

# Regional Transmission Planning in the West

State-Federal RPS Collaborative Webinar  
Hosted by Clean Energy States Alliance  
October 5, 2011



# CEG State-Federal RPS Collaborative

- With funding from the Energy Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy, the Clean Energy States Alliance has established and facilitated the **State-Federal RPS Collaborative** over the last three years.
- Includes **state RPS administrators and regulators, federal agency representatives**, and other RPS stakeholders.
- Goal is to advance dialogue and learning about RPS programs by **examining the challenges and potential solutions** for successful implementation of state RPS programs, including **identification of best practices**.

# Regional Transmission Planning

Presenters:

**Thomas Carr**, Attorney, Western  
Interstate Energy Board

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Coordinating Council

**Bradley Nickell**, Director of  
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# Western States RPS and Transmission Planning

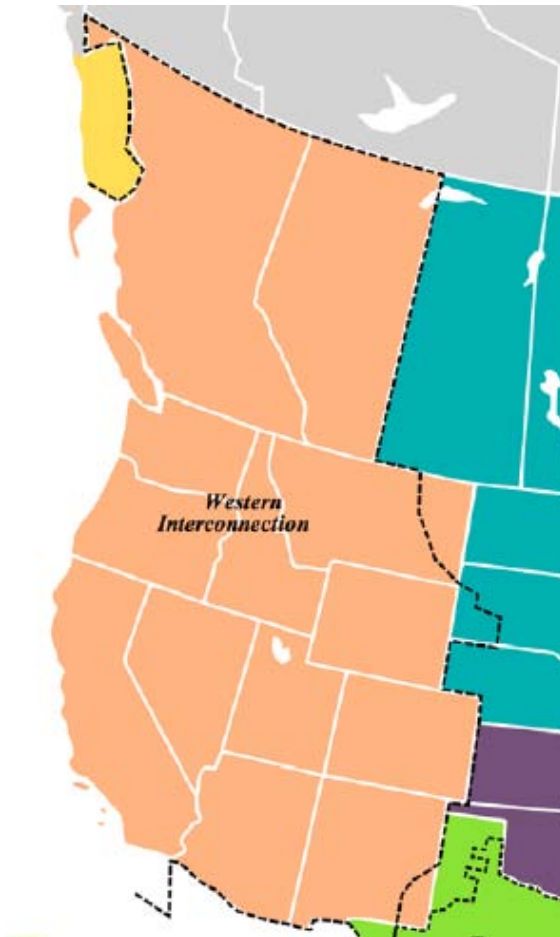
Thomas Carr  
Western Interstate Energy Board

October 5, 2011  
Webinar for the State-Federal RPS  
Collaborative

# Outline

- **Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) Impacts in the Western Interconnection**
- **Western Governors' Energy Initiatives**
- **State-Provincial Role in Interconnection-wide Transmission Planning**

# RPS in the Western Interconnection

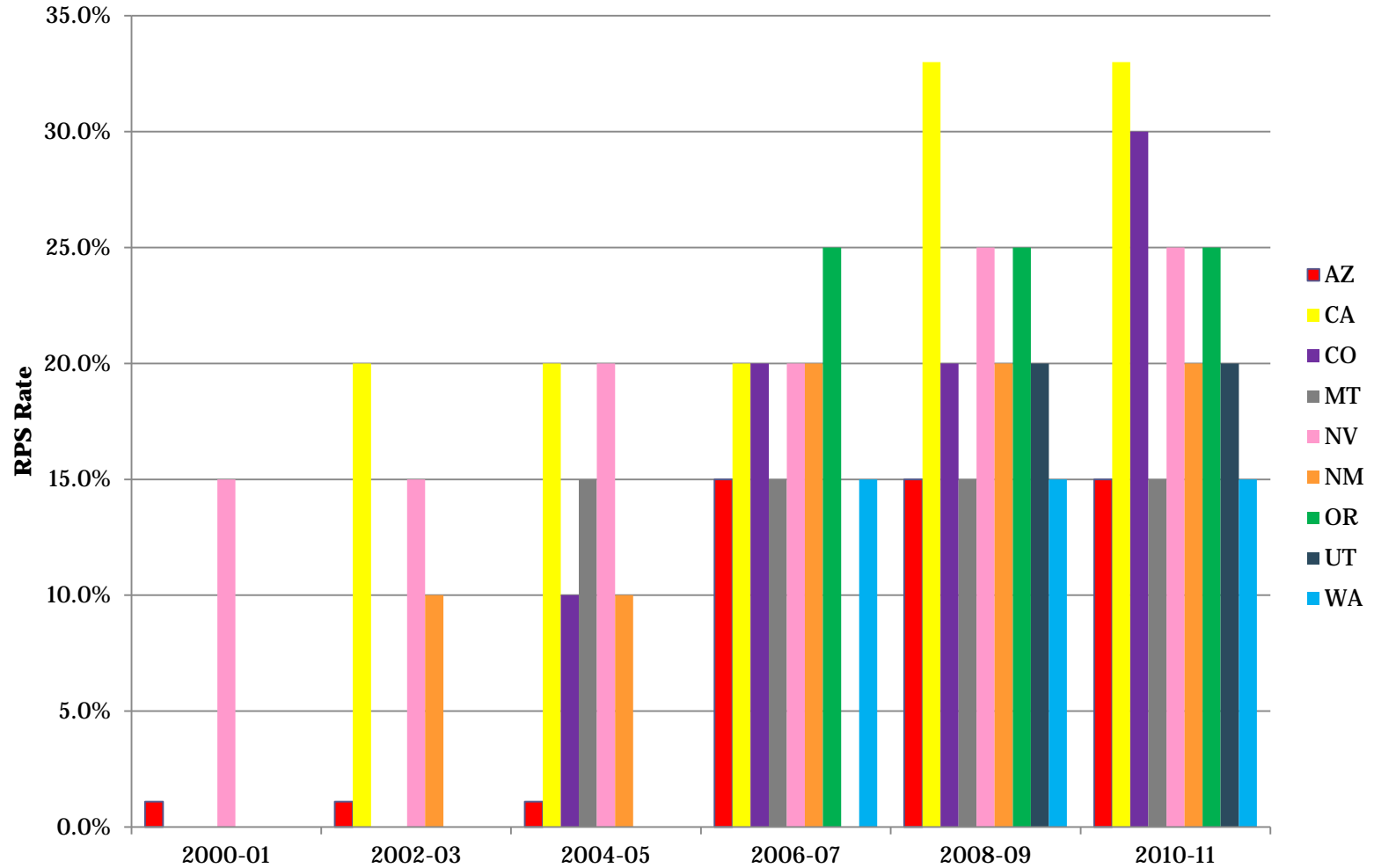


# RPS variations across states

- **California RPS (33% in 2020)**
  - 33% RPS applies to all sectors (IOUs, munis, coops)
  - 3 categories of generation delivery from instate, out-of-state, RECs
- **Colorado RPS (30% in 2020)**
  - IOUs at 30% while Coops and Munis have a lower 10% requirement
  - grants 125% credit to instate generation
- **Nevada RPS (25% BY 2025)**
  - allows ¼ to be met through energy efficiency
- **Arizona RPS (15% in 2025)**
  - 30 % of RPS from distributed generation
- **Oregon RPS (25% in 2025)**
  - 25% applies to largest utilities; 10% small utilities; 5% smallest utilities
- **Utah RPS (20% in 2025)**
  - No interim targets prior to 2025



## State RPS Increases 2000-2011



# RPS Energy in 2020

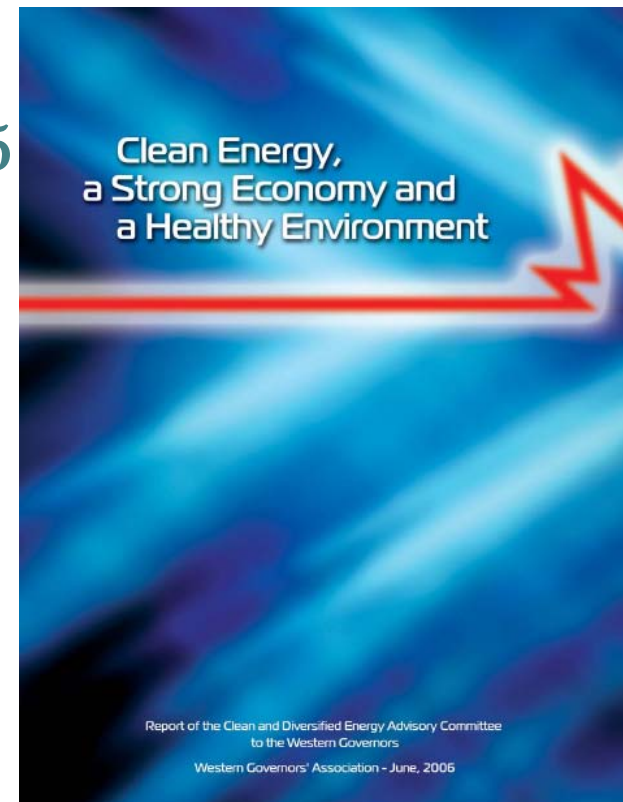
- RPS the key driver of renewable development in the West
  - Sets minimum amount (GWh)
  - Where to develop?
  - Transmission?

REFERENCE CASE: 2020 Loads and RPS Requirements in Western Interconnection					
State/ Province	2020 Load Forecast (GWh) by Balancing Areas	RPS% for IOUs in 2020 (a)	RPS% for other entities in 2020 (b)	Total RPS Energy (GWh) in 2020	State % of Total RPS Energy (GWh) in 2020
AB	108,555				
AZ	92,283	10.0%	10.0%	5,238	3.7%
BC	63,241				
CA	307,183	33.0%	33.0%	89,055	63.5%
CO	68,639	30.0%	10.0%	11,632	8.3%
ID	27,250				
MEX	17,484				
MT	13,527	15.0%		995	0.7%
NV	39,426	22.0%		5,359	3.8%
NM	18,871	20.0%	10.0%	2,777	2.0%
OR	56,717	20.0%	6.7%	8,368	6.0%
TX	8,104	5.0%		405	0.3%
UT	37,415	13.3%	13.3%	4,668	3.3%
WA	99,539	15.0%		11,789	8.4%
WY	23,387				
<b>Total</b>	<b>981,620</b>			<b>140,288</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Note:					
(a) IOU RPS% reflects path of RPS% for IOUs smoothed across years					
(b) Municipals, publics, cooperatives, or smaller utilities					

# Western Governors' Energy Initiatives

# WGA's Clean and Diversified Energy Initiative (2006)

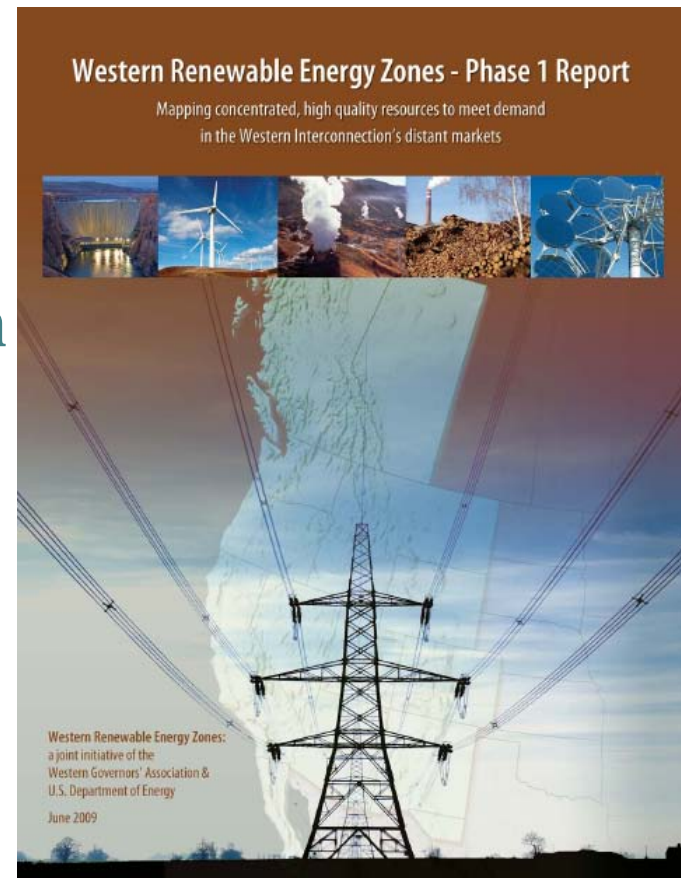
- **Goals**
  - 30,000 MW of clean energy by 2015
  - 20% energy efficiency by 2020
  - Reliable grid for next 25 years
- **West has abundant resources**
- **Policy recommendations**
  - Renewable energy development
  - Transmission



# WGA's Western Renewable Energy Zone (WREZ) Project

- **WREZ Phases**

- **Phase 1: Identification of WREZ Hubs (2009)**
- **Phase 2: Plan for Transmission between renewable energy zones and load centers (2010)**
- **Phase 3: Collaborate with load serving entities on opportunities (current)**
- **Phase 4: Siting projects and cost allocation (current)**

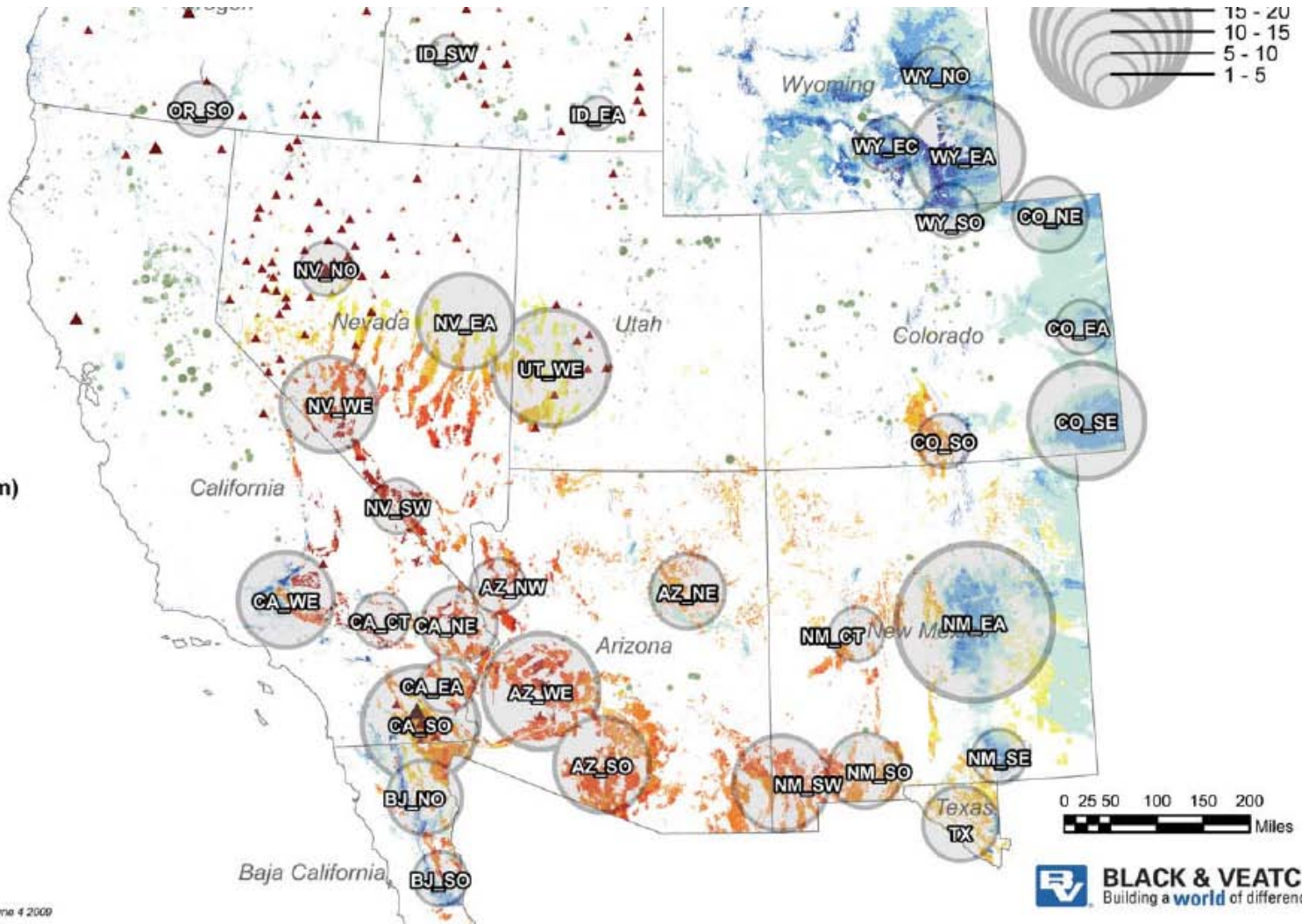


# WREZ Phase 1

- **Identified renewable energy zones (“Hubs”)**
  - Areas of renewable resource potential that would support interstate transmission (500 kV AC)
  - 1500 MW of high quality renewable energy within a 100 mile radius
  - Hub size proportional to annual energy potential
- **Exclusions**
  - Statutory and regulatory exclusions (e.g., national parks, monuments, wilderness areas) and other exclusions

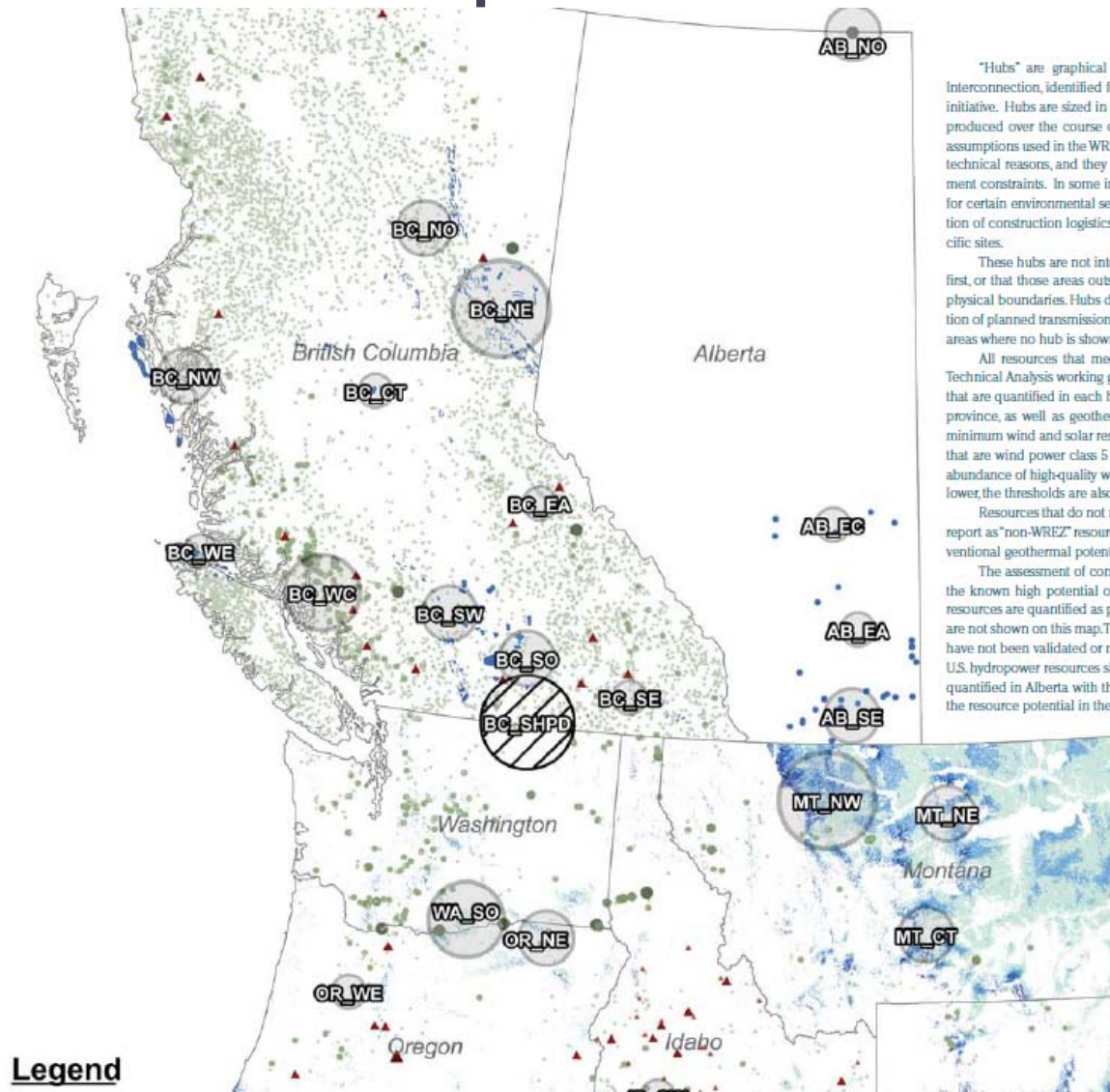
# WREZ Phase 1 Map - South

- Legend**
- Hydro projects (MW)**
    - 1 - 10
    - 10 - 100
    - 100 - 500
    - 500+
  - Geothermal projects (MW)**
    - 8 - 10
    - 10 - 100
    - 100 - 500
    - 500+
  - Canadian wind projects**
  - Wind resource**  
NREL wind power class (50m)
    - 3
    - 4
    - 5
    - 6
    - 7
  - Solar thermal resource**  
DNI (kWh/sqmtr/day)
    - 6.5 - 6.75
    - 6.75 - 7
    - 7 - 7.25
    - 7.25 - 7.5
    - 7.5+





# WREZ Phase 1 Map - North



"Hubs" are graphical representations of interconnection, identified for the initial phase of the WREZ initiative. Hubs are sized in proportion to the amount of power produced over the course of the initiative, based on the assumptions used in the WREZ technical analysis, and they do not represent physical constraints. In some instances, hubs are shown for certain environmental or logistical reasons, such as the location of construction logistics or specific sites.

These hubs are not intended to represent the first or only areas outside of physical boundaries. Hubs do not represent the location of planned transmission lines or areas where no hub is shown.

All resources that meet the technical analysis working group criteria are quantified in each hub, including those in each province, as well as geothermal, wind, and solar resources. The minimum wind and solar resource thresholds are also shown. Resources that are wind power class 5 or higher, or solar resource abundance of high-quality wind or solar resources, are also shown.

Resources that do not meet the criteria are reported as "non-WREZ" resources. Resources that are conventional geothermal potential are also shown.

The assessment of conventional geothermal potential is based on the known high potential of geothermal resources in the region. Resources are quantified as potential, but are not shown on this map. They have not been validated or mapped. U.S. hydropower resources shown on the map are also quantified in Alberta with the same resource potential in the region.

**Legend**



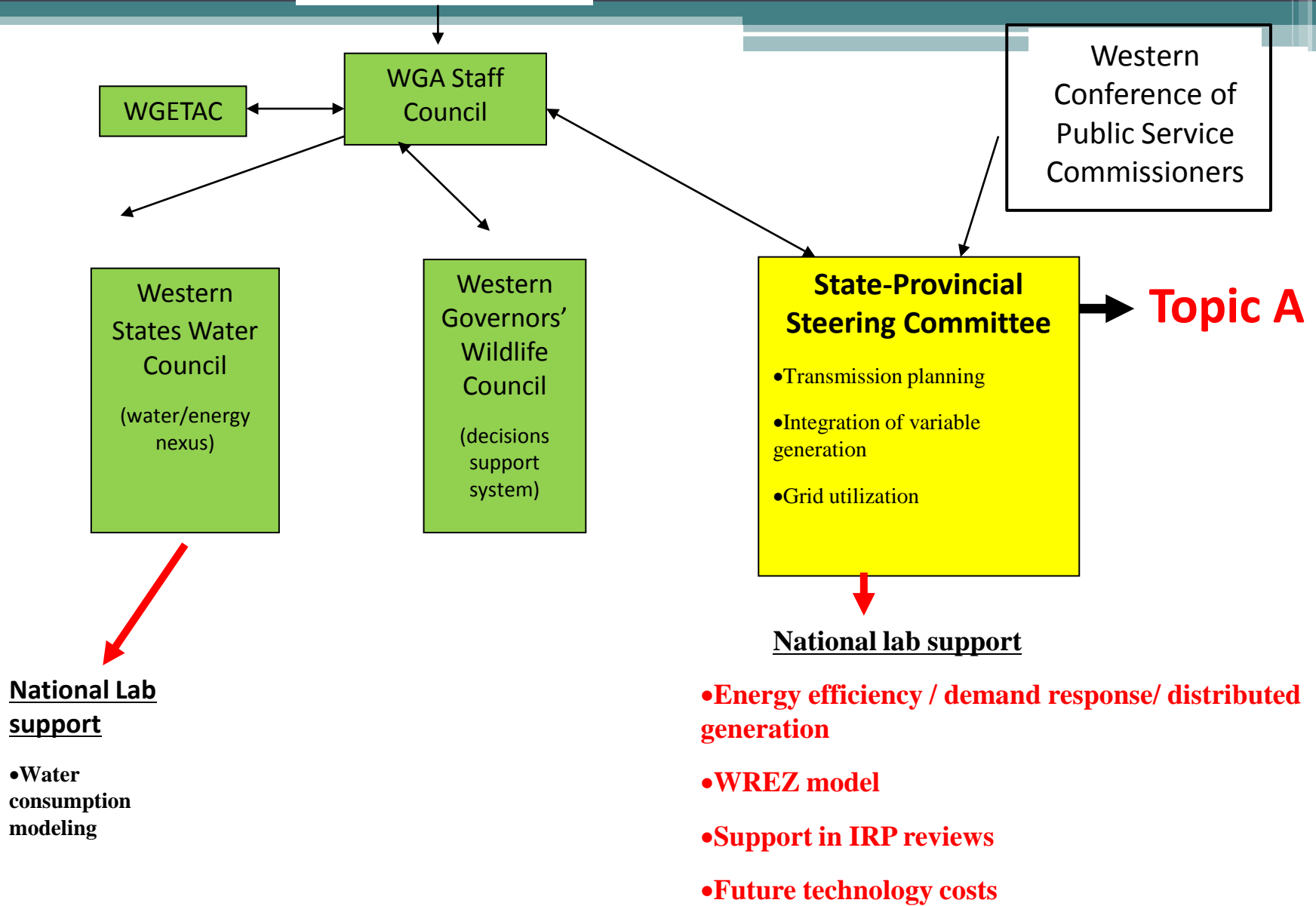
# State-Provincial Role in Interconnection-wide Transmission Planning

# New Interconnection-wide Transmission Planning

- 2009 U.S. DOE proposed funding for interconnection-wide transmission planning under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Western Interconnection recipients:
  - Topic A: Western Electricity Coordinating Council
  - Topic B: WGA, Western PUCs, Provinces
- New era:
  - Obligation to produce transmission “plans”
  - Increase in resources and stakeholder participation

# State-Provincial Role in the West

- **State-Provincial Steering Committee (SPSC)**
  - 2 members per state appointed by Governor and PUC
  - Premier appointees for provinces
  - Ex Officio members from Western States Water Council and Western Governors' Wildlife Council
- **Wildlife decision support system**
- **Energy-water nexus**



# SPSC Study Requests to WECC 2010

- **Reference Case**
  - Based on utility IRP/resource plans with review by state regulators
- **High DSM Scenario**
  - Energy efficiency, demand response, combined heat and power resources
  - Targets: economic potential and technological potential
- **Carbon Reduction Scenario**
  - Targets from Waxman-Markey
  - Tools: DSM and carbon adder
- **Technological Breakthrough**
  - Impacts from breakthroughs on PV, nuclear, IGCC, DSM, transmission, and other

# Resource Planner Forum

- Outreach to utility resource planners to inform transmission planning efforts
- WECC, WGA, western PUCs organized the first meetings of utility resource planners in Feb. 2009 and June 2010
- Objectives:
  - Feedback on IRP/plans for future generation additions
  - WREZ Phase 3 launch with planners
  - Facilitate discussion and problem solving among planners on common challenges/issues

# Emerging Issues

- **WECC's transmission plans**
  - 10-Year Plan released Sept. 2011
  - 20-Year Plan due 2013
- **Future development of renewable resources**
  - Remote v. local– local dominating 10-year outlook
  - Changes in public policies: RPS or climate change
  - Wind v. solar – falling PV prices
  - Distributed generation – growing factor
  - DSM & demand response – slower load growth
  - Future technological changes in 20 year time horizon



**Bradley Nickell**  
**Director of Transmission Planning**

10-Year Regional Transmission Plan  
WECC Overview  
September 2011



# Glossary

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- ECC** – Enhanced Curtailment Calculator
- EDTTRS** – Efficient Dispatch Toolkit Technical Review Subcommittee
- EIM** – Energy Imbalance Market
- EDT** – Efficient Dispatch Toolkit
- FERC** – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- IRP** – Integrated Resource Plan
- FOA** – Funding Opportunity Announcement
- MIC** – Market Interface Committee
- NERC** – North American Electric Reliability Corporation
- NGO** – non-profit, Non-governmental Organization
- RPS** – Renewable Portfolio Standard
- RTEP** – Regional Transmission Expansion Planning Project (activities funded by the DOE grant)
- SCED** – Security Constrained Economic Dispatch
- SCG** – Subregional Coordination Group (group of SPGs)
- SPG** – Subregional Planning Group
- SPSG** – Scenario Planning Steering Group (WECC multi-constituency steering group)
- SPSC** – State and Provincial Steering Committee (State steering group)
- TEPPC** – Transmission Expansion Planning and Policy Committee
- TSS** – WECC Technical Studies Subcommittee
- VGS** – Variable Generation Subcommittee
- WGA** – Western Governors’ Association
- WIEB** – Western Interstate Energy Board
- WREZ** – Western Renewable Energy Zone

# *RTEP*

## *What have we been asked to do?*

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### **Regional Transmission Expansion Planning (RTEP)**

Expand the breadth and depth of WECC's existing Regional Transmission Planning processes under TEPPC.

- 2011 Deliverables
  - Create a multi-constituency Steering Group
  - **10-Year Regional Transmission Plan**
  - Acquire new long-term planning tools
  - Create educational materials

# *10-Year Regional Transmission Plan Documentation Package*

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- Executive Summary Brochure
  - High-level document with the major observations, recommendations, and overview of the Western Interconnection.
- Plan Summary Brochure
  - Details on the study approach, process, caveats, observations, recommendations, and related information
- Plan Study Reports – electronic-only
  - 2019 and 2020 Study Reports
  - Path Reports
  - EDTF Report
- Links to related documents by other organizations

All information at [www.wecc.biz/10yrplan](http://www.wecc.biz/10yrplan)

# 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan Printed Material

Executive Summary

2011 WECC 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan

Plan Summary

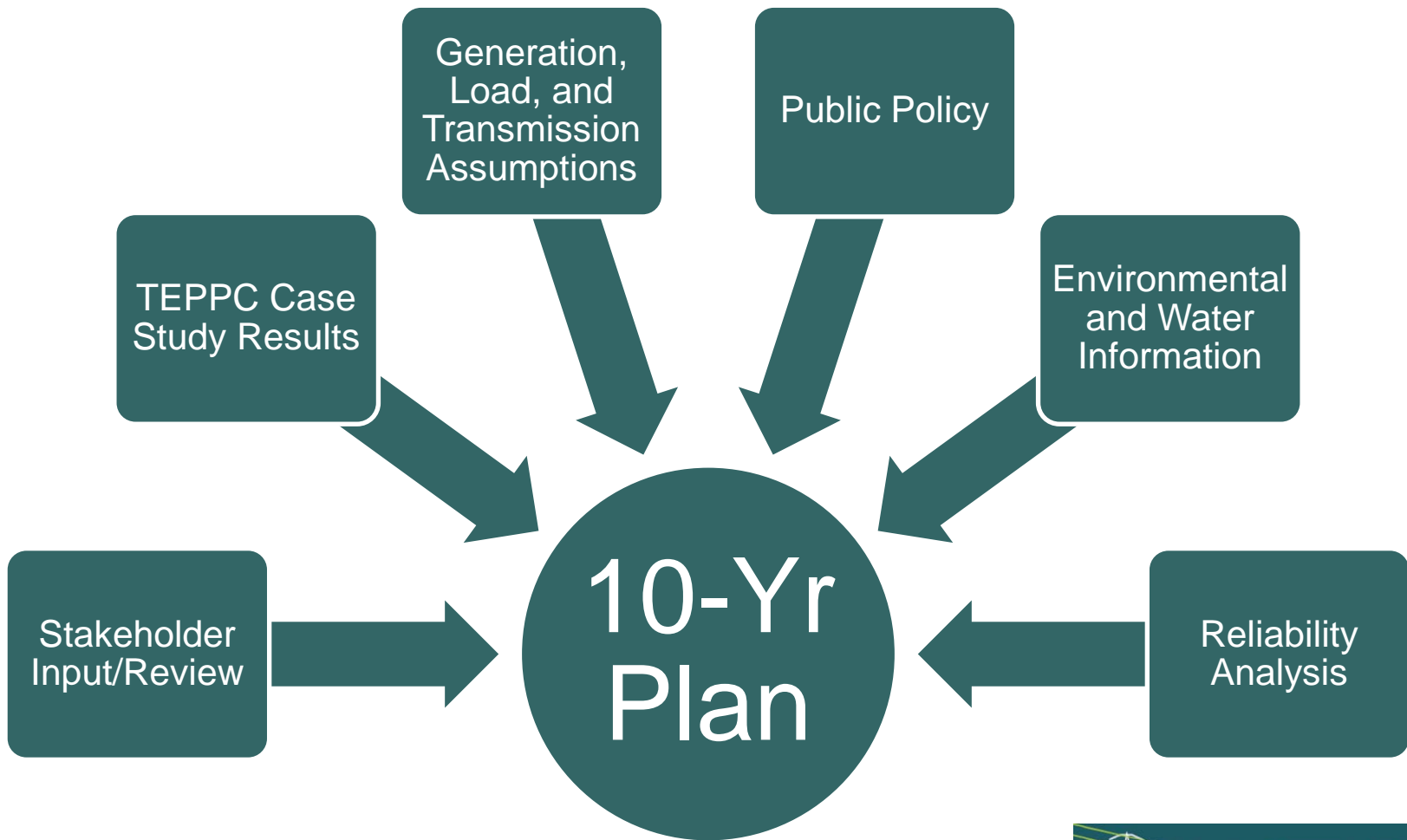
WECC 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan



# 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan

## Plan Inputs

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# *10-Year Regional Transmission Plan*

## *Key Messages*

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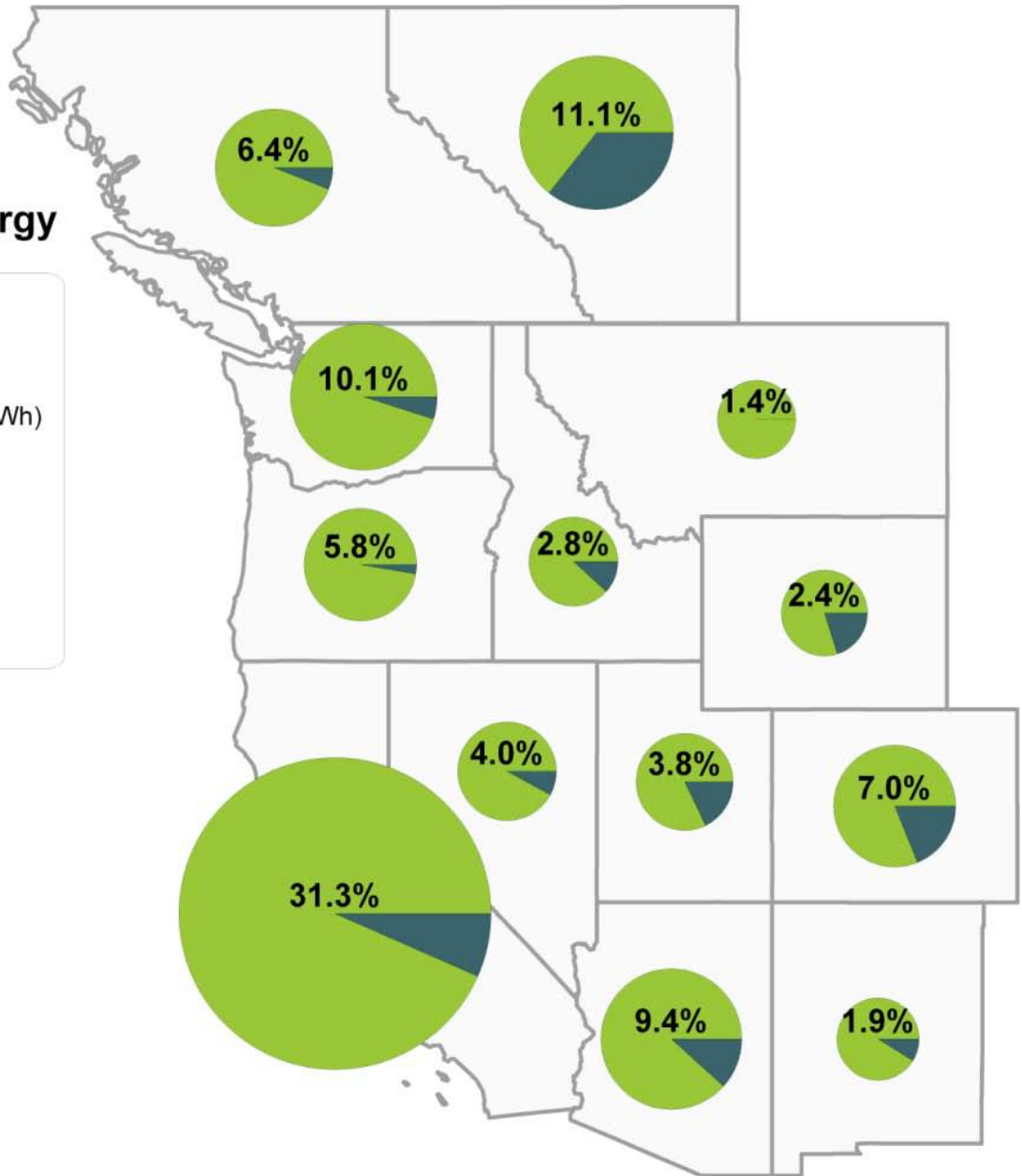
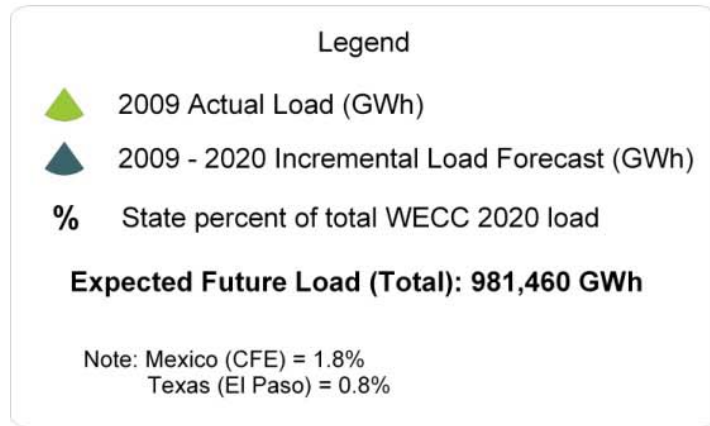
- The Plan is a regional perspective
  - Expected future network
  - Alternative futures
  - Other insights
- The Plan is stakeholder-driven
  - Assumptions, studies, results
- This is the first-time for this product

# *Expected Future Network*

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- Based on stakeholder-provided assumptions regarding loads, generation, and transmission
- The generation mix is a significant departure from the past
- The transmission network, including assumed additions, enabled energy to flow without significant congestion except in two areas

## 2020 Expected Future Load Forecast by State in Annual Energy





# Generation Capacity Additions and Retirements by State and Province 2010-2020

## Retired Resources

Coal Gas



## Installed Resources

Coal Gas Hydro Solar



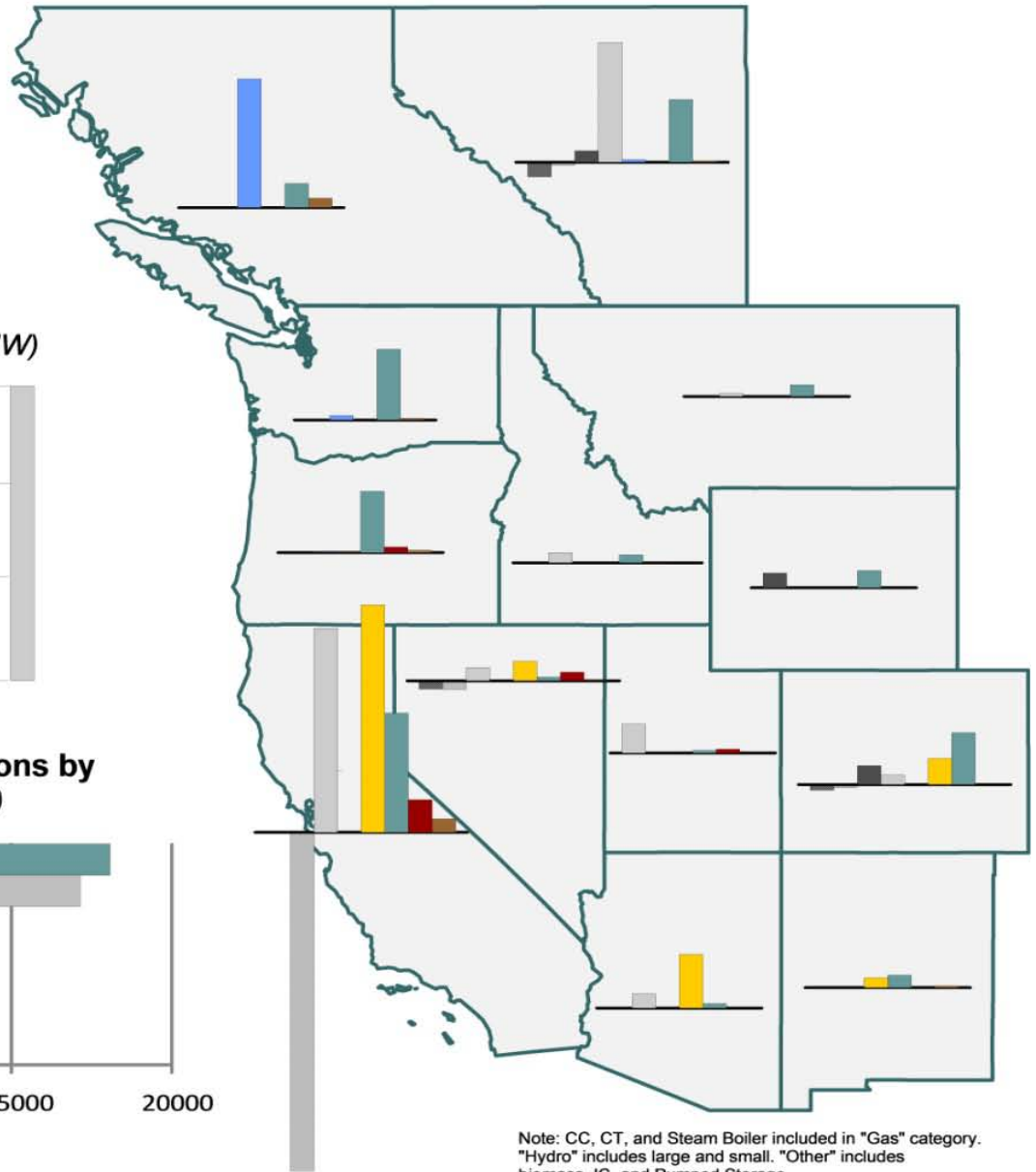
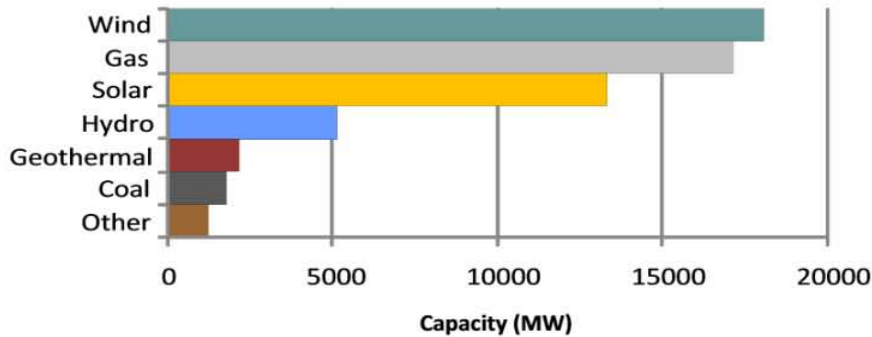
Geothermal Wind Other



Scale (MW)



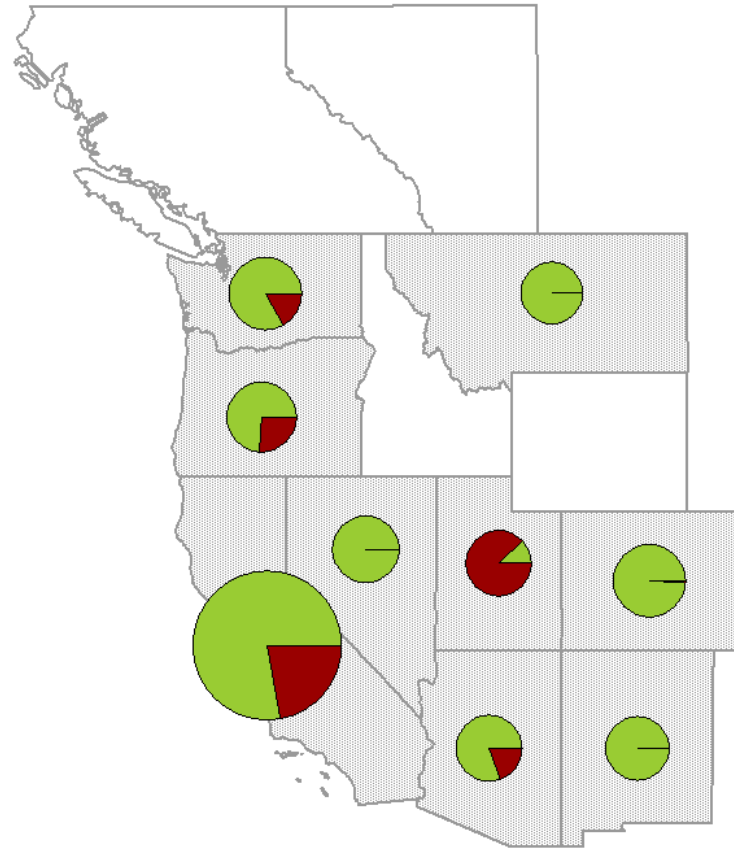
## WECC Generation Capacity Additions by Resource Type: 2010 - 2020



Note: CC, CT, and Steam Boiler included in "Gas" category. "Hydro" includes large and small. "Other" includes biomass, IC, and Pumped Storage.

# Renewable Procurement Trends

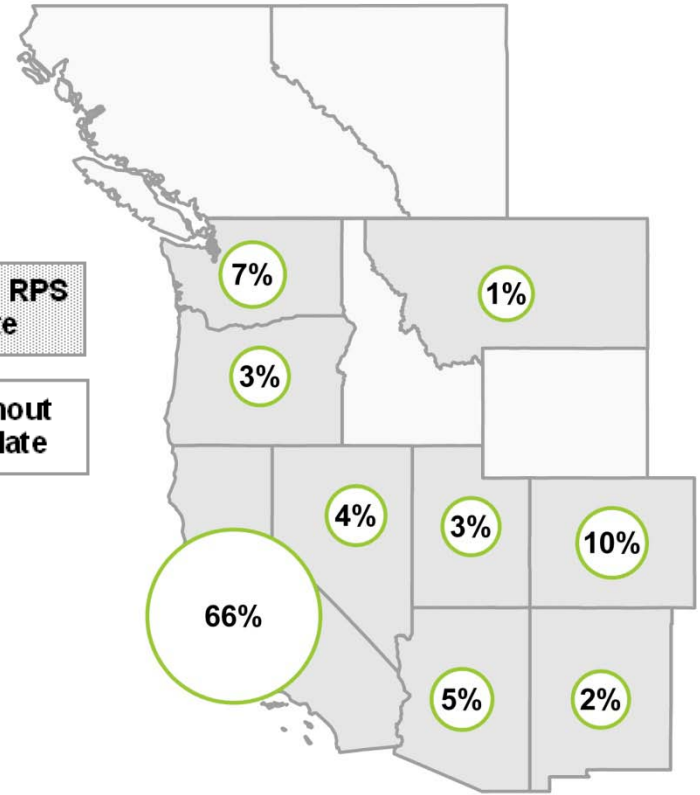
RPS Compliance Using In and Out of State/Province Resources (by Energy)



79% of RPS energy served by in-state resources in 2020 Expected Future



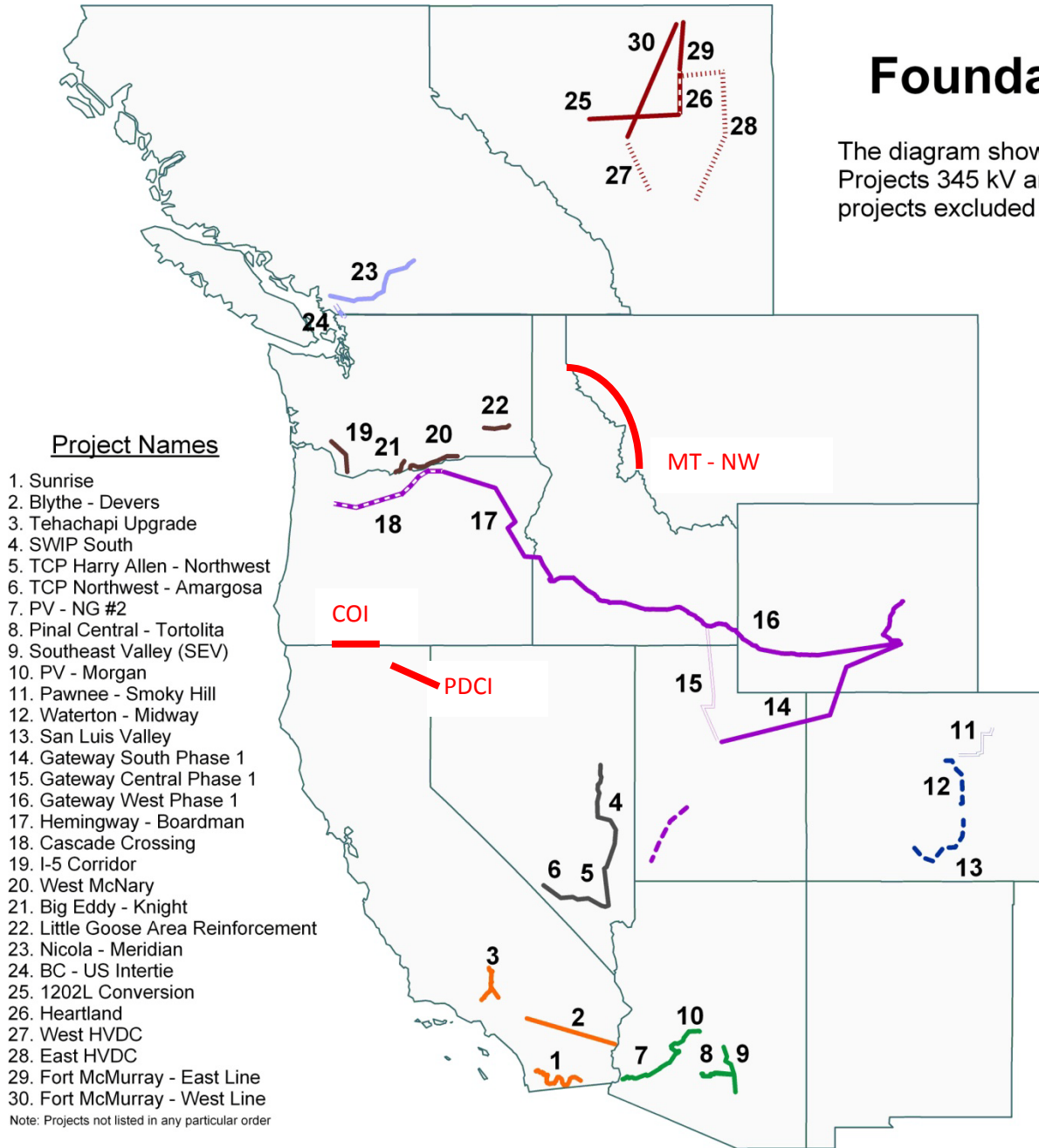
Percentage of WECC Incremental RPS Energy by State/Province: 2010 - 2020



Total WECC Incremental RPS Energy 2010-2020 = 89,644 GWh

# Foundational Projects - 2020

The diagram shows illustrative routings for 30 SCG Foundational Projects 345 kV and higher. There are 14 lower voltage/reinforcement projects excluded from the map for clarity.



## Project Names

1. Sunrise
2. Blythe - Devers
3. Tehachapi Upgrade
4. SWIP South
5. TCP Harry Allen - Northwest
6. TCP Northwest - Amargosa
7. PV - NG #2
8. Pinal Central - Tortolita
9. Southeast Valley (SEV)
10. PV - Morgan
11. Pawnee - Smoky Hill
12. Waterton - Midway
13. San Luis Valley
14. Gateway South Phase 1
15. Gateway Central Phase 1
16. Gateway West Phase 1
17. Hemingway - Boardman
18. Cascade Crossing
19. I-5 Corridor
20. West McNary
21. Big Eddy - Knight
22. Little Goose Area Reinforcement
23. Nicola - Meridian
24. BC - US Intertie
25. 1202L Conversion
26. Heartland
27. West HVDC
28. East HVDC
29. Fort McMurray - East Line
30. Fort McMurray - West Line

Note: Projects not listed in any particular order

## Transmission Key

- 500 kV Single Circuit Line
- 345 kV Single Circuit Line
- 500 kV Double Circuit Line
- 345 kV Double Circuit Line
- DC Circuit (various voltages)

## Sub-Region Key

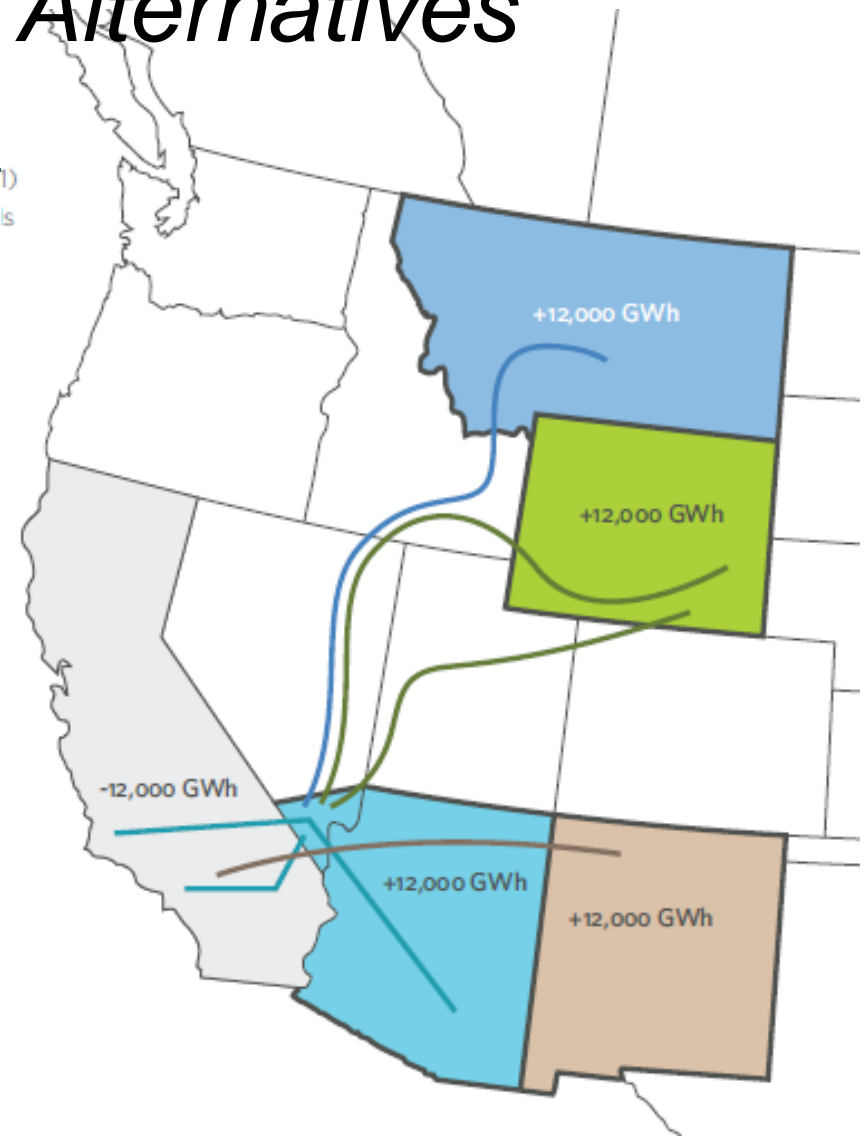
- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| <b>CAISO</b> | <b>NTTG</b>  |
| <b>SSPG</b>  | <b>CG</b>    |
| <b>SWAT</b>  | <b>BCCPG</b> |
| <b>CCPG</b>  | <b>AESO</b>  |



# Resource Relocation Alternatives

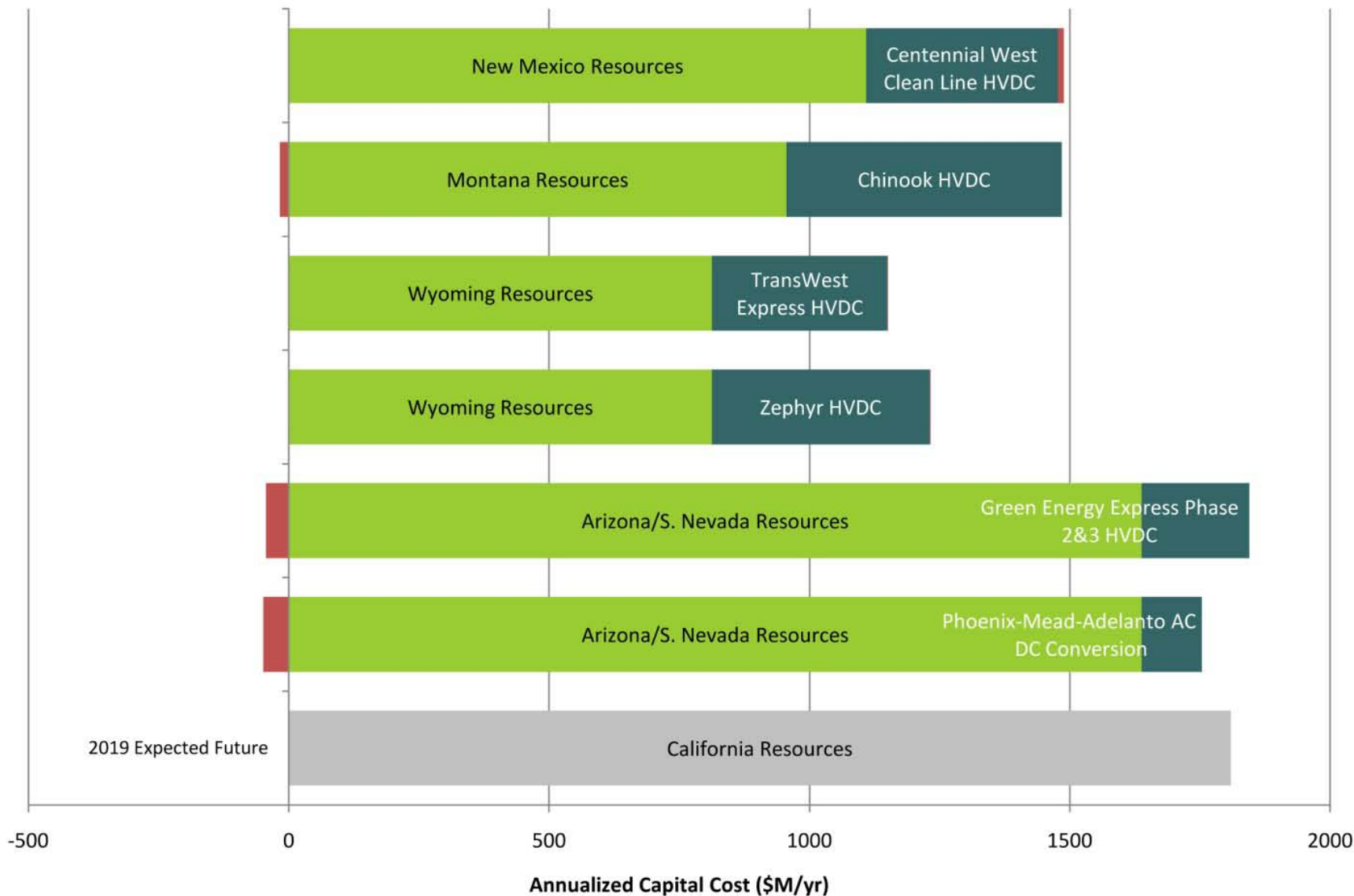
## Transmission Expansion

- Relocate 12,000 GWh of renewable generation from California to eight different locations
- Observe the impact on costs and transmission needs



# Capital Cost Comparison of Potentially Cost-Effective Resource Relocation Alternatives with Large-Scale Transmission Expansion

- Cost Estimate of 12,000 GWh CA Resources
- Cost Estimate of 12,000 GWh Relocated Resources
- Cost Estimate of Incremental Transmission
- Change in Production Cost Relative to Expected Future





# *10-Year Regional Transmission Plan Observations & Recommendations*

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1. Cost-effective remote renewable resources
2. Montana to Northwest (Path 8)
3. Pacific Tie Paths (Paths 65, 66)
4. Operational impacts of variable generation
5. Planning cooperation
6. Environmental and cultural considerations in future transmission planning processes
7. Water resource impacts on the future generation mix
8. Gaps in regional transmission planning processes

# *Looking Forward*

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- Process Improvements
  - Long-term capital planning tools
  - Scenario-driven planning
  - Inclusion of water & environmental factors
  - Operational and reliability impacts
- Things we won't realize by this process
  - Quantification of impacts on specific ratepayers
  - Cost allocation
  - Permitting or siting

# Questions

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All information on the WECC 10-Year Regional Transmission Plan may be found at <http://www.wecc.biz/10yrPlan>.