

News Release

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ISO Board approves 2015 grid plan that builds on reliability

Planners focused on assessing progress made on previous years' plans and if identified needs are being met

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO) Board of Governors today approved a comprehensive transmission plan for 2015 that recommends fewer infrastructure projects with substantially less capital costs in comparison to previous years.

“The ISO in previous plans focused on ensuring the grid supports the state’s 33 percent Renewables Portfolio Standard and the reliability needs of Southern California, which we have done,” said ISO President and CEO Steve Berberich. “This year’s plan instead looked closely at assessing the progress of previously approved transmission plans and state procurement directives that ensure those needs are being met.”

The ISO transmission plan is a 15 month process that ends every March with a Board vote on the proposed recommendations. Each planning cycle considers three types of grid projects: 1) those that are needed to maintain or enhance reliability; 2) those that support state energy policies; and 3) those that provide economic benefits such as reducing congestion or improving operations and thus lowering costs.

The 2014-2015 year plan recommends the following:

- seven reliability-driven projects representing an investment of about \$352 million;
- one economically driven transmission project with an estimated cost of \$7 million;
- no new policy-driven transmission projects were identified as needed for meeting state policy needs associated with renewables portfolio objectives; and
- none of the projects recommended in this plan are eligible for competitive solicitation.

The unified planning assumptions for this planning cycle benefited from the input and coordination between the ISO and the California Public Utilities Commission and the California Energy Commission. The ISO manages the high voltage grid for about 80 percent of California consisting of about 26,000 circuit miles of transmission lines and about 740 power plants representing over 66,000 megawatts of installed generation capacity.

Click [here](#) to see the Board memo regarding the 2014-2015 Transmission Plan.

Or click this [link](#) to find the full plan, appendices and study plan.

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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.