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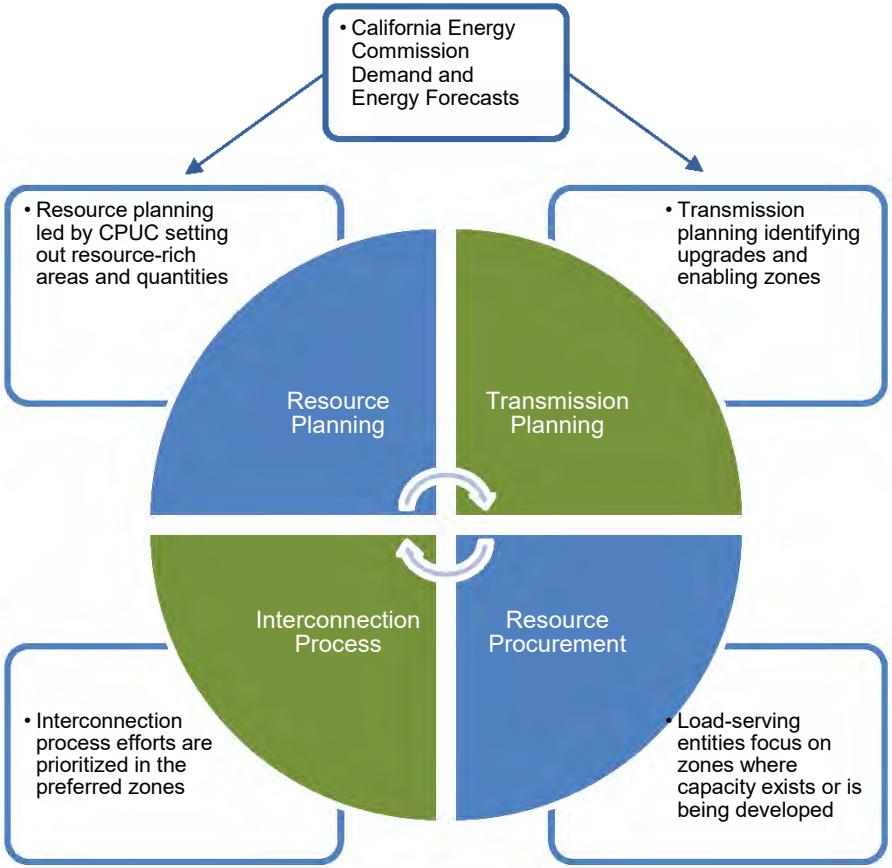
Bulk Grid Interconnection – Status and Improvements

Integrated Energy Policy Report
Commissioner Workshop on Interconnection and Energization
August 11, 2025

Neil Millar, VP Transmission Planning and Infrastructure Development

The CAISO's transmission planning continues to rely on tight linkages between planning, procurement direction, and the CAISO interconnection process



The CPUC/CEC/CAISO Memorandum of Understanding signed in December, 2022:

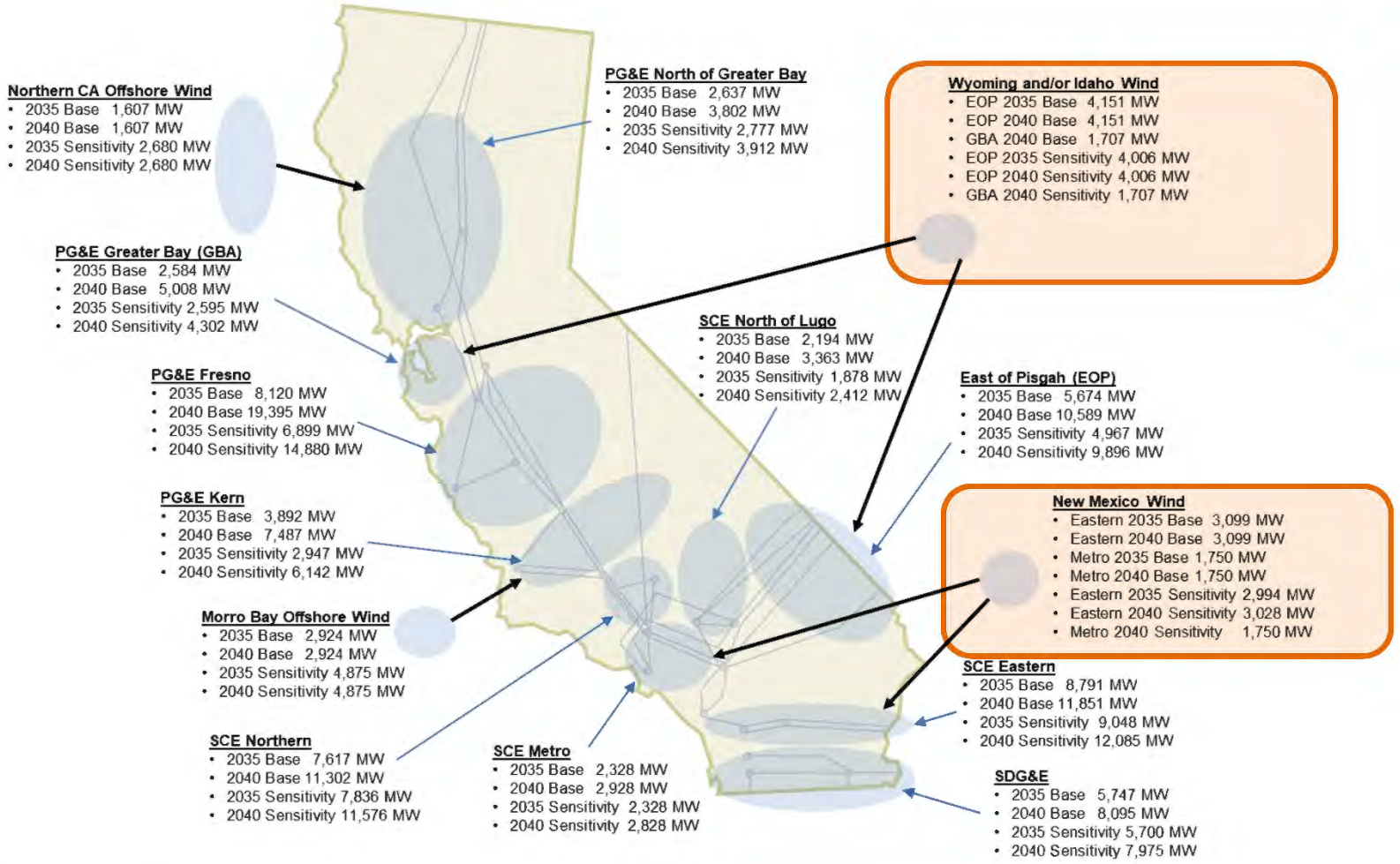
- sets the strategic direction for these process improvements
- reaffirms the existing state agency and single forecast set coordination, providing effective integrated resource planning

The CAISO's transmission planning process addresses both regional and local requirements

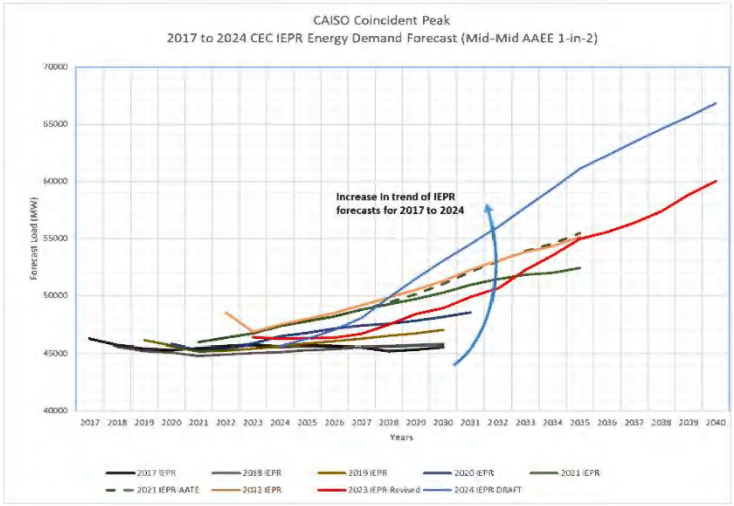
- Relies upon load forecasts and resource plans from our state and local regulatory authorities
- Annual 10-Year transmission plan is the formal approval document for expansion planning in our footprint
  - Responding to accelerating load growth and escalating clean energy needs
  - 2024-2025 Transmission Plan approved transmission totaling $4.8 billion, largely load growth related.
  - Previous three transmission plans approved an average of $5.8 billion, largely policy-driven transmission supporting access to resource basins
  - Focus on most efficient and effective long-term solutions, including grid enhancing technologies

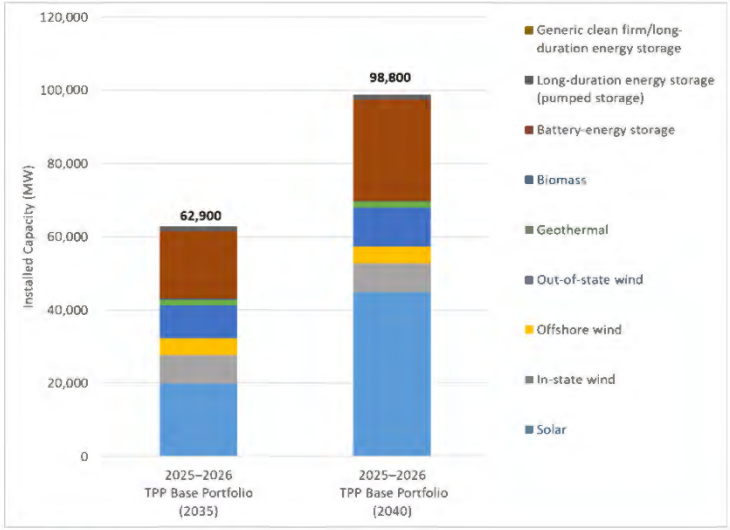
- 20 Year Outlook assesses longer term needs
  - First prepared in 2022, updated in 2024
  - Establishes a longer-term direction and strategy
  - Provides context for nearer term decision

The 2025-2026 transmission planning process continues to rely on accessing out of state resources, particularly wind



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





Major ***competitively procured*** transmission projects under development:

The Transmission Development Forum provides data and transparency

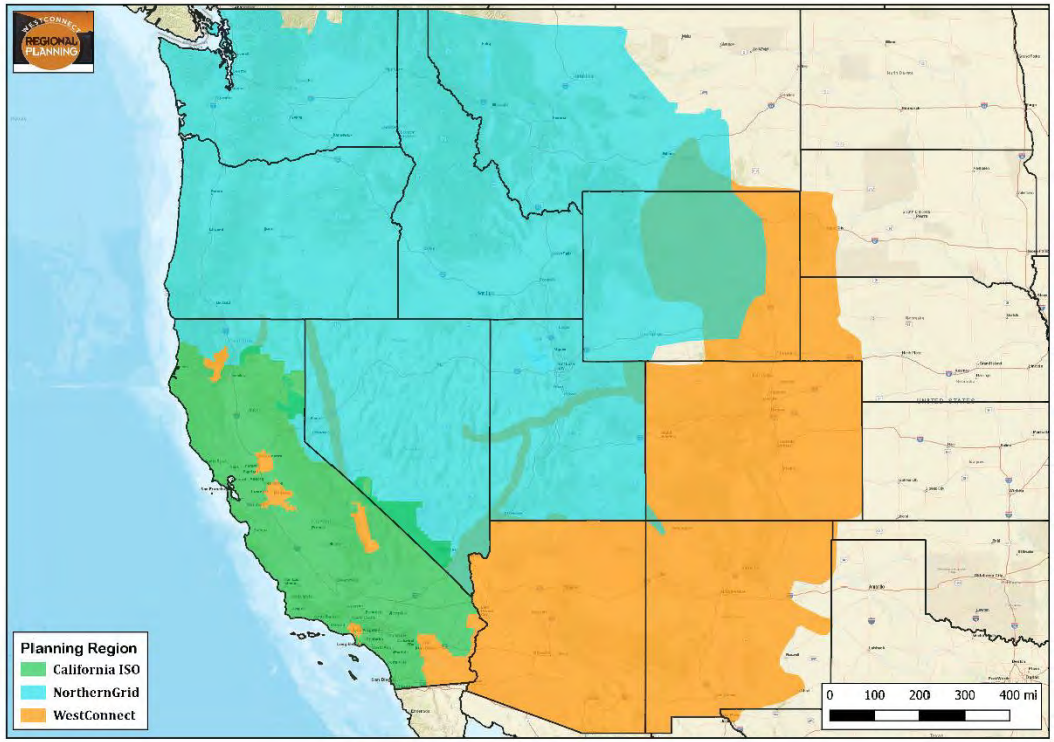
- The ISO hosts the Transmission Development forum twice a year (January and July)
- Workbooks posted include status of all triggered Network Upgrades in the generation interconnection process and approved transmission projects from the ISO's annual transmission planning process
- The focus of the forum is on the development dates of the transmission projects, and not the costs of the project
    - Participating Transmission Owners present, and provides for stakeholder questions and comments, on projects where delays have occurred from the previous forum

FERC Orders 1920/1920-A: Restructuring of transmission planning processes to meet regional long-term needs

Outside of the IO, no regional transmission has been identified since FERC Order 1000 took effect – all upgrades have been "local"

The Commission issued Order 1920 on May 13, 2024:

- Builds on previous orders including Order 1000
- Ensures consistent approach to developing long-term transmission plans resulting in efficient and cost-effective transmission solutions



Order 1920-A was issued on November 21, 2024

- Largely sustains Order 1920 requirements
- Further enhances the role of Relevant State Entities

The FERC Orders will significantly increase mandatory analysis but does not introduce new concepts for the ISO

- Requires transmission providers to conduct long-term planning for regional transmission facilities over a 20-year time horizon to anticipate future needs and to determine how to pay for those transmission facilities
- Enhances the role of state regulators in the long-term regional transmission planning process, especially in shaping scenario development and cost allocation
- Requires local transmission planning inputs in the regional transmission planning process to enhance transparency and right-size facilities
- Requires addressing generation-interconnection-related needs that have arisen multiple times but have not yet been resolved
- Requires the consideration of the use of grid-enhancing technologies (GETs)

Need to continue:

- Timely procurement so that resources can give notice to proceed on local upgrades and interconnections
- Focus on transmission projects driving to in service dates
- Continued coordination of transmission planning with state load forecasting and resource planning activities