



CALFLEXHUB 2026 Symposium

APRIL 15, 2026 | 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Hybrid – Berkeley, CA & Online

**The Future of
Load Flexibility:
Scaling to Meet
California's
Growing Demand**

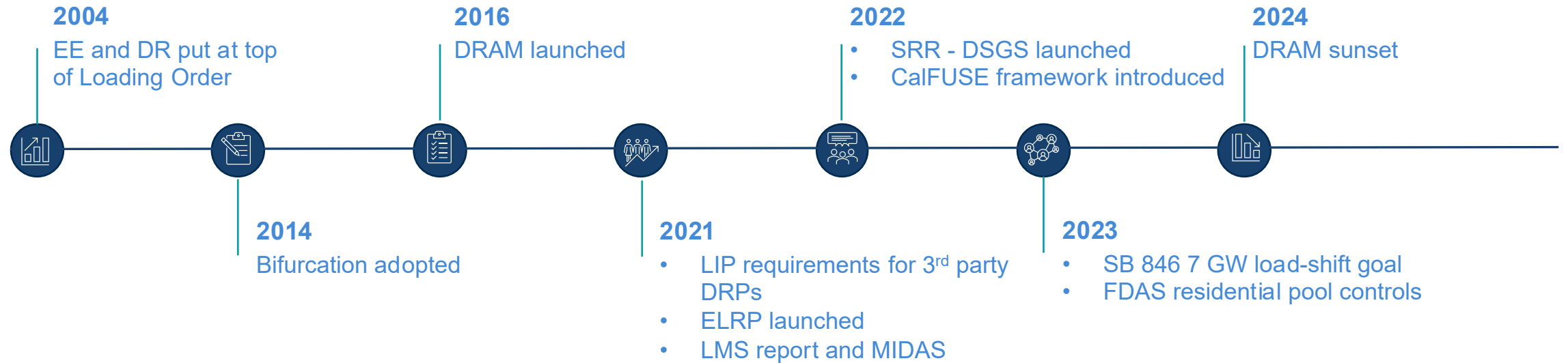


Siva Gunda
Vice Chair
California Energy Commission



The Future of Demand Flexibility: Scaling to Meet California's Growing Demand

California Demand Flexibility Evolution





Key Drivers for Demand Flex

Demand flexibility is about aligning electricity use with cleaner supply, grid needs, and customer value.



Align demand with supply

Use electricity when the system is best able to serve it.



Shift to cheaper, cleaner hours

Move load away from expensive, polluting periods.



Support reliability and resilience

Reduce stress on the grid during constrained periods.



Lower emissions and customer costs

Capture system and customer benefits at the same time.

Demand Flex Landscape in California



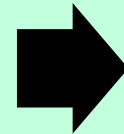
Post 2020 Summer Started Including Emergency Event Planning

Standard Planning Pre 2020 Summer

Load Modifying Resources

Demand Forecast incorporates load modifying measures:

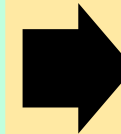
- Energy Efficiency
- TOU and Dynamic Rates
- BTM Storage
- Other Load-modifying Programs



Economic & Reliability DR

Resource Planning (IRP* and RA)**

- Contract for Resource Adequacy
- Economic DR
- Reliability DR



Emergency DR

Extreme Event Planning

- Emergency Load Reduction Program
- Demand Side Grid Support
- Distributed Generation Backup assets

IRP – Integrated Resources Planning*

*RA** – Resource Adequacy*

CA Set a Load Shift Goal of 7000 MWs By 2030



- Developed through a coordinated, data-driven process, consistent with SB 846
- Used CEC forecast products, CAISO and CPUC staff input, and LBNL’s California Demand Response Potential Study

Core Planning

| Category | Intervention | 2022 Estimate | 2030 Goal |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Load Modifying | TOU Rates | 620–1,000 MW | 3,000 MW |
| | Dynamic Pricing | 30 MW | |
| | Programs Optimizing Load | 7 MW | |
| Resource Adequacy | Economic Supply-side DR (PDR) | 670–825 MW | 4,000 MW |
| | Reliability Supply-Side DR (RDRR) | 740 MW | |
| | POU DR Programs (Non-ISO) | 210 MW | |
| Emergency & Incremental | Emergency-Only Programs | 800 MW | |
| | Back-Up Generators* | 375 MW* | |
| Total (nearest hundred) | | 3,100–3,600 MW | 7,000 MW |

*Diesel Back-up generators are part of the current emergency framework but are not considered true load flexibility. This capacity is not included in load flexibility totals.

The 2025-2030 Projections of the 7 GW Goal

(Business-As-Usual conditions)

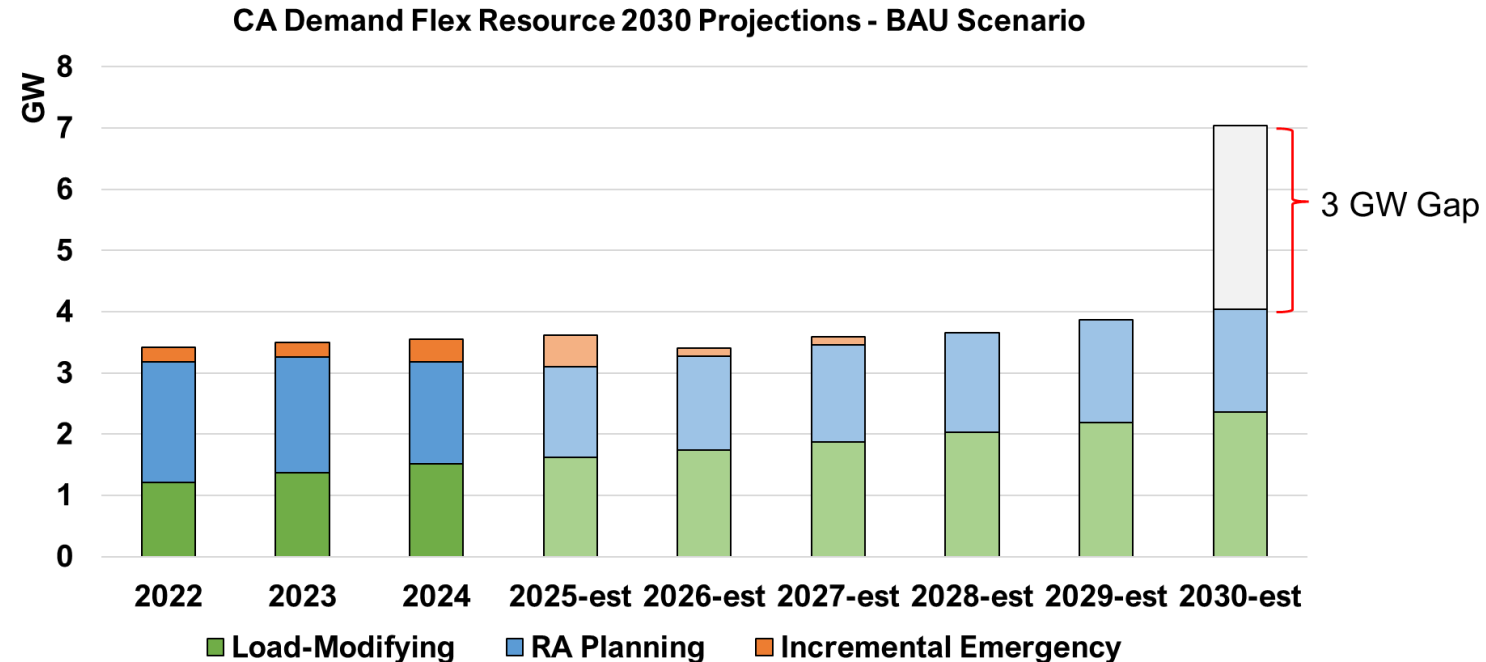


2030 Projections:

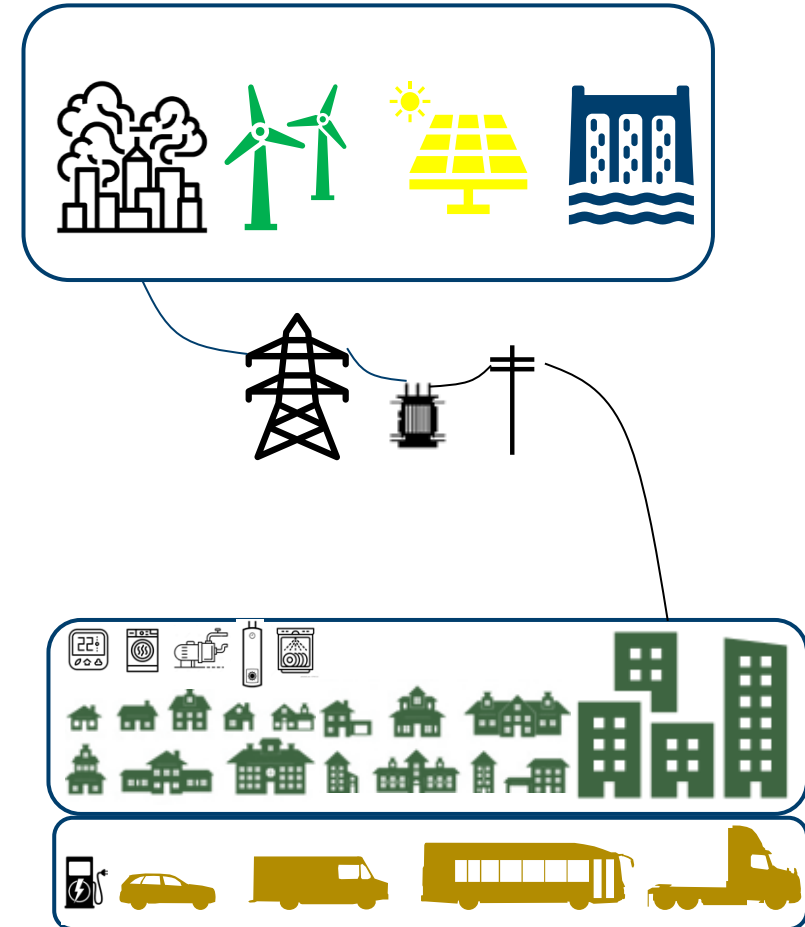
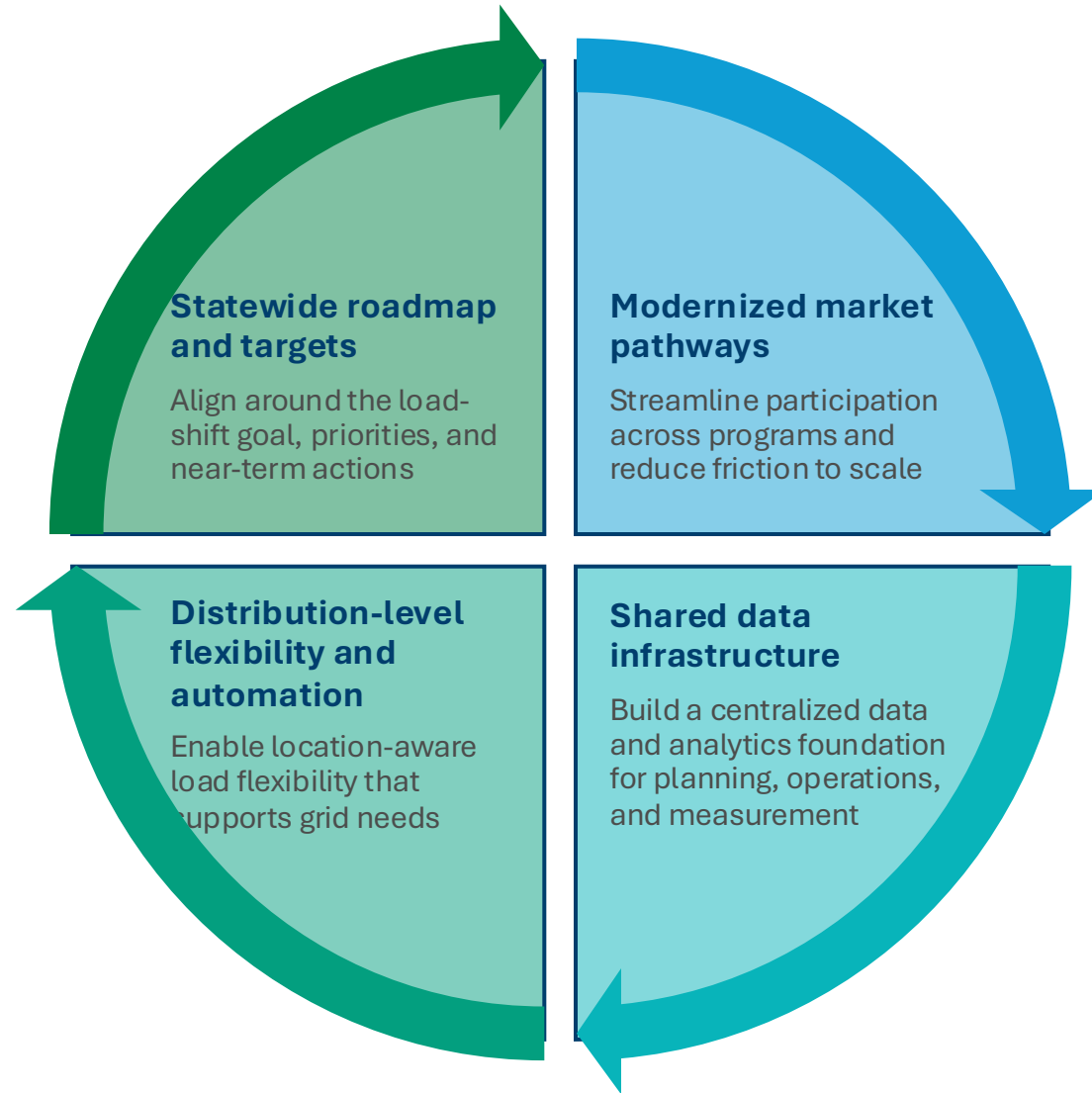
- CA may miss the 7 GW target under BAU
- Additional near-term strategies are needed to reach the 7 GW target by 2030

The Unknowns:

- V2X and data center impacts
- IOU hourly dynamic rates
- Changes in state and federal electrification incentives



Building a Statewide Demand Flexibility Framework



How CEC Is Advancing Demand Flexibility



Planning

Targets, analytics, and system planning

SB 846 Load Shift Goal

7 GW of load shift by 2030

Reliability Planning

Grid reliability and decarbonization planning

Forecasting and AMI Analytics

California energy demand forecasting and advanced metering analytics



Programs and Funding

Demonstration, deployment, and grid support

R&D Programs

EPIC, CalFlexHub, IAW FlexHub, and INDIGO industrial grid support

Clean Transportation

Vehicle-grid integration and REDWDS funding

Strategic Reliability Reserves

Demand Side Grid Support and Distributed Energy Backup Assets



Regulatory

Standards and market-enabling tools

Load Management Standards

MIDAS price server and dynamic rate requirements

Flexible Demand Appliance Standards

Residential pool controls and connected device standards
Smart thermostat

Opportunities for Engagement on Demand Flexibility



| Opportunities | Why it matters |
|---|---|
| CEC–UCD–LBNL California Demand Flex Summit | Shared dialogue across research, policy, and implementation. |
| UC Davis Convenings | Policy advocates, energy principals, and utilities align on priorities and direction. |
| CPUC DR Proceeding | Policy, program design, and regulatory development. |
| CEC LMS OIR | Improve implementation and expand participation under LMS. |
| CEC DER OIIP | Collect information, conduct assessments, and support recommendations for DERs in California. |
| CAISO DDEMI | Operational and market design perspectives. |



Questions/Discussion