



News Release

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California ISO redesigns leadership structure under new COO

Policy, planning, operations, and technology aligned for improved coordination

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) announced a reorganization of its executive level leadership structure, bringing several key functions together under the newly-created position of senior vice president and Chief Operating Officer (COO).

The modified structure will bring together market policy, planning, operations, technology and program management, enabling greater integration and coordination across these critical functions.

“This restructuring will give us the opportunity to look at our roles and responsibilities from a fresh perspective and enhance alignment and integration from market policy to system dispatch,” said Mark Rothleder, who begins his new position as COO on Monday, Nov. 9.

Rothleder, now the ISO’s vice president of Market Policy and Performance, was promoted following the retirements of the vice president of Technology, Petar Ristanovic; and vice president of Operations, Eric Schmitt.

The reorganization, effective Nov. 9, is a combination of promotions, expansion of duties, and interim appointments, and all the positions will report to Rothleder. The reorganization will include:

- Dr. Khaled Abdul-Rahman, currently executive director of Power Systems & Smart Grid Technology Development, has been promoted to vice president of Power System and Market Technology. Khaled has played an integral role in the development of the ISO’s market optimization since joining the ISO in 2009, and will bring deep knowledge and expertise to his new role.
- Anna McKenna, currently assistant general counsel for regulatory issues, is appointed as interim head of Market Policy and Performance, serving in Rothleder’s place while a recruitment search begins for that position.
- Neil Millar, currently the vice president for Transmission Planning and Infrastructure Development, will have an expanded role, to include overseeing Operations Engineering Services.

- John Phipps, the current director for Real-Time Operations, will be named executive director of Grid Operations. Phipps will report directly to Rothleder, along with Heather Kelley, director of Market Services, until a vice president of Operations is hired. An executive recruitment search will begin for that position.
- Janet Morris, executive director of the Program Management Office, has expanded her role to become executive director of Program & Application Management.
- Hugo Frech, the current director of Infrastructure Engineering & Network Operations, is promoted to executive director of Infrastructure Engineering & Network Operations.

The redesigned executive organization will be overseen by president and CEO Elliot Mainzer, who started at the ISO on Sept. 30. The new team will enable Mainzer to focus on strategy, culture and stakeholder engagement while strengthening the ISO's capacity to effectively integrate new resources and enhance reliability during the transition to a decarbonized electricity grid.

"I would like to congratulate Mark and Khaled on their executive promotions and to thank the other members of my skilled leadership team who have stepped into new roles to support this reorganization," said Mainzer.

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The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated, with its partners, to continuous improvement and secure operation of a reliable grid operated for the benefit of consumers. It provides comprehensive grid planning, open and nondiscriminatory access to one of the largest networks of high-voltage transmission power lines in the world, and operates a \$9 billion competitive electricity market. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help provide a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders with delegated authority from the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the Western EIM.