

March 20, 2014

Statement of Support to the European Union Grid Declaration

The European Grid Declaration on Electricity Network Development and Nature Conservation in Europe (EU Grid Declaration, 2011) commits signatories to work collaboratively to accelerate the modernization and expansion of Europe's power grids to access and deliver renewable resources, in ways that simultaneously preserve and protect species and ecosystem integrity.

Signatories include Transmission System Operators in Belgium, Denmark, Italy, France, Germany, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the UK; Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) having environmental protection missions with members across Europe; and supportive foundations and energy industry groups.

In signing the Declaration, grid operators commit to help meet Europe's objectives to protect nature, for example by working to minimize risks to birds from power lines. NGOs commit to support grid development for the integration of renewables from larger centralized and smaller local generation sources. Both pledge to encourage transparency and build public acceptance of renewables-grid development.

The California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) is responsible for reliable operation of the grid in most of the state. We make the following statement in support of the EU Grid Declaration:

- The CAISO Board of Governors applauds the collaboration of the parties working together to put the principles of the EU Grid Declaration into practice;
- the transmission development in California is based on similar principles and California policies require grid development in the state to be done in ways that minimize and mitigate environmental impacts;
- the California ISO works collaboratively with stakeholders to ensure that grid expansion meets environmental and public interest goals, and supports renewables integration; and
- the California ISO manages transmission planning to ensure transparency and stakeholder involvement.

Because the California ISO is in support of the EU Grid Declaration and uses similar principles, we are pleased to submit this statement in support of the EU Grid Declaration.



Robert Foster, Chair



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