

October 23, 2025

Dear Tribal Leaders, Staff, and Community Members,

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) invites Tribes and Tribal representatives to a virtual information session with the CAISO on **November 6, 2025 from 8-10am Pacific Time**. In 2026, the CAISO will begin conversations with Tribes to incorporate Tribal laws and regulations into long-term transmission planning. This information session will provide Tribes with information about the CAISO in advance of the start of those conversations next year.

The purpose of this initial meeting will be to describe the CAISO, its role in transmission development, and upcoming changes to the transmission planning framework which will seek to incorporate Tribal input. We hope this session will provide an opportunity for Tribes to share feedback with the CAISO on how Tribes would like to participate in this future dialogue with the CAISO.

The Role of the CAISO and FERC

The CAISO serves many functions related to maintaining reliability of the high-voltage transmission grid in California. In the CAISO's Transmission Planning Process, the CAISO studies and plans for future transmission needs for much of the state of California. We do not specify routing or siting but instead identify and approve the electrical solutions needed to maintain reliability before the transmission permitting process begins.

The CAISO is not a government agency and therefore cannot engage in formal government-to-government consultation. However, the CAISO will seek input from Tribes on best practices for the future conversations to inform transmission planning.

The CAISO is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), that, among other things, approves requested changes to our tariff (our regulations) and can direct changes to our tariff through orders. One such order, FERC Order No. 1920, provides direction to the CAISO and other transmission planners to implement new long-term planning processes that incorporate new categories of factors when determining which transmission facilities to select to be built.

Changes to Transmission Planning

The CAISO will make a public filing later in November at FERC to comply with the specific directives of FERC Order No. 1920. This requires the CAISO to incorporate new factors into long-term transmission planning, including:

- Federal, federally-recognized Tribal, state, and local laws and regulations affecting the resource mix and demand; and
- Federal, federally-recognized Tribal, state, and local laws and regulations on decarbonization and electrification.

These and other factors will be utilized during the long-term transmission planning process, which will occur every four years with the first planning cycle beginning in 2027. The CAISO seeks to engage with Tribes in 2026 on best practices for engagement and how to incorporate their laws and regulations into our planning process.

Who is Invited

Though the factors directed by FERC speak to federally-recognized Tribes, the CAISO invites all Tribes and Tribal representatives to this information session.

Contacting the CAISO

RSVP at the link below to receive notice of materials for this information session being posted to the CAISO website in advance. On the RSVP page, you will be asked if you would like to opt-in to future outreach related to Tribal Affairs at the CAISO.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KXTBB8J>

Alternatively, you may RSVP via email to TribalAffairs@caiso.com. If you have any questions about this upcoming session, please reach out to TribalAffairs@caiso.com

Sincerely,

Danielle Mills

Principal, Infrastructure Policy Development
California Independent System Operator