



WESTERN FREEDOM

**Kathleen Staks, Executive Director
Senate Energy, Utilities, and Communications Committee
March 12, 2025**

West-wide Governance Pathways Initiative

The Mission of the Launch Committee of the WWGPI (Committee) is to develop and form a new and independent entity with an **independent governance structure** that is capable of overseeing an expansive suite of West-wide wholesale electricity markets and related functions based on the following core principles:

- The entity should enable the **largest footprint possible that includes California**, and maximizes overall consumer benefits;
- The entity will include **independent governance** for all market operations;
- The new entity will **preserve and build upon existing CAISO market structures** that serve over 80% of the Western Interconnection, including the Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) and the Extended Day Ahead Market (EDAM);
- A primary goal will be to **minimize duplication and incurrence of costs** for both the market operator and market participants; and
- The structure should be flexible to accommodate the future voluntary provisions of **full regional transmission organization (RTO) services** for those entities that desire to do so, but not mandate that any entity must join such a future potential RTO.

Respect for state authority to set procurement, environmental, reliability and other public interest policies.

Launch Committee Members

States/Provinces:

Commissioner Milt Doumit, WA
Commissioner Kevin Thompson, AZ

President Alice Reynolds, CA

Alternates:

Letha Tawney, OR

Siva Gunda, CA

Pat O'Connell, NM

CA IOU Transmission Owners:

Scott Ranzal, PG&E

Jeff Nelson, SCE

EIM Entities:

David Rubin, NVE

Kerstin Rock, PAC

Pam Sporborg, PGE

Alternate(s):

Robert Eckenrod, PAC

Labor:

Marc Joseph, IBEW – CA

Public Power and Coops:

Josh Walter, SCL

Connor Reiten, PNGC

Jim Shetler, BANC

Randy Howard, NCPA

Independent Power Producers:

Scott Miller, WPTF

Jan Smutny-Jones, IEPA

Lisa Tormoen Hickey, Interwest

Alternates:

Spencer Gray, NIPPC

Ben Fitch-Fleischmann, Interwest

Residential and Small Commercial Customers:

Michele Beck, Utah Office of
Consumer Services

Linda Serizawa, CalAdvocates

Non-utility Load Serving Entities:

Evelyn Kahl, CalCCA

Large C&I Customers:

Kathleen Staks, Western
Freedom

Alternate:

Priya Barua, CEBA

Technology Providers:

Brian Turner, AEU

Public Interest Organizations:

Michael Colvin, EDF

Alaine Ginocchio, WRA

Ben Otto, NW Energy Coalition

Alternate(s):

Mark Specht, UCS

Power Marketing Authorities:

Chrystal Dean, WAPA

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Defining the Public Interest

Two intertwined components:

- 1) How customer interests, including affordability and reliability, are safeguarded in non-discriminatory market design and operations; and
- 2) How state and local policies, even as they differ across the West, are respected in market design.

These served as the focus and definition of “public interest” for the Launch Committee and were used to ensure that the Step 2 proposal incorporates public interest protections holistically across the new RO’s structure and processes.

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Stakeholder Process Sectors

1. EDAM Entities
2. EIM Entities
3. CAISO Participating Transmission Owners
4. Non-IOU load serving entities serving load from WEIM or EDAM (e.g. public power, coops, CCAs)
5. Public Interest Organizations
6. Consumer Advocates
7. Large Commercial and Industrial Customers
8. Independent Power Producers, Independent Transmission Developers, Power Marketers
9. Distributed Energy Resources