



# 2026 Draft Budget Overview

<Public>

**Jillian Lessner** 

Chief Financial & Administrative Officer

May 5, 2025

#### Long-term Strategy



Impact Area 1 Risk Mitigation

The Independent Voice of Bulk Power System Reliability in the Western Interconnection



Impact Area 2 Partnership



Impact Area 4 Independence



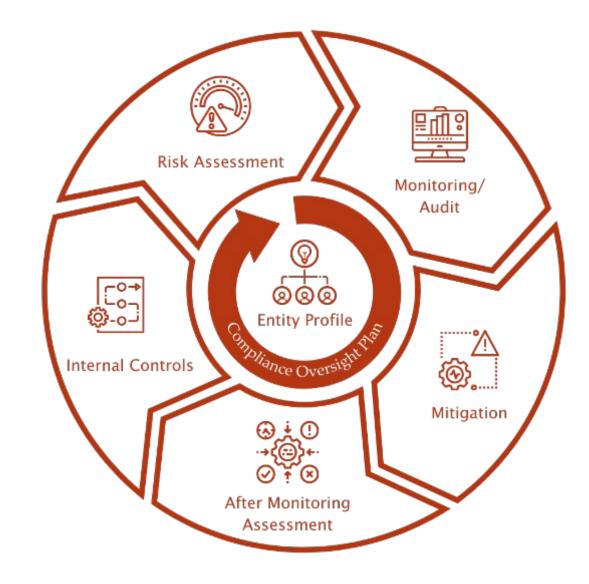
Impact Area 3 Perspective



Impact Area 5 People

## The Work: Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement (CMEP)

- Promotes strong culture of reliability and security with Registered Entities
- Monitors and enforces
  reliability standards
- Mitigates risk in the Western
  Interconnection



### The Work: Reliability Assessment and Performance Analysis (RAPA)

- Conducts studies and assessments
- Compiles and distributes reports and analyses based on the data
- Mitigates risk in the Western Interconnection



### The Work: Strategic Engagement

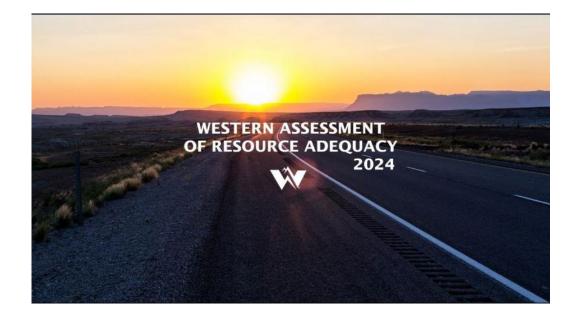
- Promotes understanding of dynamics within the Western Interconnection
- Informs and educates stakeholders on the work of CMEP and RAPA
- Facilitates discussions across diverse stakeholder groups for the benefit of reliability

#### 2024 State of the Interconnection

Electricity is an integral part of the fabric of modern life. WECC strengthens that fabric to preserve and improve society's future.

We envision a reliable and secure bulk power system in the Western Interconnection and work to effectively and efficiently mitigate risks to that system.





#### 2026 Budget Context

- Recognize growing complexity and pace of change
- Ensure adequate resources to support increasing workload
- Maintain working capital reserves

#### **Statutory Budget Overview**

- Budget increase-\$808K (2.1%)
  - Budget total-\$40.1 million
- 3 additional statutory FTE
  - 2 in CMEP, 1 in RAPA
- Assessments increase-\$2.6 million (8%)
  - Assessments total-\$35.6 million
- Penalties collected and released—\$42K

## Budget Comparison-2025 to 2026

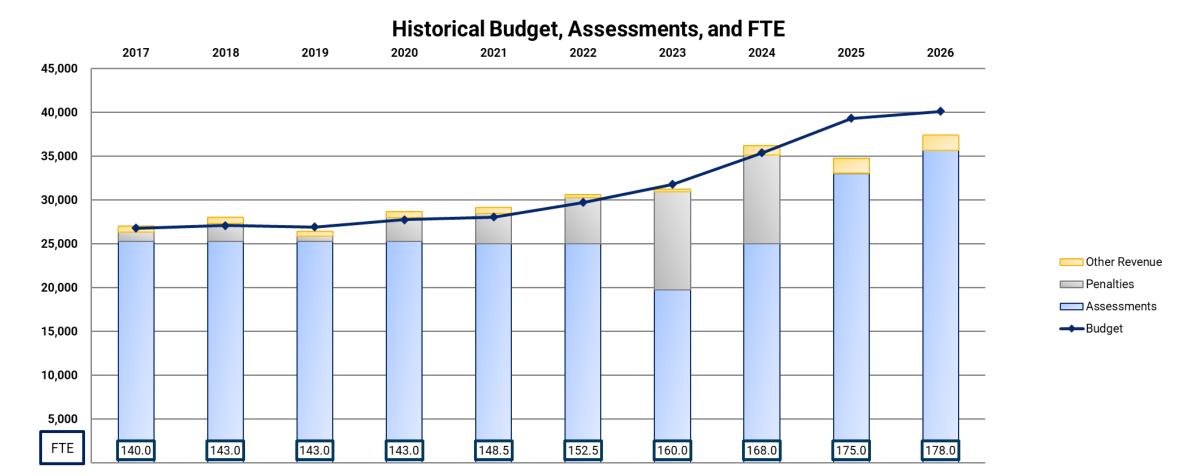
	2025	2026	Ň	Variance \$	Variance %	
	Budget	Budget		Incr(Decr)	Incr(Decr)	Primary Drivers (>\$100K)
Funding						
Assessments	\$ 33,016,000	\$ 35,657,280	\$	2,641,280	8.0%	Increase in budget, use of working capital reserves
Penalties	4,400	41,745		37,345	848.8%	
Other Income	 1,703,541	1,757,506		53,965	3.2%	
Total Funding	\$ 34,723,941	\$ 37,456,531	\$	2,732,590	7.9%	
Expenses						
Personnel Expenses	\$ 31,121,337	\$ 32,652,261	\$	1,530,924	4.9%	3 FTE, 4% merit/market adjustment pool, vacancy rate adjustments
Meeting Expenses	1,697,461	1,655,128		(42,333)	-2.5%	
Operating Expenses	7,502,719	7,153,710		(349,009)	-4.7%	Enforcement contract labor, reduction in WestTEC project consulting
Indirect Expenses	 (1,146,873)	(1,437,341)		(290,468)	25.3%	Increase in non-statutory FTE and Corporate Services budget
Total Expenses	\$ 39,174,644	\$ 40,023,758	\$	849,114	2.2%	
Fixed Assets	\$ 150,713	\$ 109,116	\$	(41,597)	-27.6%	
Total Budget	\$ 39,325,357	\$ 40,132,874	\$	807,517	2.1%	
Change in Working Capital	\$ (4,601,416)	\$ (2,676,343)	\$	1,925,073	-41.8%	
FTEs	175.00	178.00		3	1.7%	

<sup>1</sup>Depreciation excluded from these values

## Budget Comparison—Draft #1 to Draft #2

	2026 Budget	2026 Budget	Variance \$	Variance %	
	Draft #1	Draft #2	Incr(Decr)	Incr(Decr)	Primary Drivers
Funding					
Assessments	\$ 38,689,079	\$ 35,657,280	\$ (3,031,799)	-7.8%	Decrease in budget, \$2.5 million additional use of working capital reserv
Penalties	-	41,745	41,745	100.0%	
Other Income	 1,679,508	1,757,506	77,998	4.6%	
Total Funding	\$ 40,368,587	\$ 37,456,531	\$ (2,912,056)	-7.2%	
Expenses					
Personnel Expenses	\$ 32,847,939	\$ 32,652,261	\$ (195,678)	-0.6%	Deferred three FTE requests in CMEP to 2027
Meeting Expenses	1,834,092	1,655,128	(178,964)	-9.8%	Annual meeting location change to SLC, reduced travel activity
Operating Expenses	7,195,290	7,153,710	(41,580)	-0.6%	Reduced publication and subscription costs
Indirect Expenses	 (1,418,100)	(1,437,341)	(19,241)	1.4%	Decrease in statutory FTE
Total Expenses	\$ 40,459,221	\$ 40,023,758	\$ (435,463)	-1.1%	
Fixed Assets	\$ 109,366	\$ 109,116	\$ (250)	-0.2%	
Total Budget	\$ 40,568,587	\$ 40,132,874	\$ (435,713)	-1.1%	
Change in Working Capital	\$ (200,000)	\$ (2,676,343)	\$ (2,476,343)	1238.2%	-
FTEs	181.00	178.00	(3)	-1.7%	-

### **Trending–Budget and Funding**



Thousands

#### **Next Steps**

- April 28–May 16 stakeholder comment period
- May 5 & 15-stakeholder overview webinars
- June 11—Board of Directors approval
- August—NERC BOT; FERC filing
- October-FERC Order anticipated
- November 15–2026 assessment invoices distributed

