



California ISO
Your Link to Power

News Release

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New power plants brighten summer electricity outlook

ISO releases summer forecast

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO) 2010 Summer Assessment www.caiso.com/2793/2793ae4d395f2.pdf indicates adequate electricity to meet this summer's expected peak demand thanks in part to the construction of new power plants. By this summer, a total of 1,760 megawatts will have come on line since summer of 2009. More than 80 megawatts is renewable generation.

The chance for rotating power outages is less than one percent. As always, conditions can change quickly due to high air conditioning use during summer heat waves or wildfires near high-voltage lines affecting the flow of electricity.

Other factors contributing to the forecast include the recession, which continues to dampen California's appetite for electricity. Although, a modest economic recovery is leading to a slightly higher demand forecast. The 2010 peak demand forecast is 47,139 megawatts, 2.9 percent above last summer's peak of 45,809 megawatts, but well below the all-time record peak demand of 50,270 megawatts set in July, 2006.

The summer assessment includes 2,403 megawatts (a 15 percent increase) in various demand response programs that can reduce energy demand when called on. Consumers should also listen for "Flex Alerts" that will notify them if voluntary conservation becomes necessary.

The average snow water content is 150 percent of historical average, good news for hydro-electricity supplies. However, the same El Nino weather pattern that gave California a wet year produced below normal precipitation in the Pacific Northwest. That will reduce overall imports from the region although there should be enough power available at key times to help meet California's peak demand.

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The California ISO operates the state's wholesale transmission grid, providing open and non-discriminatory access supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive planning efforts. Partnering with more than 90 client organizations, the ISO is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates at the least cost to the benefit of consumers. The ISO bulk power market allocates space on transmission lines, maintains operating reserves and matches supply with demand. Recognizing the importance of global climate change, the ISO welcomes new, advanced technologies that will help meet the energy needs of 30 million Californians efficiently and cleanly. The ISO is a nonprofit public benefit corporation.