

Key Selection Factors in Selection of Successful Project Sponsors Relating to the 2025-2026 Transmission Plan



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Key Qualification Criteria and Selection Factors

Pursuant to Section 24.5.1 of the ISO's tariff, the ISO is posting its key qualification criteria and selection factors for each of the transmission solutions recommended for approval in its revised draft 2025-2026 Transmission Plan released on May 12, 2026 that are eligible for the ISO's competitive solicitation process.

Section 24.5.1 states:

Within 30 days after the CAISO posts the revised draft comprehensive Transmission Plan, or a supplemental assessment to the final comprehensive Transmission Plan, to its website, whichever is applicable, for each Regional Transmission Facility identified in the revised draft comprehensive Transmission Plan or supplemental assessment that is subject to competitive solicitation, the CAISO will post, for informational purposes only, those existing qualification criteria and selection factors, in addition to any binding cost containment commitments, which the CAISO believes are key for purposes of selecting an Approved Project Sponsor for the particular transmission solution, consistent with the comparative analysis described in section 24.5.4 and the project sponsor qualification and selection criteria specified in sections 24.5.3.1 and 24.5.4, respectively. As stated in Section 24.5.1, these key criteria and factors are identified for the purpose of assisting Project Sponsors in preparing their applications and to highlight specific topics to which particular attention should be paid in the application given their particular importance in connection with a specific Regional Transmission Facility. The posting of the key selection criteria is not a replacement or substitute for the qualification and selection criteria set forth in sections 24.5.3.1 and 24.5.4, and in its comparative analysis conducted in accordance with section 24.5.4, the ISO is required to comparatively assess all of the qualification and selection criteria, not just those listed as key selection criteria.

Trout Canyon – Lugo 500 kV Line Project

This is a policy-driven transmission project. The key qualification criteria and selection factors are:

- Selection factor section 24.5.4 (b) - the Project Sponsor's existing rights of way and substations that would contribute to the transmission solution in question;
- Selection factor section 24.5.4 (e) - the financial resources of the Project Sponsor and its team;
- Selection factor section 24.5.4 (j) - demonstrated cost containment capability of the Project Sponsor and its team, specifically, binding cost control measures the Project Sponsor agrees to accept, including any binding agreement by the Project Sponsor and its team to accept a cost cap that would preclude costs for the transmission solution above the cap from being recovered through the CAISO's Transmission Access Charge, and, if none of the competing Project Sponsors proposes a binding cost cap, the authority of the selected siting authority to impose binding cost caps or cost containment measures on the Project Sponsor, and its history of imposing such measures.

