

DOCKETED	
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Load Energization Requests (Known Loads)

Cristy Sanada



Background on Known Loads

2018

CPUC Decision (D.)18-02-004 directed IOUs to use CEC's forecast for distribution planning



2024

- CPUC D. 24-10-030 adopted reforms to make distribution planning more proactive to meet load growth and avoid delays for customer projects that require upgrades
- IOUs may use reliable bottom-up data and exceed CEC's forecast, with guardrails
- IOUs required to track and report all known load projects to CEC



2025: Assessing Known Loads



What are Known Loads?

- Energization requests at the distribution system level
- Project-level data from each Investor-owned utility

Potential Reliability Risks

- Gap between transmission and distribution planning
- Backlog of projects that exceed growth in the IEPR forecast

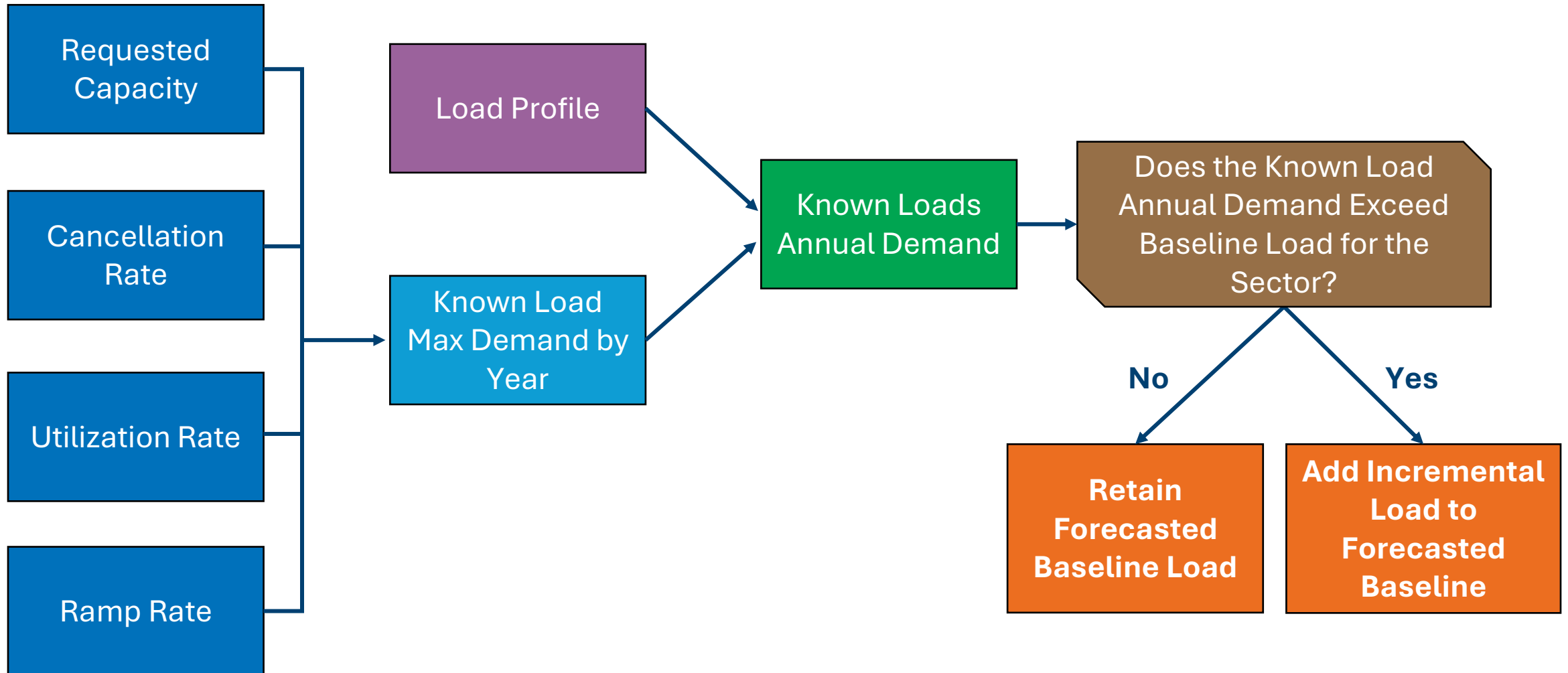
Other Considerations

- 2025 was the first year that CEC has used the known load data
- Lack of historical record
- Interaction with CEC modeling
- Balance resource procurement obligations with grid planning



2025: Estimating Known Load Impacts

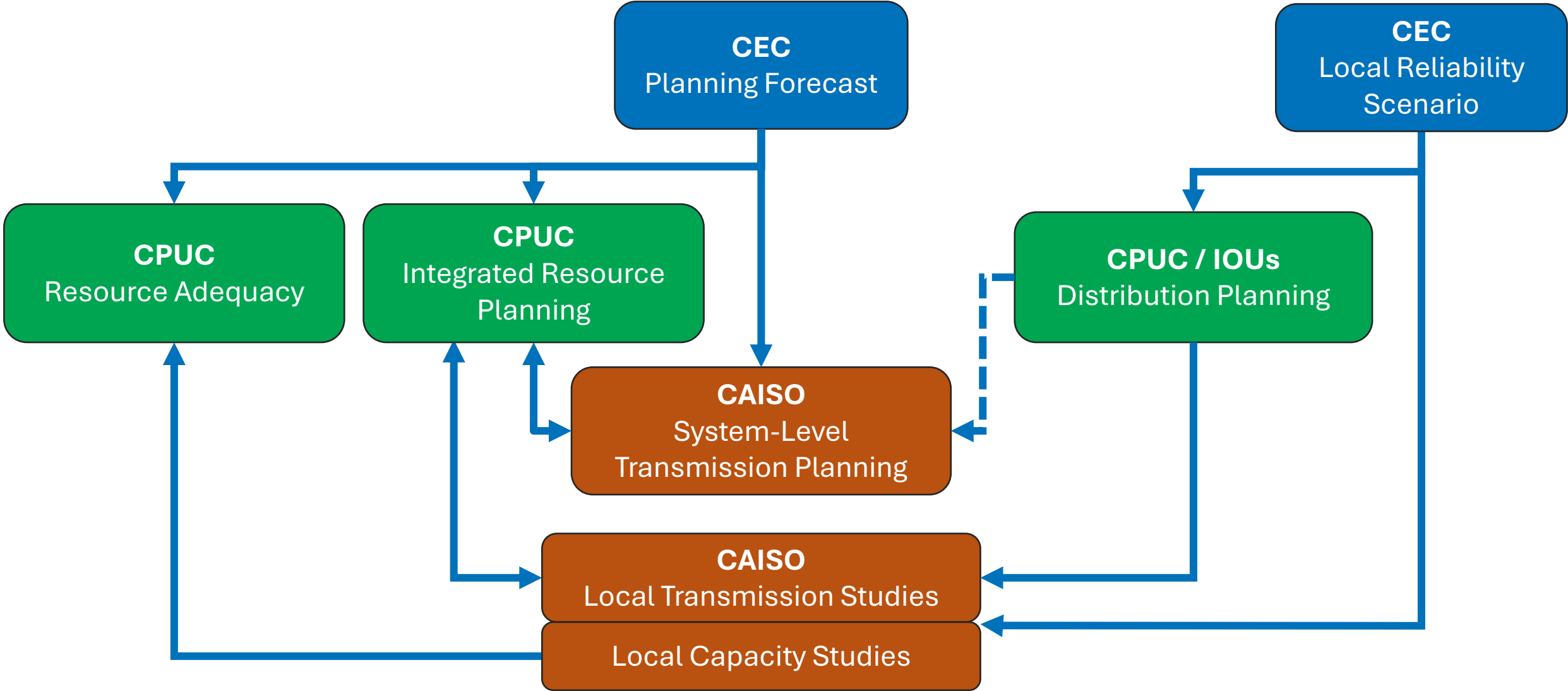
Relied on Data and Assumptions from IOU distribution planning teams





Planning Challenge

Distribution and System Planning are Related





2026 Priorities and Questions

- Ongoing discussions with IOUs, CPUC, and CAISO
- Assess AMI data for completed known loads
- Key questions:
 - Do CEC's forecast products already account for the load growth that known loads represent?
 - Does applying known loads as a distinct adjustment to the forecast risk double counting load?
 - Have known load energizations in recent years resulted in increases in system demand?
 - Are recent load trends a good indicator of the next few years?