



News Release

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RC West goes live as Reliability Coordinator for 41 entities

California ISO takes control of grid oversight in 14 states, northern Mexico

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) today launched its expanded Reliability Coordinator (RC) services, called RC West, making it the RC of record for 41 entities across 14 western states and northern Mexico.

RC West now has oversight of power grid reliability for balancing authorities and transmission operators in the Western Interconnection, monitoring compliance for 87 percent of the load in the western US.

“The successful activation of our larger RC West footprint caps nearly two years of careful planning, technology integration, and collaboration on the part of ISO staff and the entities taking our RC services,” said Steve Berberich, ISO president and CEO.

In July, RC West became the RC provider of record for 16 electricity balancing authorities and transmission operators, primarily in California, and one in Mexico.

A Reliability Coordinator has the highest level of authority and responsibility for the reliable operation of power grids, and has wide visibility of bulk electric systems. RC West monitors the interconnected power grids in the West for compliance with federal and regional standards; determines measures to prevent or mitigate system emergencies in day-ahead or real-time operations; and leads system restoration following major incidents.

In January 2018, the ISO announced plans to become a Reliability Coordinator for entities within its footprint and to offer the service to all balancing authorities and transmission operators in the West. The previous RC service provider, Peak RC, is winding down services, and will cease operations by the end of 2019.

Since then, the ISO has worked with participants, regulators, and other RC service providers to achieve certification from the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) and North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC), and develop procedures for operations.

“We appreciate the collaborative efforts of Peak RC to help make the transition easier, and the diligence of WECC and NERC for ensuring grid reliability during the transfer of RC services,” Berberich said.

During a lengthy public stakeholder initiative, the RC services' rate design, terms and conditions were finalized, and approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in November 2018.

An RC West Oversight Committee was formed to provide guidance and build consensus on compliance. The committee, made up of representatives from all entities taking services, adopted a charter and now holds regular public meetings.

In July, the ISO unveiled a control center for RC West, staffed by 18 operators. The new employees underwent intensive training in all aspects of RC services.

For more information on Reliability Coordinators and RC West, visit the [RC West webpage](#).

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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.