

News Release

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Western Energy Imbalance Market benefits top \$173M

First quarter 2017 displaces more than 22,000 metric tons of carbon emissions

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) reported today that the western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) cost benefits in the first quarter of 2017 are \$31.1 million, with total benefits of \$173.72 million since the real-time market launched in November 2014.

The ISO also found the western EIM used 52,651 megawatt-hours of surplus California renewable energy that may have otherwise been curtailed in order to balance supply with demand in California. In addition, surplus clean energy displaced 22,535 metric tons of carbon emissions. Since 2015, the real-time energy market has avoided 176,241 metric tons of carbon, which is roughly equivalent to avoiding the emissions from more than 37,054 passenger cars driven for one year.

Participants use the advanced EIM market platform to buy low-cost power to serve consumer demand in real-time. The strong first quarter benefits reflect beneficial transfer capability amongst balancing authorities in western states including Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Utah, and Wyoming. Additional benefits are produced by reducing costly energy reserves utilities are required to ensure reliability.

First quarter 2017 benefits for current participants include Oregon-based PacifiCorp of \$11.47 million, NV Energy of Nevada had \$3.5 million, Puget Sound Energy of Washington state saw \$1.4 million, Arizona Public Service had \$5.23 million, and the ISO realized \$9.5 million.

Other utilities scheduled to begin participation in the EIM are Portland General Electric in October 2017, Idaho Power in April 2018, Seattle City Light and the Balancing Authority of Northern California/Sacramento Utility District in April 2019, and Phoenix-based Salt River Project in April 2020. More recently, the El Centro Nacional de Control de Energía (CENACE), Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, and Tucson Electric Power have announced their intention to enter or explore entering the EIM.

Click [here](#) to view the first quarter 2017 EIM benefits assessment report

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