WECC

2026 Summer Reliability Outlook

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Electric Reliability
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2026 Summer Reliability Assessment (SRA) — Released May 19, 2026

Risk identification for summer (June–September)

- Elevated Conditions:
  - At or above 90/10 demand forecast
  - Abnormally high generator outages
  - Low renewable availability
- Normal Conditions:
  - Average (50/50) demand conditions
  - Typical outages & renewable availability

Seasonal Risk Assessment Summary	
High	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in normal peak conditions
Elevated	Potential for insufficient operating reserves in above-normal conditions
Normal	Sufficient operating reserves expected

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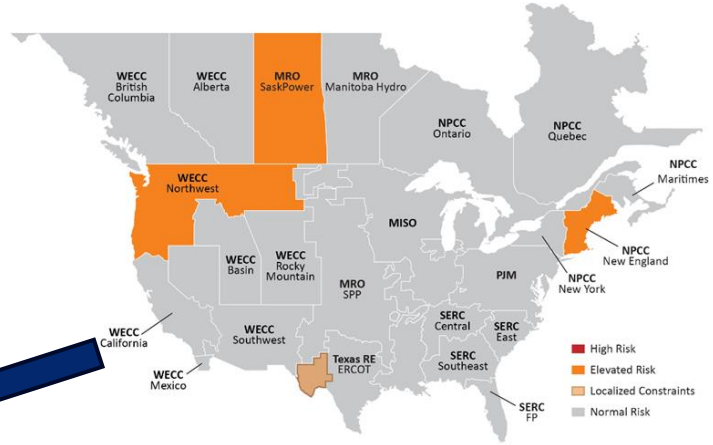
WECC 2026 SRA Results

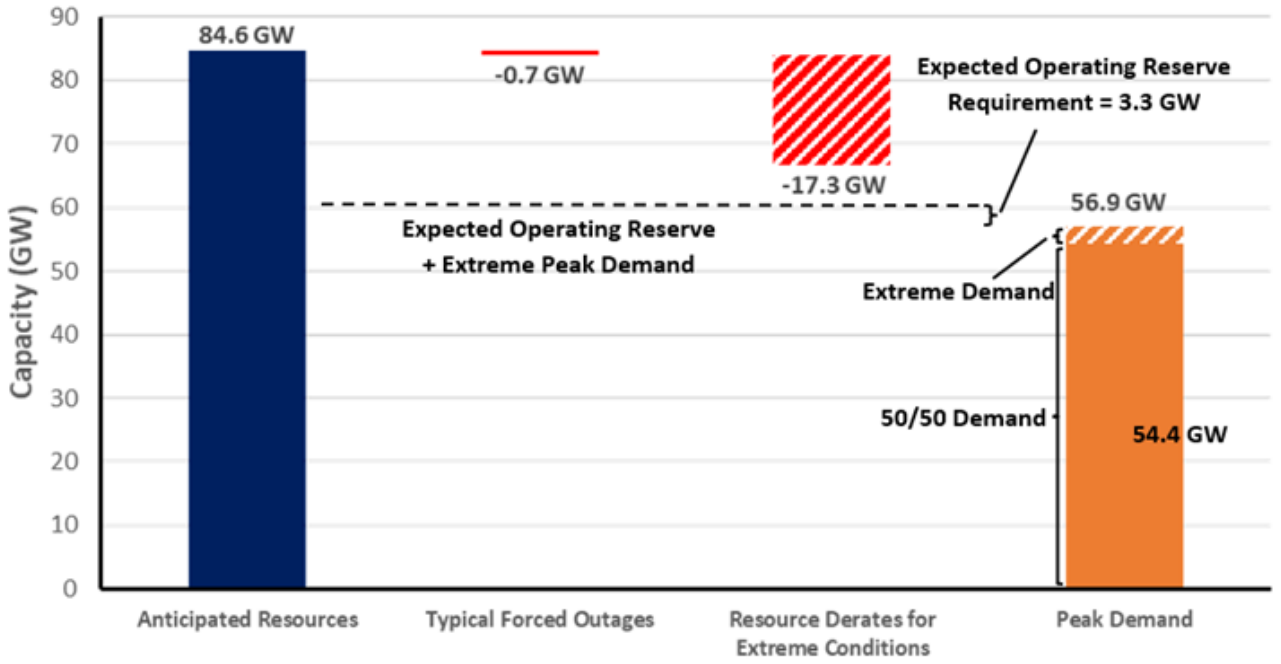
- All WECC regions show sufficient anticipated resource margins.
- Northwest region shows small amounts of expected unserved energy (EUE) in probabilistic analysis; concentrated in the late afternoon hours in early September.

WECC California

- Anticipated reserve margins for the summer exceed the NERC prescribed reference margin level (15%).
- WECC's probabilistic analysis shows no EUE under a range of demand and energy availability conditions.
- Expected resources meet operating reserve requirements under the assessed.



WECC California Region



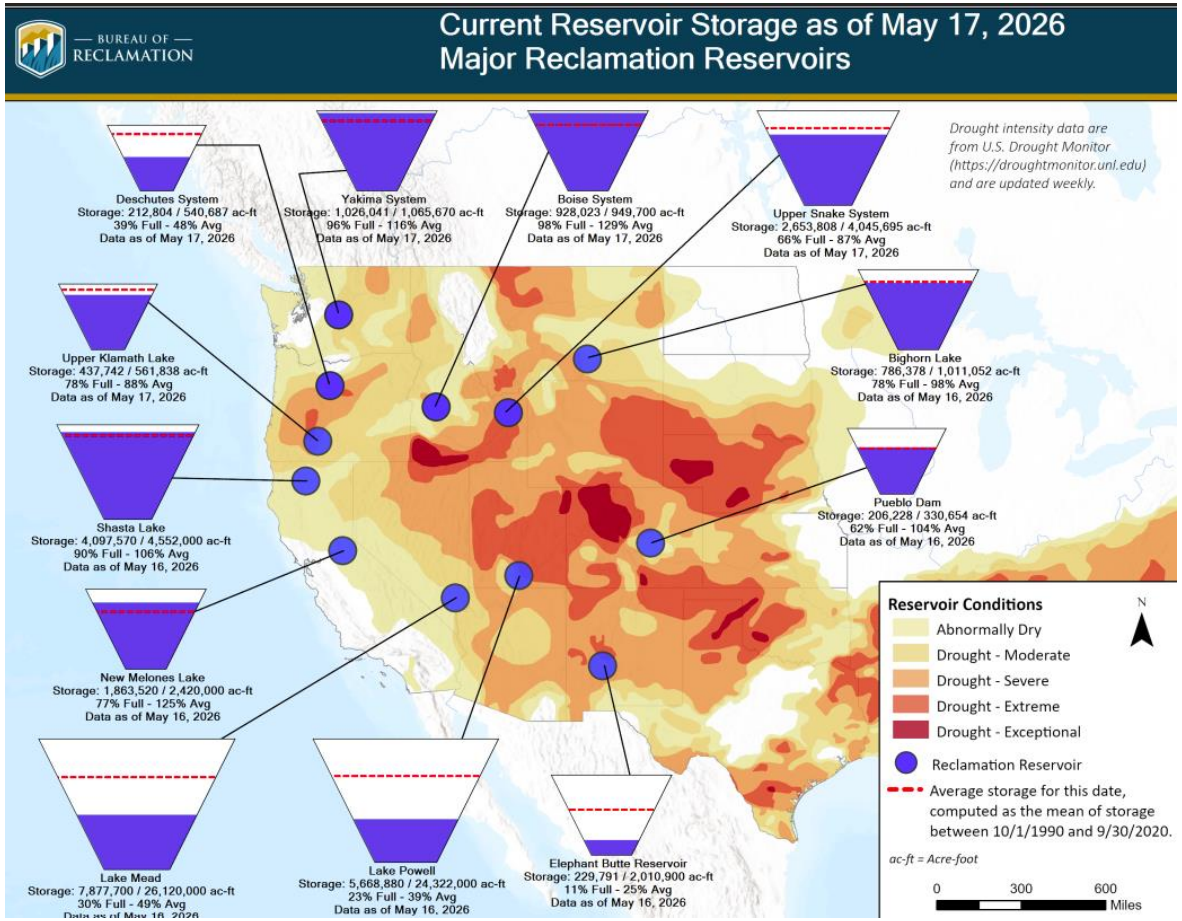
Reliability Risks

- **Extreme heat/natural disasters**
  - In addition to increasing the load on the overall system, these conditions interfere with the ability to meet that load due to loss of transmission (wildfire) and capacity shortage (decline in hydropower during drought, earthquakes affecting dam/hydro operations).
- **Wildfires**
  - Mitigation activities include design and construction standards (such as using metallic poles instead of wood), vegetation management, annual inspections of the distribution system prior to the upcoming fire season, and the Power System Reliability Program (PSRP), which focuses on mitigating problem circuits and equipment failures via proactive maintenance.
- **IBR variability**
  - Santa Ana Winds can overspeed wind turbines, requiring them to curtail. Declining solar output and peaking loads from elevated temperatures result in summer evenings being a high-risk period for resource adequacy.
- **Energy transfers**
  - Changes in import trends from past years can pose operational challenges and potential reliability issues.
- **Cybersecurity**
  - These attacks can compromise the bulk power system and have devastating consequences for reliability.
- **Supply chain**
  - Manufacturing delays can affect transmission and generation.

Hydro Outlook

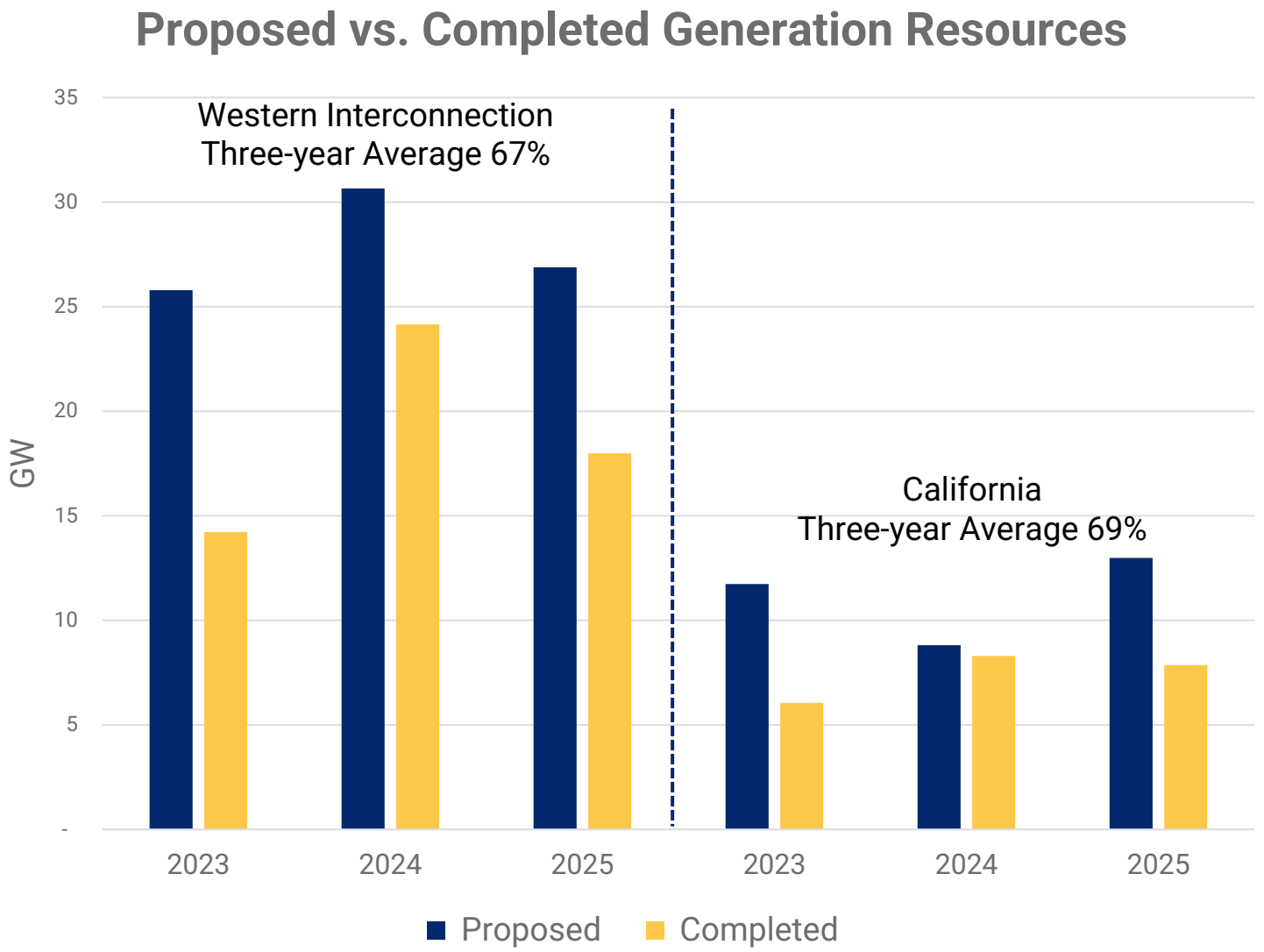
Hydro availability for summer varies across the interconnection.

- Northwest/British Columbia
  - Near-normal water year (Oct–Sep) quantities with much earlier snowpack runoff
  - Federal agencies managing Columbia River System dams ordered to increase spill over eight dams to support fish out-migration through end of August 2026; operational impacts are being assessed
- Southwest/California/Rocky Mt
  - While share of generation from hydro is lower in these areas, severely low reservoir levels remain a serious concern
  - WAPA: “The Colorado River Basin, both upper and lower, remains severely challenged in a historically dry year, with total system storage at only 36 percent of average”



Resource Completions

- Typically, resource completions are somewhat lower than planned in any given year
- Gap has generally narrowed since large supply chain delays in 2020–2021 during pandemic
- California:
  - Represents ~35–45% of completions in the Western Interconnection
  - Three-year average proposed-to-completed ratio slightly exceeds Western Interconnection average at 69% vs. 67%



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