

Memorandum

To: ISO Board of Governors
From: Neil Millar, Vice-President, Infrastructure & Operations Planning
Date: April 22, 2026
Re: **Transmission Development Forum update**

This memorandum does not require ISO Board of Governors action.

This memorandum provides an update on the most recent transmission development forum held on January 28, 2026. The ISO holds the transmission development forum (forum) twice a year to provide updates on the status of transmission network upgrade projects that affect generators and all other transmission projects approved in the ISO's transmission planning process, and to review changes from the previous forum.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The ISO, in coordination with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the participating transmission owners, initiated the forum in January 2022. Its purpose is to create a single forum to track the status of transmission network upgrade projects that affect generators and all other transmission projects approved in the ISO's transmission planning process.

The forum is now held twice a year, in January and July, to coordinate with the CPUC's Transmission Project Review Process, which is a uniform process for stakeholders and the CPUC to review IOUs' capital transmission projects.

For each forum, the ISO posts two workbooks: one listing all approved transmission projects from the annual transmission planning process, and the other showing the transmission network upgrade projects required through the generator interconnection process.

At the January 28, 2026 forum the CPUC provided an update on its Senate Bill 1174 reporting requirements and shared preliminary findings from the 2025 transmission system assessment. The CPUC reported that the main causes of transmission project delays are bundling dependencies, in which delays to one project set off delays in related projects, and challenges in procuring long lead-time materials e.g. circuit breakers, transformers, and specialized steel structures. The CPUC also noted that financing issues and delays in project design or redesign can also impact projects under development. The report also notes that many of SCE's delayed projects were customer-initiated, though the causes of the customer-initiated delays were unknown.

The workbooks presented in Attachments 1 and 2 show the original and current expected in-service dates for the approved transmission expansion projects and the transmission network upgrade projects, respectively.

Table 1 shows, for each of the participating transmission owner, how many project in-service dates changed from July 30, 2025 to the January 28, 2026. The table indicates that while some transmission projects and network upgrades now have earlier in-service dates, a greater number of projects have had their in-service dates delayed.

Table 1 In-service date changes from previous to latest meeting

	In-service Date Advanced			No Change	In-service Date Delayed		
	< 6 months	6 to 12 months	> 1 year		< 6 months	6 to 12 months	> 1 year
Approved Transmission Expansion Projects							
PG&E	4	3	3	53	33	15	10
SCE	2	0	2	23	6	1	4
SDG&E	2	0	0	2	2	2	8
VEA/GLW	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
LSPower	0	0	0	8	0	0	0
Lotus	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
HWT	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Network Upgrade Projects							
PG&E	7	5	4	77	25	4	2
SCE	1	0	0	16	2	1	1
SDG&E	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
VEA/GLW	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES

Stakeholders continue to strongly support the transmission development forum. Following the January 28, 2026 session, stakeholders submitted comments and questions, including detailed inquiries related to PG&E and SCE projects. These questions focused on technical details, permitting timelines, and risk factors impacting current in-service dates. The ISO is coordinating with PG&E, and SCE to provide responses to these specific questions.

CONCLUSION

The ISO remains committed to working with the participating transmission owners to respond to feedback - both on specific transmission projects and on ways to improve the transmission development forum itself. The next forum is scheduled for July 29, 2026, and will provide another opportunity to share progress and showcase the advancement of important transmission development.