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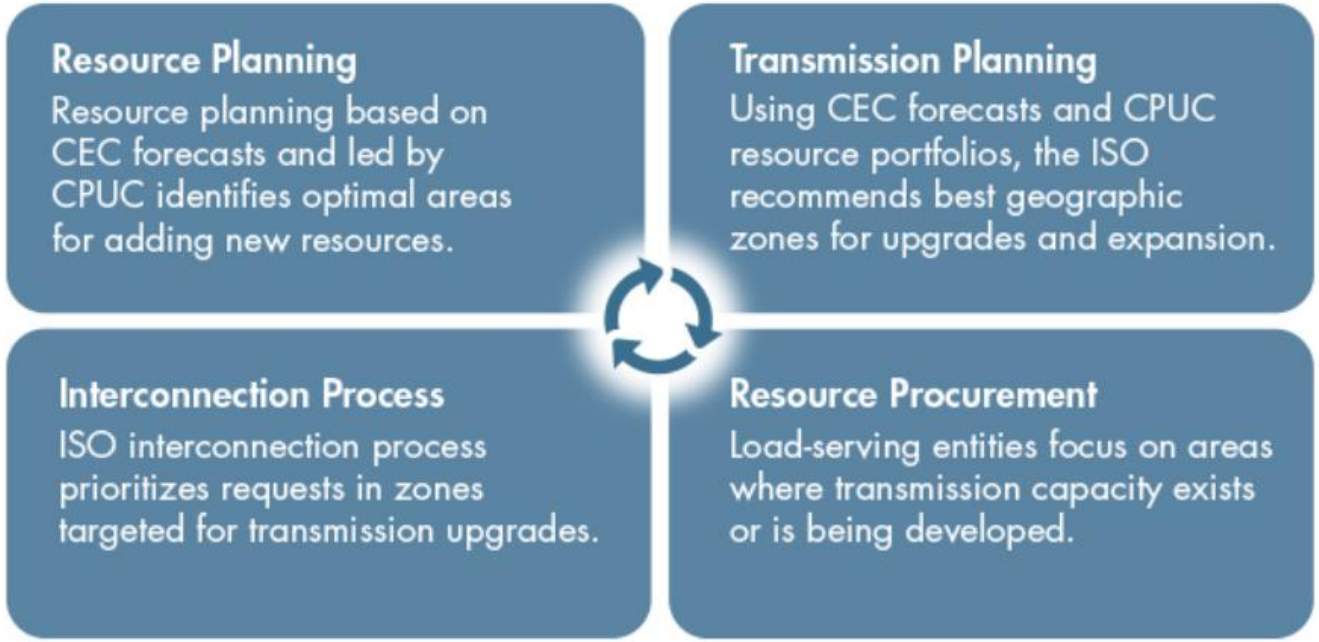
CAISO transmission planning and CEC's data center forecast

CEC Demand Analysis Working Group

July 16, 2025

Memorandum of Understanding between the CAISO and California energy agencies establishes a strategic direction for long-term electric system planning to meet reliability targets and state policy goals

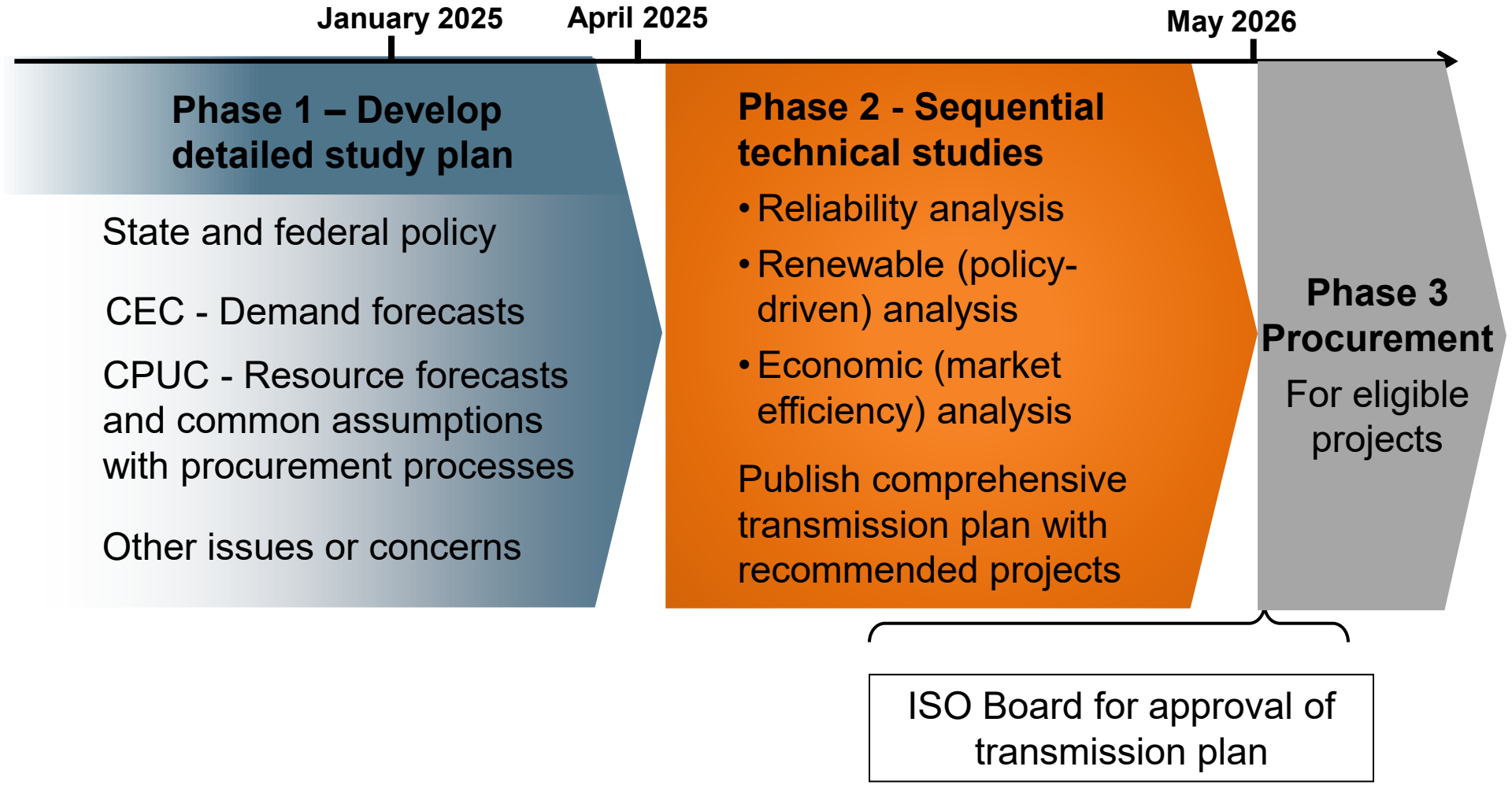


MOU signed in December 2022 among the CAISO, CPUC, and CEC:

- Reaffirms existing state agency and CAISO coordination
- Tightens the linkage between resource and transmission planning, procurement direction, and the CAISO interconnection process to the greatest extent possible.
- Creates formal linkage between CEC SB 100/long-term demand forecasting activities and CAISO and CPUC processes

https://www.caiso.com/documents/iso-cec-and-cpuc-memorandum-of-understanding-dec-2022.pdf

CAISO annual transmission planning process timeline



Use of the CEC data center forecasts in transmission planning

- CEC's single managed forecast set includes data center scenarios used in CAISO studies:
  - **Data center mid case** – economic, policy, and bulk system studies
  - **Data center high case** – local reliability studies and local capacity technical studies
- The CEC provides the CAISO data center loads at the transmission bus level
- Power flow modeling requires forward load forecasts at transmission bus level to:
  - Accurately identify potential transmission constraints and reliability issues at granular levels in local reliability area(s)
  - Identify appropriate transmission solutions, if needed, to meet national, regional and CAISO reliability standards
- CEC's data center forecast amounts, timing, and locations should reflect scenarios reasonably likely to occur to accurately study, identify, and approve transmission solutions