss on refunding of bonds	8,354	9,025
Total deferred outflows	8,836	11,655
Total assets and deferred outflows	\$ 740,687	\$ 791,885
<b>Liabilities, deferred inflows and net position</b>		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 10,186	\$ 10,811
Accrued salaries and compensated absences	32,700	33,170
Current portion of long-term debt	4,765	4,625
Due to market participants	330,381	395,857
Generator noncompliance fines refund obligation	2,167	2,262
Total current liabilities	380,199	446,725
Noncurrent liabilities		
Long-term debt, net of current portion	181,372	186,767
Employee retirement plan obligations	17,218	17,057
Total noncurrent liabilities	198,590	203,824
Total liabilities	578,789	650,549
<b>Deferred inflows</b>	-	-
<b>Net position</b>		
Net investment in capital assets	23,827	23,215
Unrestricted	138,071	118,121
Total net position	161,898	141,336
Total liabilities, deferred inflows and net position	\$ 740,687	\$ 791,885

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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*(in thousands of dollars)*

	2017	2016 (As Restated See Note 2)
<b>Operating revenues</b>		
GMC revenue	\$ 198,307	\$ 193,200
Other revenues	22,298	18,811
Total operating revenues	<u>220,605</u>	<u>212,011</u>
<b>Operating expenses</b>		
Salaries and related benefits	118,341	117,774
Equipment leases and facility costs	2,182	3,061
Communications, technology and temporary staffing contracts	19,710	20,008
Legal and consulting services	17,728	22,898
Training, travel and professional dues	2,807	3,495
Insurance, administrative and other expenses	6,528	6,011
Lease termination, fines and loss on retirement of assets	(114)	975
Depreciation and amortization	27,765	23,749
Total operating expenses	<u>194,947</u>	<u>197,971</u>
Operating income from operations	<u>25,658</u>	<u>14,040</u>
Other income (expense)		
Interest income	3,214	1,981
Interest expense	(8,310)	(8,492)
Total other expense, net	<u>(5,096)</u>	<u>(6,511)</u>
Change in net position	20,562	7,529
<b>Net position</b>		
Beginning of year	141,336	133,807
End of year	<u>\$ 161,898</u>	<u>\$ 141,336</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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*(in thousands of dollars)*

	2017	2016 (As Restated See Note 2)
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from scheduling coordinators for GMC	\$ 197,707	\$ 195,841
Other receipts	22,123	17,808
Payments to employees and to others for related benefits	(115,890)	(112,915)
Payments to vendors/others	(50,228)	(57,576)
Receipts from market participants	506,012	391,079
Payments to market participants	<u>(571,488)</u>	<u>(337,464)</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	<u>(11,764)</u>	<u>96,773</u>
<b>Cash flows from capital and related financing activities</b>		
Repayment of bonds	(4,625)	(4,500)
Purchases and development of fixed assets	(19,802)	(35,389)
Interest on debt	<u>(8,825)</u>	<u>(8,957)</u>
Net cash used in capital financing activities	<u>(33,252)</u>	<u>(48,846)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Purchases of investments	(45,970)	(86,739)
Sales and maturities of investments	57,186	73,566
Interest received	<u>3,096</u>	<u>1,838</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>14,312</u>	<u>(11,335)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents, restricted and unrestricted	(30,704)	36,592
<b>Cash and cash equivalents, restricted and unrestricted</b>		
Beginning of year	<u>363,471</u>	<u>326,879</u>
End of year	<u><u>\$ 332,767</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 363,471</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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*(in thousands of dollars)*

	2017	2016 (As Restated See Note 2)
<b>Supplemental information</b>		
Cash paid for interest for bonds	\$ 8,825	\$ 8,957
<b>Reconciliation of income from operations to net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>		
Operating income from operations	\$ 25,658	\$ 14,040
Adjustments to reconcile income from operations to net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		
Depreciation and amortization	27,765	23,749
Lease termination costs	(114)	975
Changes in operating assets, deferred outflows and liabilities		
Accounts receivable and other assets	(1,748)	1,891
Deferred outflows	2,148	(2,630)
Accounts payable and other accrued expenses	3	5,133
Due to market participants	(65,476)	53,615
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	\$ (11,764)	\$ 96,773
<b>Supplemental disclosure of noncash financing and investing activities</b>		
Amortization of bond premium	\$ 631	\$ 647
Amortization of loss on refunding	(670)	(688)
Generator fines interest included in interest expense	95	54
Change in purchases and development of fixed assets included in accounts payable and accrued expenses	(764)	(117)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### 1. Organization and Operations

The Company is a nonprofit public benefit corporation incorporated in May 1997 that is responsible for ensuring the efficient and reliable use of one of the largest and most modern power grids in the world. The Company operates the transmission grid in most of California and a part of Nevada. It conducts comprehensive planning efforts and administers a competitive energy market for more than 160 market participants that provides open and nondiscriminatory access to the transmission grid, and enables entities outside the transmission grid controlled by the Company to make efficient use of supply resources. The Company also administers an energy imbalance market for several balancing authority areas in the western interconnection.

The Company's power market matches supply with demand, maintains operating reserves and allocates space on transmission lines for electricity deliveries. The Company operates a day-ahead market for all twenty-four hours of the next operating day, and a real-time market, that includes the western energy imbalance market, that enables resources to schedule in 15 minute intervals with 5 minute dispatching. This market structure is the vehicle for providing open-access transmission service to users of the transmission grid. The market clears energy bids and offers short-term energy purchases and sales, thus enabling economic dispatch of generating resources to maintain continuous balance of supply and demand and management of congestion on the grid. The market also procures reserve capacity or ancillary services to maintain reliable operation under unexpected changes in grid conditions.

In addition, the Company also performs a settlement and clearing function by charging and collecting payments from users of these services and paying providers of such services. Cash held by the Company on behalf of market participants is recorded in a restricted asset account with a corresponding liability due to market participants in the statements of net position. Except for the retention of restricted assets noted above, the Company's financial statements reflect a net reporting of market activities wherein the financial statements do not include the revenues and expenses, cash flows, or assets and liabilities associated with the market transactions it facilitates. GMC revenues have a priority claim against any market-related receipts. Any market defaults are allocated to market participants.

The Company is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and complies with standards set by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and the Western Electricity Coordinating Council. A five-member board of governors (the Board) appointed by the Governor of California and confirmed by the California State Senate governs the Company.

#### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### Method of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles for proprietary funds as prescribed by the Government Accounting Standards Board ("GASB"), and where not in conflict with GASB pronouncements, accounting principles prescribed by the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB"). The Company uses the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Under this method, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded at the time liabilities are incurred.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### **Net Presentation of Market Activity**

The Company is a central counterparty to the market transactions that it financially settles, with certain limited exceptions. The Company is a buyer to every seller and a seller to every buyer, but market participants are responsible for supplying electricity and other services to their customers. The Company's market participants are the primary obligors with respect to those obligations. In the event of a market default, the defaulted amount is allocated among market participants, in accordance with the tariff. Market participants continue to bear the credit risk associated with any financial defaults by other market participants. Accordingly, the Company's financial statements continue to reflect a net reporting of market activities and exclude the revenues and expenses, cash flows and assets and liabilities associated with the market transactions the Company facilitates.

#### **Use of Estimates**

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could materially differ from those estimates.

#### **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents, restricted and unrestricted, include cash in bank accounts, money market funds and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less. Cash and cash equivalents are unrestricted unless specifically restricted by bond indentures or the tariff.

#### **Accounts Receivable and Revenue Recognition**

The GMC is based on rates filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is designed to recover the Company's operating costs, capital expenditures, debt service costs, and to provide for an operating reserve. The GMC billings are recognized as revenue. The initial billings are based on estimated meter data submitted by market participants and therefore may be subject to adjustment over time to reflect the difference between actual meter data and initial estimates.

The GMC is comprised of the following three service categories: market services, system operations and congestion revenue rights services.

The operating reserve is calculated separately for each GMC service category and accumulates until the reserve becomes fully funded (at 15% of budgeted annual operating costs for each rate service category). At December 31, 2017, the operating reserve for each service category was fully funded. In accordance with the tariff, any surplus operating reserve balance is applied as a reduction in revenue requirements in the following year. The tariff allows GMC rates to be adjusted not more than once per quarter. The rate for a service category is adjusted if the difference in actual versus projected volumes used to set the rate is equal or greater than 2%, or if the difference in actual versus estimated annual revenues for the service category is equal or greater than \$1.0 million. No adjustments were made in 2016 and 2017.

In addition, the Company bills the participants of the EIM an administrative charge based on gross imbalance EIM volumes and at a rate that is developed annually to recover the ongoing costs of operating the EIM. The EIM administrative charge is included in other revenues of the Company.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### **Generator Interconnection Studies**

The Company is responsible for conducting generator interconnection studies at the request of project sponsors who are developing generating plants that would become connected to the transmission grid operated by the Company. The project sponsors are required to make a deposit before any studies are performed. Sponsors may withdraw their projects from the studies at any time.

In accordance with the tariff, the Company charges the project sponsors the actual costs of the studies. Related study costs include both internal costs and external costs and are recorded, when incurred, as operating expenses. As costs are incurred, the Company recognizes revenue for the same amount, which is recorded as a component of other revenues. The Company applies the deposits against the related receivable as costs are incurred. Certain deposits related to projects abandoned by the project sponsors are retained by the Company and distributed in accordance with the tariff. These distributions do not result in revenues or expenses recognized by the Company.

#### **Generator Noncompliance Fines**

From December 8, 2000 through June 30, 2001, the Company assessed noncompliance fines on participating generators that failed to fully comply with dispatch instructions when the Company was seeking to prevent an imminent or threatened system emergency. In accordance with the tariff, these fines are retained by the Company. The Company recorded the net realizable amount of such fines as revenue when the underlying noncompliance event occurred. However, the amount of the fines, which were based on the price of energy at the time, has changed over time in response to developments in the still ongoing litigation over the California electricity crisis that have changed those prices. The Company adjusts such amounts in recognition of these developments, which affect the ultimate recognition of the fines charged and payments of the liability.

#### **Investments**

Investments, the use of which is either unrestricted or restricted, include instruments with original maturities of greater than three months or, in the case where instruments have no stated maturity, when the holding period is intended to be long-term in nature. These investments include U.S. government and agency securities, corporate bonds, and equity and fixed income mutual funds. Income on investments and the gain or loss on the fair value of investments is recorded as a component of interest income.

#### **Fixed Assets**

Fixed assets are recorded at cost. Depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of assets. Most of the Company's investment in fixed assets consists of the headquarters building and the backup facility, both of which are being depreciated over twenty to thirty years, and information systems, which are being depreciated over three to seven years. The cost of improvements to or replacement of fixed assets is capitalized. Interest incurred during development is capitalized. When assets are retired or otherwise disposed of, the cost and related depreciation are removed from the accounts and any resulting gain or loss is reflected in the Company's statement of changes in revenues, expenses and changes in net position for the period. Repair and maintenance costs are expensed when incurred. The Company capitalizes direct costs of salaries and certain indirect costs to develop or obtain software for internal use. Costs related to software development during the preliminary stage of a project and training and maintenance costs are expensed as incurred. Costs related to abandoned projects are expensed when the decision to abandon is made.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### Other Assets

Other assets include certain employee retirement plan trust accounts.

#### Compensated Absences

The Company accrues vacation leave when the employee becomes eligible for the benefit. The Company does not record sick leave or other leave as a liability since there are no cash payments for sick leave or other leave made when employees terminate or retire. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the total accrued liability for vacation was \$9.0 million and \$8.8 million, respectively.

#### Income Taxes

The Company is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code and is exempt from California State franchise income taxes.

#### Net Position

The Company classifies its net position into three components:

- **Net Investment in capital assets** - This component consists of capital assets, net of accumulated depreciation reduced by the outstanding debt balances, net of unamortized debt expenses.
- **Restricted** - This component consists of net assets with constraints placed on their use. Constraints include those imposed by debt covenants (excluding amounts considered in net capital, above) and by the Company's tariff and agreements with external parties.
- **Unrestricted** - This component consists of net assets that do not meet the definition of "invested in capital, net of related debt" or "restricted".

The Company had no restricted component of the net position at December 31, 2017 or 2016.

#### Concentration of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that subject the Company to credit risk consist primarily of accounts receivable relating to GMC billings due from market participants and cash and cash equivalents and investments.

Most of the Company's receivables are due from entities in the energy industry, including utilities, generation owners and other electricity market participants. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, approximately 51% and 53% of revenues, respectively, were from two market participants.

GMC revenues have a priority claim against any market-related receipts, which means that even if an entity defaults on an invoice containing a GMC charge, the Company receives the full GMC so long as sufficient funds were received on other market invoices.

The Company's concentration of credit risk related to cash and cash equivalents, and investments is described in Note 3.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### New GASB Accounting Guidance

In June 2015, GASB introduced Statement No. 75, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pensions*. The primary objective of this Statement is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for postemployment benefits other than pensions (other postemployment benefits, or OPEB). This Statement replaces Statement No. 45, *Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefit Plans Other Than Pension Plans*, and requires governments to report a liability on the financial statements for the OPEB they provide. This Statement also requires governments to present more extensive note disclosures and required supplementary information about their OPEB liabilities. This Statement is effective for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 but earlier adoption is allowed.

The Company adopted GASB 75 in 2017 and amounts for December 31, 2016 have been restated in accordance with the implementation guidance. The retrospective effect of changes to the 2016 financial statements is reflected in the table below (in thousands):

	2016 As Previously Reported	2016 Restated	Change
Statement of net position			
Deferred outflows	\$ -	\$ 2,630	\$ (2,630)
Employee retirement plan obligations	21,260	17,056	(4,204)
Net position	134,503	141,337	6,834
Statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net position			
Salaries and related benefits	\$ 115,531	\$ 117,773	\$ (2,242)
Net position			
Beginning of year	124,731	133,807	9,076
End of year	134,503	141,337	(6,834)

In adopting the new GASB 75 standard, the Company recorded the cumulative impact of the change in OPEB liability in the year ending December 31, 2015. As a result, the Company recorded an increase to the net position of \$9.0 million.

In November 2016, GASB issued Statement No. 83 *Certain Asset Retirement Obligations* to provide financial statement users with information about asset retirement obligations and establish uniform accounting and financial reporting requirements for AROs that were not addressed in previous GASB standards. For purposes of applying this Statement, an ARO is a legally enforceable liability associated with the retirement (i.e. removal from service or decommissioning of a long-live asset) of a tangible capital asset in which the timing or method of settlement may be conditional on a future event, the occurrence of which may not be within the control of the entity burdened by the obligation. This Statement establishes criteria for determining the timing and pattern of recognition of a liability and a corresponding deferred outflow of resources for AROs within the financial statements. This guidance is effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2018, early application is encouraged. Management has evaluated this guidance and determined no impact to the financial statements because the Company has no tangible long-lived capital assets which will have associated asset retirement liabilities.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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In January 2017, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board has issued GASB Statement No. 84 *Fiduciary Duties* for years beginning after December 15, 2018. The principal objective of this Statement is to enhance the consistency and comparability of fiduciary activity reporting by state and local governments. This Statement is intended to improve the usefulness of fiduciary activity information primarily for assessing the accountability of governments in their roles as fiduciaries. This Statement also establishes standards of accounting and financial reporting for fiduciary activities in accordance with specific criteria. The Company is currently evaluating this guidance to determine whether the organization's Post-employment Medical Benefit Plan described in Note 9 meets the fiduciary activity criteria and to determine any impact to the financial statements

In March 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 85 *of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board: Omnibus* to improve consistency in accounting and financial reporting by addressing a variety of practice issues that have been identified during implementation and application of certain GASB Statements. In particular, this Statement establishes accounting and reporting requirements for blending component units, goodwill, fair value measurement and application, and postemployment benefits (pensions and other postemployment benefits OPEB). This Statement is effective for reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2017. Based on the above list of reporting requirements, only the reporting for postemployment benefits is applicable to the Company and this aspect of the guidance has been addressed in the adoption of GASB No. 75 *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Postemployment Benefits Other Than Pensions* in the 2017 financial statements.

In May 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 86 *Certain Debt Extinguishment Issues* to improve consistency in accounting and financial reporting for in-substance defeasance of debt transactions in which cash and other monetary assets acquired with only existing resources (i.e. resources other than the proceeds of refunding debt) are placed in an irrevocable trust for the purpose of extinguishing debt. The Statement also amends accounting and financial reporting requirements for prepaid insurance associated with extinguished debt and establishes an additional disclosure related to in-substance defeased debt. The effective date of this Statement is for reporting periods after June 15, 2017. Management has evaluated this guidance and determined that because the Company has no current debt extinguishment transactions or associated prepaid insurance this Statement does not affect the financial statements.

In June 2017, GASB issued Statement No. 87 *Leases*, to better meet the information needs of financial statement users by improving accounting and financial reporting for leases. The Statement establishes a single model for lease accounting based on the foundational principle that leases are financings of the right to use an underlying asset. The requirements of this Statement are effective for reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2019. The Company is currently evaluating this guidance to determine any impact to the financial statements.

### 3. Cash and Cash Equivalents and Investments

#### Investment Policy

The Company maintains an investment policy approved by its Board of Governors, which provides for the investment guidelines of the majority of the Company's unrestricted funds. The policy's guidelines address permissible investment types, credit risk, concentration of credit risk, interest rate risk, custodial credit risk and other investment portfolio parameters.



# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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Restricted funds, such as bond proceeds and amounts due to market participants, are invested according to the Company's bond indentures and tariff, respectively, both of which are more restrictive than the investment policy. A portion of the Company's unrestricted funds, \$9.6 million as of December 31, 2017, has been designated by the Company as assets related to the liabilities associated with the Company's Retiree Medical Plan. These assets are governed by a separate investment policy approved by the Board of Governors which is aligned with the Company's long-term pension obligations to fund postretirement health benefits.

#### **Credit Risk**

To mitigate the risk that an issuer of an investment will not fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment, the Company limits purchases of investments to those rated at the time of purchase by two of the following nationally recognized statistical rating organizations: Standard & Poor's, Moody's, and Fitch. The investment must have at least two ratings that meet a minimum rating of at least A-1 (or equivalent) for short-term obligations such as commercial paper and at least A- (or equivalent) for longer term obligations like corporate medium-term notes. In the event of split ratings, the lowest rating is considered the overall credit rating. Exceptions exist in the investment policy that allow the Company to invest in certificates of deposit issued by lower rated banks up to the FDIC insured limit and to hold investments that have been downgraded below the policy rating minimums if approved to do so by the Company's internal investment committee.

In October 2016, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) introduced new Money Market Fund rules. The new rules require the use of a floating net asset (NAV) for institutional prime money market funds and provide boards with the ability to impose liquidity fees, as well as implement redemption gates, for all nongovernmental money market funds during periods of stress in the financial markets. Under normal circumstances a floating NAV money market fund investment would continue to meet the definition of a cash equivalent. However, in the event credit or liquidity issues arise causing a meaningful decrease of the money market investments below \$1.0000 per share the classification of such investments as cash equivalents may not be appropriate. There were no credit or liquidity issues that resulted in meaningful decreases in the Company's money market investments in 2017. Therefore, amounts invested in money market funds remain classified as cash equivalents.

#### **Concentration of Credit Risk**

This is the risk of loss associated with the percentage of an entity's investment in a single issuer. The Company's investment policy limits investments in any single issuer to no more than 5% of the portfolio, with exceptions relating to obligations issued by or fully guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, federal agencies or United States government sponsored enterprises, pooled investments such as money market funds, and investments procured in connection with Company bond offerings. As of December 31, 2017, other than the security exceptions described above, the Company had no investments in any one issuer representing more than 5% of total cash and cash equivalents and investments.

#### **Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial credit risk is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution or counterparty, the Company will not be able to recover the value of its deposits, investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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The Company may maintain balances in bank accounts exceeding the FDIC insured level of \$250,000. In the event of a bank default, the Company's deposits may not be returned. The Company had unrestricted noninterest-bearing bank deposits in amounts of \$0.1 million and \$0.6 million at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Additionally, the Company had restricted noninterest-bearing bank deposits in amounts of \$3.2 million and \$1.8 million at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. All other investments purchased by the Company, by policy, are held in custodial accounts by third-party custodians and are registered in the Company's name, thereby minimizing any custodial credit risk.

#### **Interest Rate Risk**

Changes in interest rates may adversely affect the fair value of the Company's investments and its cash flows. The nature of the Company's investment needs and cash flows requires the majority of its investments to have maturities of one year or less. The investment policy further limits the maximum maturity of any investment to five years with the exception of bond proceeds and the assets associated with the Retiree Medical Plan liabilities. The fair value of the resulting short-term investment portfolio is therefore, less affected by rising interest rates. The cash flows from short-term portfolios can be more affected by declining interest rates as maturing investments are reinvested at lower interest rates.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

#### Summary of Balances

At December 31, 2017, the Company's cash, cash equivalents and investments consist of the following (in thousands):

Description	Credit Rating*	Remaining Maturities (in Years)			Total
		Less than 1	1 - 5	More than 5	
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted					
Deposits		\$ 98	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98
Money Market Funds	AAAm	59,050			59,050
		<u>59,148</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>59,148</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted					
Deposits		11,739			11,739
Money Market Funds	AAAm	261,880			261,880
		<u>273,619</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>273,619</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents		<u>\$ 332,767</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 332,767</u>
Short term investments - unrestricted					
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured	4,360			4,360
Government-sponsored Enterprises	AAA	1,008			1,008
Government-sponsored Enterprises	AA+	11,989			11,989
U.S Treasury	AA+	10,963			10,963
Corporate Notes	A+	1,499			1,499
Corporate Notes	A	2,503			2,503
Corporate Notes	A-	999			999
Corporate Notes	BBB+	3,727			3,727
		<u>37,048</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>37,048</u>
Short term investments - restricted					
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured	12,002			12,002
		<u>12,002</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,002</u>
Total short-term investments		<u>\$ 49,050</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 49,050</u>
Long-term investments - unrestricted					
Affinity Insurance Ltd.	Unrated			37	37
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured		3,303		3,303
Mutual Funds	Unrated		9,564		9,564
U.S. Treasury	AA+		28,679		28,679
Government-sponsored enterprises	AAA		1,970		1,970
Government-sponsored enterprises	AA+		26,768		26,768
Corporate Notes	AAA		996		996
Corporate Notes	AA+		1,982		1,982
Corporate Notes	AA		1,533		1,533
Corporate Notes	AA-		5,699		5,699
Corporate Notes	A+		5,018		5,018
Corporate Notes	A		8,257		8,257
Corporate Notes	A-		4,097		4,097
Corporate Notes	BBB+		1,497		1,497
		<u>-</u>	<u>99,363</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>99,400</u>
Long-term investments - restricted					
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured		43,881		43,881
Total long-term investments		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 143,244</u>	<u>\$ 37</u>	<u>\$ 143,281</u>
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		<u>\$ 381,817</u>	<u>\$ 143,244</u>	<u>\$ 37</u>	<u>\$ 525,098</u>

\* Represents S&P rating.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

At December 31, 2016, the Company's cash, cash equivalents and investments consist of the following (in thousands):

Description	Credit Rating*	Remaining Maturities (in Years)			Total
		Less than 1	1 - 5	More than 5	
Cash and cash equivalents - unrestricted					
Deposits		\$ 6,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,227
Money Market Funds	AAAm	17,861			17,861
Commercial Paper	A-1	1,000			1,000
		25,088	-	-	25,088
Cash and cash equivalents - restricted					
Deposits		9,687			9,687
Money Market Funds	AAAm	328,696			328,696
		338,383	-	-	338,383
Total cash and cash equivalents		\$ 363,471	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 363,471
Short term investments - unrestricted					
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured	3,524			3,524
Government-sponsored Enterprises	AAA	2,002			2,002
Government-sponsored Enterprises	AA+	12,159			12,159
Government-sponsored Enterprises	A-1	1,000			1,000
U.S Treasury	AA+	11,007			11,007
Corporate Notes	AA-	1,000			1,000
Corporate Notes	A+	1,270			1,270
Corporate Notes	A	3,539			3,539
Corporate Notes	A-	1,044			1,044
Corporate Notes	Unrated	1,001			1,001
Commercial Paper	A-1	1,000			1,000
		38,546	-	-	38,546
Short term investments - restricted					
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured	11,885			11,885
		11,885	-	-	11,885
Total short-term investments		\$ 50,431	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50,431
Long-term investments - unrestricted					
Affinity Insurance Ltd.	Unrated			37	37
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured		4,110		4,110
Mutual Funds	Unrated		11,554		11,554
U.S. Treasury	AA+		34,880		34,880
Government-sponsored enterprises	AAA		1,008		1,008
Government-sponsored enterprises	AA+		30,983		30,983
Corporate Notes	AAA		996		996
Corporate Notes	AA+		987		987
Corporate Notes	AA		1,574		1,574
Corporate Notes	AA-		4,773		4,773
Corporate Notes	A+		2,958		2,958
Corporate Notes	A		5,102		5,102
Corporate Notes	A-		4,788		4,788
Corporate Notes	BBB+		1,049		1,049
		-	104,762	37	104,799
Long-term investments - restricted					
Certificate of Deposits	FDIC Insured		48,317		48,317
Total long-term investments		\$ -	\$ 153,079	\$ 37	\$ 153,116
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments		\$ 413,902	\$ 153,079	\$ 37	\$ 567,018

\* Represents S&P rating.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2017 and 2016**

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The Company's cash, cash equivalents and investments at December 31 consist of unrestricted and restricted funds as follows (in thousands):

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Unrestricted funds, operating account	\$ 195,597	\$ 168,433
Restricted funds		
Market participants	329,501	395,358
Series 2013 Bond Proceeds	<u>-</u>	<u>3,227</u>
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	<u>\$ 525,098</u>	<u>\$ 567,018</u>

Cash, cash equivalents and investments restricted for market participants consist of the following at December 31 (in thousands):

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Security deposits	\$ 177,294	\$ 246,583
Market funds pending settlement	70,726	63,648
Pass-through fees due to others	10,722	8,856
Generator interconnection study deposits	61,885	68,401
Non-refundable deposits pending distribution	<u>8,874</u>	<u>7,870</u>
Total amounts restricted for market participants	<u>\$ 329,501</u>	<u>\$ 395,358</u>

Cash, cash equivalents and investments restricted for market participants consist of amounts held by the Company to be remitted to market participants or others on their behalf. Security deposits are amounts received from market participants who are required to post collateral for their transactions in the Company's markets. Market funds pending settlement consist of amounts collected during the settlement and clearing function that will pass-through to market participants in subsequent periods. Pass-through fees due to others consist of amounts collected from market participants that will be paid to market participants for summer reliability, startup costs and emission costs. Generator interconnection study deposits are amounts collected for future studies. Nonrefundable deposits consist of interconnection amounts which are nonrefundable to project sponsors in accordance with tariff requirements.

**California Independent System Operator Corporation**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
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**4. Fixed Assets**

Changes in the Company's fixed assets for the year ended December 31, 2017, are as follows (in thousands):

	2016	Additions and Transfers In	Disposals and Transfers Out	2017
Nondepreciable fixed assets				
Land	\$ 10,552	\$ 9	\$ -	\$ 10,561
Work-in-progress	13,513	19,493	(16,714)	16,292
	<u>24,065</u>	<u>19,502</u>	<u>(16,714)</u>	<u>26,853</u>
Depreciable fixed assets				
Regional transmission operator software	398,718	11,895	(3,629)	406,984
Regional transmission operator hardware	28,105	1,640	(1,206)	28,539
Communication equipment	10,816	1,513	(252)	12,077
ISO Facilities (HQ and Lincoln)	163,835	1,046	(3,516)	161,365
Furniture, fixtures and other	15,731	610	(695)	15,646
	<u>617,205</u>	<u>16,704</u>	<u>(9,298)</u>	<u>624,611</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(454,099)</u>	<u>(27,765)</u>	<u>9,298</u>	<u>(472,566)</u>
	<u>163,106</u>	<u>(11,061)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>152,045</u>
Total fixed assets, net	<u>\$ 187,171</u>	<u>\$ 8,441</u>	<u>\$ (16,714)</u>	<u>\$ 178,898</u>

Changes in the Company's fixed assets for the year ended December 31, 2016, are as follows (in thousands):

	2015	Additions and Transfers In	Disposals and Transfers Out	2016
Nondepreciable fixed assets				
Land	\$ 9,098	\$ 1,454	\$ -	\$ 10,552
Work-in-progress	13,111	35,908	(35,506)	13,513
	<u>22,209</u>	<u>37,362</u>	<u>(35,506)</u>	<u>24,065</u>
Depreciable fixed assets				
Regional transmission operator software	395,244	11,231	(7,757)	398,718
Regional transmission operator hardware	27,734	639	(268)	28,105
Communication equipment	9,388	1,481	(53)	10,816
ISO Facilities (HQ and Lincoln)	143,817	20,018	-	163,835
Furniture, fixtures and other	15,179	682	(130)	15,731
	<u>591,362</u>	<u>34,051</u>	<u>(8,208)</u>	<u>617,205</u>
Less: Accumulated depreciation	<u>(438,558)</u>	<u>(23,749)</u>	<u>8,208</u>	<u>(454,099)</u>
	<u>152,804</u>	<u>10,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>163,106</u>
Total fixed assets, net	<u>\$ 175,013</u>	<u>\$ 47,664</u>	<u>\$ (35,506)</u>	<u>\$ 187,171</u>

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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The Company capitalized interest related to the development of fixed assets of \$0.5 million and \$0.4 million for the years ending December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

#### **5. Generator Noncompliance Fines**

In 2000 and 2001, the Company billed generator noncompliance fines to market participants, of which the Company collected \$60.7 million. Generally, these fines were assessed at a rate corresponding to twice the highest price paid in the Company's markets for energy. Because the prices for this period are being adjusted as a result of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case, as described in Note 12, the amount of the fines to be retained by the Company is being reduced, with any surplus collections being refunded with interest to market participants. The Company accrues interest in accordance with rulings of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on the portion of fines collected in excess of the estimated realizable amount, which is to be refunded to market participants when the amounts are settled. The ultimate settlement of fines is expected after the conclusion of the proceedings in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case and the financial settlement of the California Power Exchange (Cal PX).

Based on estimates of the mitigated energy prices, the Company recorded fine revenues totaling \$29.5 million as opposed to the \$60.7 million collected, resulting in a refund liability of \$31.2 million before interest. The Company reduced its refund liability (and associated interest obligation) by distributing funds to market participants that approximately equal its refund liability in connection with settlement agreements approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, including a distribution of \$43.9 million in 2010.

Each year, the Company adjusts its estimated refund liability based on updated information it obtains related to interest and other factors that will serve to change the estimated amount of generator fine proceeds the Company will ultimately retain, which consequently modifies the generator fine collections that will be returned to market participants.

Based on estimates obtained in 2017 from parties involved in these proceedings and an updated estimate of the proportionate allocation of shortfalls to the Company in 2017, there was a decrease in the estimated liability of \$0.1 million. As of December 31, 2017, the Company estimates the remaining liability (including interest) related to generator noncompliance fines to be \$2.2 million.

There are significant uncertainties associated with the final settlement of generator noncompliance fines. While management's estimated liability at December 31, 2017 is based on the best information available, adjustments are likely to occur in the future to the estimated liability associated with interest and other shortfalls that will be incurred by the Cal PX, and allocated to the Company in connection with final disposition of the funds and obligations arising from the events of 2000 and 2001.

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**Notes to Financial Statements**  
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**6. Long-term Debt and Related Agreements**

Long-term debt consists of the following at December 31 (in thousands):

	2017	2016
CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013 Fixed interest rates of 2.00% - 5.25% with maturities through 2039	\$ 178,280	\$ 182,905
Unamortized net premium Series 2013 bonds	7,857	8,487
Total long-term debt	186,137	191,392
Less: Current portion	(4,765)	(4,625)
Total long-term debt, net of current portion	\$ 181,372	\$ 186,767

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2017, is as follows  
(in thousands):

	Beginning of Year	Payments	End of Year
CIEDB Revenue Bonds, Series 2013	\$ 182,905	\$ (4,625)	\$ 178,280
Total long-term debt	\$ 182,905	\$ (4,625)	\$ 178,280

Summarized activity of long-term debt for the year ended December 31, 2016, is as follows  
(in thousands):

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Scheduled future debt service payments for these bonds as of December 31, 2017, are as follows  
(in thousands):

	Principal	Interest	Total
2018	\$ 4,765	\$ 8,655	\$ 13,420
2019	4,970	8,456	13,426
2020	5,165	8,242	13,407
2021	5,395	8,005	13,400
2022	5,640	7,760	13,400
2023 – 2040	152,345	73,698	226,043
Total debt service payments	\$ 178,280	\$ 114,816	\$ 293,096



# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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The Series 2013 bonds are supported by a pledge of the Company's revenues and operating reserves. In addition, the bonds are supported by a deed of trust on the Company's headquarters building and land.

Interest expense recorded by the Company related to long-term debt includes interest paid on the bonds (net of interest capitalized to fixed assets) and amortization of the bond premium.

#### 7. Derivative Financial Instrument – CRRs

As described in Note 2, the Company is the central counterparty to market participant transactions which includes Congestion Revenue Rights (CRRs). CRRs are financial instruments that enable market participants to reduce their congestion-related price risk when delivering or selling energy on the grid. A CRR provides an economic hedging mechanism against congestion charges that can be transacted by market participants separately from transmission service. These instruments are considered derivative financial instruments for accounting purposes, which would require presentation at fair value if they were recognized as assets and liabilities of the Company.

Consistent with its role in facilitating other market transactions, the Company facilitates the allocation, auctioning and ultimate settlement of CRRs in its market, but does not have economic risks and rewards associated with these financial instruments. Any market defaults are allocated to market participants. As such they are not recognized as assets and liabilities in the Company's statements of net position. However, unlike other market transactions administered by the Company, CRRs can be outstanding for extended periods of time. At December 31, 2017, the average life of the Company's CRRs was 4.0 years and there were a total of 102 CRR holders, compared to 3.9 years and 90 CRR holders at December 31, 2016. The estimated net fair value of both the CRR assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2017 was \$555.5 million related to a total of 929,488 megawatts, which vary in length from one month to several years. This is compared to \$512.9 million related to a total of 839,184 megawatts at December 31, 2016. The value of each megawatt of CRR is a function of numerous factors including the length of period the CRR covers.

While these amounts are not presented in the statements of net position, their estimated net fair value is disclosed for informational purposes given their longer term nature. Their fair value was determined based on several factors including actual auction prices transacted in the most recent annual and monthly auction processes, the Company's models which calculate the estimated value of all transmission constraints, net present value discounting and other factors. In addition to the high level of uncertainty associated with these inputs to the valuation calculation model, changes to actual or anticipated flows and constraints on the transmission system managed by the Company or in the value of electricity flowing on the transmission system create volatility that can significantly affect CRR values. Changes in generation, load, weather, and transmission outages are other factors that can have immediate and significant impact on CRR values.

The following is a summary of CRR megawatts, by type, outstanding at December 31, 2017:

<b>Type (in Megawatts)</b>	
Monthly (January 2018)	68,505
Annual (February - December 2018)	532,872
Long Term (January 2018 - December 2027)	328,111
Total CRRs (Megawatts)	<u>929,488</u>

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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The following is a summary of CRR megawatts, by type, outstanding at December 31, 2016:

<b>Type (in Megawatts)</b>	
Monthly (January 2017)	79,691
Annual (February - December 2017)	450,680
Long Term (January 2017 - December 2026)	<u>308,813</u>
Total CRRs (Megawatts)	<u>839,184</u>

#### 8. Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Accounting guidance for fair value measurement requires entities to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when measuring fair value. The standard establishes a three-tier fair value hierarchy based on the level of independent, objective evidence surrounding the inputs used to measure fair value. A financial instrument's categorization within the fair value hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The fair value hierarchy is as follows:

Level 1: Applies to assets or liabilities for which there are quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical unrestricted assets or liabilities.

Level 2: Applies to assets or liabilities for which there are inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in markets with insufficient volume or infrequent transactions (less active markets); or model-derived valuations in which significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable or can be derived principally from, or corroborated by, observable market data.

Level 3: Applies to assets or liabilities for which there are unobservable inputs to the valuation methodology that are significant to the measurement of the fair value of the assets or liabilities.

The Company's assessment of the significance of a particular input to the fair value measurement in its entirety requires judgment and considers factors specific to the asset or liability. Financial assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the level of input that is considered most significant to the fair value measurement.

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The Company's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2017, were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
Cash:	\$ 11,837	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cash equivalents:				
Money market funds	320,930	320,930		
Short-term investments:				
U.S. Treasury securities	10,963		10,963	
U.S. government agency securities	12,997		12,997	
Negotiable certificates of deposit	16,362		16,362	
Corporate debt securities	8,728		8,728	
Long-term investments:				
U.S. Treasury securities	28,679		28,679	
U.S. government agency securities	28,738		28,738	
Negotiable certificates of deposit	47,184		47,184	
Corporate debt securities	29,079		29,079	
Publicly traded mutual funds	9,564	9,564		
Captive insurance investment	37			37
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	<u>\$ 525,098</u>	<u>\$ 330,494</u>	<u>\$ 182,730</u>	<u>\$ 37</u>

The Company's assets measured at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2016, were as follows (in thousands):

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>
Cash:	\$ 15,914	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Cash equivalents:				
Money market funds	346,557	346,557		
Corporate debt securities	1,000		1,000	
Short-term investments:				
U.S. Treasury securities	11,007		11,007	
U.S. government agency securities	15,162		15,162	
Negotiable certificates of deposit	15,408		15,408	
Corporate debt securities	8,854		8,854	
Long-term investments:				
U.S. Treasury securities	34,880		34,880	
U.S. government agency securities	31,991		31,991	
Negotiable certificates of deposit	52,427		52,427	
Corporate debt securities	22,227		22,227	
Publicly traded mutual funds	11,554	11,554		
Captive insurance investment	37			37
Total cash, cash equivalents and investments	<u>\$ 567,018</u>	<u>\$ 358,111</u>	<u>\$ 192,956</u>	<u>\$ 37</u>

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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Level 1 money market funds and publicly traded mutual funds are determined by using quoted prices in active markets. Level 2 fixed income securities are priced using quoted market prices for similar instruments or nonbinding market prices that are corroborated by observable market data. Level 3 assets are nonnegotiable instruments which require the use of unobservable inputs in determining fair value.

The fair value of the employee retirement plan trust accounts at December 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$3.3 million and \$2.7 million, respectively. These accounts are invested in cash equivalents and publicly traded mutual funds and are classified as Level 1 assets.

The fair value of the Company's long-term debt as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$199.8 million and \$203.0 million respectively. The fair value of fixed rate long-term debt, which includes the short-term portion, is based on current market quotes which are classified as a Level 2 on the fair value hierarchy at both December 31, 2017 and 2016.

The carrying values reported in the balance sheet for current assets and liabilities, excluding amounts discussed above, approximate fair value.

Additionally, the Company had \$11.0 million and \$9.5 million at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, in trust related to the post-employment medical benefit plan (see Note 9). At December 31, 2017 and 2016, these trust assets consist primarily of mutual funds and are classified as Level 1 within the fair value hierarchy.

## 9. Employee Benefit Plans

The Company maintains a number of employee benefit plans. A description of the plans and key provisions is included below. Obligations included in the Company's statements of net position related to these plans consist of the following at December 31 (in thousands):

	2017	2016 As Restated
Post-employment medical benefit plan	\$ 13,874	\$ 14,322
Executive pension restoration plan	2,294	1,675
Executive savings plan	1,050	1,059
Total employee retirement plan obligations	<u>\$ 17,218</u>	<u>\$ 17,056</u>

## Post-Employment Medical Benefit Plan

### Plan Description

The Company sponsors the California ISO Retirees Medical Plan, a single employer defined benefit plan, to provide post-employment health care benefits to all eligible employees who retire from the Company on or after attaining age 60. The required years of service to qualify for plan benefits is five years for employees hired prior to January 1, 2013 and ten years for employees hired on or after January 1, 2013. Depending on years of service, the Company pays between 60% and 70% of the premiums on the coverage elections made by the beneficiaries not to exceed \$8,000 per year for individual retiree coverage and \$16,000 per year for retiree plus spouse and/or dependent. Plan benefits are available to eligible retirees and to their spouses, domestic partners and eligible dependents, as provided for under the terms of the plan. Current plan coverage

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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extends for the lifetime of the participants and their beneficiaries, except for dependents, which generally terminates at age 26.

Effective January 1, 2015, the Company amended the Plan for its post-65 retirees and their post-65 dependents. The post-65 retirees and their post-65 dependents transitioned from the active group coverage to individual Medicare Supplemental plan programs. The Plan provides a monthly amount per post-65 retiree and eligible post-65 dependents towards the cost of enrolling in any of the Medicare Supplemental programs, and at the Company's discretion, may increase the allowance annually. Supplemental program costs in excess of the provided monthly amount are the responsibility of the retirees and or dependents.

There are 541 active employees of which, 43 are fully eligible to retire and 63 retirees, eligible to receive benefits pursuant to the plan as of December 31, 2017.

#### ***Funding and Investment Policy***

The Company has established a trust for the purposes of funding the plan. The trust was established as a tax-exempt voluntary employees' beneficiary association. All assets of the trust are to be used for the exclusive benefit of the participants and beneficiaries of the plan. Although the Company has fiscal accountability for these assets and holds them in a fiduciary capacity, the assets are not considered assets of the Company and are therefore not included in the statements of net position of the Company. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the trust assets were \$11.0 million and \$9.5 million, respectively. The Plan issues audited trust financial statements every three years and are available upon request.

The Company's current funding policy is to annually contribute an amount such that the total amount in the trust approximates the actuarially determined liability attributable to retirees and their spouses and to active participants who are fully eligible to retire. Based on this current funding policy, the trust is fully funded at December 31, 2017.

The Company does not provide funding into the trust related to future obligations associated with employees who have not become eligible to retire, although, as part of its rate structure, the Company collects annual amounts associated with future other post-employment benefit (OPEB) obligations for all employees. As a result, assets equivalent to the actuarially determined liability attributable to employees not yet eligible to retire are segregated in a separate custody account. The amounts are adjusted annually to match the current actuarially determined liability. These segregated assets are reported in the Company's statements of net position.

The assets of both the trust and the Company's segregated funds are invested in accordance with the Board approved California ISO Retirees Medical Plan Investment Policy. In general, the assets are invested in a mix of equity and fixed income mutual funds.

The Company also currently funds disbursements for the employer portion of the premiums on the coverage elections made by the pre-65 beneficiaries, their spouse and, if any, dependents, and the monthly contributions to the post-65 retirees and their post-65 dependents from the segregated funds.

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The schedule below reflects the Company contributions relative to the actuarially determined contributions for the plan. This information is required supplementary information (dollars in thousands):

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
Actuarially determined contribution	\$ 468	\$ 349	\$ 327
Contribution in relation to the actuarially determined contribution	<u>468</u>	<u>349</u>	<u>327</u>
Contribution deficiency (excess)	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

***Net OPEB Liability (NOL)***

The Company's annual OPEB liabilities as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, was determined by an actuarial valuation as of those dates.

***Actuarial Methods and Assumptions***

The total OPEB liability in the December 31, 2017 and 2016 actuarial valuations were determined using actuarial assumptions, applied to all respective periods included in the measurement. The following significant actuarial methods and assumptions were used in the calculation.

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Discount Rate	5.90%	5.90%
Expected Long-term Rate of Return on Plan Assets	5.90%	5.90%
Rate of Compensation Increase	3.00%	3.00%
Current Health Care Cost Trend Rate	6.67%	7.00%
Ultimate Health Care Cost Trend Rate	5.00%	5.00%
Year of Ultimate Trend Rate	2023	2023

Mortality rates were based using separate rates for non-annuitants (based on RP-2014 "Employees" table without collar or amount adjustments with scale MP-2014 projections removed back to 2006, projected generationally using Scale MP-2017) and annuitants (based on RP-2014 "Healthy Annuitants" table without collar or amount adjustments with scale MP-2014 projections removed back to 2006, projected generationally using Scale MP-2017).

The expected long term return on assets assumption reflects the Company's estimate of future experience for the trust asset returns reflecting the Plan's current asset allocation and any expected changes during the current plan year, current market conditions and the Company's expectations for future market conditions. The long-term rate of return was determined using a building-block method in which best estimate ranges of expected investment rates of return over the next 20 years are developed for each major asset classes. These ranges are combined to

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produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighing the expected future real rates of return by the current asset allocation percentage. The current asset allocation and best estimates of the rates of return for each major asset class are summarized in the following table.

<b>Asset Class</b>	<b>Asset Allocation</b>	<b>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return</b>
International stocks	30.3 %	7.25 %
BarCap aggregate funds	23.1	3.69
Large-cap stocks	19.6	7.25
10-year TIPS	9.6	3.26
Cash equivalents	9.6	3.13
Small cap stocks	4.1	6.85
Mid-cap stocks	3.7	7.25
Total	<u>100 %</u>	

The expected long term return on assets is also used as the discount rate for all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total OPEB liability since the Company's contributions to the Plan are made at rates equal to the actuarially determined contribution rates. Additionally, the Plan's fiduciary net position is projected to be available to make all projected OPEB payments for all current and future retirees.

The actuarial assumptions employed in the development of the OPEB liability and other financial reporting have been selected in accordance with the Actuarial Standards of Practice, which required that each significant assumption is appropriate for the purpose of the measurement; takes into account historical and current economic data that is relevant as of the measurement date; reflects expected future experience and has no significant bias (i.e., it is not significantly optimistic or pessimistic).

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***Changes in the Net OPEB Liability***

The schedule below presents the Company's total OPEB liability, the plan fiduciary position, net OPEB liability and related ratios for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. This information is required supplementary information (dollars in thousands):

	2017	2016
Total OPEB liability		
Service cost	\$ 1,369	\$ 1,166
Interest cost	1,470	1,175
Differences between expected and actual experience	(951)	1,593
Changes in assumptions	(228)	1,380
Benefit payments	(587)	(426)
Net change in TOL	1,073	4,888
TOL - beginning	23,847	18,959
TOL - ending	\$ 24,920	\$ 23,847
Plan fiduciary net position		
Employer contributions	384	269
Net investment income	1,522	534
Benefit payment	(587)	(426)
Active subsidy	204	157
Net change in PFPN	1,523	534
PFPN - beginning	9,525	8,991
PFPN - ending	\$ 11,048	\$ 9,525
Net OPEB liability	\$ 13,872	\$ 14,322
PFPN as a percentage of TOL	44.33%	39.94%
Covered-employee payroll	\$ 69,960	\$ 68,984
NOL as a percentage of covered-employee payroll	19.83%	20.76%
Change in NOL with 1.0% increase in discount rate	\$ (3,381)	\$ (3,313)
Change in NOL with 1.0% decrease in discount rate	4,228	4,156
Change in NOL with 1.0% increase in health care trend rates	365	374
Change in NOL with 1.0% decrease in health care trend rates	(343)	(355)

The preceding table also presents the sensitivity of the net OPEB liability to changes in the discount rate and health care cost trend rates if it was separately calculated using a 1% lower or 1% higher than the current discount rate or health care cost trend rate.



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***OPEB Expense and Deferred Outflows of Resources and Deferred Inflows of Resources Related to OPEB***

The Company's annual OPEB expenses at December 31, 2017 and 2016 are as follows (in thousands):

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
OPEB Expense		
Service cost	\$ 1,369	\$ 1,166
Interest cost	1,470	1,175
Differences between expected and actual experience	71	183
Changes in assumptions	131	158
Expected return on assets	(562)	(530)
Differences between expected and actual return on assets	(193)	(1)
Annual OPEB expense	<u>\$ 2,286</u>	<u>\$ 2,151</u>

For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively, the Company reported deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB from the following sources (in thousands):

	<b>2017</b> (Inflows)/ Outflows	<b>2016</b> (Inflows) Outflows
Differences between expected and actual experience	\$ (951)	\$ 1,593
Changes in assumptions	(228)	1,380
Net difference between projected and actual earning on OPEB investments	(960)	(3)

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

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Amounts reported as of December 31, 2017 as deferred outflows of resources and deferred inflows of resources related to OPEB will be recognized in OPEB expense as follows (in thousands):

#### Differences between Expected and Actual Experience

Year	Differences	Recognition Period (Years)	Amortization					2021 Thereafter
			2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
2016	1,411	7.7237	183	183	183	183	183	496
2017	(951)	8.4912	(112)	(112)	(112)	(112)	(112)	(391)
Total	460		71	71	71	71	71	105

#### Changes of Assumptions

Year	Differences	Recognition Period (Years)	Amortization					2021 Thereafter
			2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
2016	1,222	7.7237	158	158	158	158	158	432
2017	(228)	8.4912	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)	(27)	93
Total	994		131	131	131	131	131	525

#### Differences between Expected and Annual Return on Assets

Year	Differences	Recognition Period (Years)	Amortization					2021 Thereafter
			2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
2016	(2.4)	4	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.6)	(0.6)	-	-
2017	(960)	5	(192)	(192)	(192)	(192)	(192)	-
Total	(962)		(193)	(193)	(193)	(193)	(192)	-

#### Executive Pension Restoration Plan

The Company sponsors the Executive Pension Restoration Plan, a nonqualified defined contribution plan, which allows certain officers of the Company to make contributions and receive Company contributions in excess of the 401(k) contribution limits set forth by IRS regulations as described in the retirement savings benefits plan below.

The contributions and earnings thereon are held in a trust and the balances as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, were \$2.3 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, and are included in Other Assets with a corresponding liability in Employee Retirement Plan Obligations. In connection with this plan, the Company recognized expenses for contributions of \$215,000 and \$179,000 in 2017 and 2016, respectively.

#### Executive Savings Plan

The Company sponsors the Executive Savings Plan, a nonqualified defined contribution plan under section 457(b) of the IRS Code. The Company contributes a percentage of each officer's annual base compensation to the plan. Officers may elect to make voluntary contributions, subject to statutory limitations. The contributions and earnings thereon are held in a trust and the balance as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 was \$1.0 million and \$1.1 million, respectively, and are included in Other Assets, with a corresponding liability in Employee Retirement Plan Obligations. In connection with this plan, the Company recognized expenses of \$138,000 and \$131,000 in 2017 and 2016, respectively.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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#### **Retirement Savings Benefits Plan**

The Company sponsors a defined contribution retirement plan, the California ISO Retirement Savings Benefits Plan (the Retirement Plan) that is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and covers substantially all employees. The Retirement Plan is administered by the Company with the assistance of a third party. The assets of the plan are held separately from Company assets and are not combined with the assets in the statements of net position.

Employees may elect to contribute up to fifty percent of their eligible compensation to the Retirement Plan, subject to statutory limitations. The Company matches contributions up to six percent of an employees' eligible compensation and an additional contribution equal to five percent of eligible compensation for employees with less than five years of service, or seven percent for employees who have at least five years but not more than ten years of service. An additional contribution of one percent of eligible compensation is also made by the Company for each five year increment of service after an employees' ten year anniversary.

Employee contributions to the Retirement Plan for 2017 and 2016 were \$8.6 million and \$7.5 million, respectively. The Company contributions to the Retirement Plan for 2017 and 2016 were \$9.7 million and \$9.3 million, respectively.

#### **10. Insurance Programs and Claims**

The Company is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; nonperformance of duty; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. The Company maintains various commercial and mutual insurance plans that provide coverage for most claims in excess of specific dollar thresholds. Primary insurance policies have coverage limits set based on the Company's assessment of reasonable exposure within that risk category, with consideration of insurance types and coverage limits for comparable entities. Additionally, the Company maintains excess liability coverage that provides umbrella coverage for certain exposures. Losses incurred below insurance deductibles are expensed as incurred. In the last three years, the Company did not incur any claims in excess of the coverage described above.

The Company is a participant in a group captive insurance company for workers compensation insurance coverage. The Company's annual net insurance costs for such coverage vary based on claims incurred at the Company, and to a lesser extent, claims activity of other members of the captive insurance company. The Company's annual insurance expense is limited through reinsurance and risk sharing arrangements of the captive to an additional percentage of the initial base premium paid.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

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#### 11. Lease Commitments

The Company has long-term operating leases that expire at various times through 2030.

The following are the future minimum payments under these agreements as of December 31, 2017 (in thousands):

2018	\$	186
2019		190
2020		195
2021		199
2022–2030		<u>1,999</u>
Total lease commitments	\$	<u>2,769</u>

The Company leased office space in Alhambra, which previously served as the backup operations center prior to the relocation, in December 2016, to the facility in Lincoln. The lease expired in August 2017. Although the Company was no longer using the leased space, the Company was required to pay monthly rent through August 2017, and other on-going costs associated with the lease.

Lease costs of approximately \$0.2 million were charged to operating expense in 2017 and 2016, respectively. In addition, the Company recorded an expense in the amount of \$1.0 million for the lease termination costs in 2016, for the future period in which the leased property is vacated and no longer being used in operations. In 2017, the Company recognized an adjustment of \$0.1 million, as the actual termination costs were less than projected.

#### 12. Contingencies

##### The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case

In 2000 and 2001, the California energy markets, including those managed by the Company, experienced high prices, shortages of energy and reserves, rolling blackouts and liquidity problems for many market participants. Some market participants, including the California Power Exchange (Cal PX), filed for bankruptcy.

Purchasers of energy during this period sought refunds at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. In a proceeding that is still ongoing, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued a series of orders related to mitigating the clearing prices in markets administered by the Company and the Cal PX for the period from October 2, 2000 through June 20, 2001 (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case). Several of the Company's market participants have settled their liability arising from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case and related proceedings. Management believes the ultimate outcome of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Refund Case will have no material financial impact on the Company as these refund amounts are funded and will ultimately be resettled among market participants, except for the Generator Noncompliance Fines, as described in Note 5.

##### Market Billing Disputes in Good Faith Negotiations

As part of the tariff and applicable contracts, the Company has dispute resolution processes for market participants to register disagreements regarding information reflected in the settlement statements or billing amounts for market activity.

# California Independent System Operator Corporation

## Notes to Financial Statements

### December 31, 2017 and 2016

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Market disputes are addressed in the normal course of operations, some of which result in adjustments to previously issued settlement statements. When adjustments are made, the adjustment amounts are reallocated to market participants, with no net cost or credit being realized by the Company. With respect to pending market disputes at December 31, 2017, including those that have escalated to good faith negotiations, management believes that any settlements or market awards would be resettled against the market with no liability to the Company.

#### **Indemnifications**

The Company's bylaws require its annual financial statements to include disclosures about certain payments made by the Company related to indemnifications to or on behalf of officers and Board members. There were no such payments in 2017 or 2016.

#### **Other Matters**

The Company, during the ordinary course of its operations, has been involved in various lawsuits and claims. In addition, the Company is subject to compliance with mandatory reliability standards promulgated by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which if violated could result in penalties assessed to the Company.

There are no matters currently pending related to alleged violations of these standards and some pending claims against the Company Management is of the opinion that none of these matters will have a material adverse impact on the financial position or results of the operations of the Company.

### **13. Subsequent Events**

The Company evaluates events or transactions that occur after December 31, 2017, but before financial statements are issued for potential recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The Company has evaluated all subsequent events through April 12, 2018, the date the financial statements were issued, and no items were noted that need to be disclosed.