

DOCKETED

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Data Center Demand Forecast

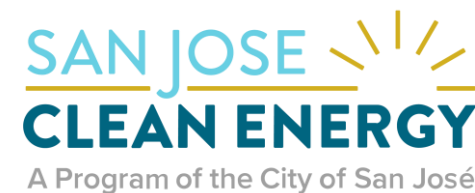
Jeremy Smith

August 20, 2026



Recap of August 12 DAWG

- Discuss data center data collection and identify opportunities to improve our demand forecasting approach.
- Presentations and roundtable discussion on data collection and other topics with:





Data Center Forecast Methodology



Request data center energization requests from utilities

- Application status, requested capacity, timeline, location



Apply assumptions to determine maximum demand

- Confidence level, utilization factor, ramp rate

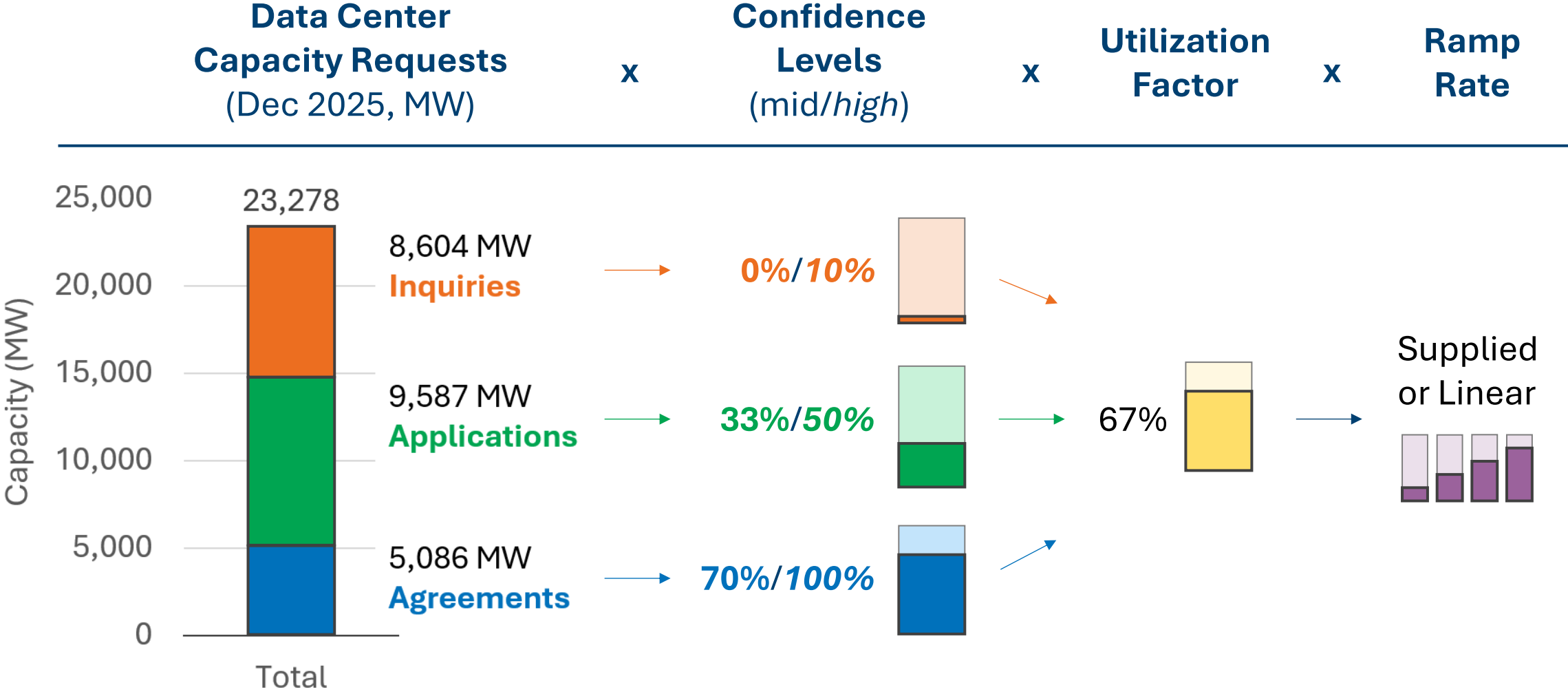


Analyze interval meter data to determine hourly/peak contribution

- Develop hourly load factor profiles from sample of existing data centers



Assumptions Applied to the 2025 IEPR Forecast

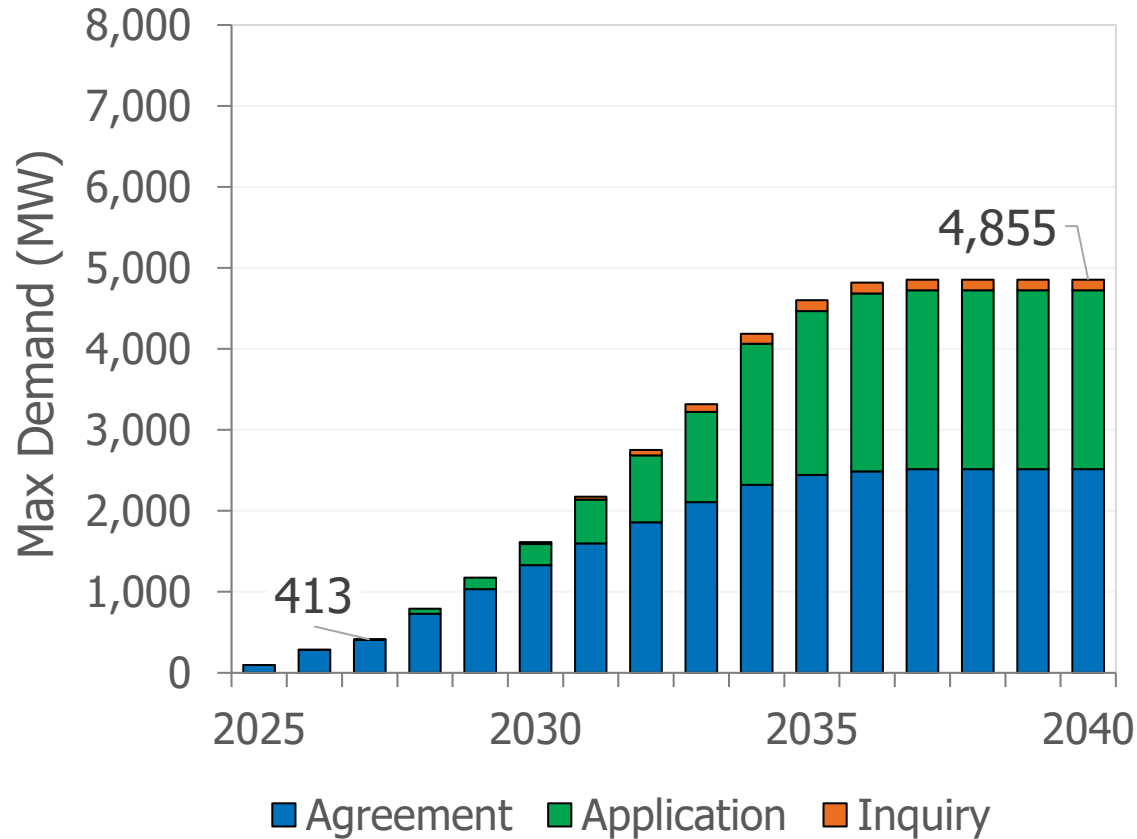


Source: CEC Staff

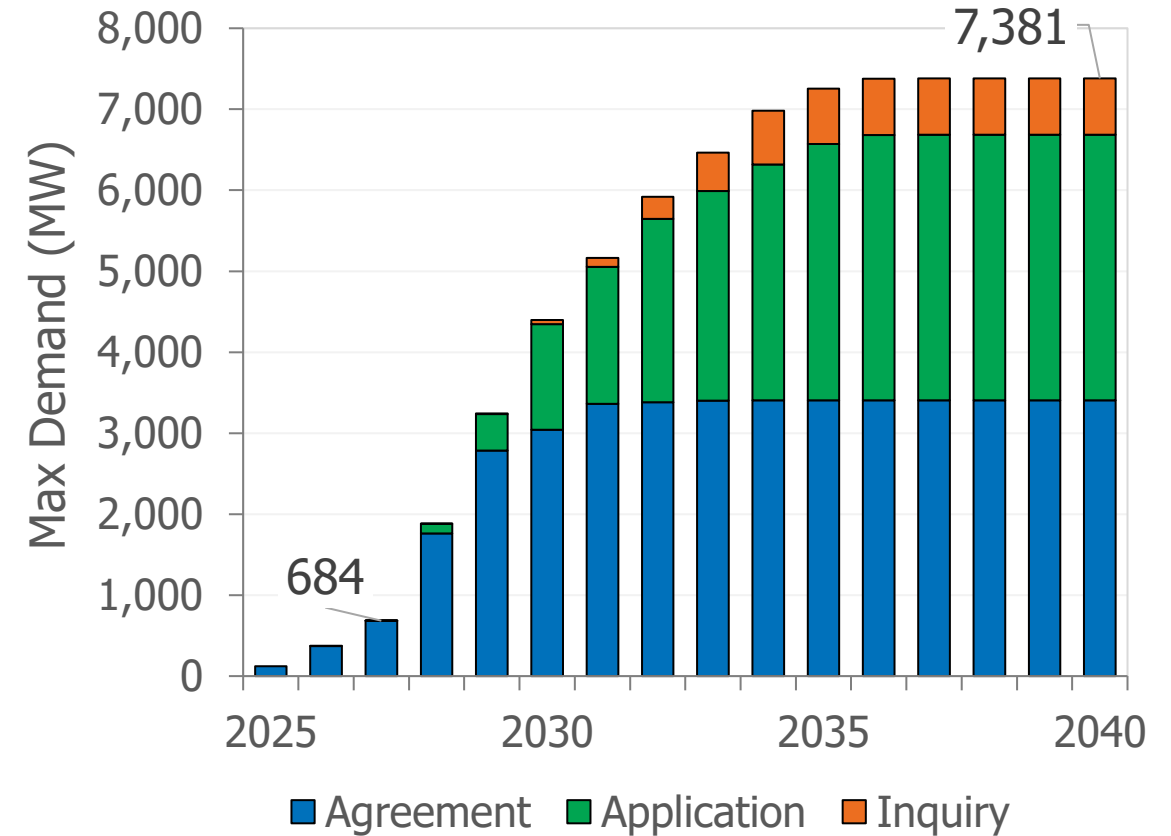


Data Center Demand Growth (2025 IEPR)

2025 IEPR: Planning (mid)



2025 IEPR: Local Reliability (*high*)

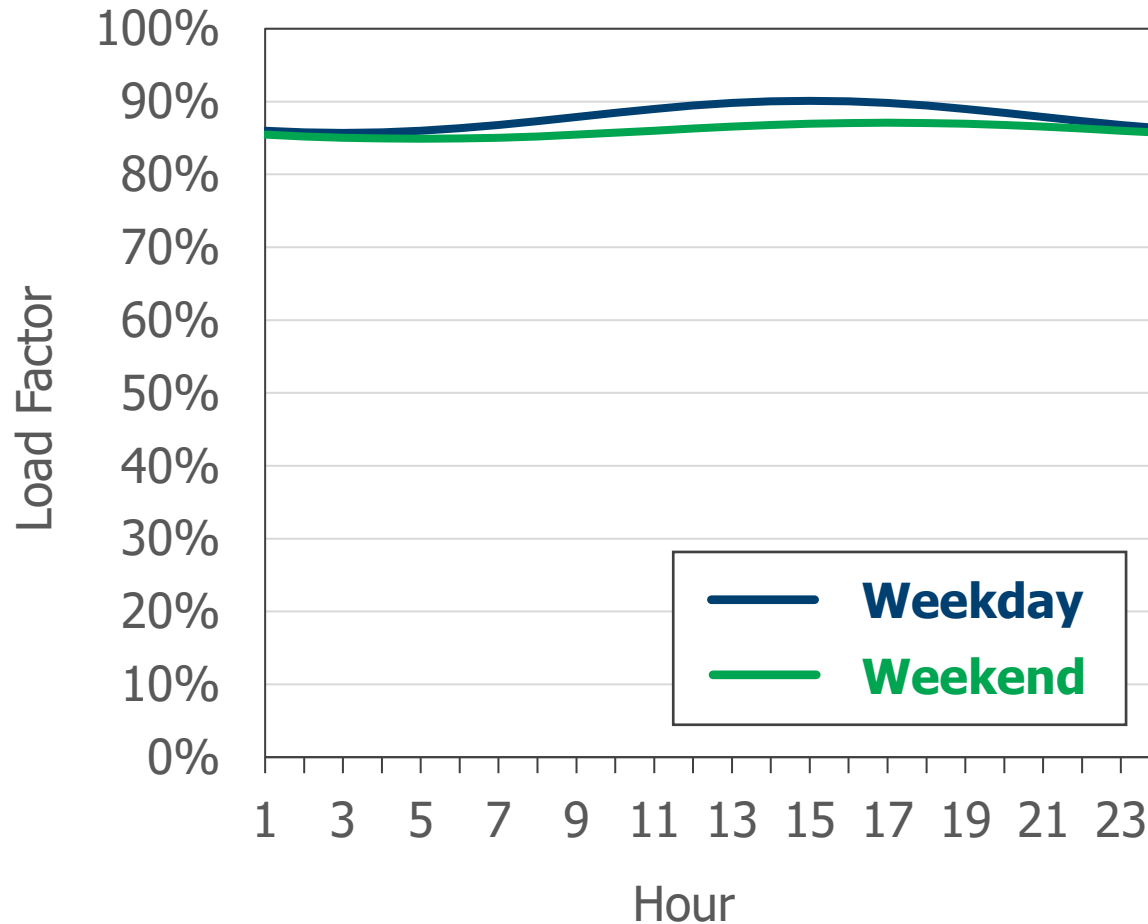


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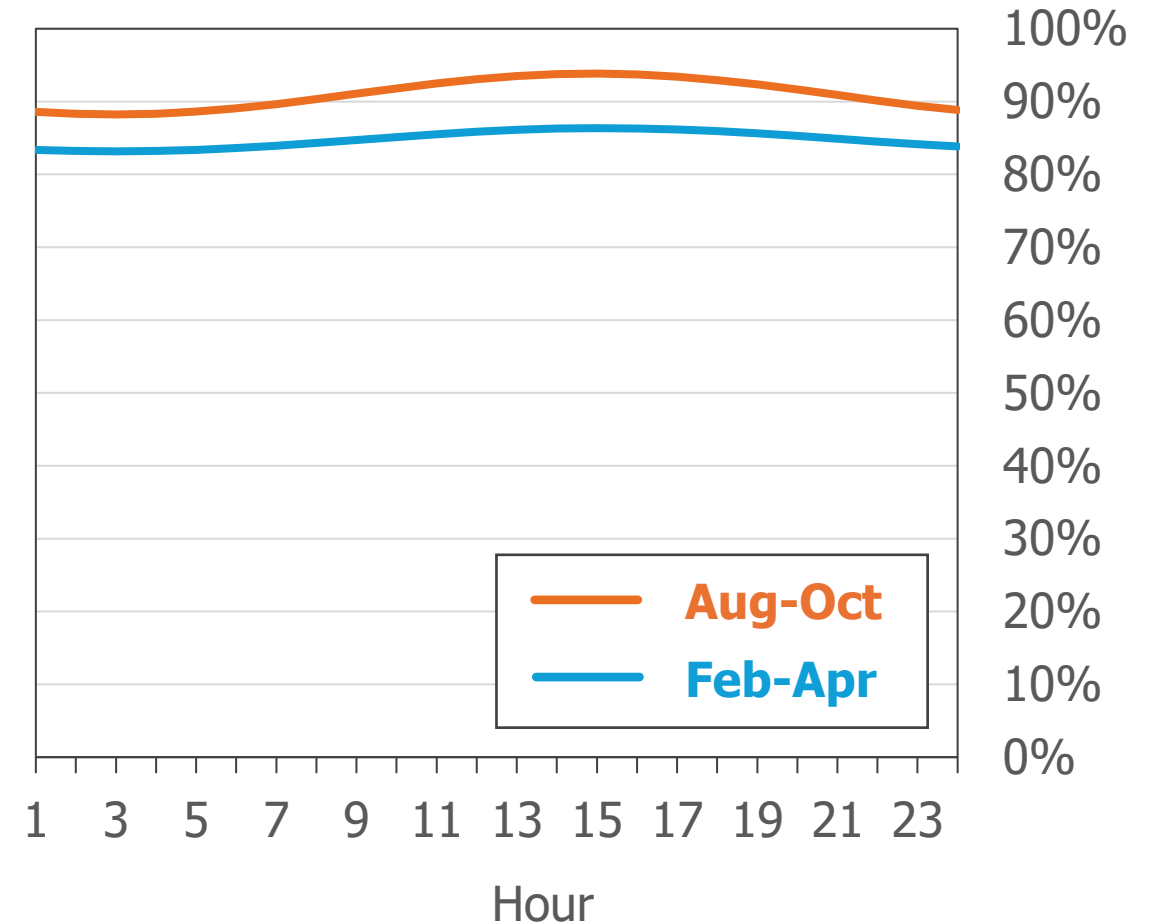


Hourly Load Factor Profiles (2025 IEPR)

Average Annual Data Center Load Factor Profile by Day Type



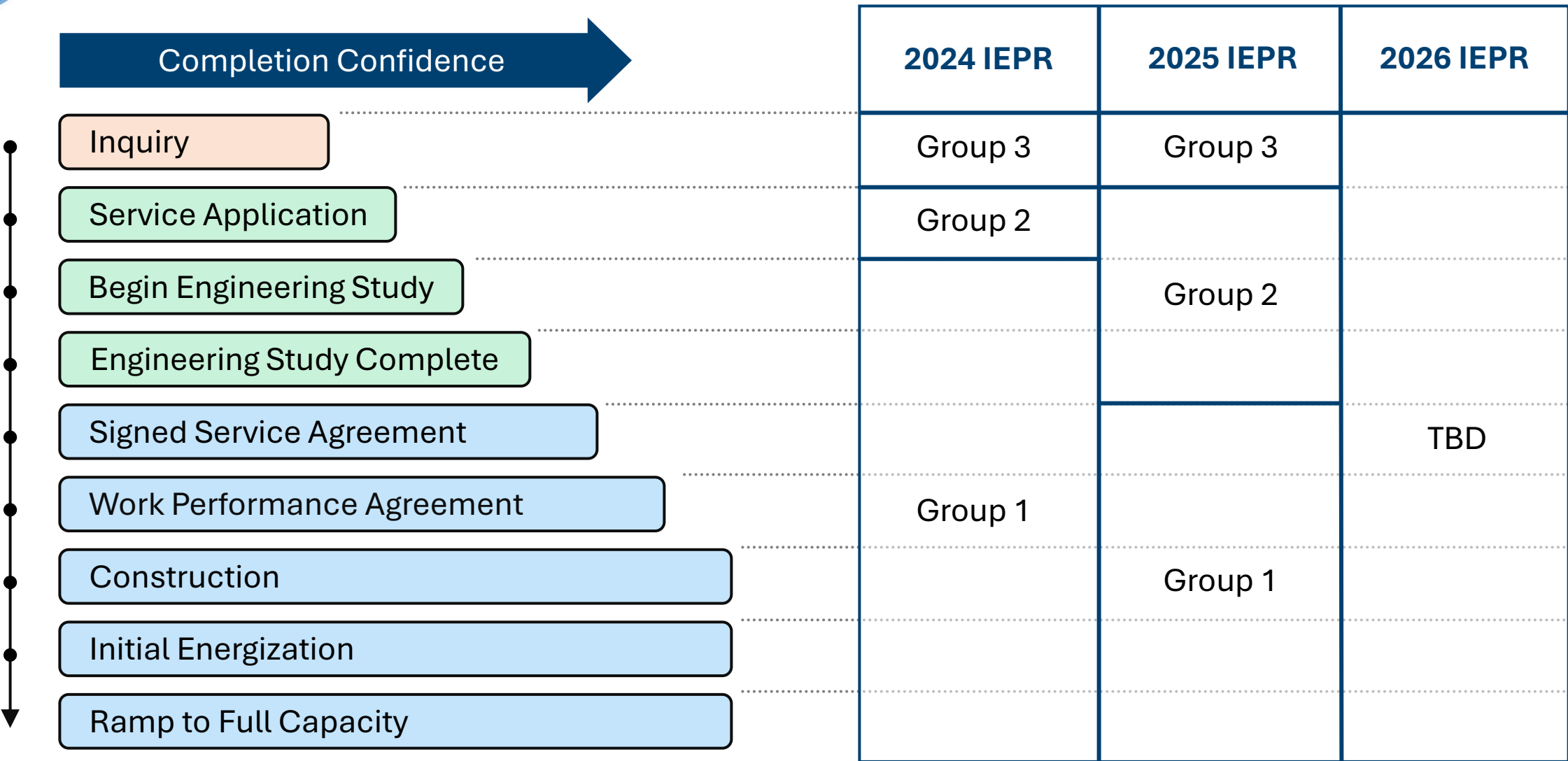
Average Weekday Data Center Load Factor Profile by Season



Source: CEC Staff



Energization Milestones and Project Groupings



Source: CEC Staff



Other Areas of Interest for 2026 IEPR Cycle

- Increasing engagement with utilities and CCAs
- Improving project tracking beyond signed agreement for service
- Building a longitudinal dataset to track project milestone progress over time
- Tracking potential for sites to provide their own generation
- Developing unique load profiles for various data center types and/or sizes
- Improve visibility into emerging data center projects for CCAs and other LSEs



Key Takeaways from August 12 DAWG

- Not all development milestones, such as land ownership, permits, etc., are available to utilities but appear valuable in assessing project viability
- Project attrition common prior to signed agreements
- General agreement on utilization, ramp rates, and other key assumptions, but lack of historical record on AI-focused data centers
- Infrastructure constraints remain the greatest barrier to energization, but other factors include zoning, environmental, public sentiment
- Bring-your-own power arrangements warrant additional investigation



CEC Data Center Resources

- [2025 IEPR](#)
- [CEC Energy Planning Library - Documentation](#)
- [CED 2025 Data Center Growth Forecast Methodology](#)
- [CEC Data Centers Webpage](#)



Thank You!

Jeremy Smith, Supervisor
Sector Modeling Unit, Demand Analysis Branch
Energy Assessments Division
Jeremy.Smith@energy.ca.gov