

DAWG Meeting: Reconciling Differences with Distribution Planning Forecasts

Heidi Javanbakht

November 17, 2026

Zoom Meeting Participant Tips

- **Today's meeting is being recorded.**
- **Keep your microphone muted** when you're not speaking.
- **Use the Raise Hand feature when you have a question** or post questions in the chat.
- **Be respectful in chat** and keep comments relevant to the discussion.

Agenda

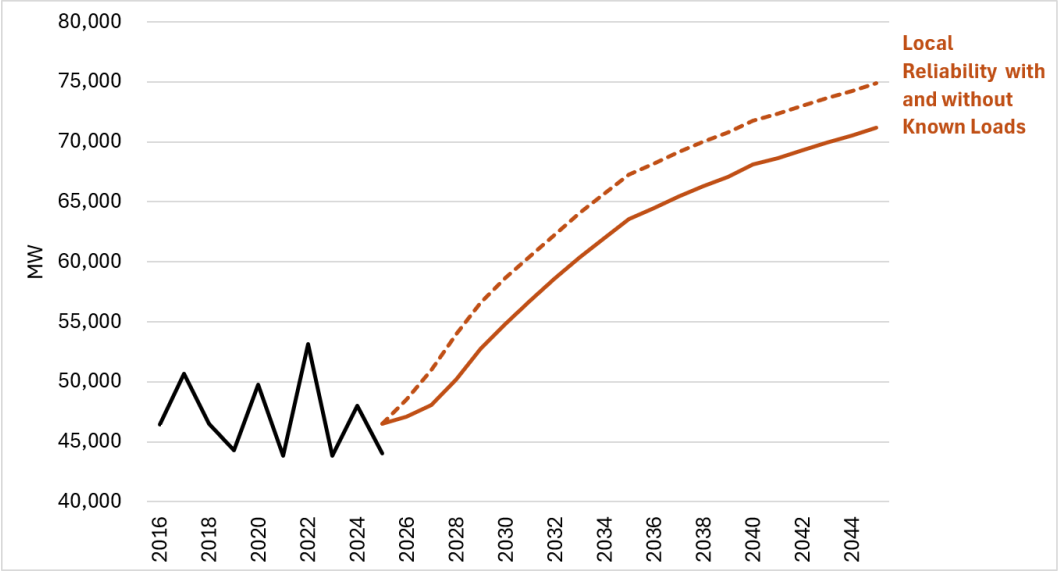
Topic	Time	Facilitator
Welcome and Introductions	1:30 – 1:40	Heidi Javanbakht
Leading Utility Practices for Integrated System Planning	1:40 – 1:55	Jonathan Cook, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (LBNL)
Effectively Considering the Distribution System in Integrated Resource Planning: Impacts and Practices	1:55 – 2:10	Grace Relf, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP)
Discussion	2:10 – 2:20	
Aligning System and Distribution Level Forecasts	2:20 – 2:50	Andy Sukenik, Itron
Discussion	2:50 – 3:00	

Itron Project Scope

- Review our current forecast methodology
- Interview CAISO, CPUC, Public Advocates Office, and IOUs to understand current challenges reconciling distribution planning data with system level forecasts
  - THANK YOU to all who participated
- Recommend a methodology to translate between distribution-level and system-level forecasts

Challenge: CEC Cannot Reconcile Differences with Distribution Planning Forecasts

- IOU distribution planning data are not directly comparable to CEC forecast data
- Important to reconcile to:
  - Ensure CEC forecast is capturing near-term load growth
  - Provide consistency between distribution, transmission, and resource planning
  - Enhance transparency and trust in planning process



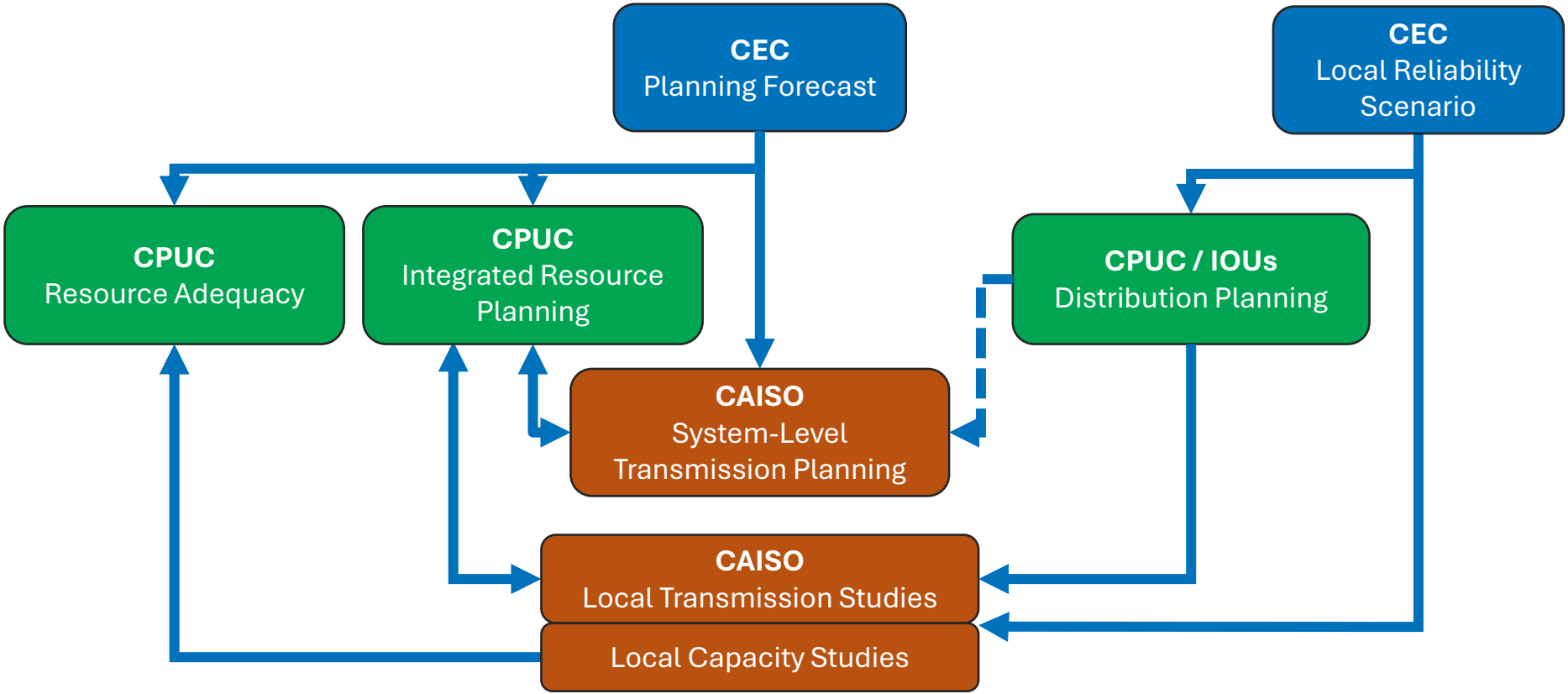
Source: CEC *2025 IEPR*

Examples of Reconciliation Challenges

From 2024 IEPR

IOU	Sector	Challenge	Status
PG&E Hot Banks (all sectors)	All	PG&E requested CAISO add load to 'hot bank' load buses	**Unresolved:** Without more detailed data CEC is unable to reconcile
SCE North of Lugo	TE	SCE proposed more load in NOL	**Partially Resolved:** Shifted TE load to NOL from other regions, but unclear if other regions are now short.
SDG&E	MDHD	SDG&E planning for more MDHD load	**Partially Resolved:** CEC review resulted in no overall changes; will collaborate to assess regional load shifts.

Distribution and System Planning are Related



Proposed Solution: Locationally Granular CEC Forecast

Enhance CEC forecast products

Incorporate distribution-level data; Disaggregate forecast to transmission buses

Explainable Differences

Forecast variances become traceable by driver, geography, vintage, and reconciliation status.

Avoid Late-Cycle Disputes

Reconciling deviations before forecast adoption strengthens the defensibility and transparency of planning decisions.

Next Steps



Publish report

- We will post the report to the webpage for this DAWG meeting and send a notice to the DAWG listserv



Release RFP for pilot region next year

Thank you