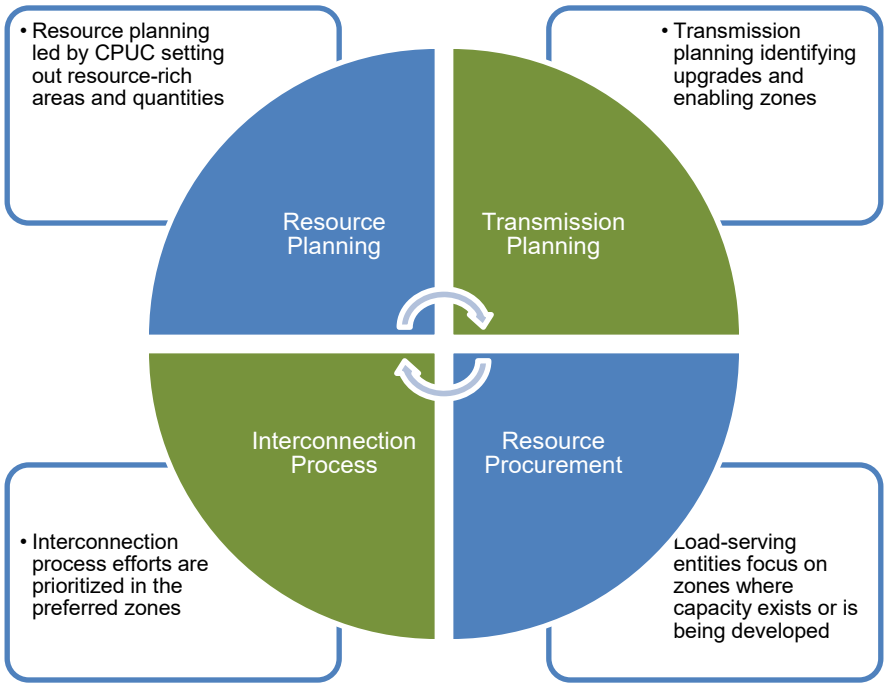
California ISO –Transmission Planning

Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting (AICM)

March 26, 2026

Transmission Planning and Generation Interconnection are two of four fundamental and interwoven processes:



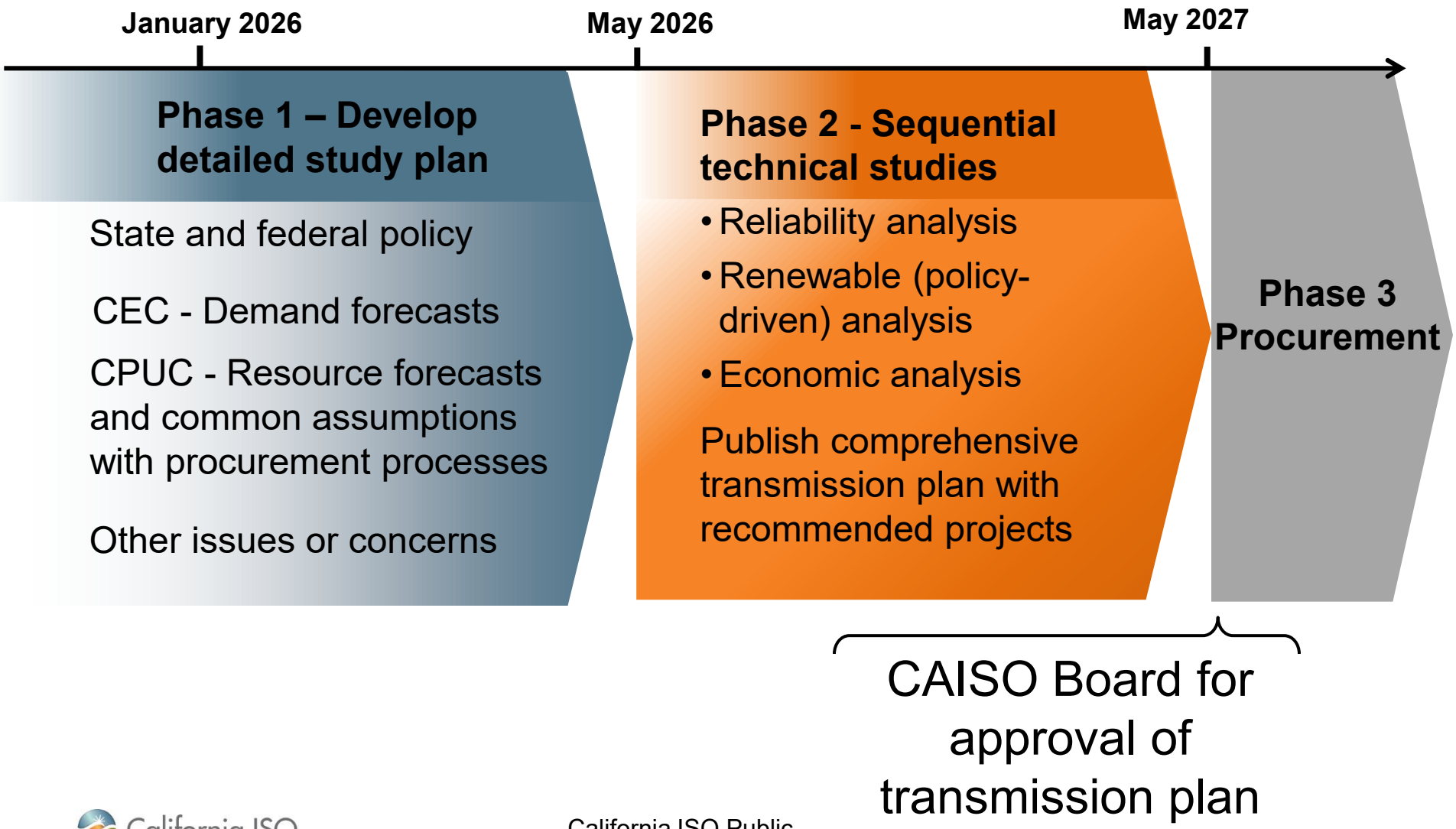
The CPUC/CEC/ISO Memorandum of Understanding signed in December, 2022 sets the strategic direction for process improvements to:

- Tighten the linkage between planning, procurement direction, and the ISO interconnection process to the greatest extent possible.
- Create formal linkage between CEC SB 100/IEPR activities and the ISO and CPUC processes
- Reaffirm the existing state agency and single forecast set coordination
- Update references to current processes and set direction to updating process documentation

Transmission Planning Process

- Coordinate and consolidate in a single plan the transmission needs of the CAISO Balancing Authority Area.
- The primary purpose of the annual transmission plan is to identify, using the best available information at the time the plan is prepared, needed transmission facilities based upon three main categories of transmission solutions: reliability, public policy, and economic needs.
- Operates under the terms of the FERC approved tariff
  - Section 24 - Comprehensive Transmission Planning Process
- Transmission Planning Process BPM explains the CAISO TPP, including description of key processes within the TPP.
- Designed to meet the NERC, WECC, and CAISO standards & criteria.

2026-2027 Transmission Planning Process



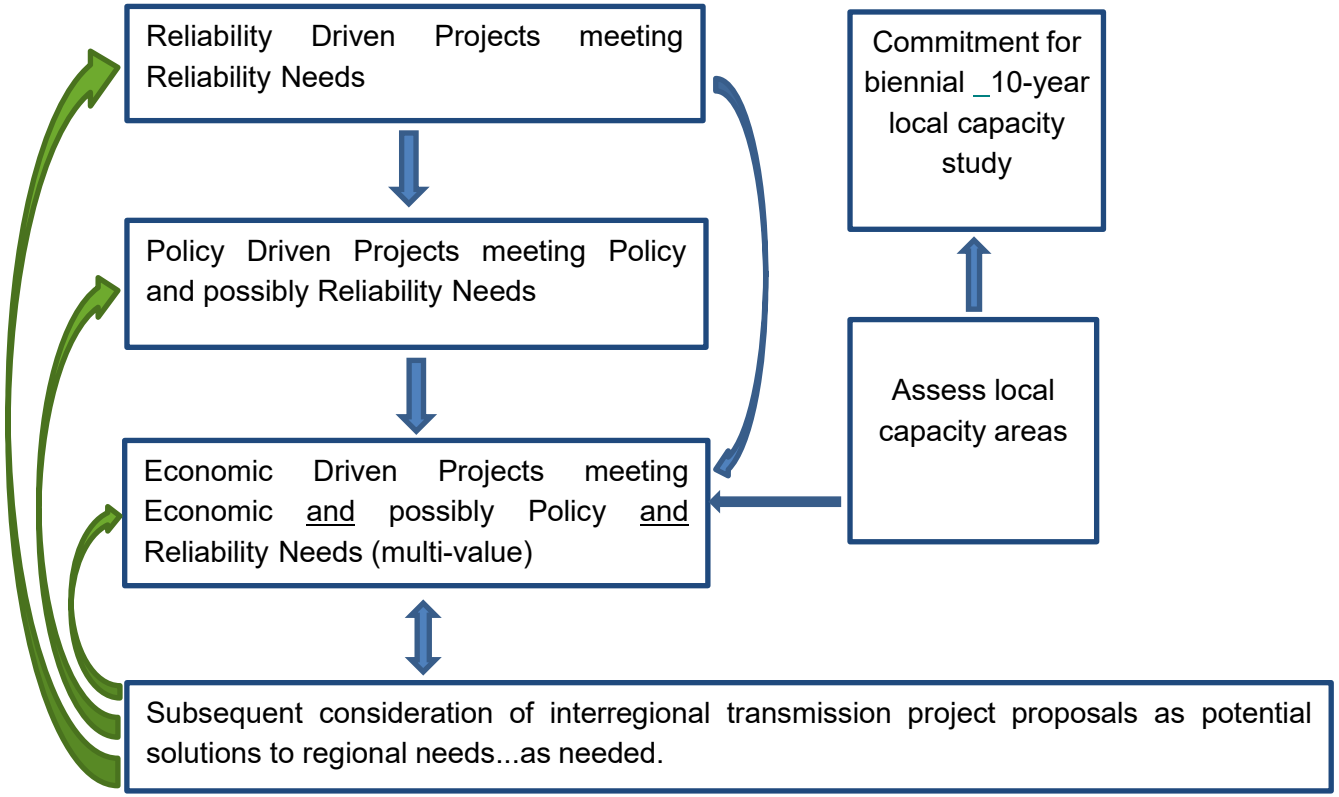
2026-2027 Transmission Plan Milestones

- Draft Study Plan posted on February 17
- Stakeholder Meeting: Draft Study Plan on February 24
  - Comments to be submitted by March 10
- Final Study Plan to be posted in April
- Preliminary reliability study results to be posted on August 14
- Stakeholder Meeting: Preliminary Reliability Results on September 23 and 24
  - Comments to be submitted by October 8
- Request window closes October 15
- Stakeholder Meeting: Preliminary policy and economic results on November 18
  - Comments to be submitted by December 4
- Draft transmission plan to be posted on March 31, 2027
- Stakeholder Meeting: Draft Transmission Plan on April 7, 2027
  - Comments to be submitted by April 21, 2027
- Revised draft for approval at May 2027 Board of Governor meeting

2026-2027 Transmission Plan Study Plan

- Reliability Assessment to identify reliability-driven needs
- Policy Assessment to identify policy-driven needs
- Economic Planning Studies to identify needed economically-driven elements
- Other Studies
  - Local Capacity Requirement (LCR)
  - Long-Term Local Capacity Requirement
  - Maximum Import Capability expansion requests
  - Long-term Congestion Revenue Rights
  - Frequency response
  - Interregional Transmission Project assessment
- No special studies are currently planned for the 2026-2027 TPP

Studies are coordinated as a part of the transmission planning process



2026-2027 Transmission Planning Process Key Inputs

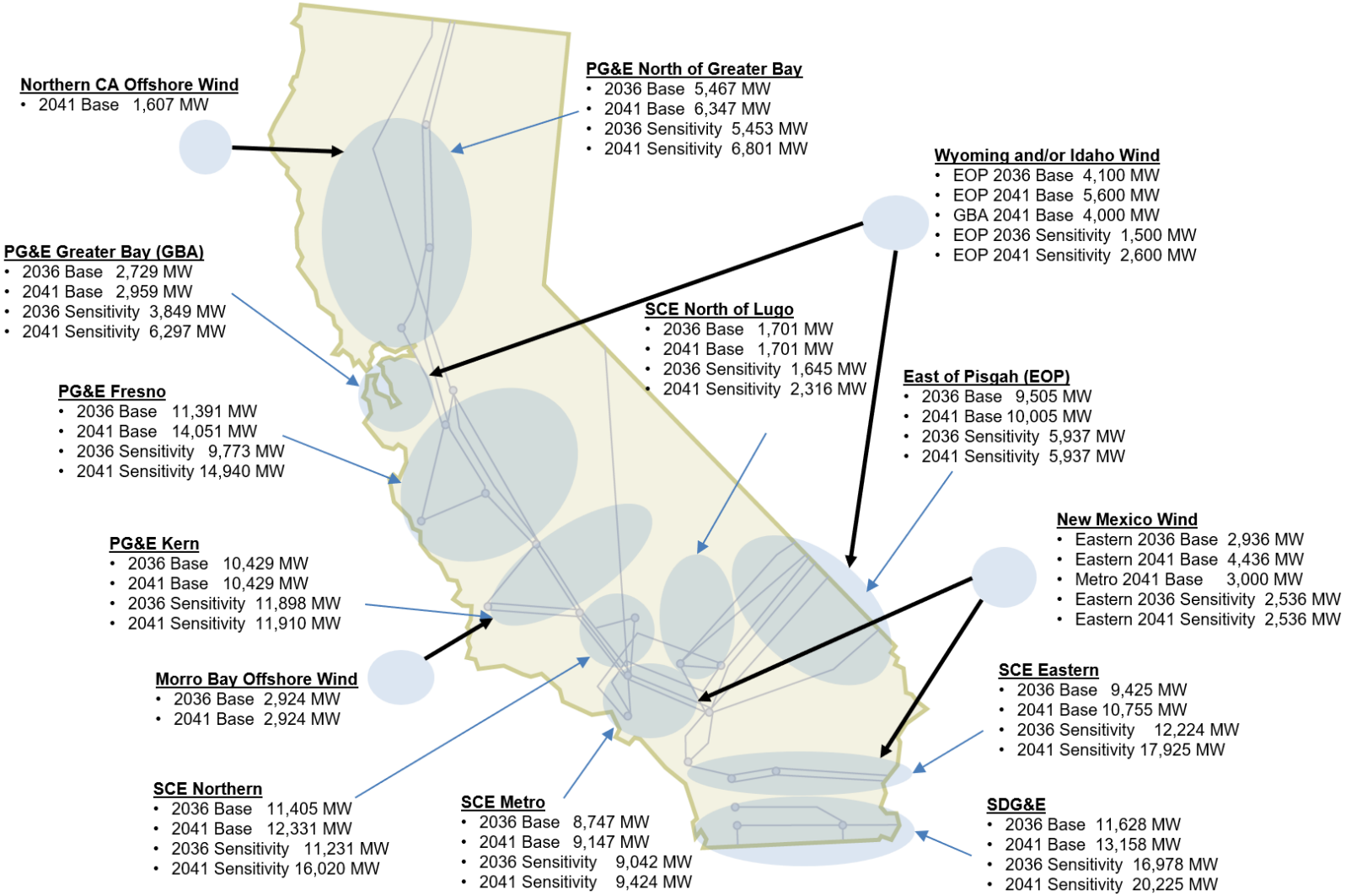
- 2024 IEPR California Energy Demand forecast adopted by the CEC on January 21, 2025
  https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/integrated-energy-policy-report-iepr/2024-integrated-energy-policy-report

  2025 IEPR California Energy Demand Update forecast adopted by the CEC on January 21, 2026
  https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/integrated-energy-policy-report-iepr/2025-integrated-energy-policy-report

- On January 14th, 2026 CPUC issued the Proposed Decision on a base and a sensitivity portfolio for 2036 and 2041 for use in the 2026-2027 TPP. Final Study Plan will be updated to include adopted decision.
  https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/industries-and-topics/electrical-energy/electric-power-procurement/long-term-procurement-planning/2024-26-irp-cycle-events-and-materials/assumptions-for-the-2026-2027-tpp

- The CPUC issued a final Decision on February 26, 2026 for 2036 and 2041 resource portfolios for use in the 2026-2027 TPP - https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M600/K398/600398976.PDF
  - Requests the CAISO to plan and reserve deliverability for OOS wind resources mapped in the 2036 Base Portfolio [pages 71-72]

2036 and 2041 portfolio resources by area

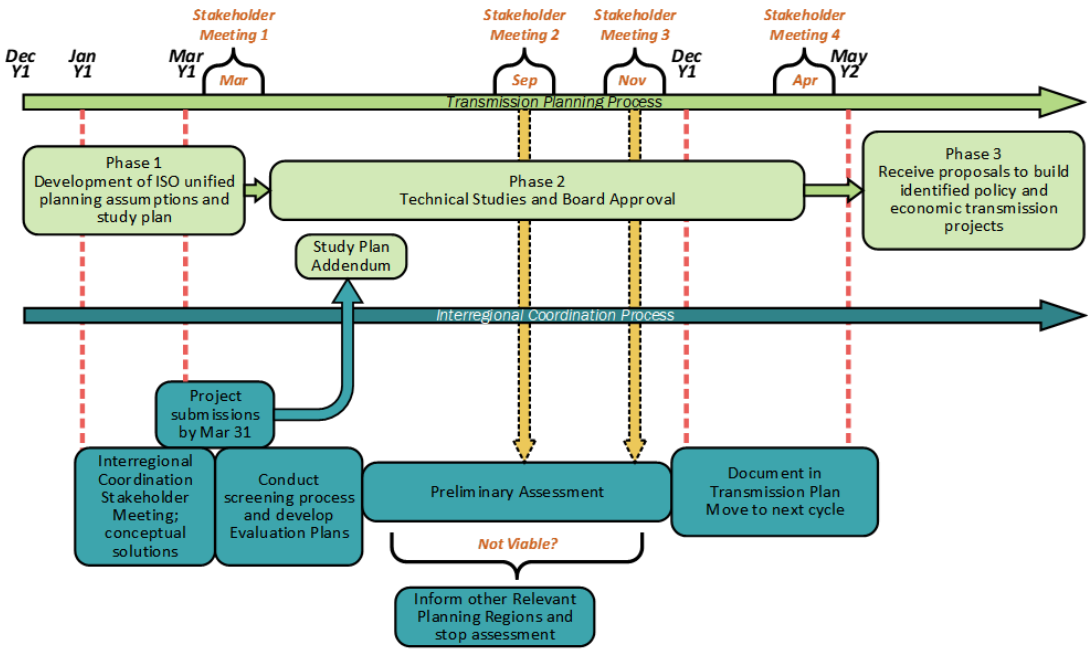


*The above diagram reflects PD Busbar Mapping published by the CPUC 1/16/2026

Interregional Transmission Coordination - Year 1 of 2

- Interregional Transmission Project Submission Window is open January 1st through March 31st for consideration of projects in the CAISO's 2026-2027 TPP.
- The CAISO will coordinate with impacted planning regions to develop evaluation plans and perform preliminary assessment.
- Annual Interregional Coordination Meeting on March 26th, 2026 hosted by WestConnect.

Even Year Interregional Coordination Process



https://www.caiso.com/meetings-events/topics/interregional-transmission-coordination

All Western Planning Regions are consistent in how they address interregional transmission projects (ITPs) within their Order 1000 regional processes

- The ITP must electrically interconnect directly with at least two FERC Order 1000 planning regions
- The ITP must be submitted to the ISO before it can be considered in the CAISO's regional transmission planning process
- When a sponsor submits an ITP into the regional process of an Order 1000 planning region it must indicate whether or not it is seeking cost allocation from that Order 1000 planning region
- When a properly submitted ITP is successfully validated, the two or more Order 1000 planning regions that are identified as Relevant Planning Regions are then required to assess the ITP

Summary of Q1 2024 ITP submittals

Project Name	Company	Project Submitted to	Relevant Planning Regions	Cost Allocation Requested From	Description	In Service Date
Sloan Canyon – Mead 230 kV Ckt 2	GridLiance West LLC	CAISO, WC	CAISO, WC	CAISO, WC	An 890 MVA, AC circuit to be added to the existing GLW Sloan Canyon to WAPA Mead double-circuit capable 230kV towers	2028
Mead – Mohave	GridLiance West LLC	CAISO, WC	CAISO, WC	CAISO, WC	Rebuilding the existing Mead to Davis 230 kV line to 500 kV and building a 5-mile Davis to Mohave extension	2030
GLW Upsize to Sagebrush	GridLiance West LLC	CAISO, NG	CAISO, NG	CAISO, NG	Upgrade to sections of the CAISO 2022-2023 TPP approved GridLiance West (GLW)/ Valley Electric Association (VEA) Area Upgrades and Beatty 230kV Upgrade projects	2028
GLW Upsize to Esmeralda	GridLiance West LLC	CAISO, NG	CAISO, NG	CAISO, NG	The project upgrades existing double circuit 230 kV configuration to 500 kV-capable towers to sections of GLW's approved Core and Beatty upgrades	2030
Western Bounty Transmission System	Western Bounty LLC	CAISO, NG, WC	CAISO, NG, WC	Not requested	A three-segment 500- to 800-kilovolt (kV) HVDC transmission system connecting renewable energy resources produced near Western Bounty's Hub in Esmeralda County, NV to termini in Southern California, central Oregon, and southwestern Idaho	2033

The ISO did not identify a regional need for any of the submitted ITPs in Q1 2024

- Western Planning Regions: WestConnect and NorthernGrid did not identify a regional need for the submitted ITPs
- GridLiance West (GLW) ITP Submissions: The ISO identified only some minor congestion within the GridLiance/VEA system in the 138 kV system and hence none of the GridLiance/VEA ITP study requests were selected for detailed economic assessments
- Western Bounty Transmission System: Apart from its reduced effectiveness in addressing constraints, this is an HVDC project and the cost of this project would likely be higher than alternatives considered

The CAISO continues to advance interregional transmission planning projects

- SWIP-North received its CPCN from the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) in December 2025 - puc.idaho.gov/case/Details/7510.
- CAISO continues to operationalize TransWest Express (TWE) and SunZia
  - TWE and SunZia are sPTO transmission models
  - TWE supports integration of 1,500 MW of wind resources from Wyoming and SunZia supports about 3,000 MW of wind resources from New Mexico

Questions & Discussions

California ISO

Thank you!