

WESTERN ENERGY MARKETS

Briefing on West-wide transmission activities

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WEM Governing Body meeting

General Session

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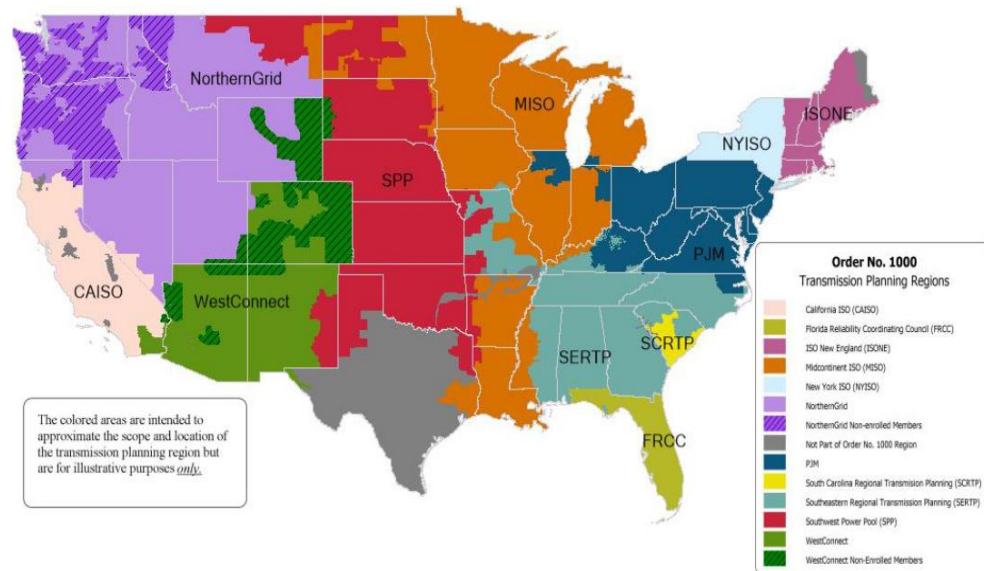
The ISO coordinates planning activities with the rest of the western interconnection, most of which is outside of an ISO/RTO structure

The western interconnection has four separate interregional planning areas pursuant to FERC Order 1000, that provides:

- Annual exchange of information
- Annual public interregional coordination meeting

As the existing interregional coordination framework approved by FERC has not been effective to date, the ISO has pursued other coordination opportunities as well

- State voluntary agreement framework
- Subscriber participating transmission owner model



Source: [FERC 2024](#)

Note – most recent map available does not yet fully reflect SPP RTO expansion into the western interconnection

The ISO explores west-wide transmission planning on multiple tracks

Information-sharing to support west-wide study efforts

- FERC Order 1000 interregional coordination efforts
- FERC Order 1920 transmission planning
- DOE transmission planning and congestion studies
- WECC model development and system planning studies
- **Western Transmission Expansion Coalition (WestTEC)**
- Western States Transmission Initiative (CREPC)

Informal discussions with transmission planning peers

- Regional transmission planning discussions through a forum led by the ISO
- Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG) transmission planning task force.

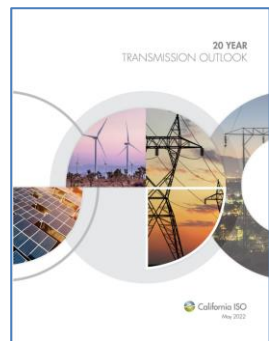
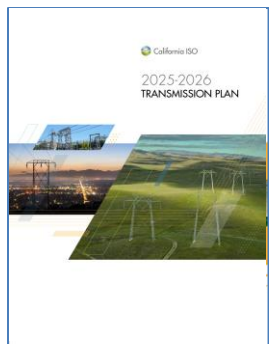
Creative bilateral efforts to advance projects

- Subscriber PTO approach
- Bilateral arrangements through FERC's voluntary framework agreement approach

Monitor and engage in process reform

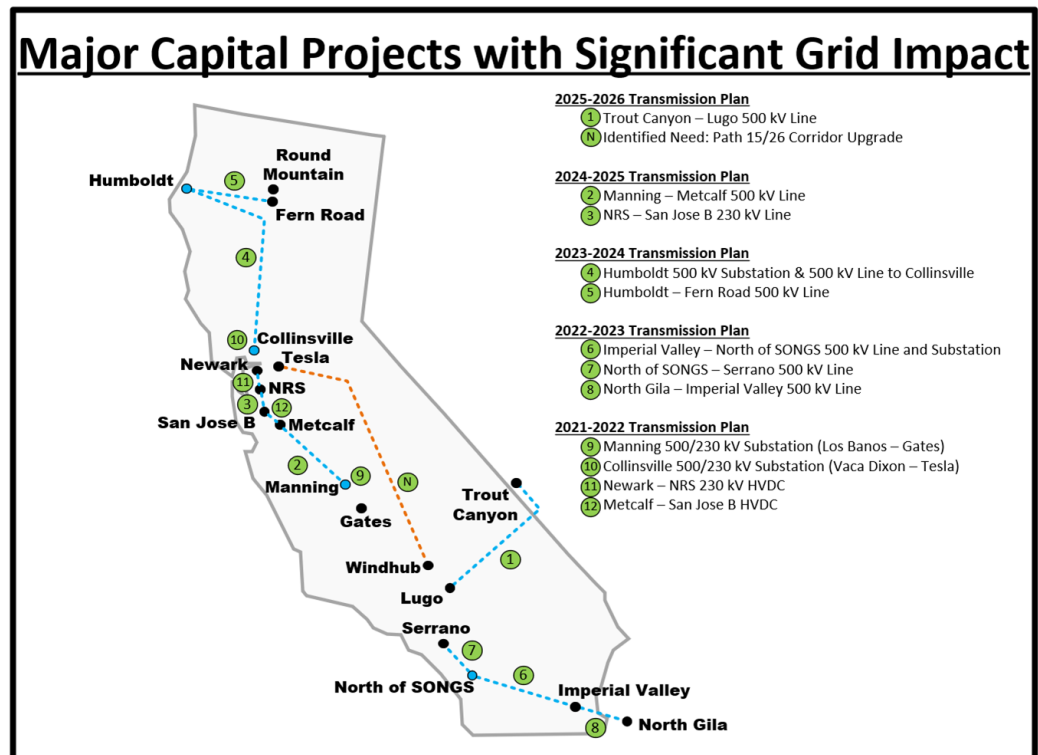
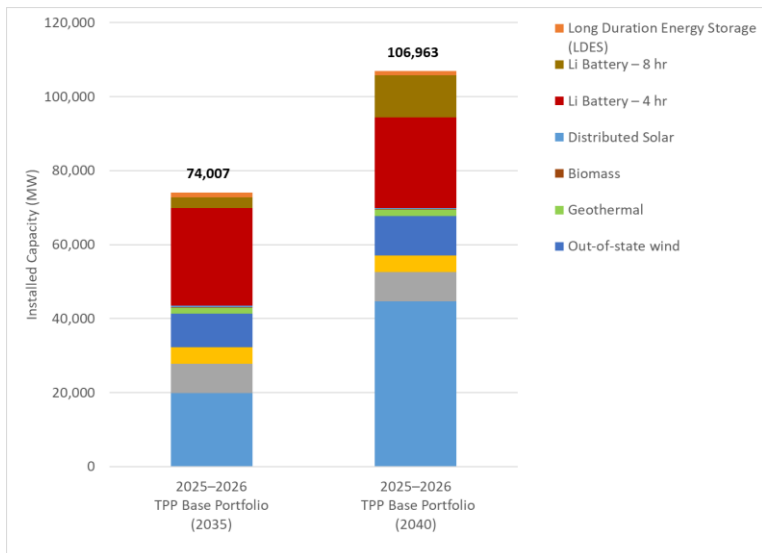
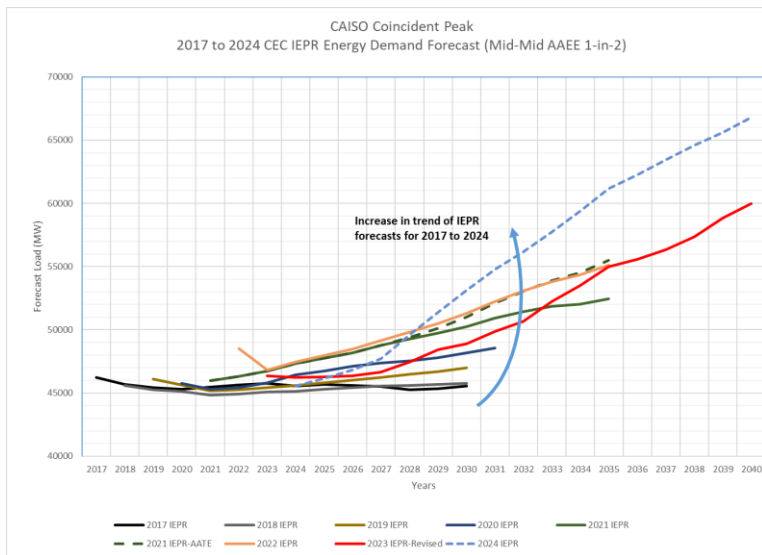
- WEM education and engagement on transmission planning efforts
- FERC technical conferences
- Comments on FERC Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPRs)
- Department of Energy National Interest Electricity Transmission Corridor (NIETC) designations

The ISO's participation in interregional planning keys off our regional transmission planning process



- Relies upon load forecasts and resource plans from state and local regulatory authorities
- Annual 10-year transmission plan is the formal approval document for expansion planning in our footprint
 - Responding to accelerating load growth and escalating clean energy needs
 - 2025-2026 Transmission Plan and 4 previous plans total \$29 billion in investment
 - Focus on most efficient and effective long-term solutions, including grid enhancing technologies
- 20 Year Outlook assesses longer term needs
 - First prepared in 2022, updated in 2024
 - Establishes a longer-term direction and strategy
- FERC Order No. 1920 will require changes and add new considerations to regional transmission planning

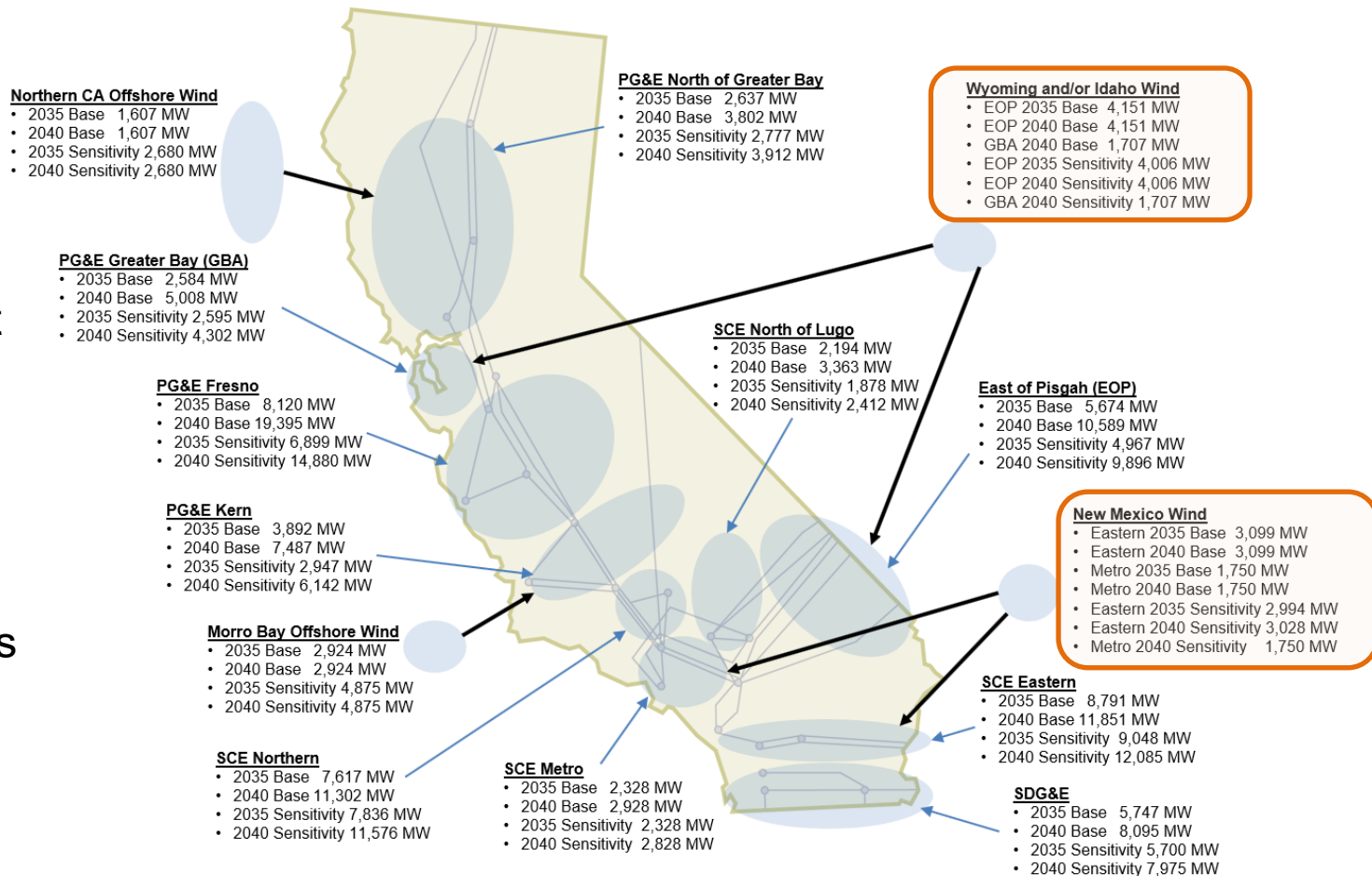
Load forecasts have been escalating, and driving increased resource and transmission requirements



The ISO considers effective interregional planning and coordination efforts critical in our planning activities

- Western resources play a material role in California's long term resource planning, ~9,000 MW by 2035 and ~10,700 MW by 2040

- Joint projects in the west can support policy-driven needs accessing out of state renewables and support economic projects reducing costs across the west



Significant Transmission Projects in the Western Interconnection

— In-Service - - - - In-Development

- 1 North Plains Connector
- 2 Boardman – Hemmingway
- 3 Blueprint North
- 4 Blueprint South
- 5 Gateway West
- 6 Gateway South
- 7 Gateway Central
- 8 SWIP North
- 9 Greenlink Nevada
- 10 ON Line
- 11 Cross-Tie
- 12 TransWest Express DC
- 13 Transwest Express AC
- 14 Colorado Power Pathway
- 15 DesertLink
- 16 Ten West Project
- 17 SunZia
- 18 BOLO
- 19 Imperial Valley – North Gila #2
- 20 Southline Transmission
- 21 Identified Need: Path 15/26 Corridor Upgrade



The path for regional and interregional transmission

- The ISO will continue to conduct proactive transmission planning based on long-term load-forecasting and resource planning and:
 - Assess our own needs
 - Support interregional west-wide planning efforts, with a particular focus on WestTEC
 - Look for collaborative opportunities to work with other interested parties to advance beneficial transmission projects
- The ISO will continue to explore mutually beneficial opportunities to lower the delivered cost of electricity to consumers and improve connectivity across the west