

DOCKETED

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RCEA Load Analysis

February 2026

RCEA's Mission and Governance

Develop and implement sustainable energy initiatives that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, and advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources available in the region.

- Founded in 2003 and began serving load as a community choice aggregator in 2017
- Joint Powers Authority made up of:
 - the County of Humboldt
 - the Cities of:
 - Arcata,
 - Blue Lake,
 - Eureka,
 - Ferndale,
 - Fortuna,
 - Rio Dell, and
 - Trinidad
 - Blue Lake Rancheria
 - the Yurok Tribe, and
 - Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.

Outcomes

- Identify local trends
- Compare historic lost forecasts to actuals
- Analyze state data
- Identify impacts to procurement costs and rates

RCEA Load Trends

- RCEA has seen a roughly 19% decrease in annual load since 2021.
- Humboldt County has seen a 3.3% decrease in population since 2017.
- Key accounts (users averaging over 1 million kWh/ year) that have been closed for 2 or more years total 5% of our 2024 load.
- Opt-outs have been relatively flat over the past 5 years, and not a significant contributor to the declining load.
- Residential customers make up our largest load share and customer count, and have seen the largest percentage decrease in load.

RCEA Load by Month



Inactive Key Accounts

(Accounts using over 1M kWh/ year, closed for at least 2 years between 2020 and 2024)

Cannabis	7,527.71 MWh
Non- Cannabis	18,721.19 MWh
	26,248.90 MWh

*5% of 2024 Load



Average RCEA Customer breakdown*:

- 83% Residential
- 14% Commercial (including Ag)
- 3% Industrial

Average RCEA Load Breakdown*:

- 47% Residential
- 44% Commercial/Industrial
- 8% Agricultural

RCEA Load Actuals

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
2022 Planning Forecast (GWh)	648	661	662	666	669
2024 Planning Forecast (GWh)			549	620	620
Historic Load Actual (GWh)	651	598	564	528	557
% Difference to 2022 Planning Forecast	0.5%	-9.4%	-14.9%	-20.8%	-16.7%
% Difference to 2024 Planning Forecast			3%	-15%	-10%

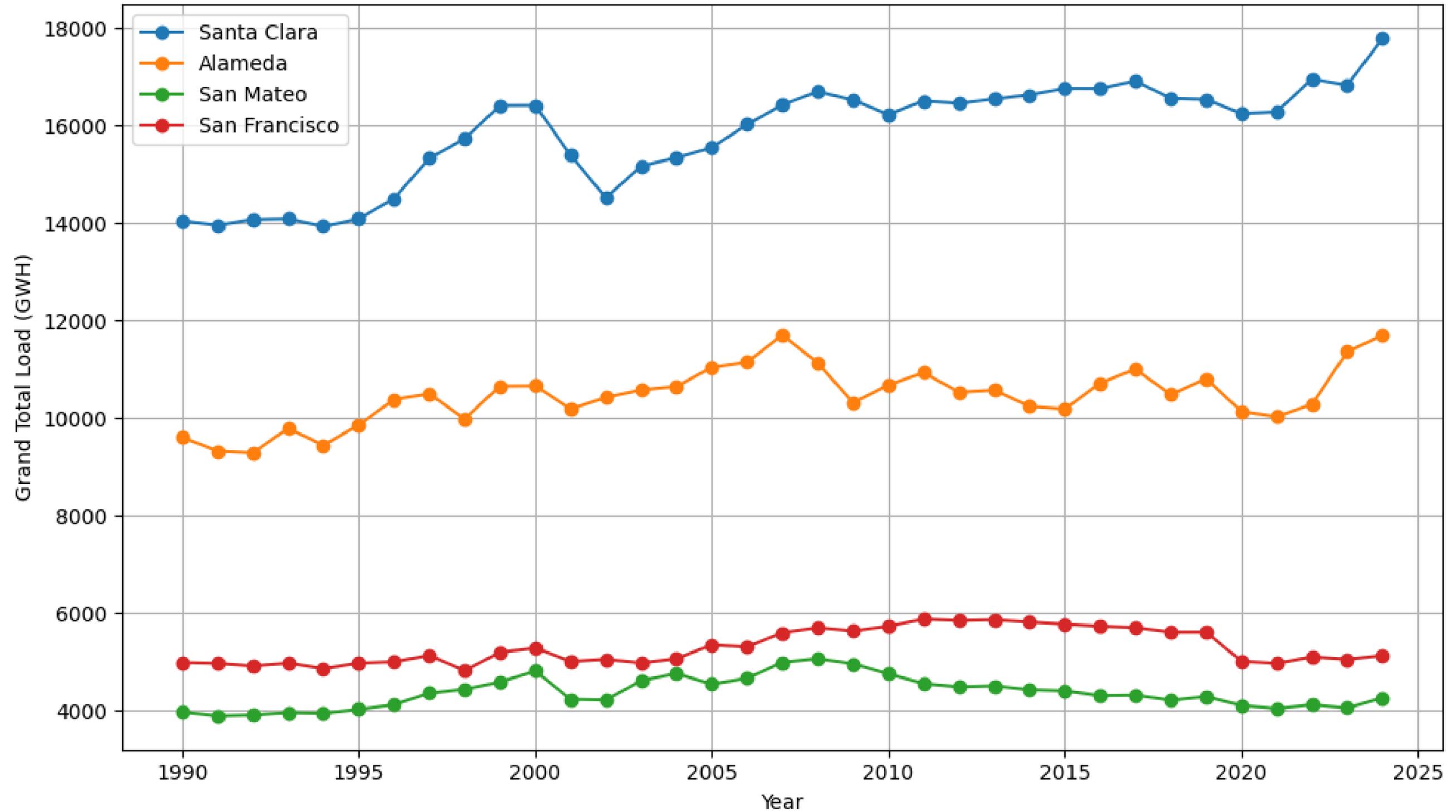
- The IEPR forecasts are only 1% and 3% off their first year, and only slightly underestimate RCEA's load.
- Over time, RCEA's load deviates from forecasts, and the more RCEA's load, and therefore load share are overestimated.

RCEA Historic Peak Load

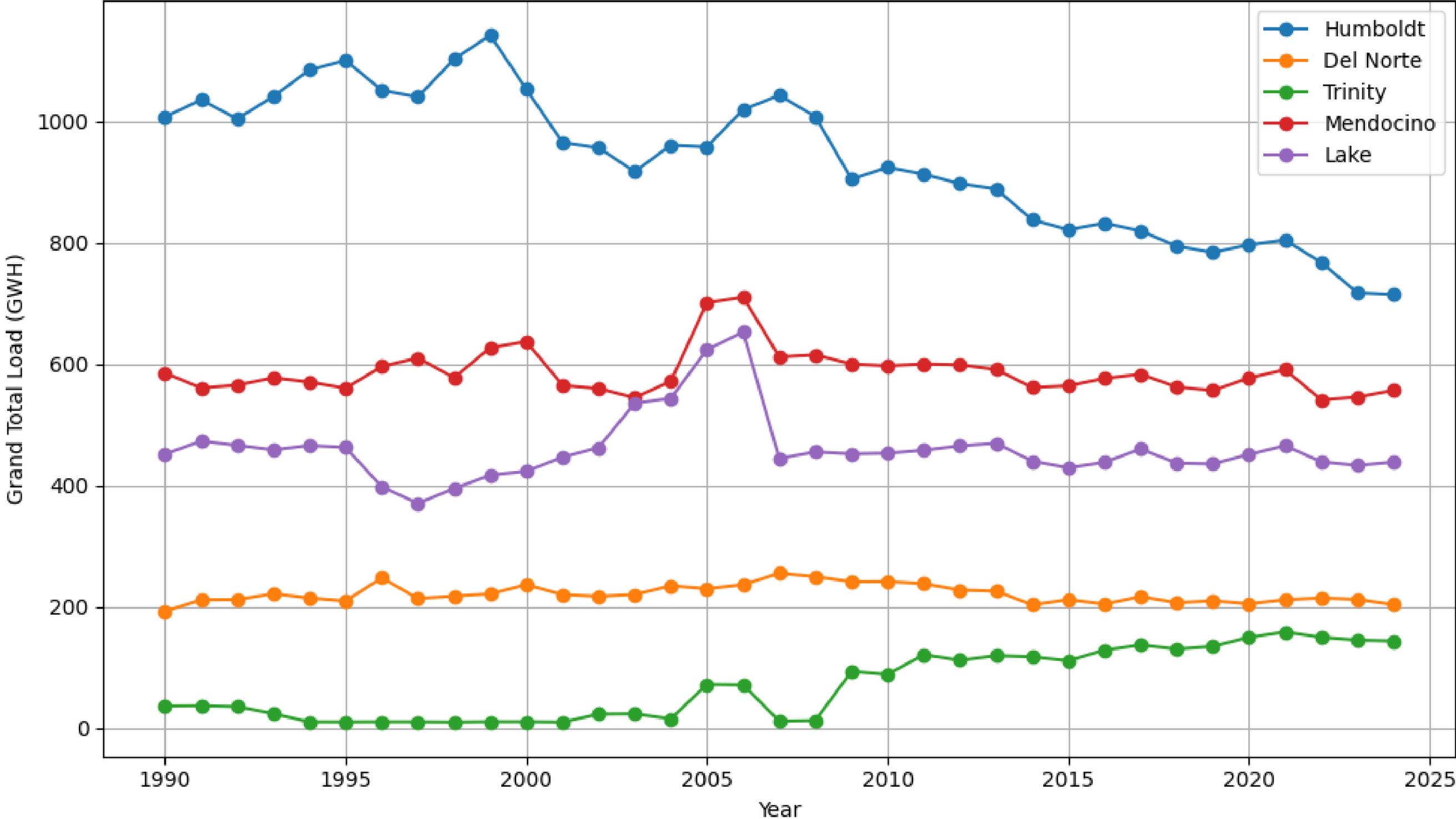
	Peak load, Historical vs. Forecast (MW)							
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Historic	121	117	108	112	102	102	94	97
Forecast	133	116	107	104	113	113	101	99
	-9%	1%	1%	8%	-10%	-10%	-7%	-2%

- RCEA has seen overestimates year over year in these historic actual peaks, sometimes as much as 10% in recent years
- Resulting in the same conclusion: Over time, RCEA's load deviates from forecasts, and the more RCEA's load, and therefore load share are overestimated.

Annual Load 1990-2024 Grand Total: Urban Bay Area Counties

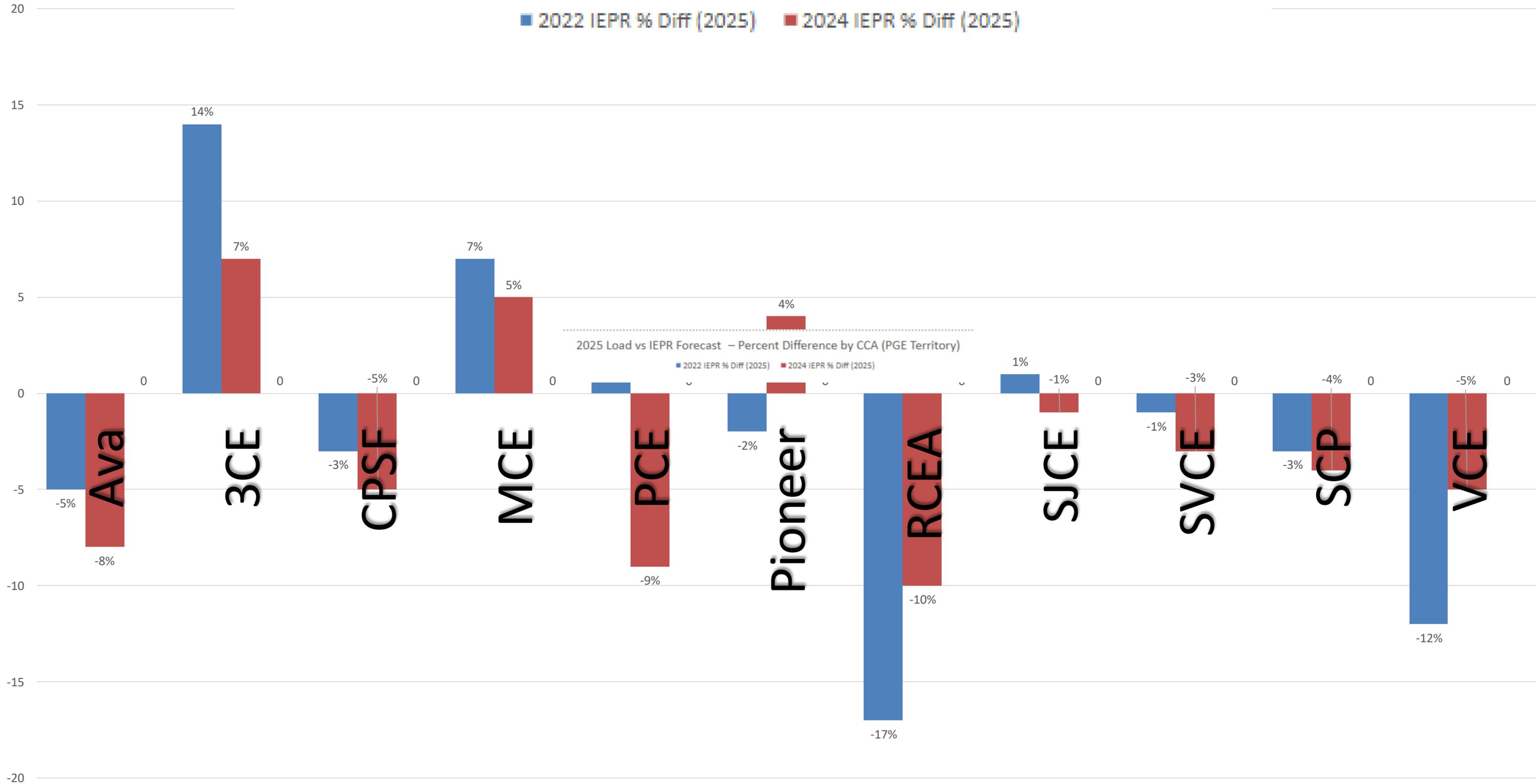


Annual Load 1990-2024 Grand Total: North Coast Counties



- Changes in load over time, note that this includes the whole county, not just CCA customers.
- Note that Humboldt County's load is declining, where other Northern CA regions are increasing or flat.
- This also contrasts with load forecast for Humboldt County, which shows the area as seeing increasing load.

2025 Load vs IEPR Forecast – Percent Difference by CCA (PGE Territory)



Large Load Developments

- **Nordic Aquafarms (Humboldt Bay)**
 - Proposed \$650 Million dollar Facility that would have been ~20 MW load at full build-out; Project quietly canceled early in 2026
- **Data Centers**
 - No major data centers are currently proposed or in development within our service territory
- **Humboldt Bay Offshore Wind Heavy Lift Terminal**
 - Project is potentially delayed

RCEA Load Trends: Impacts to Procurement and Rates

- RCEA's historic load has been trending downwards, as opposed to state planning forecasts.
- This discrepancy incorrectly allocates load and load share to RCEA and other LSEs over time.
- The addition of hyper-scaler loads in some parts of the state intensifies this risk.
- Practices that do not accurately take this risk into account or do not reassess load forecast and load share frequently enough will lead the CEC and CPUC to overprescribe load share to communities with flat or negative load trends.
- Because load and load share drive procurement, this leads to inequity, with some rural and low-income regions like RCEA procuring for more load than actually occurs, resulting in over-procurement and inflated costs for customers.

THANK YOU

For questions, please contact compliance@redwoodenergy.org