

The Friday Burrito

Beware the 6th of September

"It's the right idea, but not the right time."

John Dalton

"Write to be understood, speak to be heard, read to grow."

Lawrence Clark Powell

"Stay focused on the mission."

Naveen Jain



Two years ago this week, the CAISO along with its neighboring balancing authorities in the West suffered a heat storm that caused quite a commotion. In fact, on this same day in 2022 the CAISO had a wee bit of load shedding that was the result of a miscommunication between the Folsom control center and one of the transmission-dependent load-serving entities in Northern California. Separately, the Governor's office called for statewide emergency voluntary demand reductions. It was one of those days now inscribed in our history.

Yesterday it was bloody hot across a fair bit of the region but the upper northwest reaches were spared the worst. Load centers in California, Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona sizzled but the grids held up ... so far.

September is the riskiest month for CAISO reliability. Daylight hours decline but the evening demand for electricity swells if it is hot. There is less solar energy production, less energy for charging battery energy storage systems (BESS), less behind-the-meter solar generation to reduce demand, and a greater dependence on uncertain factors such as net imports. The standing gas generation fleet remains a critical anchor for pulling through September temperature excursions.

Grid vulnerability in the fall has been well known and baked into the planning tools used by the Cappuccino, the CEC, and the CAISO. Yes, we are aware but I'm not sure we are prepared to act if need be.

August Natural Gas Generation and Net Imports

The comparison between last month and the same for the previous two years solidified the new normal. Natural gas generation precipitously declined over the last two years, and steeply so from the last year. I suppose that was the impact of increased renewables production and flat customer demand. Net imports, on the other hand, barely moved from

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Western States Ticker

CAISO YTD Renewables Curtailment:

As of 8/31/24: 2,980,978 MWh

As of 8/31/23 2,267,205 MWh

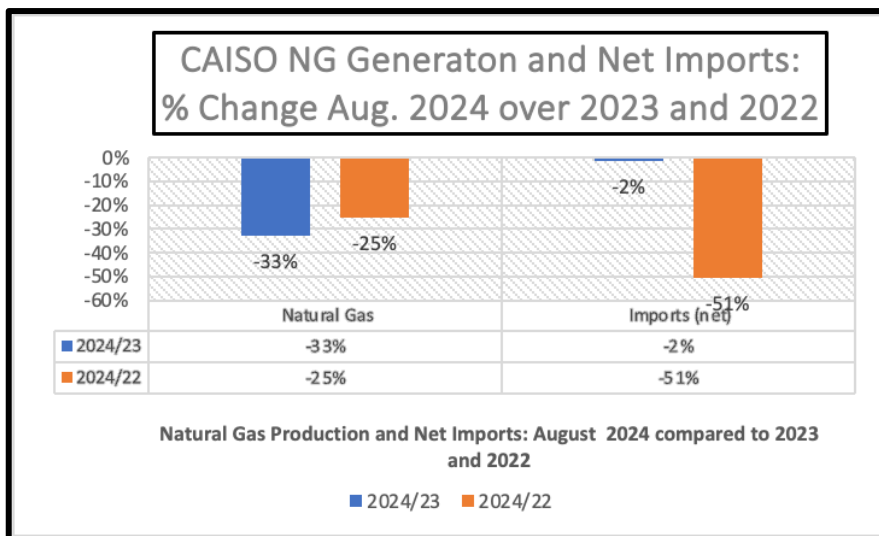
% of solar and wind output curtailed:

YTD as of Aug 2024 5.42%

YTD as of Aug 2023 4.92%

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their August 2023 level. Yes, overall, net imports were way down since 2022, however, whatever caused the initial drop seems to have stabilized. Me thinks the trading opportunities between the CAISO and Mid-C were the same in both 2023 and this year, but substantially changed between 2022 and 2023 ... as I have explained many times before in these pages. The value of Washington's carbon allowances



reflected in Mid-C wholesale prices, compared to California nodal prices, continues to offer substantial support for the transaction. This was not the case before Washington State's Cap-and-Invest program came into effect.

The downward trend in the CAISO natural gas numbers raise an interesting question. Has the gas fleet generation become flat and "base load" unlike in previous years when output from this resource (collectively) swung like the dickens to balance the CAISO grid? Calling it base load is of course an overstatement, but it points to the changing nature of the resource mix. If natural gas no longer swings like it used to, then what resource does? My guess is the BESS fleet is whipping around to accommodate changes in net load. This is discussed further, below, in [this week's feature article](#).

If the Shoe Fits, Then Drive It

Tesla's Cybertruck has triggered reactions from "love it" to "hate it" and a few guffaws such as from me that describe the design as a tin of cat food on wheels. Maybe, though, Tesla is on to something futuristic (Would that surprise anyone?) untapped by other auto and truck manufacturers. The thought arose when I read the following in the [NYT August 20 edition](#) titled, "A Shoe That Goes 65 M.P.H." where it reported: "Like the Oscar Mayer *Wienermobile* and Lindt's *Chocolate Gold Bunny Car*, L.L. Bean's promotional vehicle takes the shape of what the company considers its signature product: a duck boot — or Maine *Hunting Shoe*, as L.L. Bean calls it. At 13 feet high and 20 feet long, the

What we believe...

Competition yields lower electricity costs. Stable and transparent rules and regulations promote private investment.

Private investors, rather than utilities, will spend money on new power plants and transmission facilities if they can earn a return that is balanced with the risks.

Private sector investment results in lower average prices without risking consumers' money.

However, when IOUs do the investing, the risks to them are minimal or non-existent because ratepayers effectively cover the utilities' costs.

Overcapacity lowers electricity spot market prices; yet retail rates can still increase in this case due to full cost-of-service regulation.

Markets work best when there are many buyers and sellers.

At-risk money will be put to investment where markets exist that are well regulated and yield credible prices.

And what we should do ...

Believe in ourselves.

Actively support the creation of independent, multi-state regional transmission organizations that coordinate policies with respective state utility commissions.

Support rules for resource adequacy that apply uniformly to all load-serving entities.

Enforce competitive solicitations by utilities for purchasing either thermal or renewable power.

Bootmobile, were it a real shoe instead of a billboard on wheels, would be a size 708. There are three Bootmobiles in the company's U.S. fleet."



By jingo, LL. Bean has taken a page from Tesla's playbook (or maybe Oscar Meyer's) and cracked the code for transportation design, although the bootie is not an EV ... more's the pity.

My imagination ran wild with possibilities. I

should have applied for a patent on the following: a Cybertruck as a can of New Coke! Through the miracle of A.I., my dream came true at least conceptually in the picture to the right. You gotta love that ChatGPT.



Support choice among retail electricity customers.

Lobby for core/non-core split of retail customers.

Advocate against policies that limit, through bid mitigation, merchant returns on investment that are comparable to utility returns.

[Continued on the next page](#)



Thinking Ahead

[John Dizard](#)

Am I My Refiner's Keeper?



I must admit I'm impressed by [Governor Newsom's demand for a special legislative session](#) to deal with "gas price spikes". It would never have occurred to me to create a dramatic moment over equipment maintenance. Particularly equipment maintenance that happens at the same time every year around the world.

Ethnic cleansing, thwarted love, a bank heist gone wrong; all those sound like plot points to me. But scheduling oil refinery repairs? Or not scheduling them? Or forming a new committee to study the schedules?

Of course, I'm missing the immediate point, which is to create multiple media availabilities before, during and after any of those evil Spikes imposed by profit-greedy Big Oil, particularly in September of an election year. Spike-crushing, we are told, is the objective of [AB 1](#), the bill introduced in the California Assembly on the day after Labor Day.

You wouldn't know it from the Sacramento debates and press conferences, but other jurisdictions around the world have dealt with periodic fuel supply problems. These and the dreaded Spikes can be caused by predictable strikes (France), distance from refineries (Australia) or wars (most everywhere). The policy answer is pretty much the same: require refiners or fuel importers to store several weeks extra supply of gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel, allocate costs and reporting requirements, and release the supplies when the government decides there's a market-disruptive event. Refill the stockpile when prices drop.

This isn't free; the direct physical cost of refined product storage is about \$6/bbl, or 7% a year at today's prices. If the mandated inventory is financed at the government's marginal cost of funds, then it gets the nominal profits from selling to the refiners or distributors at Spike time.

There is another, hidden cost, though: [the public loses the information contained in the deadened volatility. Consumers don't measure the true risks of their habits](#) and innovators don't have the incentive to devise substitutes.

Thinking Ahead (continued)

However, I am describing the world outside of Planet California. God knows I don't think the French or [Australian governments](#) have all the answers, but at least they have plans that simply mandate holding more fuel inventory.

Not so AB 1. I read it so you wouldn't have to. It has very scary seeming language. It says that "regulations or orders implementing this chapter shall be considered by the Office of Administrative Law as an emergency, and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare..." This chapter shall remain in effect for two years." Under this "emergency", Big Oil refiners or persons who after three days of being notified of their failure to comply with regulations adopted under the law "shall be subject to an administrative penalty of not less than \$100,000 per day and not more than \$1,000,000 per day..."

Who would sign any documents under this law? What if the CEC doesn't get back to a foreman in time? And what does the CEC know about refinery maintenance and what can go wrong with that?

The good news, from the point of view of would-be consultants, is that the contracts entered by the CEC to study the whole problem of maintenance schedules and petroleum inventory levels "shall not require the review, consent, or approval of the Department of General Services... and do not need to comply with the requirements of the State Contracting Manual or the Public Contract Code."

I don't know about you, but I find that more problems are created by a lack of maintenance in this world rather than too much maintenance. And the autumn months are relatively slow in the oil products business, which is why the refiners fix things then.

Or they could just contract with refiners and distributors to buy a product reserve and trade around the price spikes. But that would be too simple.

Speaking of EV Manufacturers ...

Production slowdowns of EVs will not be a one-time blip on the radar screen. It appears that different companies in the U.S. and Europe are pulling in the reins of new EV lines due to lack of customer interest (kind of like New Coke, eh?) and the surge of competitive EVs from China. The [WSJ reported on August 22](#) that the total EV volume still is growing, but the rate of increase has dropped off. Ford, GM, Stellantis, and VW are announcing cost-cutting measures and revised sales forecasts for its EVs. "The cost of batteries is so high that most big automakers are losing money on their electric offerings. Ford's EV business is on pace to lose about \$5 billion this year. In the quarter ended June 30, it lost an average of about \$44,000 per electric vehicle sold."

In [a separate WSJ article that ran this week](#), the misfortunes of VW in the EV space were highlighted as follows: "The German government unexpectedly canceled EV subsidies. The technology has struggled to win over fresh cohorts of buyers who may be wary of patchy public charging infrastructure and higher prices. EV sales in Germany, where Volkswagen is the market leader, fell by a fifth in the year through July, compared with the same period of 2023." The company is racking up huge losses and resorting to plant closures.

The problems at Ford and VW are not being experienced by Volvo EVs made-in-China. Due to smaller car sizes and lower-cost batteries, Volvo's Chinese parent company, Geely, is picking up market share in Western Europe. Hybrid vehicles of all makes and models are also doing well especially in the U.S. The point here is that anything short of a miracle will not bring hordes of EVs charging on U.S. grids. It's just not in the cards for this generation of car buyers. My son and daughter-in-law recently bought a new hybrid. I think their purchase was the right way to go

Offshore Wind is Off Kilter

Two recent articles, one was an opinion piece in the [WSJ](#) and the other a news story in the [NYT](#), reported on sets of offshore wind projects in New York State and the U.K., respectively. I marveled at the prices either

guaranteed or being paid for the output of these developments. I believe offshore wind doesn't have much of a future along the California coast.

The New York projects are two wind farms that were awarded offtake contracts last June. Both are located along the Long Island shore and both have guaranteed prices (after tax credits) secured by the state. Per the [WSJ](#), "The state will pay \$155 and \$146 per megawatt-hour, respectively. These prices are steep, at least four times the average grid cost paid over the past year. New Yorkers should be asking why." Indeed, they should, but it will not do much good. The author of the piece explains, or complains, that the guaranteed prices are much higher than either the U.S. EIA or Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy estimates. "The EIA suggests the average break-even cost of offshore wind farms, adjusted to 2024 prices, is \$131 per megawatt-hour, not counting government subsidies, and \$101 per megawatt-hour after allowing for basic tax credits. The latter figure is what matters, because every offshore wind farm expects to take advantage of investment or production tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act. Lazard is far more optimistic about break-even costs. Its 2024 estimates imply a minimum of \$53 per megawatt-hour and a maximum of \$79 after tax credits." Such a deal for NYers.

The question arises about the fundamental costs for offshore wind. Do you place your bet either on published government data, independent analysis or actual negotiated contracts? I mean, neither NY project was going to be built and operated for anything less than the agreed upon price. "The EIA and Lazard both assume much lower capital and annual operating costs for U.S. projects than the actual costs for large offshore wind farms in the North Sea. European supply chains and firms are far more developed than in the U.S., which would mean higher prices for projects in the states." Right. But let's look into 10 U.K. offshore wind projects that were recently reported in the [NYT](#) article.

The U.K. conducted an auction whereby 131 projects were proposed and 10 awarded because of the realigned government price supports. Last year the government conducted the same auction with lower prices and oddly there were no bidders. Can you imagine? Prime Minister Keir Starmer believes that offshore wind will be the backbone of his country's clean energy future. "The governing Labour Party realized that if it wanted to retain Britain's leading position in offshore wind installation, it needed to substantially increase price supports to help developers tackle the estimated 40 percent increase in the costs of building these projects in recent years." A forty percent bump. I think it is time for California grid planners to remove the rose colored glasses used to estimate offshore wind projects. One last bite to bring home the message: "In the latest [U.K.] auction, the floor prices for offshore wind range up to an estimated £82, or \$108, per megawatt-hour."

Things In The People's Republic of California

CAISO Special Report on Battery Performance

Last July, the [CAISO Dept. of Market Monitoring \(DMM\) released a study](#) that escaped my notice until this week. It was a report on battery energy storage system (BESS) performance for 2023. It's a worthy 36-page document for individual participants engaged in CAISO markets, for Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) participants, fellow geeks, and especially useful for people at other wholesale energy markets other than the CAISO who are involved with market design issues. BESS will be a critical part of any future grid and the CAISO experience with such provides valuable information about the pros and cons of storing energy. Energy storage has always been a complex issue for power grids since the early 1950s when hydro resources were introduced

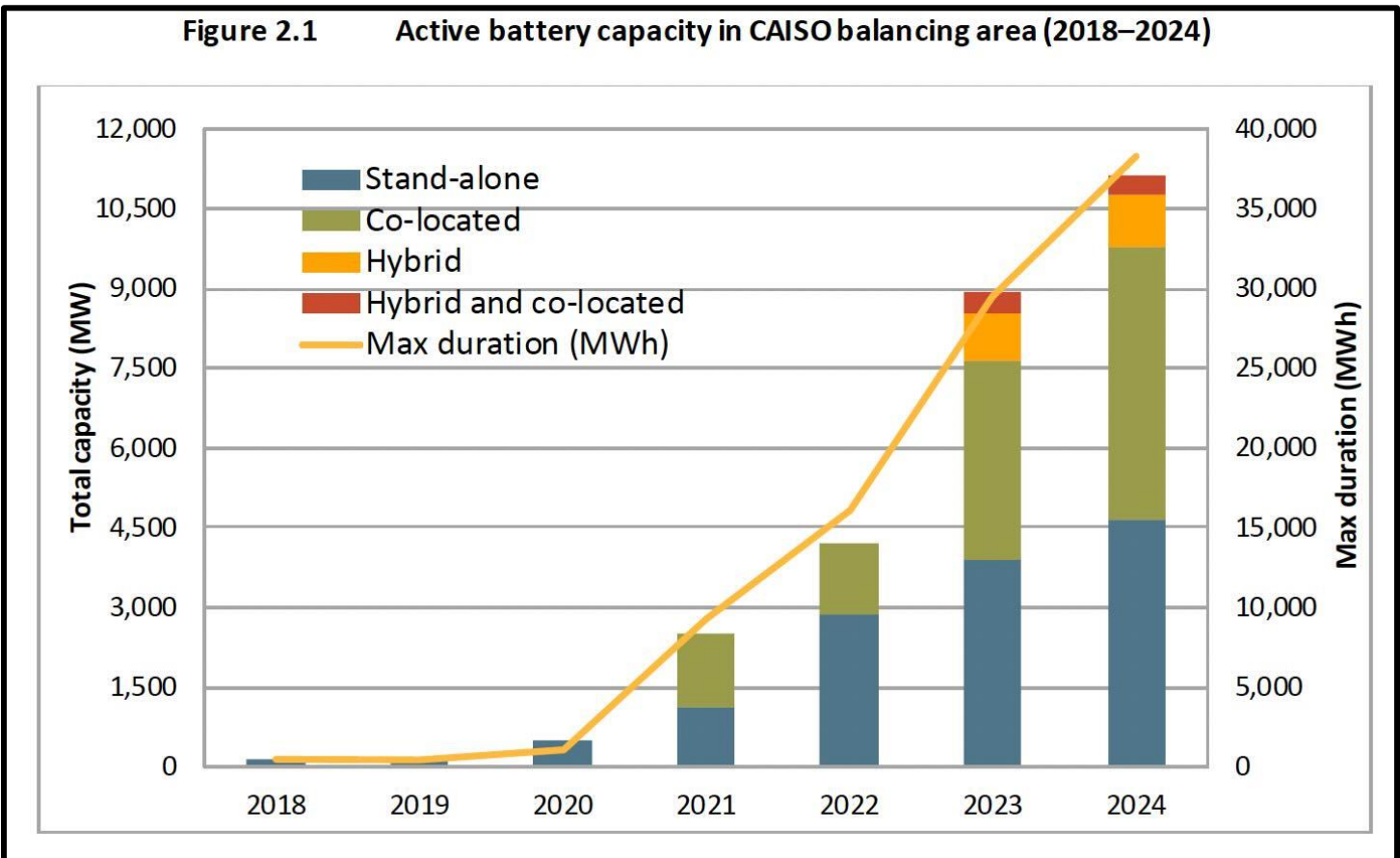
to thermal systems, and today it is no less so for BESS. But the nature of BESS assets ... their daily diurnal charging and discharging, their operating limitations, and the speed with which they can ramp up or down make the resource type unique and challenging.

Further, the economic upside of BESS assets is changing as arbitrage opportunities become riskier, ancillary market revenue declines, and operating constraints for meeting resource adequacy (RA) tighten.

My exegesis of the document has four parts using the special report as a basis for my citations (and figures):

1. Installed capacity
2. Regulation ancillary services
3. Annual compensation
4. RA participation and NQC

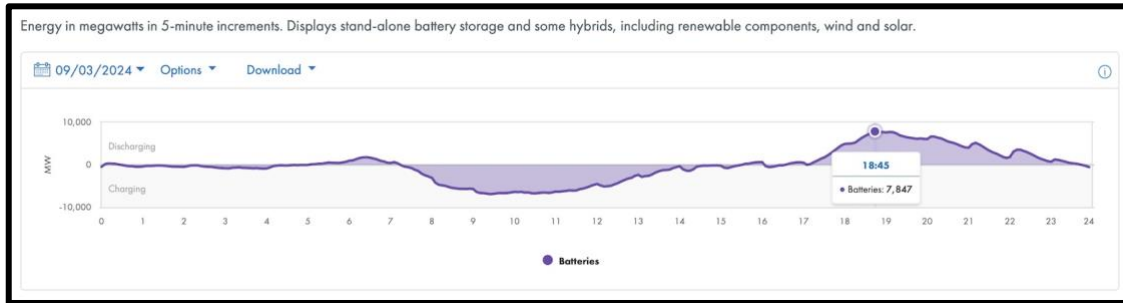
One of my fave things to track on the CAISO grid is BESS installed capacity. You'd think it would be a simple matter to get the nameplate capacity and plunk it into my text. But when are things easy? Never. There are different flavors of BESS: standalone, co-located, hybrid, and a combination of the last two. An easy smorgasbord of options. Yes, aggregated together one can derive a single capacity number but it can be misleading. Per the report: "In June 2024, active battery capacity totaled about 11,100 MW—with 4,700 MW from stand-alone projects and 5,100 MW from co-located projects, and about 1,300 MW from the storage components of hybrid resources and co-located hybrids. Total hybrid capacity, including generation components, was 4,900 MW." Well, misleading is better than nothing; see the figure below:



For BESS, maximum duration is probably more important to grid operations than capacity. I realize that but when looking at 5-minute real-time snapshots, say, it's easier to capture the essence of BESS performance by reporting the capacity dispatched. My apologies to BESS purists. To measure the effectiveness of the BESS fleet

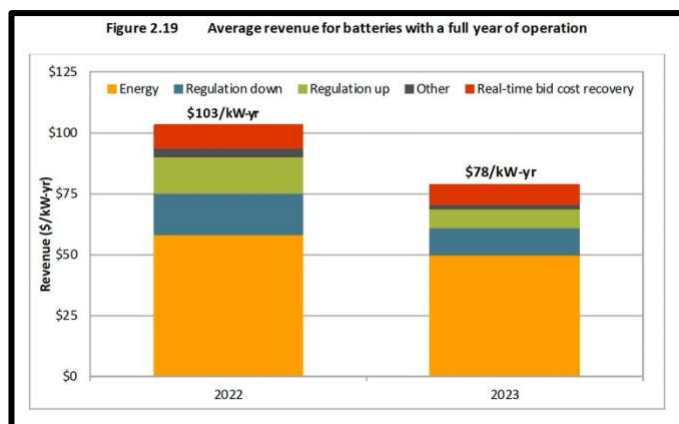
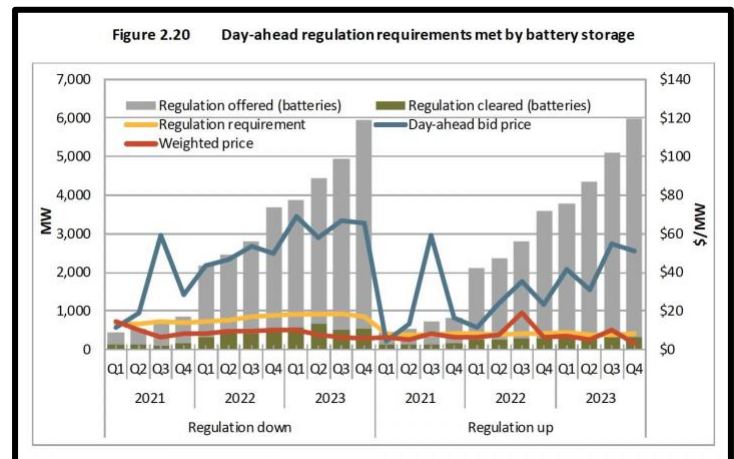
during a single 24-hour day, one can review the CAISO's Today's Outlook data to garner deeper implications. For example, below is a figure charting stand-alone BESS output (mostly) for Tuesday, September 3. I selected it and the mark of 6:45 p.m. because that is the highest dispatch level I ever have seen to date for this resource type ... 7,847 MW. As you can see, the dispatch ramps up quickly to accommodate the decline in solar output,

and scales down slowly throughout the remainder of the evening. I'm sure the max value reported for September 3 will be surpassed soon, but I wanted to let you



compare one day's duty cycle to the installed capacity noted above of 11,100 MW. Explaining why a 5-minute dispatch value is what it is and also why it is 30% below the installed capacity of the fleet is a bit like grabbing a wet eel with one's bare hands. Leave it to the experts to make the [unagi](#).

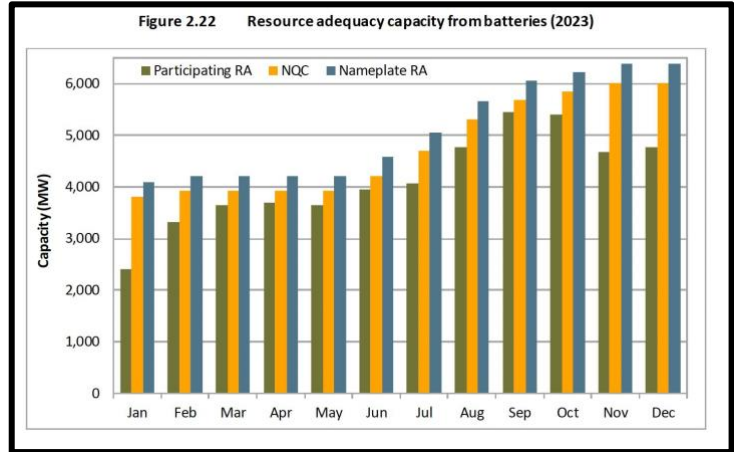
Operating restrictions can limit BESS discharges for many different reasons. Here is one example as taken from the CAISO report: "When a resource is providing either regulation up or regulation down, it will respond to four-second automatic generator control (AGC) instructions, which impacts the battery's state-of-charge. This results in discrepancies between day-ahead and real-time state-of-charge and can cause the [constraint] to bind in real-time to charge or discharge storage resources so that they are able to fulfill regulation awards." That aside, the figure to the right should help you see that the fleet is capable to meet the reg up and reg down requirements multiple times over. BESS has crowded out other resources that used to bid in this market such as natural gas generation. That's one of the reasons that the variability in natural gas generation has dampened while BESS output has fluctuated more .



Total BESS compensation on a net basis has gone down between 2022 and 2023. The figure to the left shows the CAISO calculation of the average quarterly revenue on a dollar-per-kW basis. The year-to-year decline was 28%!

The revenue falloff must be due to reduced income from ancillary service awards and energy arbitrage. RA sales from BESS have grown and we know from informal and formal conversations with friends and frenemies that RA payments have done nothing but skyrocket up. Big \$\$\$. Not included in the CAISO's calculation is prospective sales of investment tax credits, which I [discuss below](#).

The figure below right shows that for BESS RA participation and available net qualifying capacity (NQC) has blossomed between 2022 and 2023. That trend will no doubt continue into 2024. The CAISO states, "About 63 to 96 percent of the total available NQC from batteries was counted towards resource adequacy requirements, depending on the month."



Several Burritos ago, I noted that BESS developers qualifying under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and with IRS approval can sell the investment tax credits to a third party that isn't necessarily an equity partner in the project. The upfront cash from an ITC sale on a present value basis probably swamps all the market net income from the same. When the tax credit sweetener eventually evaporates there will still be revenue from RA sales, ancillary services, and energy arbitrage. However, these next few years will be the golden age for BESS asset owners. And before the ITC vanishes plenty of BESS assets will have been flipped to new owners.

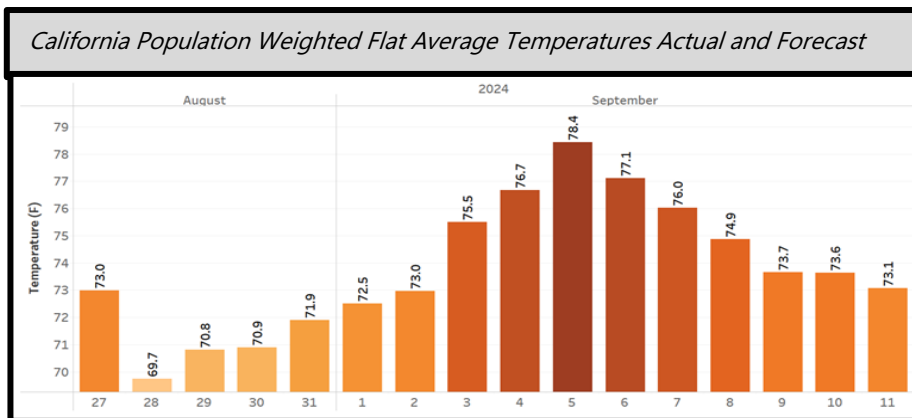


Grand Phunk Salsa a la Energy GPS

The Op Ed below is from the team at Energy GPS with Jeff Richter as the lead author. To request more information about Energy GPS email them at sales@energygps.com.

Price Islands Float to the Top

Post Labor Day this year has experienced some sweltering heat across the West, including the LA Basin where Burbank's daytime highs are tapping into triple digits (102 degrees on Thursday, September 5th). Looking at the population weighted flat average temperatures for California over the period, the 78.4 level topples the early July 2024 heat wave.



Since the first heat wave, a lot has changed on the grid with the first conversation piece being that of natural gas. Spot Citygate prices are off anywhere from \$0.60/MMBtu to \$0.70/MMBtu depending on the day, but that is a substantial percentage given the \$2.60/MMBtu to \$3.25/MMBtu range back in early July.

The second factor is the growth tied to battery buildout within California as most of it is within the North to South transmission constraints when the LA Basin warms. Looking at the day-ahead auction results, the constraint showed up during the evening ramp period thus *creating a price "island" within the LA Basin.*

The final piece that seems to be different is the Desert Southwest as its solar and battery fleet continues to escalate when it comes to the capacity interconnected to the grid and since it is still considered a summer load profile, the solar shape is a benefit to that area instead of an evening peak hinderance. The good news is the Desert Southwest did not

CAISO Day-Ahead Auction Result Breakdown – Heavy Load														
1x16														
Flow Date	Prices						Spreads			Gas				
	Auction LMP		Carbon		Energy		SP-NP							
	NP	SP	NP	SP	NP	SP	LMP	CARB	ENE	PG	CG	SOCAL	SOCAL	CG
Sat 8/31	28.42	28.08	11.68	13.95	16.74	14.13	-0.34	2.27	-2.61	2.24	1.41	1.46		
Sun 9/1	29.13	26.09	11.95	12.14	17.18	13.95	-3.04	0.19	-3.23	2.28	1.50	1.70		
Mon 9/2	29.23	30.12	11.99	14.13	17.23	15.99	0.89	2.14	-1.25	2.28	1.50	1.70		
Tue 9/3	41.91	41.30	17.48	19.65	24.43	21.65	-0.62	2.17	-2.79	2.28	1.50	1.70		
Wed 9/4	70.57	73.55	27.56	32.18	43.01	41.37	2.98	4.61	-1.63	2.64	1.96	2.10		
Thu 9/5	109.33	149.17	33.47	66.33	65.87	82.84	39.84	22.87	16.97	2.63	1.91	2.10		
8/29-9/5	46.43	50.48	18.75	23.21	27.68	27.27	4.05	4.46	-0.40	2.35	1.56	1.72		
9/1-9/30	56.03	64.05	22.49	28.89	33.54	35.16	8.01	6.40	1.61	2.43	1.67	1.86		

export as much this go around thus the net transmission flows continued to display megawatts flowing from the Desert into California (it was the opposite in July as California was a net exporter via the Palo Verde intertie).

One cannot write about the West and heat and not discuss the Mid-C price action! Heat has been present along the I-5 corridor and inland prior to Labor Day and once again during the actual first week of September as Portland topped 100 degrees on Wednesday. The hydro system is at the tail end of the 2024 Water Year so there is only so much it can do to assist with the rising demand.

Despite Mid-C trading over that of both California gen hubs, the Day-Ahead scheduled net transmission volume showed megawatts pointed to the Golden State during the evening ramp block of hours.

Since all of the natural gas-fired generators are already running near their max capacity (low Sumas gas prices prompting in-the-money implied heat rates w/carbon), the only option for balancing is via the interties. When this happens, the Mid-C bilateral market tends to take off from the other markets, especially Northern California's NP15 bilateral price (not shown).

With Alberta's power market displaying scarcity pricing days before and a forecast tied to warmer temperatures in Calgary and other parts of the province, it was enough to move the Mid-C opening trades for the flow date of the 5th up to \$325 per MWh which ultimately factored into the daily settle of \$285. With such a price signal, it prompted more volume to work its way out of the hydro system as every megawatt was being squeezed on the grid to balance in real-time. Despite Mid-C trading over that of both California gen hubs, the Day-Ahead scheduled net transmission volume showed megawatts pointed to the Golden State during the evening ramp block of hours.

Shout Outs and Recipes

Letters

Rick Dunn reached out to me after a long hiatus and shared some info that responds to a previous Burrito query about an Amazon data center in Washington State, and Rick's ongoing op ed on [Substack](#). He wrote: "In your August 16th edition you wrote about the note you received from Ian Williams asking 'Do you know how Amazon is powering this Umatilla Electric Cooperative (UEC) load? – as UEC is BPA preference customer and there is no excess BPA generation for this new large incremental load.'

"I wrote an [article about the Amazon data center load](#) served by Umatilla Electric Cooperative. The focus of the article is Big Tech's 'Dirty Little Secret' and how natural gas is powering the data centers.

"Your readers can find my piece on [Substack](#)."

Thanks, Rick. I'll check in on your column regularly from now on.

Chicken Adobo with Chef [Laura Manz](#)

"What is it doing at 100 ° in San Diego this week? At least the nights are cool and the launch of September means the promise of fall. Leave the oven off and make this flavorful chicken adobo."

Combine ½ cup of fruity vinegar (I happened to have tangerine flavor but apple cider will work just fine) with ½ cup of soy sauce (Aloha brand or low sodium), 8 minced cloves of garlic, 2 bay leaves, 1 tsp. of whole black peppercorns and 1 Tbsp. of palm sugar (substitute brown sugar) in a sealable bag. Add 3 lbs. skinless chicken parts and marinate for 1-3 hours. Drain the chicken pieces, reserving the liquid. Cook the chicken in 1 Tbsp. of cooking oil (avocado or canola), browning on all sides.



Pour in the remaining liquid and bring everything to a boil. Turn heat to low and simmer for approximately 10 minutes. Turn the pieces over and cook an additional 10 minutes or until it reaches a temperature of 165° . Serve over rice or riced cauliflower, garnished with chopped green onion.

Thanks, Laura. Our foodie ventures haven't chalked up any big news. We are on a mission to reduce bad eating habits in favor of healthy foods. Talking the talk is easy. Holding to the promise is a different matter. The first line of defense in this

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battle is at the grocery store(s). I visit Trader Joe's and one other chain grocer for provisions. As I walk the aisles looking at things we used to enjoy but are not healthful, I sadly pass those item repeating the mantra "more fruits and vegetable, sir." No more chips, sugary carbs, ice cream, frozen pizza, and breakfast sweets. I'm so sad when I check out. "Did you find everything you wanted," asks the cashier? "Unfortunately, yes," I reply.

Odds & Ends (_!_)

Below are your stories if you are reading the red-meat edition. Sorry for my unwarned absence for two consecutive Fridays. I forgot about the Labor Day Weekend. Okay, we're back on track for the next four weeks.
Gba



Pharmacist Knows Best

A girl asks her boyfriend to come over Friday night and have dinner with her parents. Since this is such a big event, the girl announces to her boyfriend that after dinner, she would like to go out and make love for the first time.

Well, the boy is ecstatic, but he has never had sex before, so he takes a trip to the pharmacist to get some condoms. The pharmacist helps the boy for about an hour. He tells the boy everything there is to know about condoms and sex.

At the register, the pharmacist asks the boy how many condoms he'd like to buy, a 3-pack, 10-pack, or family pack. The boy insists on the family pack because he thinks he will be rather busy, it being his first time and all.

That night, the boy shows up at the girl's parent's house and meets his girlfriend at the door. "Oh, I'm so excited for you to meet my parents, come on in!"

The boy goes inside and is taken to the dinner table where the girl's parents are seated. The boy quickly offers to say grace and bows his head.

A minute passes, and the boy is still deep in prayer, with his head down – 10 minutes pass, and still no movement from the boy.

Finally, after 20 minutes with his head down, the girlfriend leans over and whispers to the boyfriend, "I had no idea you were this religious." The boy turns, and whispers back, "I had no idea your father was a pharmacist."

Iowa Girls

Three men were sitting together bragging about how they had given their new wives duties.

The first man had married a woman from Wisconsin and bragged that he had told his wife she was going to do all the dishes and house cleaning. He said it took a couple days but on the third day he came home to a clean house and dishes.

The second man had married a woman from Minnesota. He bragged that he had given his wife orders that she was to do all the cleaning, dishes, and the cooking. On that the first day he didn't see any results, but the next day it was better. By the third day, his house was clean, the dishes were done, and he had a huge dinner on the table.

The third man married an Iowa girl. He boasted that he told her that her duties were to keep the house cleaned, dishes washed, lawn mowed, laundry washed and hot meals on the table for every meal. He said the first day he didn't see anything, the second day he didn't see anything, but by the third day most of the swelling had gone down and he could see a little out of his left eye ... enough to fix himself a bite to eat, load the dishwasher, and telephone a landscaper.

Gotta Love them Iowa Girls.