

WESTERN ENERGY IMBALANCE MARKET



California ISO

News Release

For immediate release | **March 11, 2021**

Media Email | ISOMedia@caiso.com

For more information, contact:

Vonette Fontaine | vfontaine@caiso.com

Anne Gonzales | agonzales@caiso.com

Western EIM Governing Body adopts initiatives for summer reliability

FOLSOM, Calif. – To help maintain grid reliability this summer, the Western Energy Imbalance Market (Western EIM) Governing Body unanimously approved market and operational enhancements for Western EIM entities participating in the California Independent System Operator's (ISO) real-time energy market.

The Governing Body's [decision](#) yesterday is under its primary approval authority and will:

- Improve the resource sufficiency evaluation to ensure each balancing authority area participates in the Western EIM with the necessary resources; and
- Enhance real-time energy market models to provide better operational coordination among balancing authority areas in the Western EIM.

These items will be on the ISO Board of Governors' next meeting agenda.

Additionally, the Western EIM Governing Body provided, in its advisory capacity, support for a market-pricing enhancement for contingency reserves that will strengthen incentives during tight supply conditions. This item requires the approval of the ISO Board of Governors, which is scheduled to consider it and other [Market Enhancements for Summer 2021 Readiness](#) initiatives later this month.

The Western EIM Governing Body's action is the first of several improvements identified by the ISO to be better prepared for summer following the extreme heat event that enveloped California and the West in August 2020.

The [Final Root Cause Analysis](#) published in January 2021 found that extreme heat, resource adequacy deficiencies, and planning and market processes that were not designed to fully address an extreme heat storm contributed to rotating outages for two days in August 2020.

The Western EIM Governing Body oversees the Western EIM, an energy market comprised of 11 balancing authorities in eight states, which uses state-of-the-art technology to find and deliver low-cost energy to meet real-time demand. Since its launch in 2014, the Western EIM has provided more than \$1.18 billion in economic and

environmental benefits. By 2023, 22 active Western EIM participants will represent over 83 percent of load within the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC) footprint.

For information about the real-time energy market, [quarterly benefits](#), reports, governance, [initiatives](#) and upcoming meetings, visit the [Western EIM website](#).

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<p>California ISO Media Email ISOMedia@caiso.com 250 Outcropping Way Folsom, California 95630 www.caiso.com</p>
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<p>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.</p>
<p>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.</p>