

# Draft Inputs & Assumptions

Track 1: CAISO Resource Adequacy Modeling

October 08, 2024

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## <span id="page-5-0"></span>**1 Introduction**

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) is working on a resource adequacy (RA) modeling and program design initiative through its working group structure to explore reforms needed to the CAISO's resource adequacy rules, requirements, and processes to ensure the future reliability and operability of the grid. This structure aims to give stakeholders a more active role in forming problem statements, identifying potential areas for analysis and supporting data, and scoping necessary market rule changes. Working group discussions help inform the scope of a formal stakeholder initiative.<sup>1</sup> This collaborative approach aims to align incentives, address concerns, and ensure that the RA program effectively supports grid reliability.

The overarching goal of CAISO's initiative is to create a robust and adaptive RA program that can respond to this changing energy landscape, support grid reliability, and facilitate the transition to a clean energy future. Overall, CAISO's RA modeling and program design initiative aims to ensure that the electric grid remains reliable and resilient by making sure there are adequate resources to meet demand, particularly during peak periods and under stressed conditions.

In this regard, CAISO is improving its models to better forecast and assess the availability of resources needed to meet peak demand and ensure grid reliability. This involves refining inputs, assumptions, and methodologies to reflect the evolving energy landscape, including the increasing penetration of renewable resources.

This document serves as a foundational reference for stakeholders ensuring transparency and consistency in the modeling process. By clearly defining these inputs and assumptions, CAISO aims to enhance the accuracy and reliability of its resource adequacy assessments and support informed decision-making. The following sections summarize the primary inputs and assumptions incorporated into this initiative's Track 1 modeling framework:

- **Chapter 2** details the scope of year-ahead, medium-term and long-term RA modeling with focus on year-ahead resource portfolio scenario development.
- **Chapter 3** gives a high-level overview of CAISO's production cost simulation model built using PLEXOS Integrated EnergyModel.
- **Chapter 4** details capacity assumptions made under each year-ahead scenario and the data sources used to model supply-side resource operational attributes and constraints, generation profiles and any resource-specific modeling considerations.
- **Chapter 5** describes the methodology used to develop load, solar, wind and generator outage stochastic profiles.
- **Chapter 6** provides details on requirements and modeling of various ancillary service products.
- **Chapter 7** describes the transmission topology used in the model and assumptions about transmission limits, hurdle rates etc.

<sup>1</sup> CAISO Resource adequacy modeling and program design stakeholder initiative: [https://stakeholdercenter.caiso.com/StakeholderInitiatives/Resource](https://stakeholdercenter.caiso.com/StakeholderInitiatives/Resource-adequacy-modeling-and-program-design) -adequacy-modeling-and-program-design

 **Chapter 8** lists any resource-specific and transmission-related generic constraints enforced in the model.

# <span id="page-7-0"></span>**2 CAISO Resource Adequacy Modeling**

Current processes and procedures do not provide sufficient visibility into the entire generation fleet to enable CAISO to ensure system reliability as shown in [Table 2.1.](#page-7-1) There is a need for additional consistent, transparent, and timely information on the sufficiency of the RA fleet in the CAISO Balancing Authority Area (BAA). Track 1 of the initiative aims to enhance CAISO's resource adequacy modeling capabilities by conducting a probabilistic assessment to evaluate the sufficiency of the CAISO BAA's resource adequacy (RA) portfolio in the year-ahead, medium-term (2-4 years) and long-term (5-10 years) timeframes to meet reliability objectives. In addition, this track will also consider updating CAISO's default resource counting rules and default planning reserve margin (PRM) to reflect reliability contribution of different resource types in a portfolio that achieves a "one day every 10 years loss-of-load expectation" ("1-in-10 LOLE") planning target.<sup>2</sup> This document focuses on CAISO's RA modeling in the year-ahead timeframe, provided details on its scope, and modeling assumptions.

<span id="page-7-1"></span>

#### **Table 2.1 RA modeling needs and proposed timeframes**

As part of this effort, the CAISO surveyed load-serving entities in its footprint to provide resource information under the year-ahead (2025), mid-term (2026-2028) and long-term (2029-2034) planning timeframes. <sup>3</sup> The LSE survey responses are non-binding, but informative for this effort.

**Year-Ahead (2025):** The survey requested LSE's to provide projected RA-eligible resource MWs of Net Qualifying Capacity (NQC) to meet 100 percent of LSE obligation for each month of 2025. LSE obligations (Load + Reserves) came from their respective Local Regulatory Authority (LRA) resource counting rules and Planning Reserve Margin (PRM) requirements.

**Mid-term (2026-2028) and Long-term (2029-2034):** The CAISO surveyed resource plans for the remaining nine years consistent with the IRP/Long-Term resource plans that LSE's provide to the CPUC via IRP filings or to the CEC. The LSE's provide their portfolio of resources to cover load + PRM for the annual peak month of years 2026-2028 (mid-term) and 2029-2034 (long-term).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> LOLE is a measure of the number of days per year for which the available generation capacity is insufficient to serve the demand at least once during that day. 0.1 LOLE or 1-day-in-10 LOLE equates to "1 day with an event in 10 years".

<sup>3</sup> LSE Survey for RA modeling, RAM&PD Working Group, April 23, 2024: [https://stakeholdercenter.caiso.com/InitiativeDocuments/Presentation-Resource-Adequacy-Modeling-and-Program-Design-](https://stakeholdercenter.caiso.com/InitiativeDocuments/Presentation-Resource-Adequacy-Modeling-and-Program-Design-Working-Group-April23-2024.pdf)[Working-Group-April23-2024.pdf](https://stakeholdercenter.caiso.com/InitiativeDocuments/Presentation-Resource-Adequacy-Modeling-and-Program-Design-Working-Group-April23-2024.pdf)

In response to CAISO's survey, 27 LSE's, representing an estimated 72 percent of CAISO balancing area load, have submitted resource portfolios corresponding to year-ahead, mid-term and long-term timeframes. [Figure 2.1](#page-8-0) shows a comparison of year-ahead (2025) survey data (based on shown/NQC values) by resource type (stacked bars) to an estimate of the 2025 obligation by month (green line). The estimated obligation based on peak hour for 2025 in this figure is calculated using the California Energy Commission's 2023 IEPR forecast for 2025 and the 2025 LSE'sPRM, including credits. If the 2025 PRM data is unavailable, the 2024 data is used. The CAISO uses 2024 LSE plans to complete a 2025 resource portfolio for the year-ahead assessment.<sup>4</sup>



<span id="page-8-0"></span>**Figure 2.1 Year Ahead: Comparison of RA capacity from the survey to estimated obligation<sup>5</sup>**

**<sup>&</sup>quot;Other" category includes 2025 expected resources and any resources without a matching Resource ID in Master File**

<sup>4</sup> LSE's with submissions are mostly long on their 2025 obligations so the gap shown in the graph appears to be insignificant especially during winter months.

<sup>5</sup> CAM, DCCP, CPE and other credit allocations reported as RA capacity in year-ahead survey responses are excluded in this figure.

#### **Year-ahead assessment modeling scenarios**

The year-ahead assessment evaluates the reliability of the 2025 CAISO balancing area's reliability using the three resource portfolios in [Table 2.2.](#page-9-0)The "Showings capped at obligation" and "Showings based on historical pattern" scenarios seek to assess different resource portfolios, which are based on the shown RA capacity from LSE survey plans available to the CAISO BA in 2025. The LSE's year-ahead (2025) survey responses and 2024 LSE plans<sup>6</sup> for LSEs without a survey response is the basis for the portfolios in both these scenarios. 7

"Showings capped at Obligation" is one bookend scenario, which aims to capture a theoretical "what-if" case where LSEs only show resources up to their individual obligation.

Historically, on a system level, the total shown RA capacity exceeds RA obligations in each month, indicating a system that is long on shown RA capacity. Hence, the "Showings based on historical pattern" scenario uses the "Showings capped at obligation" resource portfolio and supplements it with extra capacity based on levels similar to historical averages of excess shown RA capacity from 2022 through 2024 as shown i[n Figure 2.2.](#page-10-0)

<span id="page-9-0"></span>



<sup>6</sup> At the time data was compiled for year-ahead assessment, 100 percent monthly showing data for 2024 was available from January through September. For October through December, year-ahead showings data for 2024 was used.

 $7$  Performed resource level validation to ensure total contracted resource capacity is within that specific resource's Pmax.

<span id="page-10-0"></span>

**Figure 2.2 Month-ahead excess shown RA over obligation by month (2022 – 2024)**

For both the "Showings based on historical pattern" and "Showings capped at Obligation" scenarios, shown RA capacity from interties (ITIEs) comes from the average showings between 2019 through 2024.

The final "All RA eligible" scenario is another bookend, which aims to assess CAISO BA's reliability of a portfolio that includes all RA eligible resources from CAISO's publicly posted NQC list. The portfolio for this scenario comes from NQC list published on June 14, 2024, expected new resources identified from the LSE survey in 2025 timeframe, and information on external tie-generators. The NQC list does not contain information on pseudo-tie generators and dynamic imports.

With respect to outage assumptions, "Showings based on historical pattern" and "Showings capped at Obligation" scenarios do not model planned outages. Under the RA program, if a shown RA resource is on planned outage, LSE has a requirement to substitute it with replacement capacity. These scenarios assume that any shown RA capacity that is on planned outage will be 100 percent substituted, hence these scenarios do not account for planned outages in the model. For the all RA eligible scenario, all the available and eligible RA resources are being modeled, so it is important capture planned outages of those resources.

[Figure 2.3](#page-11-0) shows the total shown capacity modeled each month under the "Showings capped at Obligation" scenario and incremental capacity modeled in "Showings based on historical pattern" and "All RA eligible" scenarios. As shown in the figure, the green bars represent the "Showings capped at Obligation" scenario where the system level capacity resulted in capacity over the estimated obligation, which is a peak hour obligation for each month for 2025. This is because the portfolio adjustments are made with a deterministic multi-hour stack model using CPUC's 2025 slide-of-day counting rules. The resource portfolio is adjusted to meet a load forecast plus 16.7 percent PRM obligation, the load-weighted PRM of CPUC and non-CPUC jurisdictional LSEs). Incremental capacity, diagonally shaded bars, represents the excess capacity (based on [Figure 2.2\)](#page-10-0) in the model under the "Showings based on historical pattern"

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scenario. The top most shaded bars represents the additional capacity modeled each month under the "All RA eligible" scenario.<sup>8</sup>

<span id="page-11-0"></span>

**Figure 2.3 Modeled capacity differences between year-ahead portfolios**

<sup>8</sup> "All RA Eligible" scenario bars include a net import limit of 5,500 MW from June – Sep HE 16 – 22 and 11,665 MW during other hours. The import capacity from tie-generators (approximately 9,000 MW nameplate capacity) and interties from rest of WECC is counted against this limit in the model. Hence, the incremental capacity for "All RA Eligible" shown in this graph might be overstated.

# <span id="page-12-0"></span>**3 CAISO's Production Cost Simulation Model Overview**

The CAISO's stochastic production cost simulation model maintains a detailed representation of individual generation resources and load inside the CAISO across four zones: PG&E Bay, PG&E Valley, SCE and SDG&E with inter-zonal limits enforced. The zonal model assumes no transmission limits within each zone. This does not mean there are no transmission constraints within a zone. Such constraints may require local resources to be committed and dispatched, but the zonal model does not capture this requirement.

Out of state tie-generators are modeled as imports and are counted against the net import limit. Economic imports and exports are modeled as a single external market zone and are directly connected to the CAISO through the PG&E Valley, SCE and SDG&E zones. The interchange from the external zone is subject to CAISO's net import limit. The net import limit requires the sum of all imports and exports to the CAISO system to be less than 5,500 MW from June through September during hours  $16 - 22$ . In all other hours, the net import limit is set to 11,665 MW. $9$ 

The zones also have ancillary services and load following requirements, either as fixed profiles or as a certain percent of their loads. The CAISO has total ancillary service and load following requirements for PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E zones together. Internal resources and select resources outside the CAISO may provide capacity for the ancillary service and load following requirements. All iterations use a single set of deterministic regulation and load following requirements. Spinning and non-spinning reserves are each set at 3 percent of load. Because load is a stochastic variable, the hourly values of spinning and nonspinning reserve requirements vary in each iteration.

The CAISO assesses the three resource portfolios discussed in Chapter [2,](#page-7-0) against a 1-in-10 Loss of Load Expectation (LOLE) planning target<sup>10</sup> using probabilistic production cost simulations in the energy modeling software PLEXOS. This approach utilizes 500-iteration full year hourly chronological simulations and is able to capture a wide range of system conditions in load, solar and wind generation, and generation resource outages. Hence, the model was able to simulate 500 years with a unique combination of load, solar, wind and outage profiles for each year. The simulation runs chronologically to co-optimize generation dispatch, ancillary services and load following requirements, subject to various operational and availability constraints.

The outcome of the co-optimization is a least-cost solution that meets load, ancillary service and load following requirements simultaneously. A capacity shortfall may occur if insufficient capacity is available to meet load or any of the ancillary service, frequency response (headroom), or load following requirements, or in meeting load. Alternatively, there are cases in which there is still available capacity but the unused capacity is not capable of following the load ramp.

The model sets a priority order for what requirements to meet first. The model design prioritizes serving, from high to low, energy, regulation-up, spinning, non-spinning, and load following-up on the upward side, and dump power, regulation-down, and load following-down on the downward side. That means when there is an upward shortfall, the shortfall occurs first in load following-up. If the shortfall is large enough, it will spill over to non-spinning, spinning, regulation-up and finally to unserved energy (loss of

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<sup>9</sup> Net import limit is only applicable to "All RA Eligible" scenario.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> LOLE is a measure of the number of days per year for which the available generation capacity is insufficient to serve the demand at least once during that day. 0.1 LOLE or 1-day-in-10 LOLE equates to "1 day with an event in 10 years".

load). For this assessment, LOLE is number of days per year where the modeled resources are insufficient to serve load, frequency response (headroom), regulation up, or spinning reserves. Shortfall of nonspinning and load following up do not contribute to loss of load. The resulting frequency distribution of capacity shortfalls was used to calculate each portfolio's LOLE level in days per year.

As mentioned before, the model uses four stochastic variables – load, solar, wind and outages. The subsequent sections describe the methodology to derive load, solar and wind stochastic variables and their distributions. The outage variable is independent of the other stochastic variables and is unique for each resource in the CAISO BAA. The annual outage samples are generated randomly using historical class average forced outage and maintenance ratesand are independent for each resource.

# <span id="page-14-0"></span>**4 Resource Portfolio Assumptions**

This chapter details capacity assumptions made under each year-ahead scenario as well as the data sources for the supply-side resource operational attributes and constraints, generation profiles, and any resource-specific modeling considerations generally applicable to all scenarios.

[Table 4.1](#page-15-1) shows RA shown capacity by month and fuel type primarily from the LSE survey in year-ahead timeframe (2025). As mentioned in Chapter [2,](#page-7-0) 2024 showings information supplements the survey data for LSE's that did not respond to the survey. These two sources create a complete resource portfolio that is used to compare against an estimated obligation for each month in 2025. This information combined with historical surplus patterns each month (based o[n Figure 2.2\)](#page-10-0) form the basis of capacity modeled for "Showings capped at Obligation" and "All Showings based on historical pattern" scenarios.

Following are capacity assumptions by fuel type considered i[n Table 4.1:](#page-15-1)

- 1. For solar, wind and hydro resources, the table lists total shown capacity from LSE surveys (and 2024 LSE plans where data is not available) to be able to compare against the estimated obligation. However, solar and wind resources use nameplate capacities in the creation of stochastic profiles for the simulation. Hydro resources use an average hydro year profile.
- 2. Proxy demand response resources are modeled at their shown capacity and included in "Other" category.
- 3. Some of the contracted capacity from LSE survey was missing a fuel type identifier and was modeled as firm capacity in this study and categorized under "Unknown" fuel type below.
- 4. Import RA capacity on interties is the average shown RA each month from 2019 through 2024. External tie-generators and dynamic imports are modeled at their shown capacity from the survey. Hence, modeled import capacity on ties and all pseudo-tied and dynamic imports from out of state generators is considered firm in the "Showings" scenarios and the exceeds the net import limit of 5,500 MW enforced in the "All RA eligible" in some summer months as indicated by "Tie-generators" and "Import RA on ties" values in [Table 4.1.](#page-15-1)
- 5. For the remaining fuel types, modeled capacity in these scenarios is consistent with shown capacity either in the LSE survey or in 2024 LSE plans where data is not available.

<span id="page-15-1"></span>



As the CPUC is moving to slide-of-day framework beginning 2025, portfolio adjustments aremade using a deterministic multi-hour stack model using CPUC's 2025 slide-of-day counting rules applied to a resource portfolio such that it at least meets a load forecast plus 16.7 percent PRM obligation (load-weighted PRM which includes CPUC and non-CPUC jurisdictional LSEs)[. Figure 4.1](#page-15-0) shows the resulting adjustments under the "Showings capped at obligation" scenario for January 2025. The figure also shows how the excess storage during evening peak hours (left) addresses the shortfalls in the stack (right) which is in line with CPUC's slice-of-day rules.

<span id="page-15-0"></span>



[Table 4.2](#page-16-0) includes the amount of shown capacity (from [Table 4.1\)](#page-15-1) removed by fuel type and the final modeled capacity for each scenario. These adjustments also take into account historical shown RA (2024)

by resource class relative to total shown capacity in each month. The difference between total shown capacity in [Table 4.1](#page-15-1) and any resource class adjustments made i[n Table 4.2](#page-16-0) is the final modeled capacity for each scenario. For the "All Showings based on historical pattern" scenario, the adjustments ensure there is a surplus in most months, consistent with historical levels (based o[n Figure 2.2\)](#page-10-0). To reflect this in the production cost model for each scenario, constraints are enforced at the technology level (Gas, Storage and Nuclear) such that only the resulting monthly supply capacity after these adjustments is available for commitment and dispatch.

<span id="page-16-0"></span>



[Table 4.3](#page-17-0) shows "All RA Eligible" scenario modeled capacity by month and fuel type, based on the final NQC list published on June 14, 2024 and the 2025 contracted capacity from expected new resources in the LSE survey data. Following are capacity assumptions by fuel type considered i[n Table 4.3:](#page-17-0)

- 1. Natural gas and battery resources are modeled at their nameplate capacities.
- 2. For solar, wind and hydro resources, the table lists total NQC capacity to be able to be comparable to other scenarios mentioned before. However, this scenario uses nameplate capacities in the creation of stochastic profiles for the simulation and when modeling solar and wind resources in the study. Hydro resources use an average hydro year profile.
- 3. For QFs, CHP, cogen facilities, must-take, geothermal and bio fuel resources, NQC value is modeled consistent with their bidding levels in the market.
- 4. Proxy demand response resources are modeled at their NQC capacity and included in "Other" category.
- 5. Partial deliverable resources have their capacity scaled down based on their deliverable MW.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> *Partial Capacity* deliverability status entitles a generating facility to a NQC amount that cannot be larger than a specified fraction of its QC amount, and may be less pursuant to the assessment of its NQC amount by the CAISO.

- 6. "Energy-only" solar resources that are co-located with a "fully-deliverable" battery resource which support onsite charging are included in this scenario.<sup>12</sup>
- 7. Since the NQC list does not have information on external tie-generators, the table excludes pseudo-tie and dynamic import resources outside of the CAISO BAA, which total around 9,000 MW. However, these resources are subject to the net import limit of 5,500MW from June through September during hours 16 – 22. In all other hours, the net import limit is 11,665 MW.

<span id="page-17-0"></span>



Extreme weather events and risks such as wildfire or severe drought remain a threat to grid reliability and can strain the grid for days or weeks. Assembly Bill 205 created the Strategic Reliability Reserve (SRR) in 2022, to expand the resources capable of managing or reducing demand during extreme events. The SRR provides funding to secure additional resources to address extreme events beyond traditional resource planning targets. [Table 4.4](#page-18-0) lists existing and new resources contracted under the state's Strategic Reliability Reserve (SRR) program, which are not included in the year-ahead modeling scenarios.

<sup>12</sup> *Energy only* is a condition elected by an interconnection customer for a generating facility interconnected with the CAISO controlled grid where the generating facility will be deemed to have a NQC of zero, and, therefore, cannot be considered a resource adequacy resource.



## <span id="page-18-0"></span>**Table 4.4 Electricity Supply Strategic Reliability Reserve Program (ESSRRP) resources**

## **Thermal Generators**

Thermal generators are modeled at a unit level in this study. Diablo Canyon nuclear plant is modeled as available through 2029 (Unit 1) and 2030 (Unit 2) based on SB 846 ruling. Operating characteristics that constraint the unit commitment and dispatch of thermal resources (natural gas, distillate, and nuclear resources etc.) include maximum and minimum capacity, minimum up and down times, ramp up and down times, start-up times, start fuel and start-up cost, heat rate curve, and variable operations and maintenance (VOM) cost. The CAISO's Master File and WECC ADS dataset are the primary sources for these operating characteristics on a technology level. CPUC's Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process is the source for the fuel prices.

With respect to ancillary services (regulation and spinning) and load following reserve modeling, the model includes relevant properties that determine each generator's reserve provision in proportion to its ramping capabilities. That is, in upward direction, its total provision of ancillary services cannot exceed its 10-minute ramping capability and any unused capacity. Total provision of ancillary services and load following cannot exceed its 20-minute ramping capability and any unused capacity. In addition, the sum of energy ramping and provision of ancillary services and load following cannot exceed its 60-minute ramping capability and any unused capacity.

#### **Hydro and Pumped Storage Modeling**

Hydro generation is modeled on an aggregated basis as two types: non-dispatchable run-of-river and dispatchable hydro generation. Run-of-river hydro generation is modeled as a fixed generation profile. These resources cannot provide ancillary services or load following. The dispatchable hydro generation is optimized subject to daily maximum and minimum energy limits as shown in [Figure 4.2.](#page-19-0) These energy limits are derived from historical generation data where snowpack and reservoir conditions that most

closely resemble an average hydro year. The model in this analysis for an "average hydro" year was based on the 2018 hydro year. Dispatchable hydro generation can provide system capacity, ancillary service and load following. The hydro resources are aggregated by zone in the model. They do not have outages since the outagesare already reflected in the hydro generation profile.

<span id="page-19-0"></span>



Pump storage generators are modeled individually and are optimized subject to storage capacity, inflow and target limits, and cycling efficiency. The pumping and generation schedules for pumped storage resources are optimized with constraints on storage capacity, water inflow and target limits, reservoir storage volume and cycling efficiencies. In generation mode, pumped storage resources can provide all ancillary services and load following. Pumped storage have defined forced and maintenance outages.

#### **Renewables**

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The model represents renewable resources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biofuels and small hydro resources on an aggregated basis and by zone. The modeled capacities for each of these resource types (except solar and wind) differ based on the scenarios and outlined in [Table 4.1](#page-15-1) and [Table 4.3.](#page-17-0) For solar and wind resources, their respective nameplate capacities shown i[n Table 4.5](#page-20-0) an[d Table 4.6](#page-20-1) are calculated by scenario and are used as an input into creating 500 stochastic profiles for 2025.<sup>13</sup>

Solar and wind components of hybrid and co-located resources are aggregated and modeled separately and used in developing the stochastic profiles. Hybrid and co-located resources are subject to their respective Pmax and aggregate capability constraints, respectively.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> The tables exclude solar and wind capacity from hybrid resources but are used in developing the respective stochastic profiles.

<span id="page-20-0"></span>

#### **Table 4.5 Solar and Wind nameplate capacities for "Showings" scenarios**

#### **Table 4.6 Solar and Wind nameplate capacities for "All RA Eligible" scenario**

<span id="page-20-1"></span>

#### **Battery Energy Storage Modeling**

Battery energy storage resources are modeled as 4-hour duration with an 85 percent round trip efficiency on an aggregated basis and by zone. The modeled capacities differ based on the modeling scenarios and outlined in [Table 4.1](#page-15-1) and [Table 4.3.](#page-17-0) Battery storage resources can provide ancillary services and load following in both charging and discharging modes.

Storage components of hybrid and co-located resources are aggregated and modeled separately by zone. As mentioned earlier, hybrid and co-located resources are subject to their respective Pmax and aggregate capability constraints, respectively.

#### **Demand Response Modeling**

Demand response resources are modeled as supply resources with high triggering prices calculated based on a 1,000 BTU/kWh heat rate and a high fuel price. When the energy price reaches the triggering price, the demand response resources' loads are dropped. The triggering prices are high enough so that the demand response resources are not be triggered more frequently than is realistic. Demand response resources also have maximum run time and maximum daily starts constraints enforced. In the model, demand response resources cannot provide ancillary services or load following reserves.

# <span id="page-21-0"></span>**5 Stochastic Variables**

The CAISO's model has stochastic variables for load, solar generation, wind generation and outages. The load variable is the aggregate load of the CAISO, excluding the California Department of Water Resources (CDWR) pump load. The solar variable is the aggregate solar generation of behind-the-meter PV, solar resources inside the CAISO and from out-of-state. The wind variable is the aggregate wind generation by wind resources inside the CAISO and out-of-state. In the simulations, the stochastic values of load, solar and wind generation are distributed to the five zones - PG&E Bay, PG&E Valley, SCE, SDG&E, and the external zone by ratios calculated based on their respective base profiles. Lastly, the model includes 500 random outage samples for each generation resource inside the CAISO. Following sections provide a detailed description of mean reversion random walk solar, wind and load stochastic profiles methodology as well as outage profiles methodology, which is independent of all other variables.

## <span id="page-21-1"></span>**5.1 Solar and Wind Profiles**

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Solar and wind base profiles are used as an input into the CAISO's mean reversion stochastic model.<sup>14</sup> Solar base profile comes from the CPUC's recently adopted Preferred System Plan (PSP).<sup>15</sup> The wind base profile comes from a 5-year (2019 – 2023) average of actual CAISO EMS data normalized by annual installed capacity. Mean reversion ratios of solar and wind are calculated with a regression model using historical wind (2007 – 2014) and solar (2010 – 2021) data sourced from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). The CAISO then applied these ratios to the solar [and wind base profiles to generate](#page-22-3)  500 stochastic samples for solar and wind generation. [Figure 5.1](#page-22-0) and

[Figure 5.2](#page-22-3) shows hourly distribution of solar and wind profiles for each month of 2025 used in the "All RA Eligible" scenario based on capacities listed in [Table 5.1](#page-21-2). For the "Showings" scenarios, the same 500 sample profiles for solar and wind are scaled using the solar and wind nameplate capacities listed i[n Table](#page-22-2)  [5.2.](#page-22-2)

<span id="page-21-2"></span>

<b>FUEL TYPE</b>	<b>ype</b>	Jan	<b>Feb</b>	Mar	<b>Apr</b>	May <sup>1</sup>	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	<b>Nov</b>	Dec <sup>1</sup>
Solar	<b>GEN</b>	17,031	17,031	17,331	17,331	17,631	17,887	17,887	17,887	17,887	17,887	17,807	17,922
lSolar	TG	702	702	702	702	702	832	832	832	832	832	832	832
lWind	<b>GEN</b>	6,319	6,319	6,317	6,081	6,081	6,081	6,062	6,066	6,066	6,060	6,060	6,060
Wind	TG	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051	2,051

**Table 5.1 Solar and Wind nameplate capacities for "All RA eligible" scenario**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> The methodology was filed as part of CAISO's expert testimony in the CPUC Long-Term Procurement Plan (LTPP) proceeding, Appendix A, pg. 5 – 19, Nov 20, 2014: [https://www.caiso.com/documents/nov20\\_2014\\_liu\\_stochasticstudytestimony\\_ltpp\\_r13-12-010.pdf](https://www.caiso.com/documents/nov20_2014_liu_stochasticstudytestimony_ltpp_r13-12-010.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> CPUC, 2023 Preferred System Plan Proposed Decision, Modeling & Analysis, pp. 13, January 12, 2024: [https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/integrated-resource-plan-and](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/integrated-resource-plan-and-longterm-procurement-plan-irp-ltpp/2023-irp-cycle-events-and-materials/2024-01-12-presentation-summarizing-updatedservm-and-resolve-analysis.pdf)[longterm-procurement-plan-irp-ltpp/2023-irp-cycle-events-and-materials/2024-01-12-presentation-summarizing](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/integrated-resource-plan-and-longterm-procurement-plan-irp-ltpp/2023-irp-cycle-events-and-materials/2024-01-12-presentation-summarizing-updatedservm-and-resolve-analysis.pdf)[updatedservm-and-resolve-analysis.pdf](https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/energy-division/documents/integrated-resource-plan-and-longterm-procurement-plan-irp-ltpp/2023-irp-cycle-events-and-materials/2024-01-12-presentation-summarizing-updatedservm-and-resolve-analysis.pdf)

<span id="page-22-2"></span>

<span id="page-22-3"></span>



<span id="page-22-0"></span>

**Figure 5.2 2025 Hourly wind stochastic sample distribution (All RA Eligible scenario)**

<span id="page-22-1"></span>

## <span id="page-23-0"></span>**5.2 Load Profiles**

The CEC baseline managed hourly demand forecast from 2023 IEPR $^{16}$  was an input to CAISO's mean reversion load forecast model.<sup>17</sup> This model has two processes: The first process uses CAISO's historical load profiles to calculate the mean reversion ratios with a regression model. The second process applies the calculated mean reversion ratios to CEC's baseline hourly demand forecast plus behind-the-meter solar generation to generate 500 stochastic hourly gross load profiles. The managed hourly load was calculated by subtracting behind-the-meter solar from the projected 500 stochastic gross load profiles. [Figure 5.3](#page-23-1) shows the frequency distribution of loads used in the stochastic model. [Figure 5.4](#page-24-1) shows hourly distribution of managed load profiles for each month of 2025.

<span id="page-23-1"></span>

**Figure 5.3 Frequency distribution of 2025 load**

19 October 2024

<sup>16</sup> CEC, Adopted 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report with Errata, Feb 14, 2024: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=254463>

<sup>17</sup> The methodology was filed as part of CAISO's expert testimony in the CPUC Long-Term Procurement Plan (LTPP) proceeding, Appendix A, pg. 5 – 19, Nov 20, 2014: [https://www.caiso.com/documents/nov20\\_2014\\_liu\\_stochasticstudytestimony\\_ltpp\\_r13 -12-010.pdf](https://www.caiso.com/documents/nov20_2014_liu_stochasticstudytestimony_ltpp_r13%20-12-010.pdf)

<span id="page-24-1"></span>

**Figure 5.4 2025 Hourly managed load stochastic sample distribution**

## <span id="page-24-0"></span>**5.3 Generator Outage Profiles**

[Table 5.3](#page-25-0) shows forced and maintenance outage rates that are calculated as technology average based on the CAISO's 2009 - 2014 actual outage data. For battery, biofuels and geothermal resources a capacity derate is used to represent a combined outage rate. .

Forced outage rate, maintenance rate and mean time to repair generator properties are used to create 500 independent outage samples for each generator using the converged Monte Carlo method. PLEXOS' PASA simulation phase is used to create maintenance events that can be used as an input into subsequent hourly chronological simulations. The converged Monte Carlo method is used in generating the forced outages so that the percent of hours with forced outage is close to the forced outage rates of the resources. Planned maintenance factor on a region level (PG&E Bay, PG&E Valley, SCE and SDG&E) is used to schedule outages by month. It is a profiling factor used by PASA to 'shape' maintenance events into appropriate periods of high capacity reserves. As mentioned earlier, the outage stochastic variable is independent of any other stochastic variables in the model.

As shown in [Table 2.2,](#page-9-0) "Showings based on historical pattern" and "Showings capped at Obligation" scenarios do not model planned outages. Under the RA program, if a shown RA resource is on planned outage, LSE has a requirement to substitute it with replacement capacity. These scenarios assume that any shown RA capacity that is on planned outage will be 100 percent substituted and hence does not account for planned outages in the model. On the other hand, since all the available and eligible RA resources are modeled in the "All RA eligible" scenario, it is important capture planned outages of those resources. Hence, generator outage profiles created using PASA module exclude planned maintenance rate properties when simulating the resource portfolios for "Showings based on historical pattern" and "Showings capped at Obligation" scenarios.

<span id="page-25-0"></span>

## **Table 5.3 Outage rates by technology type**

# <span id="page-26-0"></span>**6 Transmission Topology**

[Figure 6.1](#page-26-1) shows a high-level representation of CAISO and rest of the WECC topology used in the stochastic model. The stochastic model maintains a detailed representation of individual generation resources and load inside the CAISO across four zones: PG&E Bay, PG&E Valley, SCE and SDG&E with inter-zonal limits enforced. Economic imports and exports to CAISO are modeled as a single external market zone. The external zone is connected to the CAISO directly through the PG&E Valley, SCE and SDG&E zones and provides the CAISO with dedicated and economic imports. It also takes CAISO exports when economic, subject to the export constraints. CAISO scheduling coordinators own portions of some out-of-state renewable and non-renewable resources, such as Hoover, Palo Verde, etc. and are modeled as must-take dedicated imports. Hence, the external zone also models California out-of-state pseudo-tie generators for dedicated imports and a "market station" for economic import and export that is subject to a price curve.

<span id="page-26-1"></span>



[Table 6.1](#page-27-0) summarizes the internal and external line path ratings and import/export hurdle rates used in the model. The model also enforces a Path 15 nomogram with a flow limit of 5,000 MW between PG&E Valley and SCE zones. Each of these path ratings and hurdle rates are derived from a deterministic model run. As mentioned earlier, the external zone, which provides with dedicated imports from pseudo-tie generators and economic imports/exports from rest of the WECC region is subject to a net import limit of 5,500 MW (June through September during hours  $16 - 22$ ) and 11,665 MW (all other hours).<sup>18</sup>

<span id="page-27-0"></span>

<b>From</b>	To	<b>Min/Max Flow Ratings</b> (MW)	<b>Import/Export Hurdle</b> Rate (\$/MWh)
PG&E Bay	<b>PG&amp;E Valley</b>	$-15,000/15,000$	01
PG&E Valley	<b>SCE</b>	$-3,000/4,000$	<sub>0</sub>
<b>SCE</b>	SDG&E	$-2,500/4,104$	01
External	<b>PG&amp;E Valley</b>	$-6,630/7,800$	$$10.48$ /\$10.85
External	<b>SCE</b>	$-12,538/13,502$	$$13.24$ / $$10.85$
External	SDG&E	$-3,831/4,223$	\$13.24/\$10.85

**Table 6.1 Model path ratings and hurdle rates**

As mentioned before, the market station handles the CAISO's economic import and export. To enable the economic import and export capability, a 4-block price curve is used for the market station. This price curve is based on the market clearing prices (MCP) in the deterministic model run.<sup>19</sup> [Table 6.2](#page-27-1) represents the price curve for the market station resulting from the deterministic model run. When the CAISO MCP is higher than the price of the curve plus the import hurdle rate, the CAISO imports economically from the market station, subject to the CAISO net import limit. Conversely, when the CAISO MCP plus export hurdle rate is lower than the price of the first block of the curve, the CAISO exports economically to the market station; subject to the CAISO zero net export constraint.



<span id="page-27-1"></span>

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<sup>18</sup> Net import limit is only applicable to "All RA Eligible" scenario.

<sup>19</sup> CAISO IRP 38 MMT Core Portfolio PLEXOS Deterministic model, Feb 11, 2022: [https://www.caiso.com/documents/caiso-integrated-resource-planning-38mmt-coreportfolio-plexos-deterministic-2026-](https://www.caiso.com/documents/caiso-integrated-resource-planning-38mmt-coreportfolio-plexos-deterministic-2026-2030.zip) [2030.zip](https://www.caiso.com/documents/caiso-integrated-resource-planning-38mmt-coreportfolio-plexos-deterministic-2026-2030.zip)

# <span id="page-28-0"></span>**7 Ancillary Services Modeling**

CAISO zones defined in the production cost model also have ancillary services and load following requirements, either as fixed profiles or as a certain percent of their loads. The CAISO has total ancillary service and load following requirements for PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E zones together. Internal resources and resources outside the zone as designated in the model may meet the ancillary service and load following requirements. All iterations use a single set of deterministic regulation and load following requirements.

The CAISO uses a probabilistic Monte Carlo simulation program to calculate regulation and load following requirements. The purpose of this program is to calculate the intra-hour regulation up/down and load following up/down requirements and convert these intra-hour requirements to hourly requirements. Inputs are 1-minute and hourly projected load, wind and solar generation profiles of the simulation year as well as hourly forecast standard deviations of load, wind and solar generation, and real time load forecast standard deviation. Outputs are hourly profiles for regulation and load following requirements that are inputs for the CAISO's stochastic production cost simulation model.

## <span id="page-28-1"></span>**7.1 Regulation and Spinning/Non-SpinningRequirements**

The regulation up or down requirement is the maximum of net load differences between the 1-minute and 5-minute forecast values within the 5-minute interval in an upward or downward direction. Spinning and non-spinning reserve are each 3 percent of load, respectively. Because load is a stochastic variable, the hourly values of spinning and non-spinning reserve requirements vary in each iteration. [Figure 7.1](#page-28-2) and [Figure 7.2](#page-29-1) show hourly distributions of regulation up and down requirements for each month of 2025.

<span id="page-28-2"></span>

**Figure 7.1 Hourly distribution of regulation up requirements (2025)**

<span id="page-29-1"></span>

**Figure 7.2 Hourly distribution of regulation down requirements (2025)**

## <span id="page-29-0"></span>**7.2 Load Following Requirements**

The load following up or down requirement is the maximum of net load differences between the 5-minute and hourly forecast values within the hour in an upward or downward direction. [Figure 7.3](#page-29-2) an[d Figure 7.4](#page-30-0) show hourly distributions of load following up and down requirements for each month of 2025.

<span id="page-29-2"></span>

**Figure 7.3 Hourly distribution of load following up requirements (2025)**

<span id="page-30-0"></span>

**Figure 7.4 Hourly distribution of load following down requirements (2025)**

In addition to ancillary service and load following requirements, the model also enforces a frequency response reserve with a minimum provision of 376 MW to satisfy a NERC requirement. The model enforces a constraint such that only internal combined cycle and battery energy storage resources provide this reserve. This reserve product requires that generators providing it be able to maintain the required response for 30 minutes.

# <span id="page-31-0"></span>**8 Resource and Transmission Constraints**

<span id="page-31-1"></span>[Table 8.1](#page-31-1) provides details on any resource specific and transmission constraints enforced in the model.

<b>Constraint Category</b>	<b>Description</b>				
RETier	Tiered price solar and wind curtailment constraint				
<b>USELE3350</b>	Ensure the maximum unserved energy in an hour is less than 30,000 MW				
<b>CAISO Import</b>	A net import limit of 5,500 MW is used from June through September during hours $16 - 22$ . In all other hours, a limit of 11,665 MW is used in the model. This constraint in enforced on imports from external tie-generators and imports/exports from "rest of WECC" region				
NetExport CAISO	Constrain CAISO net export to less than 5,000 in any hour				
Path 15	Flow limit of 5,000 MW enforced between PG&E Valley and SCE zones in the model				
Hydro Pumped Storage End Volume	Daily end-of-period storage volume limits on CAISO PSP units (Eastwood, Helms, Lake Hodges and San Luis)				
<b>Hydro Pumped Storage Starts</b>	Limit Pumped Storage starts to one per day				
Helms Pump Gen Limits	Constraint to ensure the coordination of Helms 1, 2, 3 generation and pumping modes				
Humboldt Min Gen	Humboldt minimum generation in the winter (November - February, 9 am-9pm) must be at least 100 MWs				
Reg - Spin Limit	Limits Reg and Spin contributions to ramp * 10 specifically for CAISO dispatchable hydro, Helms, Pio Pico and SCE LCR CCGT and LMS100 units				
<b>CAISO Unit Starts</b>	Limit CAISO natural gas unit daily starts to less than or equal to 1				
50PCTLFDRisk	Constraints on solar and wind so that they cannot provide more than 50 percent of load following down requirement				

**Table 8.1 Generic constraints enforced in the PLEXOS model**

