

# WESTERN ⚡ FREEDOM

Kathleen Staks, Executive Director  
Presentation to Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee  
July 10, 2023

ABOUT WESTERN FREEDOM

# Bringing energy freedom to the West

Western Freedom is a broad coalition of large customers working with a diverse set of partners - energy and grid experts, developers, nonprofits, and thousands of grassroots supporters - advocating for a more affordable, reliable and cleaner energy future made possible through a Western RTO. Western Freedom is a single-purpose organization focused solely on supporting a Western RTO that holds the largest benefits for customers, while also recognizing the unique needs and makeup of all Western states and utilities.





## Why it matters to large customers?

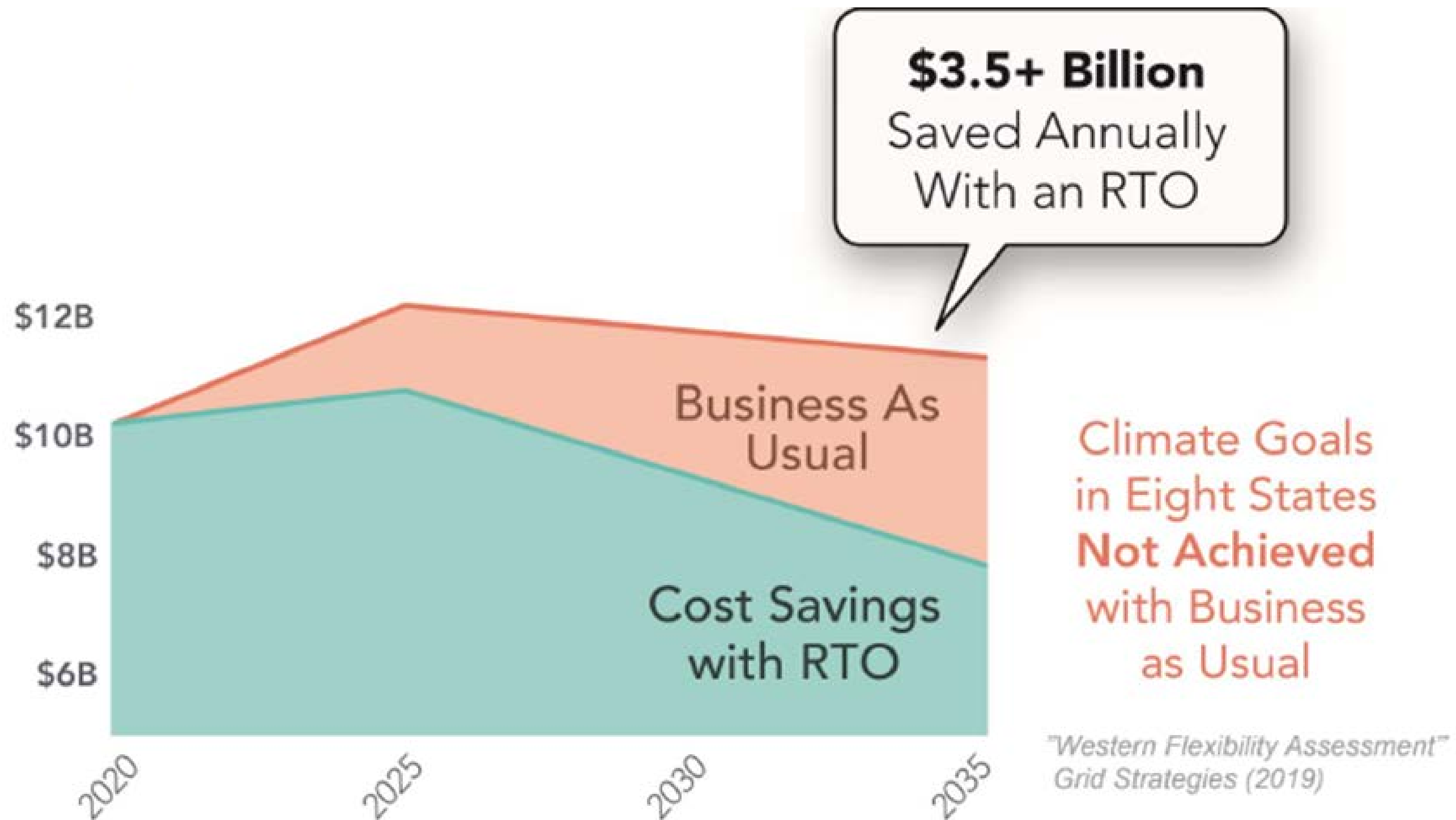
**Greater reliability:** An RTO enables power-sharing across large regions when subregions are short on generation

**Low-cost resources:** An RTO provides greater access to low-cost, more diverse resources across the Western region

**Transparency and data:** An RTO will create more transparency and access to data

**Regional planning:** Transmission and capacity planning will be more efficient and cost-effective

# Annual cost to the west without an RTO





# Evolving movement

- **Day-ahead markets**  
California ISO EDAM and Southwest Power Pool's Markets+ competing for participants
- **California governance bill**  
Critical legislation needed in California to open the CAISO market and create equal playing field for all Western states
- **New leadership in some western states**  
2022 elections creating the opportunity to educate and engage new policy makers
- **FERC regulatory dockets**  
Federal action impacted resource adequacy, transmission and markets

# CAISO: Extended Day Ahead Market

---

## FERC process

- CAISO released its final draft language for EDAM proposal on June 8. Expect it to be filed with FERC in early August following stakeholder feedback in July
- Likely be extensive stakeholder engagement and feedback
- Once FERC approves the application, expected to take 12-18 months for implementation and full launch of EDAM

## Adoption

- PacifiCorp is the only utility to have committed to EDAM
- Expect several other utilities will commit within the next few months
- EDAM expected to be operational by 2025
- 22 entities participate or committed to participate in Western Energy Imbalance Market
  - 6-month notice requirement to leave WEIM, which has not yet been exercised by any utility

# Southwest Power Pool: Markets+

---

## Stakeholder engagement

- Detailed service offering issued Nov. 30, 2022
- Current phase of development funded by 31 entities -- stakeholders and utilities

## Timeline

- If Phase 2 takes the same amount of time as CAISO's EDAM implementation, it is likely Markets+ will be operational in early 2025, a year earlier than originally anticipated and on the same or similar timeline as CAISO's EDAM.

## Adoption

- BPA, Northwest public power utilities, Arizona utilities committed to fund Phase 1
- Powerex only entity to have committed to Markets+ upon implementation
- 10 entities participating in Western Energy Imbalance Services market

# Southwest Power Pool: RTO West

---

## Structure

- SPP's RTO West is an expansion of SPP's RTO into the Western Interconnection
- Will be governed by the same body/oversight as currently exists
- The implementation of SPP's RTO West will happen in parallel with Markets+

## Adoption

- Seven utilities have expressed intent to join SPP's RTO West, with formal commitments for all but WAPA to be signed in July (WAPA expected in October)
  - Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Colorado Springs Utilities, Deseret Power Electric Cooperative, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), Platte River Power Authority, Tri-State G&T, and WAPA
- Potential market participants who have already proposed to join SPP's RTO West must officially commit to join by March 1, 2023
- SPP plans to file an amended RTO tariff in Q1/2 of 2024 with the new members fully joined in early 2026.



# Western Power Pool's Western Resource Adequacy Program

---

## Program

- Establishes consistent metrics for reliability across the region and all participants must show they have the required capacity to meet those metrics
- When weather conditions or other factors result in different resources in real time than what was forecast, the WRAP can pool resources and enable participants with shortages to obtain resources from those with surplus
- SPP program operator
- PacifiCorp's announcement committing to both EDAM and WRAP will serve as a forcing mechanism to ensure these programs are compatible

## Approval process

- Tariff proposal filed with FERC on Aug. 31, 2022
- FERC issued a deficiency letter requesting more information
- FERC approved the tariff on Feb. 10, 2023

## Adoption

- 11 utilities announced a formal commitment to participate in the WRAP on Dec. 8, 2022



# GET IN TOUCH

Kathleen Staks, executive director



+1 720-989-9745



[kstaks@westernfreedom.org](mailto:kstaks@westernfreedom.org)



[westernfreedom.org](http://westernfreedom.org)

**WESTERN ⚡ FREEDOM**