



# **Recent Developments in Energy Storage in California**

**Bryan Early**  
**NASEO Policy Outlook Conference**  
**February 4, 2026**

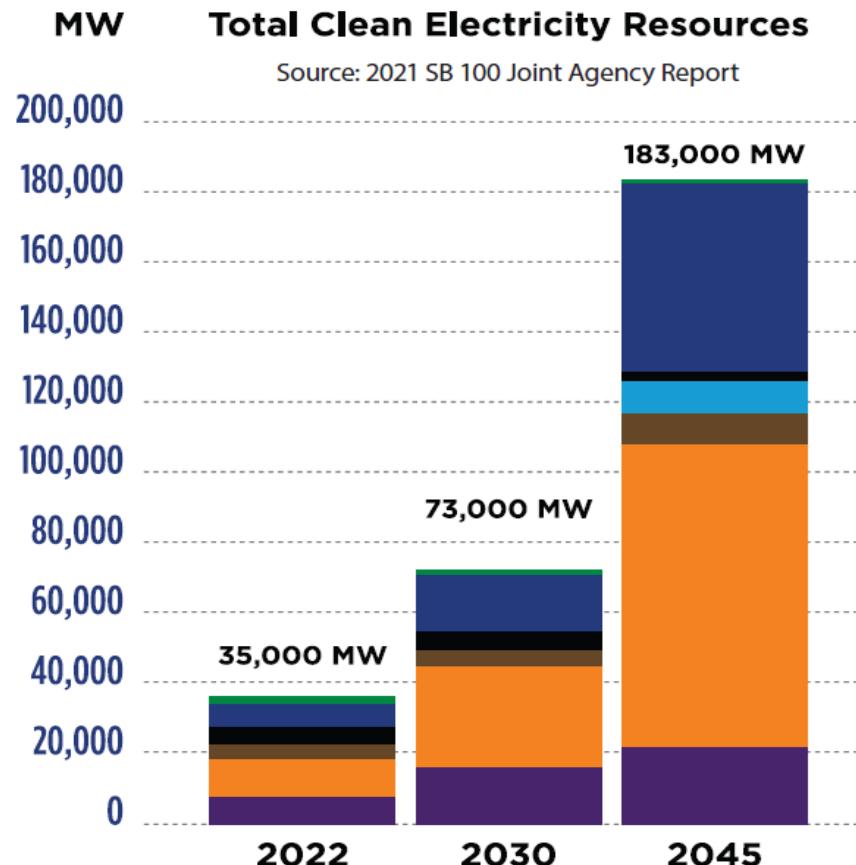
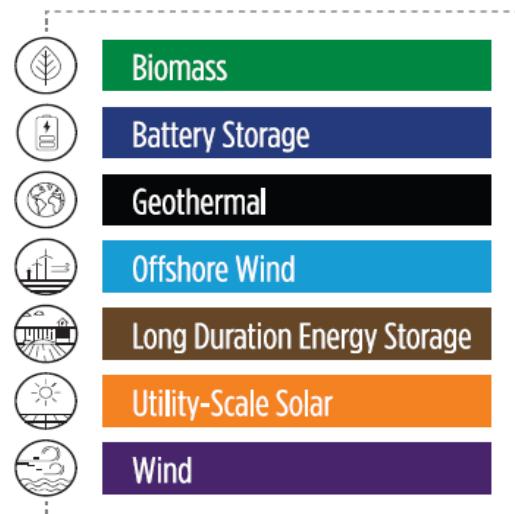


## To provide 100% clean electricity by 2045,

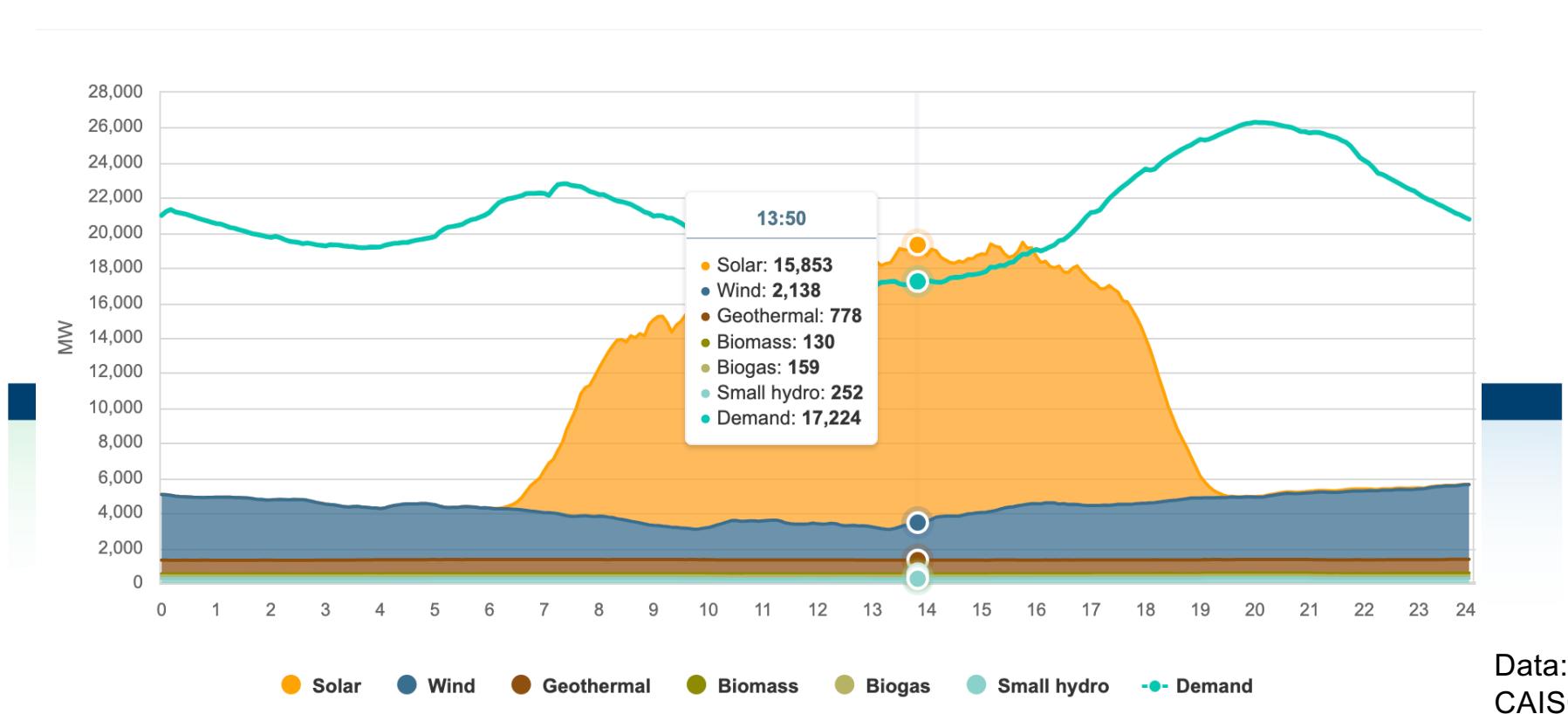
*California will build an unprecedented amount of new utility-scale clean energy resources*

Totals represent new and existing resources. The 2021 SB 100 Joint Agency Report projects the need for 148,000 MW of new resources by 2045.

In addition, California also expects new capacity from energy efficiency, customer solar and demand response.

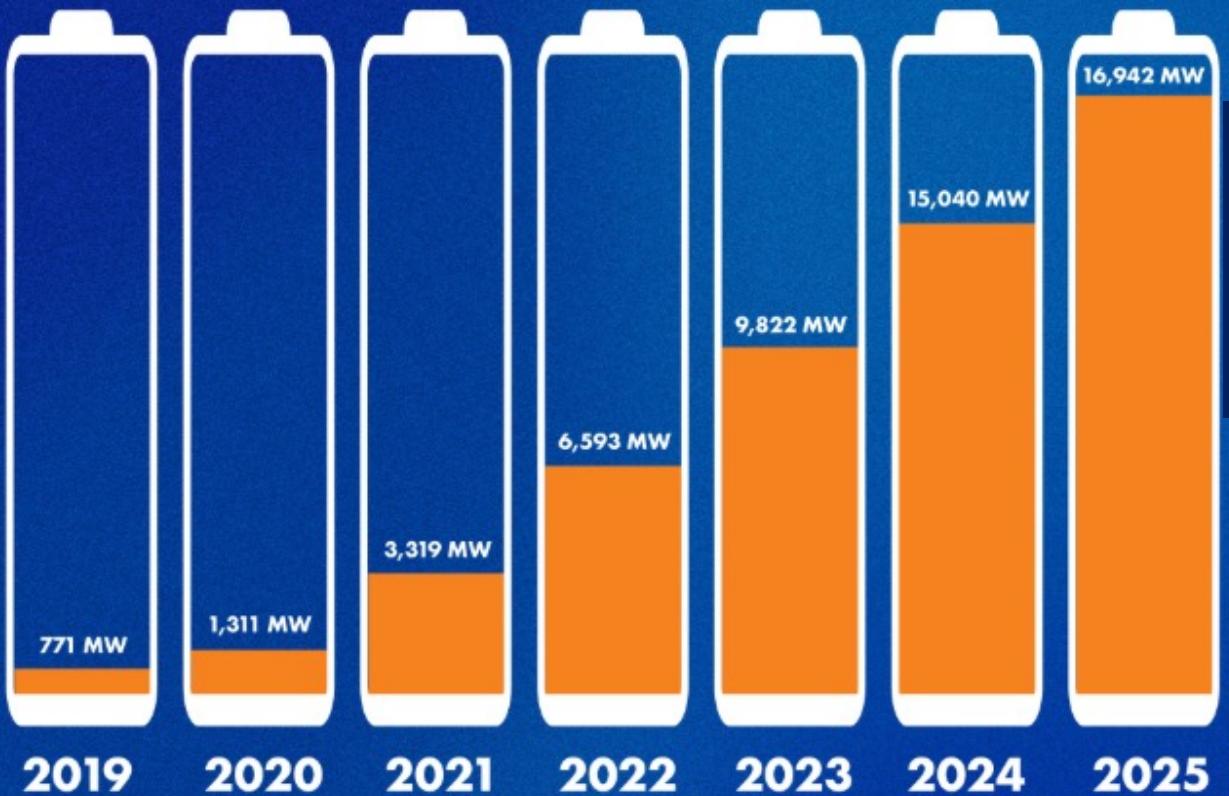


## 2025: 100% Clean Energy on 279 Days





## New Record: CA Hits Nearly 17 GW of Energy Storage

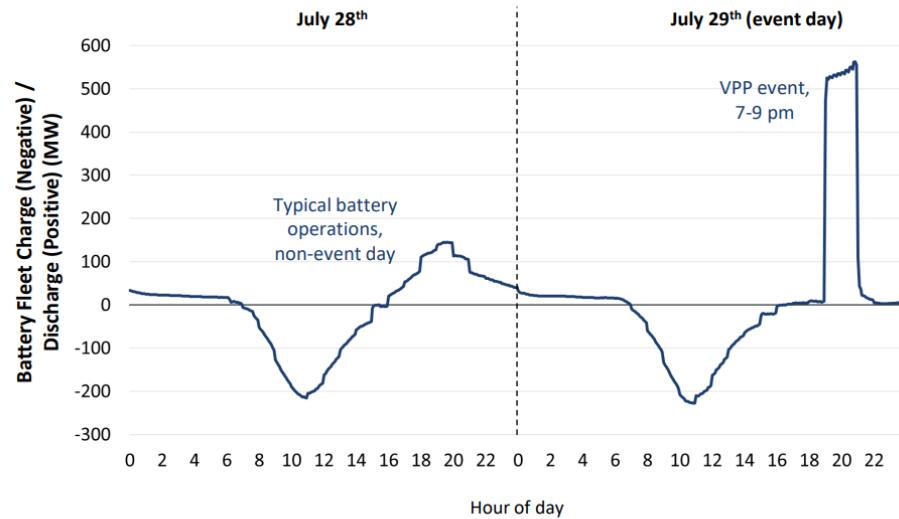


California has increased battery storage capacity by 2,100% since the beginning of the Newsom Administration.



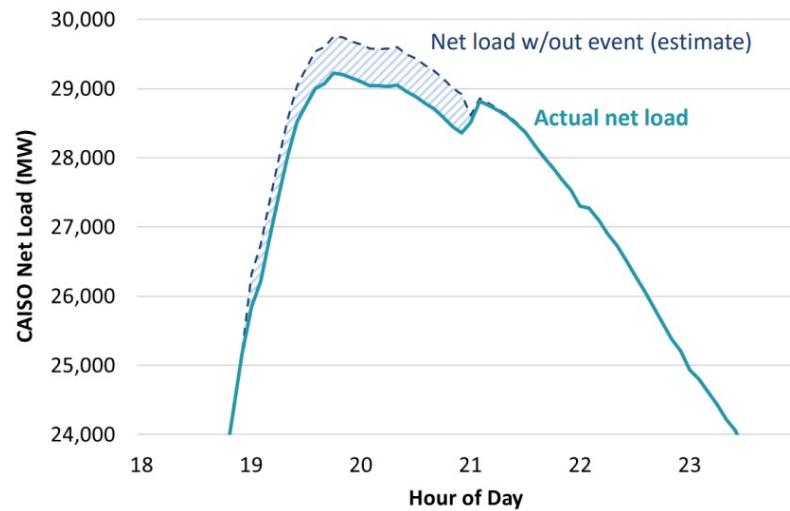
# Largest VPP in the country: over 1 GW enrolled in DSGS

## Battery Operations Before and During the Event



Notes: Based on Brattle analysis of 5-minute telemetry data provided by Sunrun and Tesla. Battery dispatch is raw power output, without any baseline adjustments.

## CAISO System Net Load on Event Day

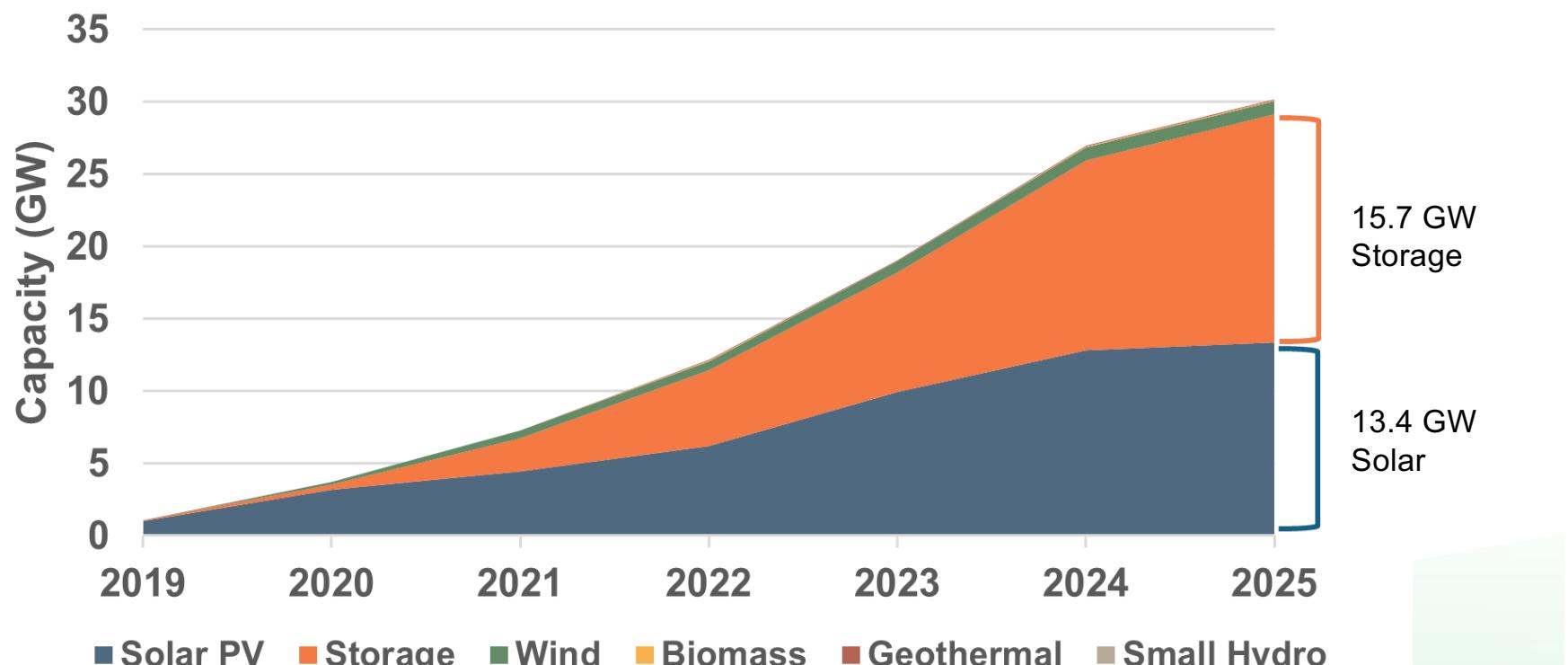


Notes: Net load sourced from CAISO and reflects actual demand less solar and wind output. Baseline net load in the absence of the event was constructed using 5-minute telemetry data provided by Sunrun and Tesla. All battery output is shown as a reduction in net load.

Source: Brattle



## Newsom Administration Energy Progress: 30.2 GW of New, Clean Capacity\* in CA Added Since 2019



\*Includes clean energy and battery additions

Data: CEC



# LDES Program Overview

## Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Program

### What is LDES?

Energy storage with 8+ hours of duration

Non-lithium-ion technology

### Why LDES?

Reliability, decarbonization, affordability

Total funding  
**\$273M**

- Commercialization for utility-scale applications
- Established in 2022
- Non-competitive grants allowed



MCAS Miramar – RICU (LDS-23-002)

Project portfolio  
**10 projects**  
**5 technologies**

- Project eligibility:
  - Non-lithium-ion
  - 8+ hour duration
  - 1 MW+



# Types of Long Duration Energy Storage

## Electrochemical Storage

Sodium-Ion Batteries  
Zinc-Based Batteries  
Metal-Air Batteries  
**Flow Batteries**



## Thermal Storage

Molten Salt Thermal Storage  
Heated Brick Energy Storage  
Liquid Metal Battery  
Liquid Air Energy Storage



## Mechanical Storage

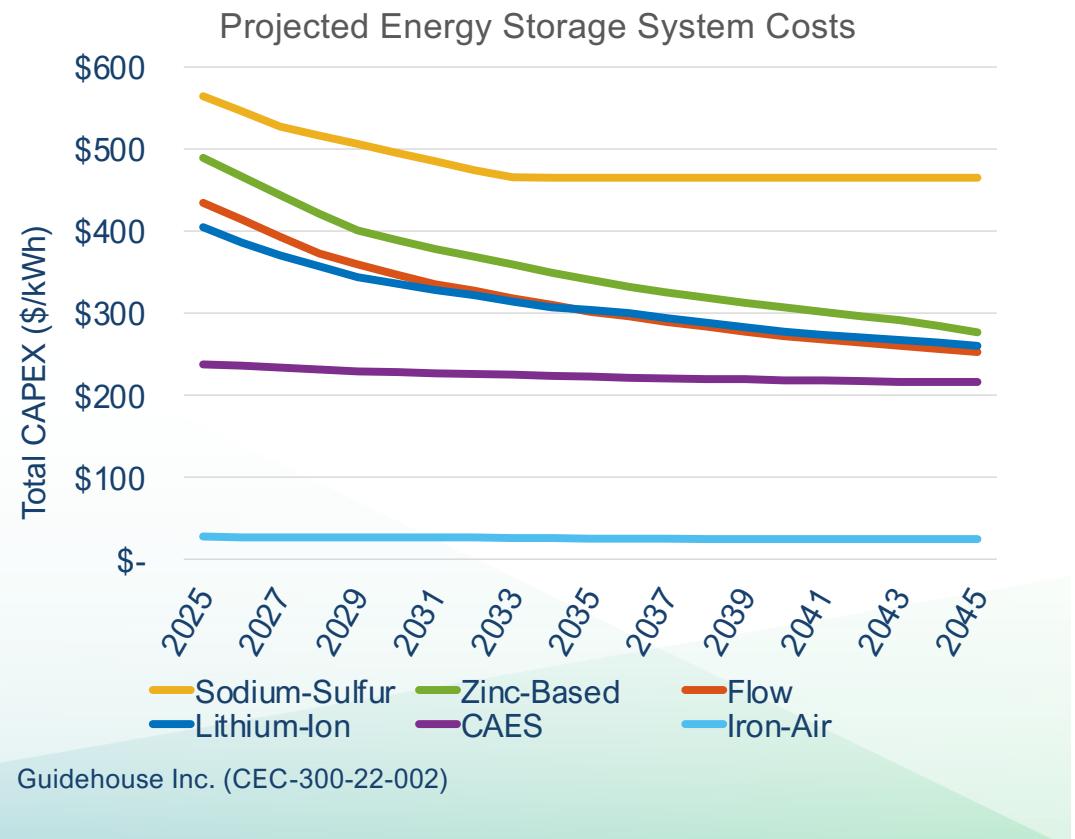
Pumped Hydro Storage  
Gravity-Based Storage  
Compressed Air Storage





# Market Environment

- Falling Li-Ion costs are difficult to compete with
- Developers prefer lower CapEx (li-ion) over lower lifetime costs (LDES)
- Markets based around short-duration storage
- LDES costs are falling





# Willow Rock - Hydrostor

- First large-scale advanced compressed air energy storage (A-CAES) project approved in California
- 500 MW / ~4,000 MWh long-duration storage, capable of delivering power for up to 8 hours
- Supports deep renewable integration by converting excess solar and wind into firm, dispatchable capacity
- Expands California's storage portfolio beyond lithium-ion, demonstrating technology diversity at scale
- Provides multiple grid services: reliability, resource adequacy support, and system flexibility
- Designed for multi-decade operation, aligning with California's long-term decarbonization goals





# Project Challenges & Lessons Learned

## Technology novelty

- Lack of LDES deployment experience and standardization
- Iterations of technologies cause unforeseen challenges
- Higher risk of companies becoming insolvent

## Project considerations

- Site host – need to be a close partner
- Permitting challenges
- Overseas vs. Domestic – tariffs, tax credits

**Operational history and past deployments are key considerations to differentiate R&D vs deployment-ready technologies**



# [Backup Slides]

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# Senate Bill 100

Officially titled “The 100 Percent Clean Energy Act of 2018,”  
Senate Bill 100 (SB 100, De León):



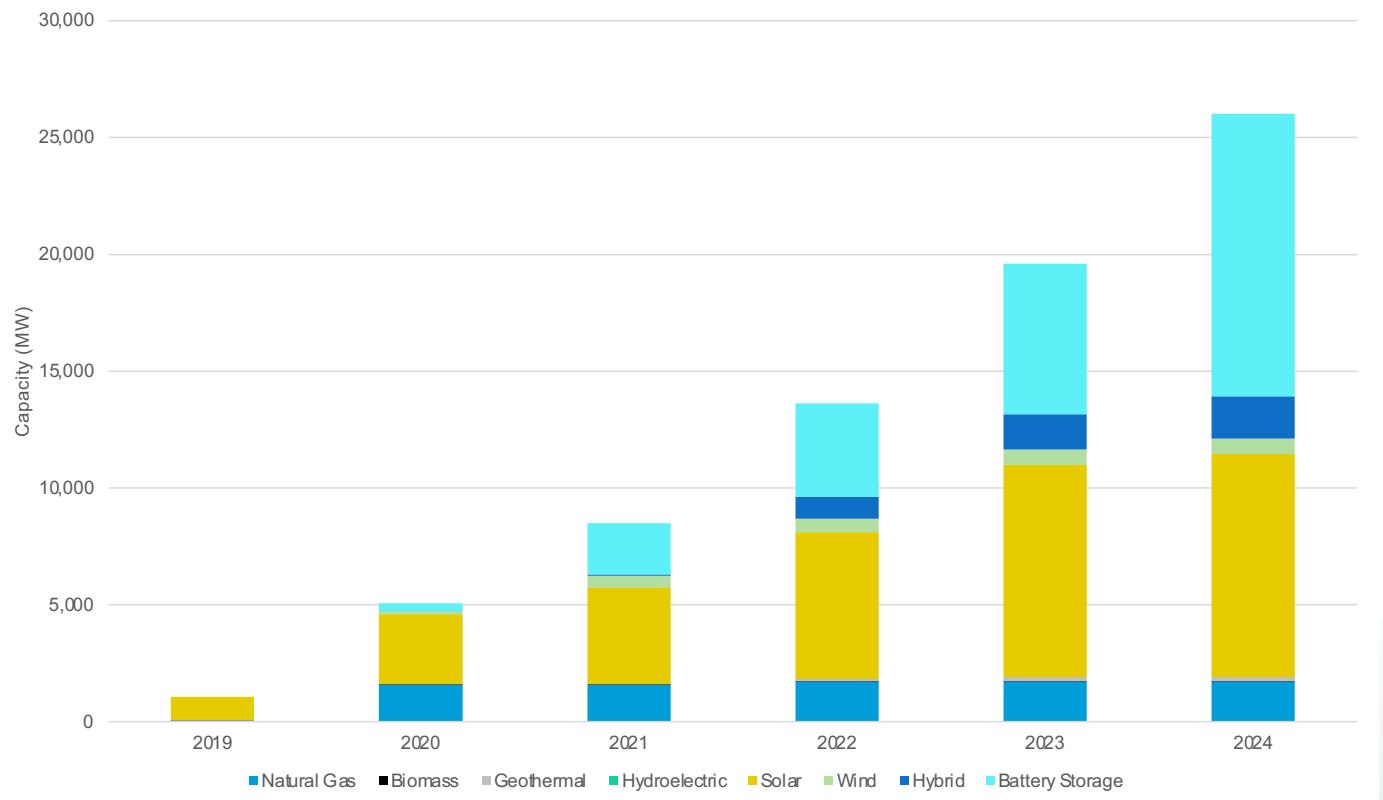
- 1** Sets a 2045 goal of powering all retail electricity sold in California and state agency electricity needs with renewable and zero-carbon resources.
- 2** Updates the state’s Renewables Portfolio Standard to ensure that by 2030 at least 60 percent of California’s electricity is renewable.
- 3** Requires the CEC, CPUC, and CARB to use programs under existing laws to achieve 100 percent clean electricity and issue a joint policy report on SB 100 by 2021 and every four years thereafter.



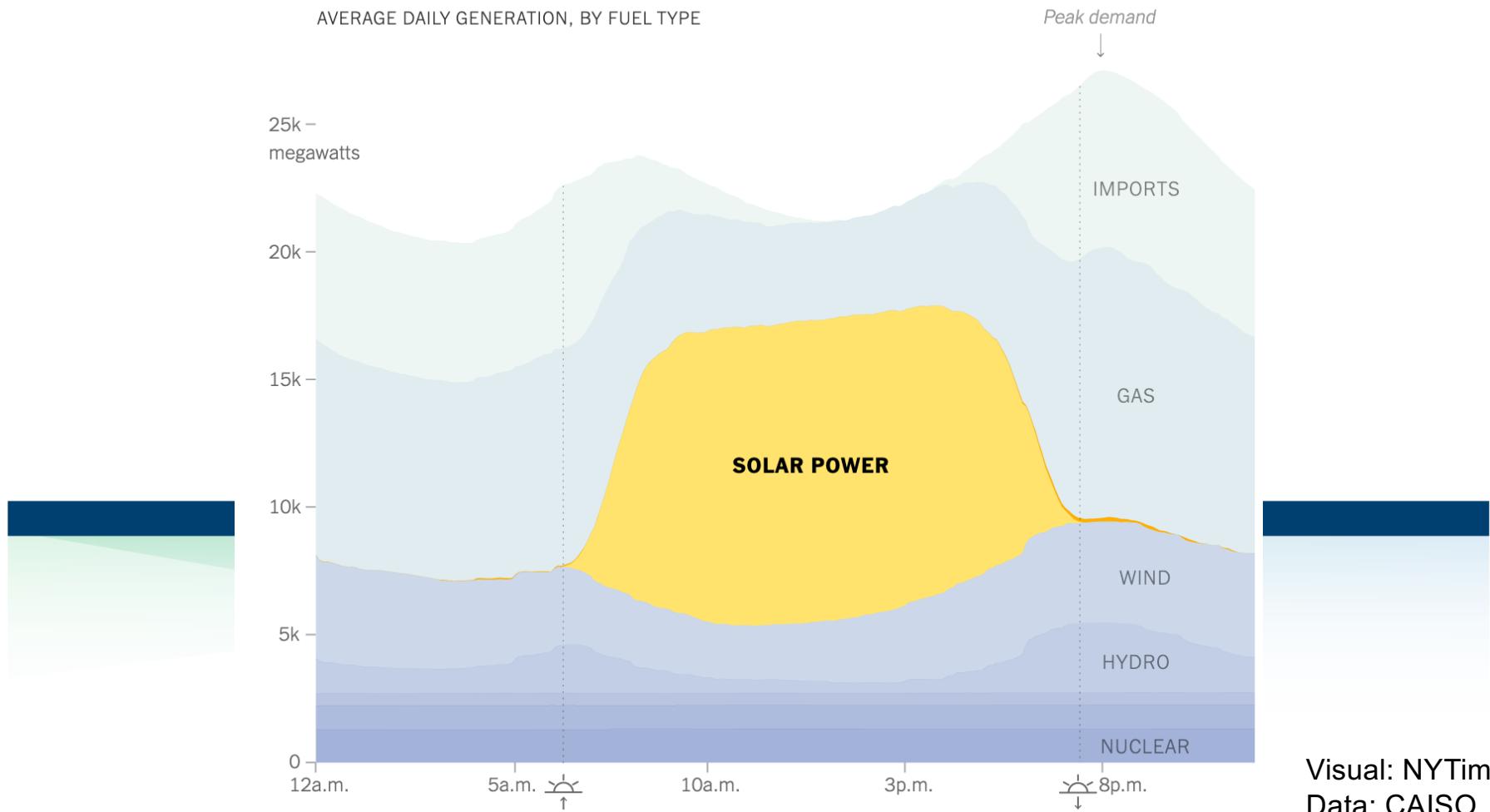


## Cumulative New Resources 2019-24

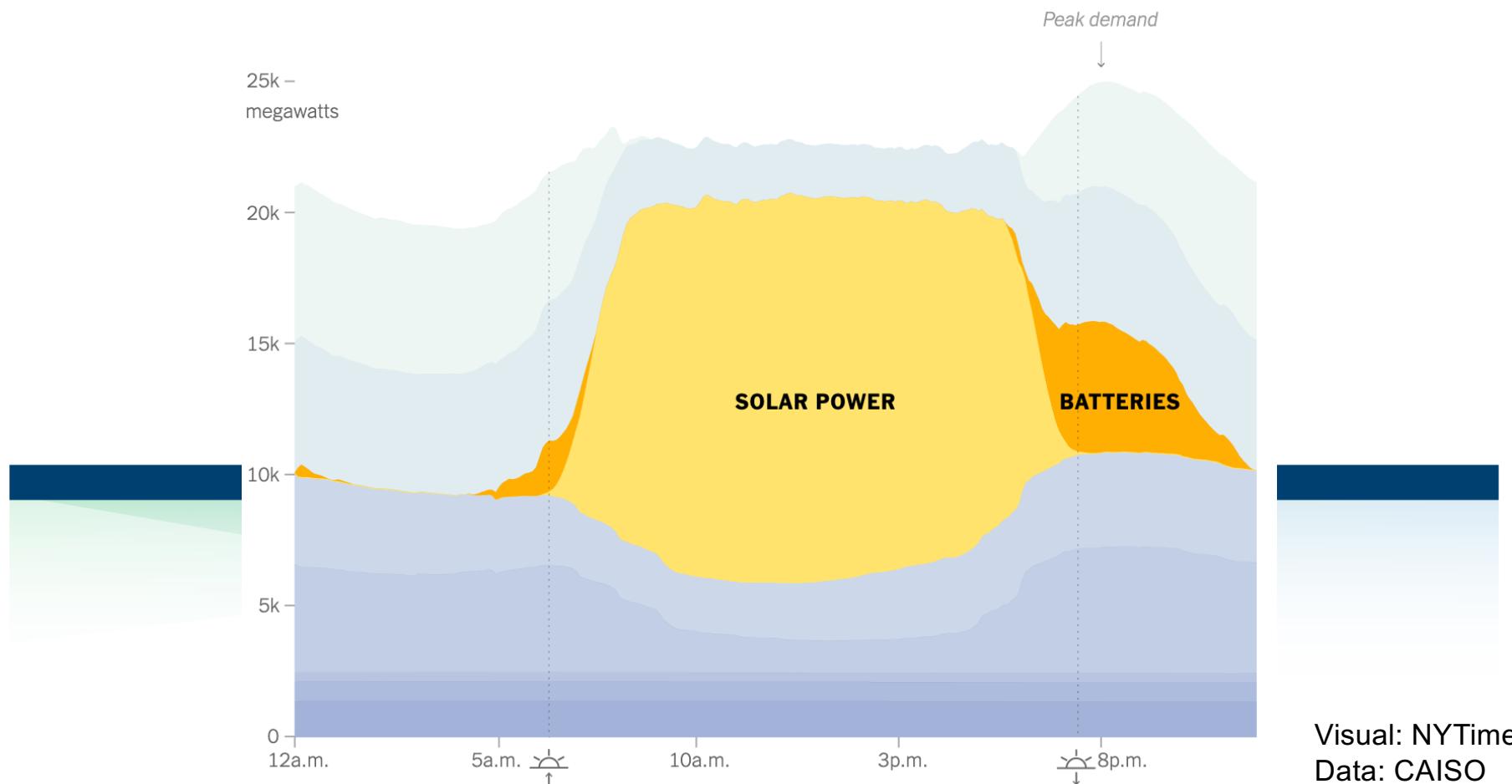
- 26,016 new resources since 2019
- Annual new resource installations is now **~6 GW/year**, in-line with 3x and 8x recs in 2021 SB 100 report
- Most of the new energy resources were solar PV and battery storage.



## How California powered itself in April 2021 ...



and in April 2024.





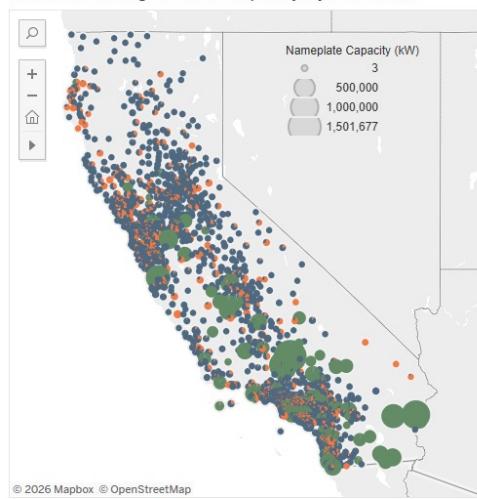
# CEC Storage Dashboard

## California Energy Storage System Survey

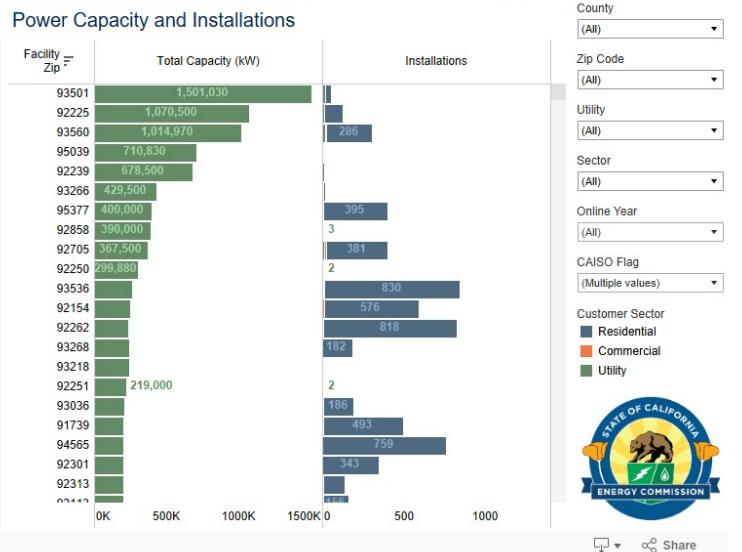
Statewide Energy Storage Power Capacity: **16,942 MW**

| Customer Sector | Total Capacity (MW) | Installations  | Average Capacity (kW) |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Residential     | 2,213               | 280,423        | 8                     |
| Commercial      | 849                 | 3,797          | 224                   |
| Utility         | 13,880              | 248            | 55,966                |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>16,942</b>       | <b>284,468</b> | <b>60</b>             |

### Installed Storage Power Capacity by ZIP Code



### Power Capacity and Installations



[California Energy Storage System Survey](#)



# World's Largest Battery Storage Project

Edwards & Sanborn  
3,287 MWh  
Kern County, CA



Photo: Mortenson



# Comparison to Lithium Ion

|                                  | Lithium-ion          | LDES (Typical)                         |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <b>Duration (hrs)</b>            | 2 – 4 hrs            | 8 – 24 hrs, Multiday<br>(max: 100 hrs) |
| <b>RTE (AC) (%)</b>              | <b>83% – 86%</b>     | 40% – 80%                              |
| <b>Energy Density (MWh/Acre)</b> | <b>&gt;125</b>       | 15 – 100                               |
| <b>Lifespan (years)</b>          | <10 years            | <b>25+ years</b>                       |
| <b>LCOS (\$/MWh)</b>             | \$150                | <b>\$50 – \$200</b>                    |
| <b>Safety</b>                    | Thermal runaway risk | <b>No fire risk</b>                    |
| <b>Temperature Reqs.</b>         | Needs active cooling | <b>No temperature control needed</b>   |



# Large-scale LDES Deployments



- CellCube
- Energy Dome
- Invinity
- Sumitomo
- Hydrostor
- Eos
- Form Energy



# Key Electrochemical Storage Companies



## Eos Energy Storage Zinc Hybrid-Cathode Battery

Established 2008

3 - 12 hrs duration

75% - 80% RTE

137+ MWh installed capacity

- Large systems in operation: **72 MWh** in SC, **50 MWh** in TX
- First project of latest generation battery commissioned July 2025
- Additional **250+ MWh** being installed currently
- **11+ GWh** of planned deployments
- Planned manufacturing expansion to **>8 GWh/yr**



## Form Energy Iron Air Battery

Established 2017

100 hrs duration

40% - 50% RTE

300 kWh installed capacity

- Large footprint
- First commercial **150 MWh** system installing late 2025
- CEC's **150 MWh** system installing early 2026
- **14+ GWh** of planned deployments



# Key Flow Battery Companies



## CellCube *Vanadium Flow Battery*

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Established 2000                 |
| <b>2 - 24 hrs</b> duration       |
| 60% - 70% RTE                    |
| <b>65 MWh</b> installed capacity |

- Longest-running flow battery: **14+ years** of operation
- **10 MWh** deployment at MCB Bridgeport in 2025
- Upcoming **1 GWh** system deployment



## Invinity *Vanadium Flow Battery*

|                                   |
|-----------------------------------|
| Established 2020                  |
| <b>3 - 18 hrs</b> duration        |
| 60% - 70% RTE                     |
| <b>80+ MWh</b> installed capacity |

- Founded by merger of flow battery companies
- New generation released (2024)
- Recent manufacturing expansion to **>1 GWh/yr**
- **190+ MWh** of planned deployments



## Sumitomo Electric *Vanadium Flow Battery*

|                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| Program est. 1984                  |
| <b>4 - 8+ hrs</b> duration         |
| 70% RTE                            |
| <b>190+ MWh</b> installed capacity |

- Part of large electronics company
- **8 MWh** system with SDG&E, operating **10+ years**
- Two **50+ MWh** systems deployed
- New generation released (2025)



# Key Mechanical Storage Companies



## Hydrostor *Compressed Air Battery*

Established 2010

8- 24 hrs duration

65% RTE

**10 MWh** installed capacity

- **10 MWh** demonstration in Ontario, commissioned 2019
- **1.6 GWh** project finishing permitting in AUS
- **4 GWh** project undergoing permitting with CEC



## Energy Dome *Compressed CO<sub>2</sub> Battery*

Established 2020

8 - 24 hrs duration

73% RTE

**4 MWh** installed capacity

- **4 MWh** demonstration in Italy, commissioned 2022
- First full-scale **200 MWh** system being commissioned
- **760+ MWh** of planned deployments, each **~200 MWh**
- Google partnership to serve data centers



# Overview: Tech Provider Comparison

|                  | Lithium-ion<br>(Baseline) | Electrochemical |              |                     |              |               | Mechanical      |                            |
|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
|                  |                           | Non-Flow        |              | Flow                |              |               |                 |                            |
|                  |                           | Eos*            | Form*        | CellCube            | Invinity*    | Sumitomo      | Hydrostor       | Energy Dome                |
| Technology       | Lithium-ion               | Zinc Hybrid     | Iron Air     | Vanadium Redox Flow |              |               | Compressed Air  | Compressed CO <sub>2</sub> |
| Duration (hrs)   | 2 – 4 hrs                 | 3 – 12 hrs      | 100 hrs      | 2 – 24 hrs          | 3 – 18 hrs   | 4 – 8+ hrs    | 8 – 24 hrs      | 8 – 24 hrs                 |
| RTE (AC) (%)     | 83% – 86%                 | 75% – 80%       | 40% – 50%    | 60% – 70%           | 60% – 70%    | 70%           | 65%             | 73%                        |
| Lifespan (years) | <10 years                 | 20 years        | 15-20 years  | 30 years            | 25+ years    | 30+ years     | 50 years        | 30 years                   |
| LCOS (\$/MWh)    | \$150                     | \$100 – \$200   | \$50 – \$100 | \$90 – \$120        | \$90 – \$120 | \$100 – \$200 | (not available) | \$50 – \$150               |

\* Technologies in the LDES Program portfolio



## **LDES—Diverse Demonstrations of Non-Lithium-Ion LDES Technologies**

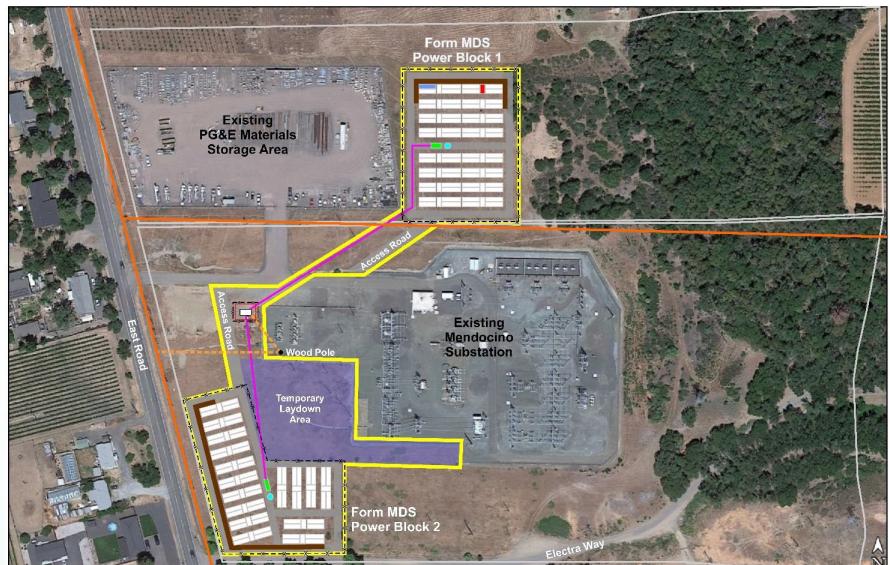
- California has 6 Different Non-Lithium-Ion LDES technologies in different phases of initial field demonstrations
  - Zinc hybrid
  - Vanadium redox flow battery
  - Zinc bromine flow battery
  - Iron Flow battery
  - Iron air
  - Zinc Air
- Future LDES program competitive award could add 1-3 additional technologies or vendors



## LDES—Largest LDES system in California Awarded in December 2023—Form Energy

### Form Energy's Multi-day Storage System

- 100-hour duration, 5 MW, 500 MWh
- PG&E's substation at Redwood Valley, Mendocino County
- Use case and market application analysis
- Design, construction and operation of the multi-day storage system





# Policy Environment



- Energy storage projects often funded with IRA's investment tax credits
  - Recent budget bill keeps storage tax credits; phases out for wind/solar
  - ITCs granted for: Prevailing wages, domestic content, support DAC/LIC
- Some technologies manufactured or rely on hard-to-source materials abroad
  - Tariff & ITC impact
  - Long-term strategy moving toward U.S. facilities