

News Release

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California ISO extends temporary meeting restrictions, cancels upcoming Stakeholder Symposium due to COVID-19 pandemic Power grid operator also publishes report on energy load profiles

FOLSOM, Calif. – In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the California Independent System Operator (ISO) is extending temporary restrictions for in-person meetings at its offices and at off-site venues through June 15, or until further notice.

We are pleased to report that the pandemic and statewide stay-at-home orders have not caused any reliability issues with the electricity system. In addition, the power grid has experienced a moderate amount of reduced energy usage due to the order to shelter in place. [An analysis](#) by the ISO's forecasting and market teams is now publicly available.

“Like businesses across the US in this historic time, the ISO has had to adapt to dramatic changes in our homes, workplaces, and communities in the past month,” said Steve Berberich, ISO president and CEO. “The ISO staff is continually rising to the challenges with dedication, flexibility, and innovation. We are committed to protect staff and stakeholders, to analyze and communicate the shifts in energy use, and above all, keep electricity flowing.”

At the outset of the virus outbreak, the ISO activated its pandemic response plan and implemented visitor and meeting restrictions to protect the health of company staff and concentrate on the core service of operating the power grid and preventing disruption of critical operations. The ISO will continue to host its meetings using teleconference or webinars when possible.

All tours to ISO facilities, including its main headquarters in Folsom, are cancelled, and all non-essential business travel for ISO employees is suspended through June 15.

Response plan measures include following the guidelines of public health authorities for cleanliness and social distancing; isolating control centers and grid operators from the rest of the building; keeping essential staff at the primary and backup control centers separate; and taking temperatures and evaluating for possible symptoms for any staff entering the building.



Given legal and practical restrictions resulting from this pandemic, including potential ongoing travel and large event restrictions, the ISO had no choice but to cancel its 2020 Stakeholder Symposium, scheduled for Oct. 29 and 30 in San Diego. We regret having to do so, as this is one of the premier energy forums in the west, typically drawing up to 1,000 participants from around the world to discuss cutting-edge topics shaping the electricity industry.

The ISO continues to closely monitor the outbreak, follow state and federal public health recommendations, and will provide periodic updates to help stakeholders actively participate in meetings. Visit caiso.com for the latest information regarding meetings and visitor restrictions.

The ISO is responsible for managing the flow of electricity that serves 80 percent of California and a small portion of Nevada. The ISO also runs a real-time energy market for utilities in eight western states and conducts reliability coordinator services to most balancing authorities in the West.

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