



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **CAL-ISO GOVERNING BOARD TAKES MAJOR STEP IN OPENING CALIFORNIA ELECTRICITY MARKET**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) Board of Governors took a major step forward in opening California's electricity market to competition. In a vote during a teleconference meeting, March 16, 1998, the Board authorized the Cal-ISO staff to proceed with a 15 day notification to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of intent to begin operation on March 31, 1998.

"We appreciate the Board's vote of confidence and will move swiftly toward our March 31 start-up," said Cal-ISO CEO Jeffrey Tranen. "The Board should be commended for its efforts to keep the historic restructuring of the state's electricity industry on the fast track, while ensuring a smooth transfer of control of the electric artery for California's power."

Tranen also expressed gratitude toward the Cal-ISO staff, which has been working round-the-clock to solve technical challenges that surfaced during ongoing market simulation tests. Final testing of the integration of market systems continues, with positive results. Cal-ISO will proceed with testing and training exercises, simulating real life conditions, right up to the time of the transfer of grid control.

The Cal-ISO was chartered by the state to safeguard the delivery of electricity and ensure equal access to the transmission systems previously operated by the three investor-owned utilities in the state. The independent, not-for-profit public benefit corporation was incorporated in May 1997 and moved into its Folsom headquarters in August.

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