

# Spring 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

Wyndham San Diego Bayside  
1355 North Harbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92101

<b>Tuesday May 12, 2026</b>	<b>Wednesday May 13, 2026</b>	<b>Thursday May 14, 2026</b>
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting	8:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting  4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Networking Activity	8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting

## *Tuesday, May 12, 2026 Pre Meetings*

**7:00 – 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**8:00 – 11:45 a.m. Committees Meetings**

8:00 – 8:50 a.m. Committee of State Representatives  
9:00 – 9:50 a.m. Markets+ State Committee  
10:00 – 10:50 a.m. Body of State Regulators  
11:00 – 11:45 a.m. CREPC Transmission Collaborative

**11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch**

## *Tuesday, May 12, 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting*

**1:00 – 1:30 p.m. Welcome and Introductions**

The Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation (CREPC) and the Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body (WIRAB) welcome you to the Spring 2026 Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting. Round-robin introductions follow remarks from leadership.

- Gabriel Aguilera, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- James Lester, Co-Chair, Committee on Regional Electric Power Cooperation
- Lea Márquez Peterson, Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body
- Siva Gunda, Vice Chair, Western Interconnection Regional Advisory Body

**1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**

**Resource Adequacy: Analytics, Realities, and Solutions**

The Western Electricity Coordinating Council's (WECC) 2025 Western Assessment of Resource Adequacy tells us that parts of the West need to focus on reliability procurements. In this session, we'll hear from WECC on what went into that study, and from those involved with developing resource adequacy programs in the West as they work to address predicted shortfalls. With the evolving nature of resource adequacy today, how can these programs provide the transparency that regulators need to credibly judge procurement pacing?

- Moderator: Brian Rybarik, Chair, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
- Sarah Edmonds, President and CEO, Western Power Pool
- Ben Faulkinberry, Senior Power Marketer and Originator, PacifiCorp
- Vic Howell, Director of Reliability Assessments and Modeling, Western Electricity Coordinating Council [Slides](#)
- Antoine Lucas, Executive Vice President and COO, Southwest Power Pool
- Anna McKenna, Vice President of Market Design and Analysis, California Independent System Operator

**3:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

**Break**

**3:30 – 5:00 p.m.**

**Making It Real: The Next Phase of Western Transmission Development**

Transmission remains a pressing issue in the West, and questions remain about the various efforts to address it. How are projects being planned, funded, and built currently, and what improvements can be made? How do various regional transmission planning efforts that have begun in the past few years fit together? In this session, we'll hear about the ongoing work to address transmission needs.

- Moderator: James Lester, Senior Advisor, Colorado Energy Office
- Ravi Aggarwal, Manager and Senior Electrical Engineer, Bonneville Power Administration [Slides](#)
- Sarah Edmonds, President and CEO, Western Power Pool [Slides](#)
- Neil Millar, Vice President of Transmission Planning and Infrastructure Development, California Independent System Operator [Slides](#)
- Keegan Moyer, Principal, Energy Strategies [Slides](#)
- Bob Rowe, Trail Boss, The Western Transmission Consortium [Slides](#)
- Janea Scott, Senior Fellow, Gridworks [Slides](#)
- Jack Wadleigh, Senior Regulatory and Market Affairs Manager, Pattern Energy

**5:00 p.m.**

**Recess**

**Wednesday, May 13, 2026**  
**Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting**

**7:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Oversight at the Seams**

As organized markets move to operations in CAISO’s Extended Day-Ahead Market and SPP’s Markets+, more decisions affecting Western ratepayers will occur across market boundaries. Consolidating BAs has the potential to improve efficiency, however, new challenges will be created with market-to-market seams. This panel examines how states and provinces can work together with those utilities joining day-ahead markets and the market operators to address some of the larger seams issues that may arise.

- Moderator: John Hammond, Commissioner, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
- Mark Rothleder, Senior Vice President and COO, California Independent System Operator
- Carrie Simpson, Vice President of Markets, Southwest Power Pool
- Joe Taylor, Senior Director, Western Markets, Xcel Energy Services Inc.
- Mike Wilding, Vice President of Energy Supply Management, PacifiCorp

**9:00 – 10:30 a.m. The Large Load Conundrum**

States are facing an unprecedented challenge as very large loads seek interconnection on accelerated timelines. In many states (outside of those with aggressive electrification targets), infrastructure plans and Integrated Resource Plans projected little to no load growth prior to the data center boom. With few resources able to become operational in the near term, and with transmission infrastructure often taking 10–20 years to plan and build, how can states and provinces work with their utilities to accommodate these new requests without increasing the strain on existing ratepayers?

- Moderator: Lea Márquez Peterson, Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission
- David Rosner, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Peter Fox-Penner, Principal, Brattle [Slides](#)
- Lauren Schwisberg, Principal of Electricity Resource Planning and VPPs, RMI [Slides](#)
- Jeff Spires, Managing Director of Power, Powerex
- Mary Throne, Director, Wyoming Regulatory and Government Affairs, Prometheus Hyperscale

**10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Break**

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. How do states and provinces get informative data from the entire West?**

Most states in the West are not deeply familiar with how to access west-wide data for utilities beyond those they directly regulate. As multiple day-ahead markets and resource adequacy programs emerge, knowing what data is available and how state and provincial agencies can access it is essential to ensuring programmatic success. In this session, panelists will explain what avenues exist through WECC and the regional markets that can help states evaluate the success of various programs and assess any gaps or remaining needs for new resources in the region.

- Moderator: Letha Tawney, Chair, Oregon Public Utility Commission
- Amelia Blanke, Principal Economist and Director of Market Strategy and Governance, California Independent System Operator [Slides](#)
- Kim O’Guinn, Director of State Regulatory Policy, Southwest Power Pool [Slides](#)
- Ryan Roy, Chief Operating Officer, Western Power Pool [Slides](#)
- Branden Sudduth, Vice President of Reliability Planning and Performance Analysis, Western Electricity Coordinating Council [Slides](#)

**12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Lunch**

**2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Major Milestones for Western Markets**

CAISO’s Extended Day-Ahead Market recently went live with PacifiCorp’s 2-balancing area footprint as its first participant, SPP’s RTO officially expanded into the Western Interconnection with seven western utilities joining in April, and SPP’s Markets+ is scheduled to go-live in 2027. With all these markets becoming operational, what changes in costs, benefits, power flows, and market dynamics should regulators be most focused on to ensure that reliability and affordability are enhanced rather than degraded? What advice does FERC have for these new Western markets?

- Moderator: Gabriel Aguilera, Chair, New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
- Judy Chang, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Elliot Mainzer, President and CEO, California Independent System Operator [Slide](#)
- Lanny Nickell, President and CEO, Southwest Power Pool [Slide](#)

**3:00 – 3:45 p.m. A Discussion with DOE Deputy General Counsel for Compliance Holly Rachel Smith**

Opening remarks by U.S. Department of Energy Deputy General Counsel for Compliance, Holly Rachel Smith, followed by moderated discussion and a roundtable with states.

- Moderator: Maren Mahoney, Director, Arizona Governor’s Office of Resiliency
- Holly Rachel Smith, Deputy General Counsel for Compliance, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Energy [Slides](#)

**3:45 – 4:00 p.m. Break**

**4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Connecting the West: A Networking Activity**

Join colleagues from across the Western Interconnection for a relaxed networking reception to continue the day’s conversations. Reconnect with peers, exchange ideas, and

build on key takeaways in a more informal setting. This gathering offers a valuable opportunity to strengthen relationships and explore practical, creative approaches to the challenges discussed throughout the meeting.

- *Location:* [Harbor & Sky](#), 900 Bayfront Court, San Diego (Located on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Residence Inn and SpringHill Suites by Marriott Bayfront)
- *Open to all registered meeting attendees.*

6:00 p.m.

Recess

**Thursday, May 14, 2026**  
**Joint CREPC-WIRAB Meeting**

7:00 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast**

8:30 – 9:30 a.m.

**Geothermal Opportunities, Constraints, and the Role of States**

Geothermal has the potential to meet decarbonization goals with dispatchable power that can also serve large inflexible loads, but how does a geothermal generating resource operate, and why is it so challenging to develop and include in resource models? How can the heating and cooling value of geothermal to offset demand be quantified? This session will explore these questions and investigate what regulatory barriers or incentives exist that states and provinces should be aware of when it comes to new geothermal resources and what opportunities exist across the Western Interconnection.

- Moderator: Rebecca Puck Stair, Director, New Mexico Energy Conservation and Management
- Bryce Carter, Program Manager of Emerging Markets, Geothermal, Colorado Energy Office [Slides](#)
- Michael O'Connor, Director, Center for Public Enterprise [Slides](#)
- Rebecca Eden, Director of Business Development, Baseload Power
- Ben Serrurier, Director of Government Affairs & Policy, Fervo Energy [Slides](#)

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.

**Break**

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.

**A Discussion with FERC Commissioner Lindsay S. See**

We are joined by FERC Commissioner Lindsay S. See as she shares with us her priorities at FERC and discusses how FERC decisions and pending rulemakings might impact the West.

- Moderator: Tammy Cordova, Commissioner, Nevada Public Utilities Commission
- Lindsay S. See, Commissioner, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

**10:30 – 11:30 a.m.      Affordability Under Pressure: Keeping Western Reliability and Market Transitions Cost-Disciplined**

As the West simultaneously tackles resource adequacy gaps, major transmission expansion, seams issues across evolving market footprints, and unprecedented large-load growth, we are all left asking: how do we keep rates affordable while making critical investments? This panel explores how states and utilities can evaluate whether proposed market participation decisions, transmission portfolios, resource supply decisions, or large-load accommodations will lower total system costs over time or shift costs and risks to captive ratepayers. What can regulators require to test affordability claims before commitments are locked in? This session will explore how state and provincial policies may help support the balance of need and affordability across the West.

- Moderator: Eric Blank, Chairman, Colorado Public Utilities Commission
- Janine Benner, Director, Oregon Department of Energy
- Cairns Price, Commissioner, Alberta Utilities Commission
- Shahzad Lateef, Senior Director for Transmission Development, NV Energy

**11:30 – 11:45 a.m.      Closing Remarks**

**11:45 a.m.                Adjourn**