



CAISO BESS Update

Darren Lamb – Operations Policy Manager - California ISO

June 25th 2025

Focus areas

Essential Reliability Services

- Frequency Support
- Ramping and Balancing
- Voltage Support

Other Challenges

Primary Frequency Support

- Positive:
 - Response can be very accurate (and timely) compared with other fuel types
 - Assumes inverter controller settings are in accordance with binding guidelines
 - Outreach to resources has resolved many issues
- Challenges:
 - Droop calculations are not consistent for many BESS resources
 - IEEE 2800 vs Interconnection Agreements vs Regional/National Regulatory standards
 - PFR should be the primary Control Mode
 - Some Co-Located resources are pushing back against having the right droop settings
- Impact:
 - Wrong PFR logic can create a disturbance

Ramping and Balancing

- Positive:
 - Response can be very timely compared with other fuel types
 - Very beneficial during solar ramp up and ramp down periods
 - Assumes inverter controller settings are in accordance with binding guidelines
- Challenges:
 - Expected State of Charge (SOC) of BESS is often dependent on other IBR resources
 - Solar – Cloudy Day can influence BESS effectiveness
 - Ramp rates may need to be reduced to avoid oscillations
 - BESS charge/discharge range is typically between 90% and 10%
- Impact:
 - Management of BESS SOC during Increased System Variability Periods is essential

Storage Role in resource mix of CAISO



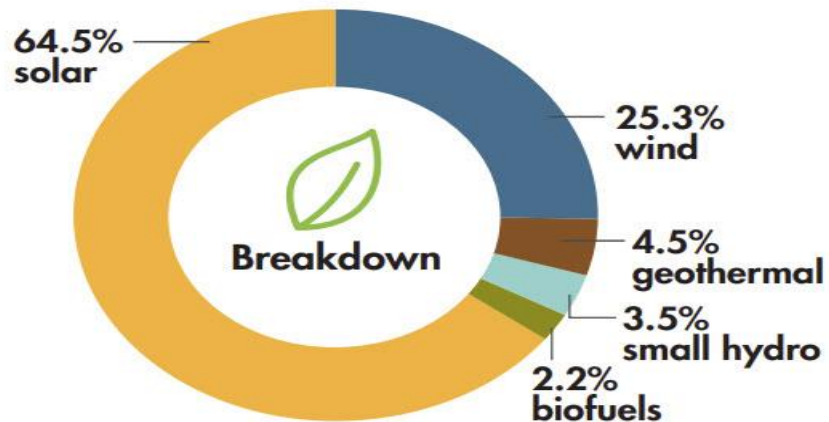
Installed battery capacity

12,896 MW

As of 05/31/25; subject to change.

Nearly all is lithium-ion and 4-hour duration

Installed renewable resources (as of 06/09/2025)



	Megawatts
 Solar	21,340
 Wind	8,373
 Geothermal	1,505
 Small hydro	1,146
 Biofuels	725
TOTAL	33,089

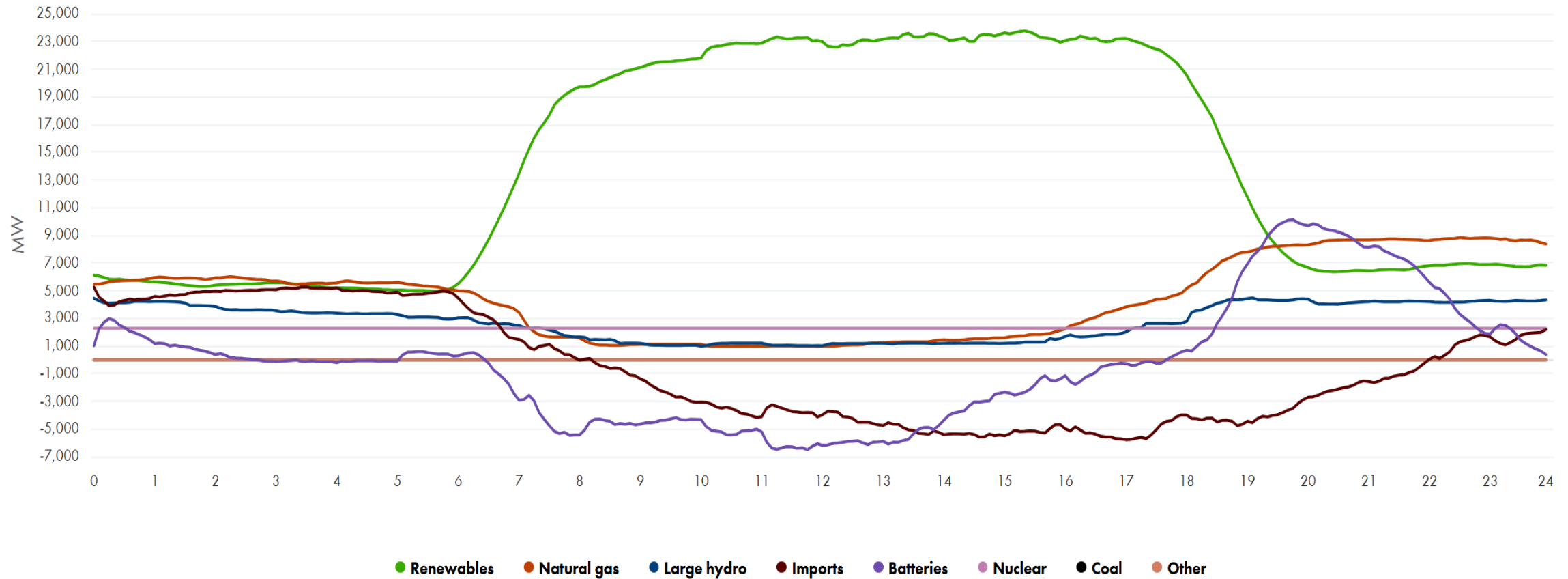
*Rooftop solar is not connected to the high-voltage transmission system, but they affect the ISO's markets and grid operation.
Rooftop solar is at approximately 20,000 MW*

Battery Storage is Key to Reliably Meet California's Clean Energy Goals

- State energy policy calls for a carbon-free grid by 2045 (SB 100)
 - Energy storage is a major part of the state's resource strategy
- California ISO's grid currently peaks at ~50 GW
 - 12,800+ MW of battery storage already integrated into the market
 - Nearly all are 4-hour duration lithium-ion batteries
 - Anticipate having more than 14 GW of battery storage by EOY
 - More than 1 GW of longer-duration storage by 2026
 - **~45 GW of energy storage by 2045.**

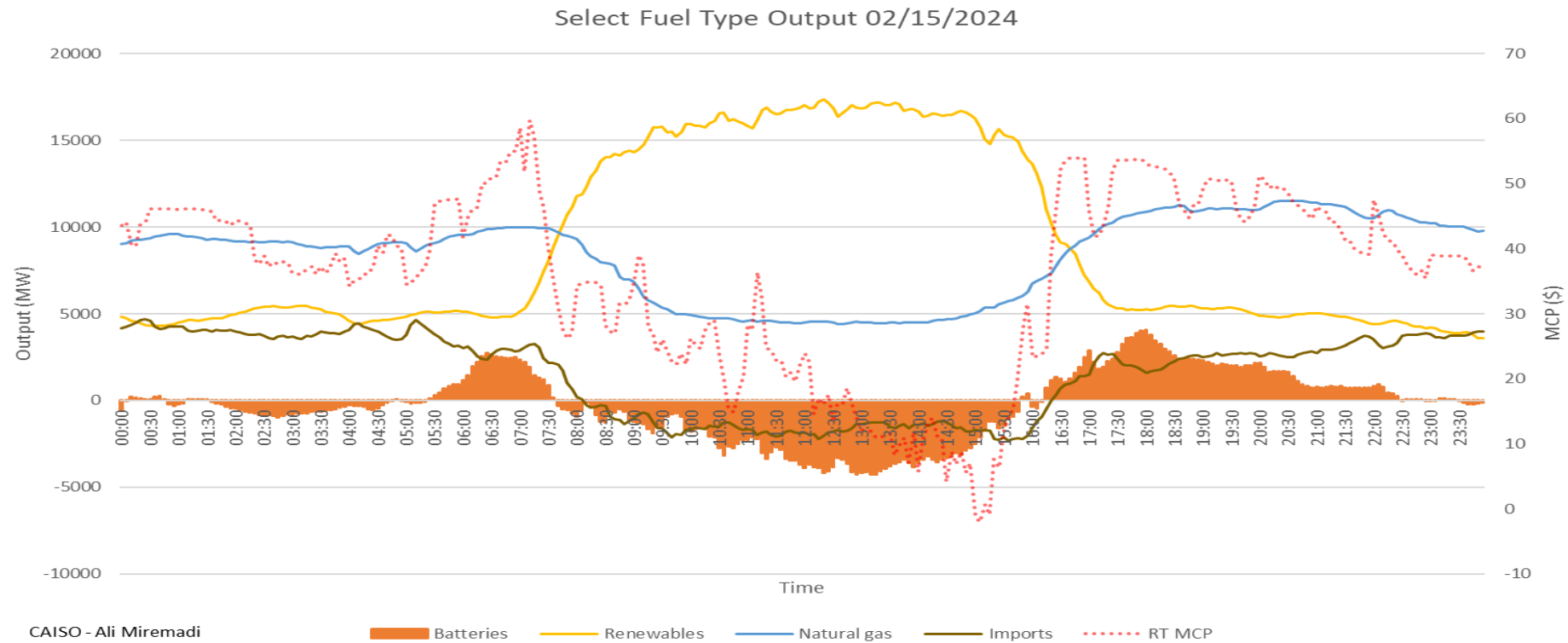


Ramping and Balancing – Supply Trend for 06/08/2025



Steepest 3-Hour Average evening ramp = 23,400MWh set on 04/07/2025

Ramping and Balancing – Storage-Price relationship



Key Services

- Providing dispatchable capacity during net peak after sunset
- Supporting early morning ramp
- Cushioning excess supply during solar hours
- Providing frequency response and other essential reliability services
- Increasing the capacity contribution of co-located solar projects

Voltage Support

- Positive:
 - BESS resources are capable of providing full range of reactive power even when sitting at zero active power output
 - Assumes inverter controller settings are in accordance with binding guidelines
- Challenges:
 - Some battery storage units are having difficulty transitioning from Power Factor mode to Voltage Control mode automatically
 - Lack of coordinated response due to different control settings
 - Some units rely on caps to provide voltage support (manual, slow)
 - Transformer configurations can impact voltage support at the point of interconnection
 - Voltage schedules vary by resource based on location, making validation difficult

Other Challenges

- SOC measuring and estimating accuracy is not optimal due to the non-linear nature of charging/discharging
- Battery cell aging can reduce expected performance over time
- Battery cell imbalance visibility/mitigation requires additional analysis. Active vs Passive balancing using BMS
- Battery fire cause/mitigation/prevention analysis is in progress but not complete

Questions?