

# Western Energy Markets Briefing

*Seattle City Council*

*Economic Development, Technology & City Light Committee*

*January 11, 2023*



**Seattle City Light**

WE POWER SEATTLE

# Presentation Flow

---

- The Western Interconnection
- Energy Participant Interdependence
- Historical Market Efforts
- Significant WEIM Success
- Current Focus
- Early Collaboration -The Resource Adequacy Element (WRAP)



"The Wise Ones" Steve Smith, 2016

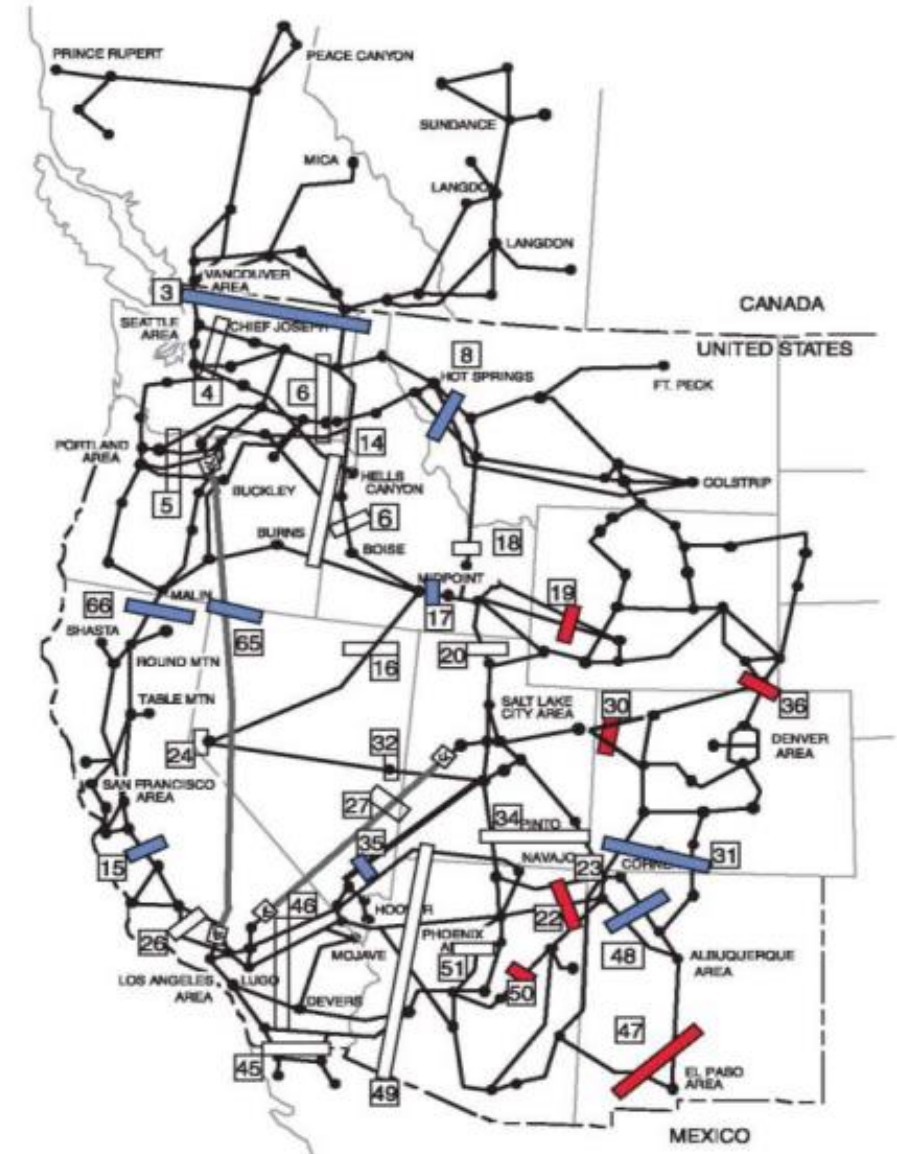
# Western Interconnection Transmission System

---

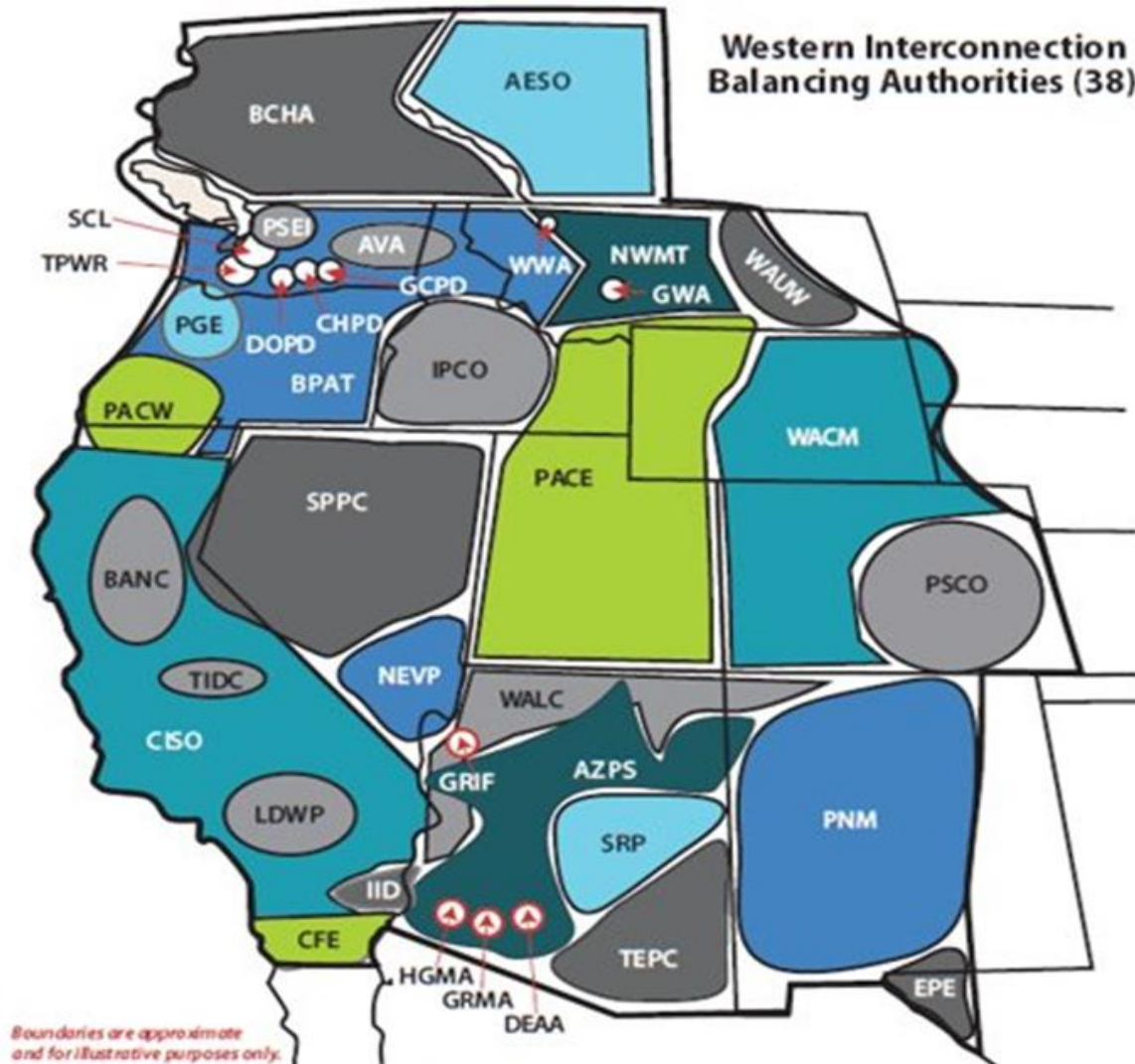


# A Single Western Interconnected Grid

- More than 1.8 Million Square Miles
- All or Part of 14 US States plus British Columbia, Alberta & Northern Baja
- Population > 80 Million
- Large Share of Generation from Hydroelectric and Variable (wind and solar) Resources
- About 136,000 Miles of High Voltage Transmission Lines – Many Long to connect Hydro and Other Remote Generation with Population Centers



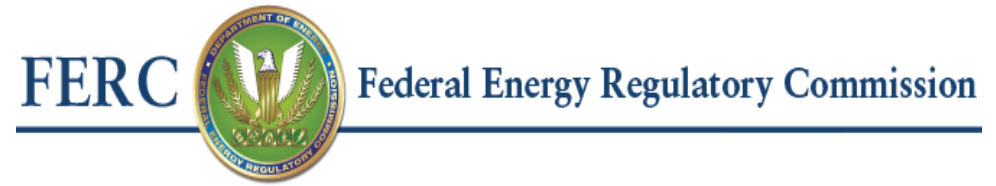
# Western Interconnection Balancing Authorities



# Regulatory Oversight

---

- Critical Infrastructure Protection Requirements
- Operations & Planning Standards
- Open Access Transmission Tariffs
- Market Behavior Rules
- Regional Transmission Planning
- Required Reliability Coordinator
- Mandatory Enforceable Reliability Standards



# Regional Energy Market Stages of Evolution

---



- Bilateral Only (before 2015)
- Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM, 2014-Present)
- Day-Ahead Market (Incremental Step)
- Full Regional Transmission Organization/Independent System Operator (RTO/ISO)

# Market Opportunities – Past Regional Attempts

---

- Indego
- California ISO and CalPX Formed
- RTO West/Grid West
- WestConnect (SW)
- MC Initiative
- **Energy Imbalance Market**



# Seattle City Light's WEIM Participation

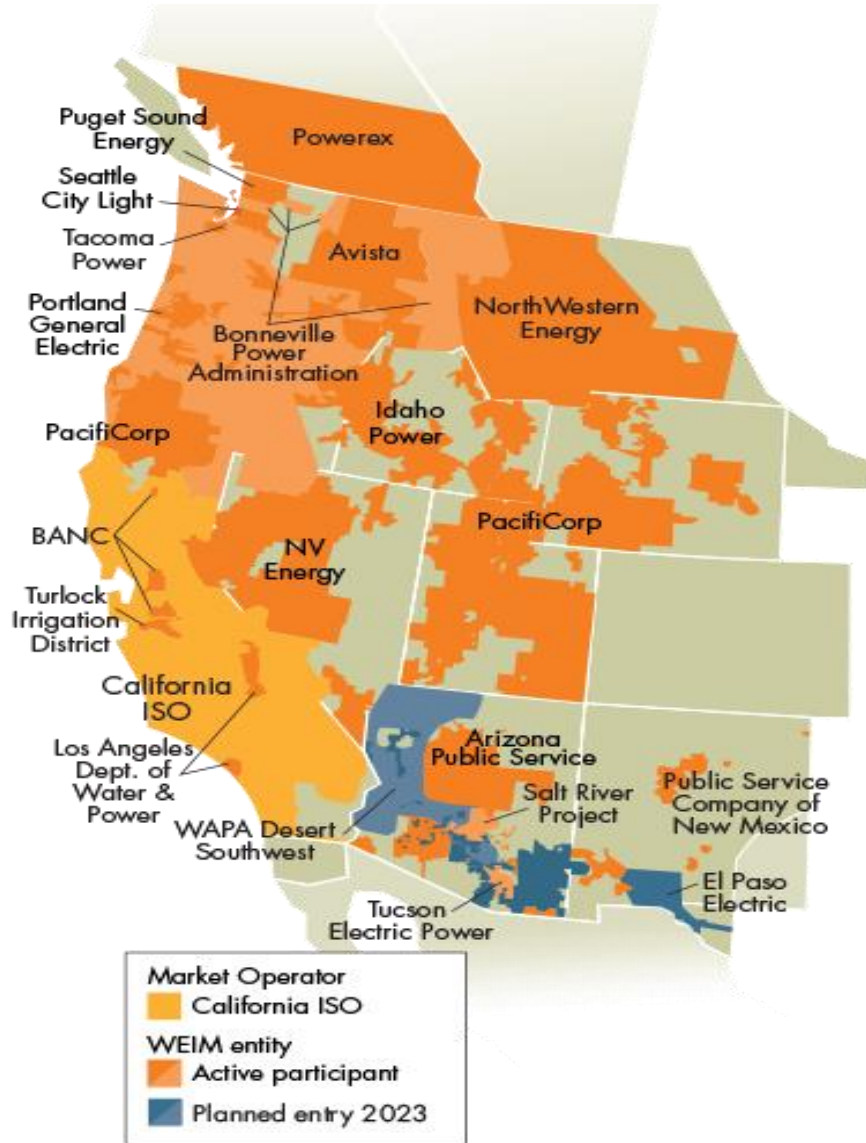
Pre- and Post- Market  
Participation



**Seattle City Light**



# Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM)



- California ISO – Started in 2014
- Seattle City Light – Joined April 1, 2020
- Cost Savings to Meet Demand
- Improves Integration of Renewable Energy
- Over 80% of Load in the West Participating

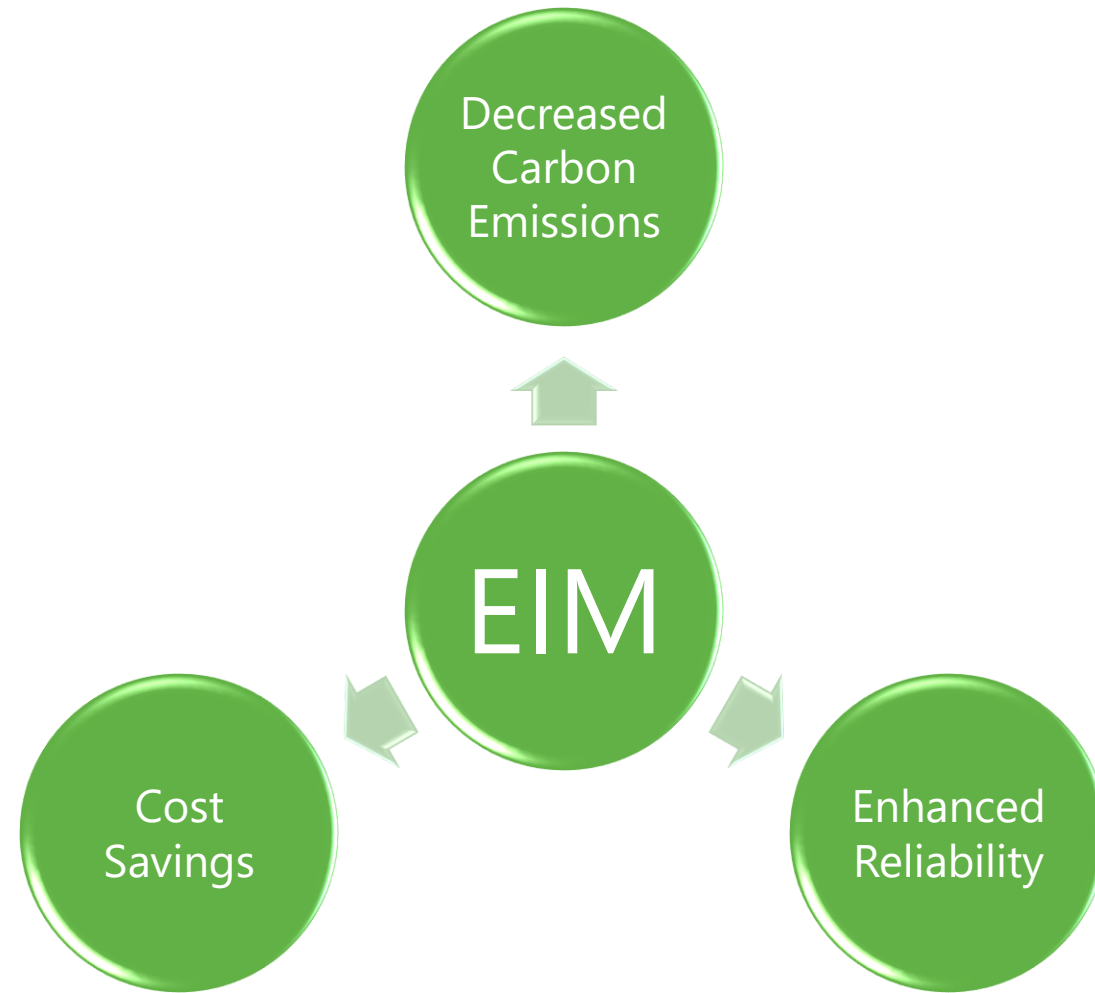
# WEIM Decision – Recapping Our Why?

---



# WEIM's Three Primary Benefits

---



# Environmental & Economic Benefits Achieved

---

- Cost-effective Integration of Renewable Energy
  - Variable Energy Resources (Wind/Solar) Forecasts Incorporated into the Market Solution
- Avoided Carbon Emissions
  - 310,856 metrics tons of CO<sub>2</sub> savings through avoided regional renewable energy curtailments
- Net EIM Transfers for City Light
  - 586,377 MWh Net Exports
  - 529,504 MWh Net Imports
- SCL Customer Financial Benefit - \$30.73M



# Energy Market Opportunities

Current and Emerging



**Seattle City Light**



# The Time is Right

---

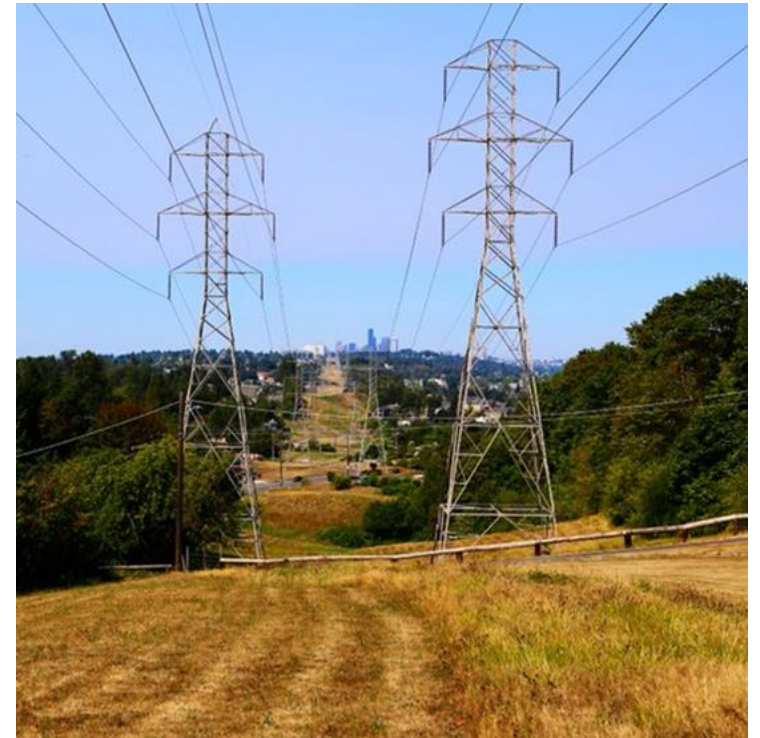
- Mutual Dependence
- Cooperation
- Willing Collaboration
- Individual Interests
- Shared Desirable Outcomes
  - Carbon Reduction
  - Improved Reliability
  - Cost Reduction



# Specific Organized Market Opportunities

---

- California Independent System Operator
  - EDAM (Extended Day Ahead Market) Design & Implementation
  - Possible Future ISO Expansion
- Southwest Power Pool Markets Plus
  - Eastern Interconnection Market Operator
  - Designing for Day Ahead Market
  - Possible RTO Expansion into West
- Western Markets Exploratory Group
  - Like Minded Utilities (25)
  - Exploratory – Wide Ranging Possibilities



# Why Now? Current and Emerging Opportunities

---

- Opportunity to Leverage Western EIM Success
- Challenges of Climate Change,
  - Drought, Wildfire and Reduced Hydropower
- Increasing Customer Demands
  - More and Cleaner Electricity Development
- Maximize and extend the value of resource diversity
  - Hydropower is an exceptional asset for integrating new renewables
- Regional collaboration is timely
  - Recent momentum suggests opportunity to capture the moment

# Why Now? Current and Emerging Opportunities

---

- Renewed Interest in Transmission Expansion & Transmission Efficiencies
- State & Federal Regulatory/Legislative Pressure
  - Carbon Reduction Goals & Transition to Cleaner Resource Mix
- Electrification Increasing Loads
- Continued Expansion of Intermittent Resources
- Pressures on Reliability and Affordability



# Desirable Western Market Attributes

---

- A “Well-designed” Market
  - Should Produce Overall Benefits for Entire Market Footprint
  - Should Create Efficiency and Reduce Overall Customer Costs
- Examples of Anticipated Benefits:
  - Reduced Production Costs
  - Investment Cost Savings
  - Potential Balancing Area Consolidation
  - Ability to Realize Benefits of Resource, Peak, and Weather Diversity
  - Improved Reliability



# Desirable Western Market Outcomes

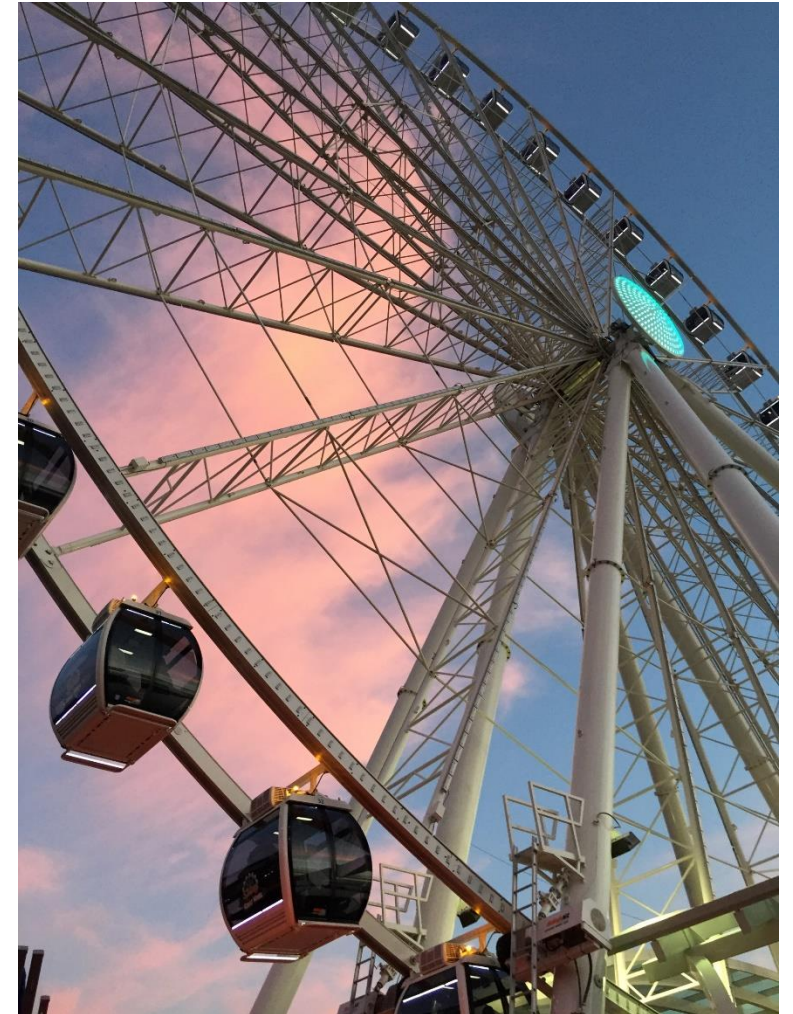
---

- Market Formation Should Facilitate the Integration of Existing and Additional Renewable Resources
- Must Have Processes that Can Accommodate and Don't Conflict with Individual State Clean Energy Requirements
- Focus Should be on Results for the Market as a Whole, Not Only on Specific Outcomes for Specific Participants
- Well-functioning Markets will Emphasize Resource and Transmission Efficiency and Transparency, and Provide Incentives Based on Availability, Scarcity and Risk

# Seattle City Light Specific Interests

---

- Positive Customer Benefits:
  - Enhanced Reliability
  - Reduced Operational/Resource Costs
- Hydro Attributes Not Compromised and Appropriately Valued
- Increased Market Transmission Availability to Allow Increased Access to New Resources
- Renewable Resource Development Facilitated to Decarbonize Regional Mix



# Seattle City Light's Current Western Markets Activities

---

- CAISO Extended Day Ahead Market (EDAM)
- Western Markets Exploratory Group (WMEG)
- Southwest Power Pool Markets Plus (SPP Markets +)
- Linkage to:
  - Resource Adequacy (WRAP Program)
  - CETA/CCA Obligations (WA and CA)
- Regulatory Aspects
- Coordination & Communication



# Timeline, Coordination and Communication

---



# FIRST LOOK: Moving the West forward on Resource Adequacy

Western Resource  
Adequacy Program (WRAP)



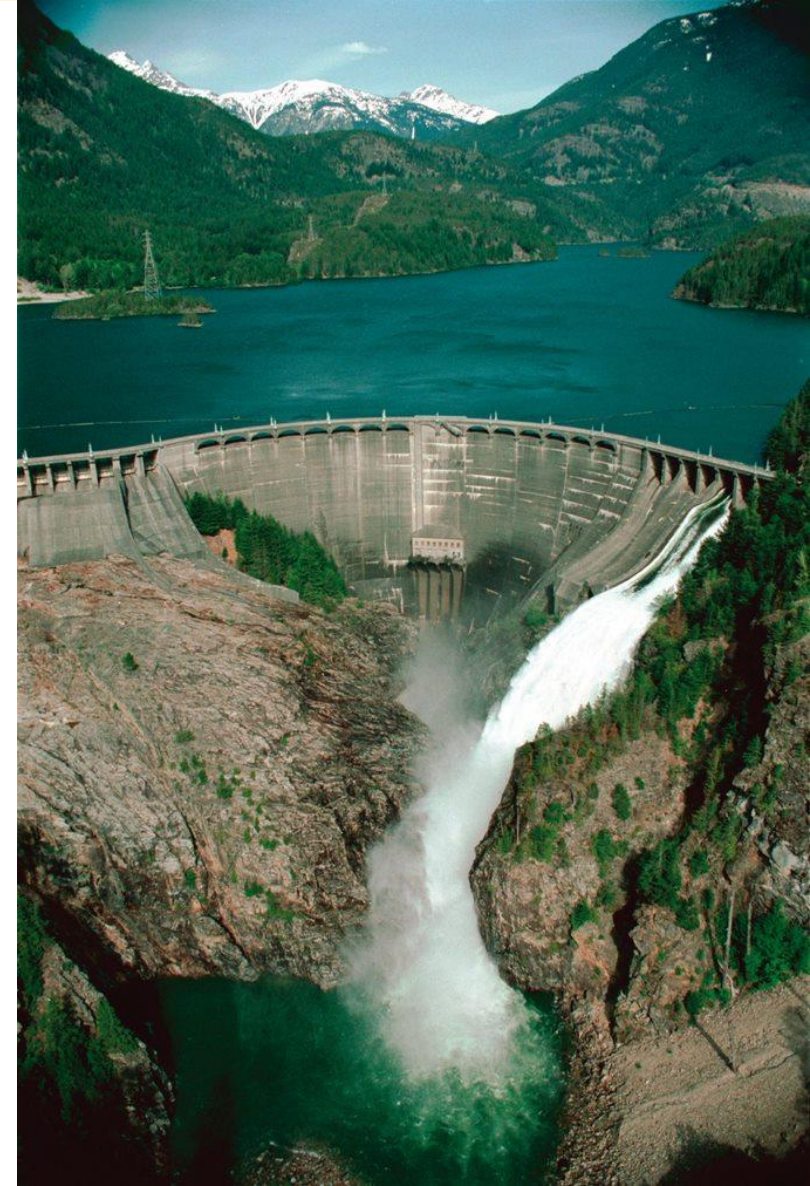
**Seattle City Light**



# Why Now? Resource Adequacy & Reliability Challenges

---

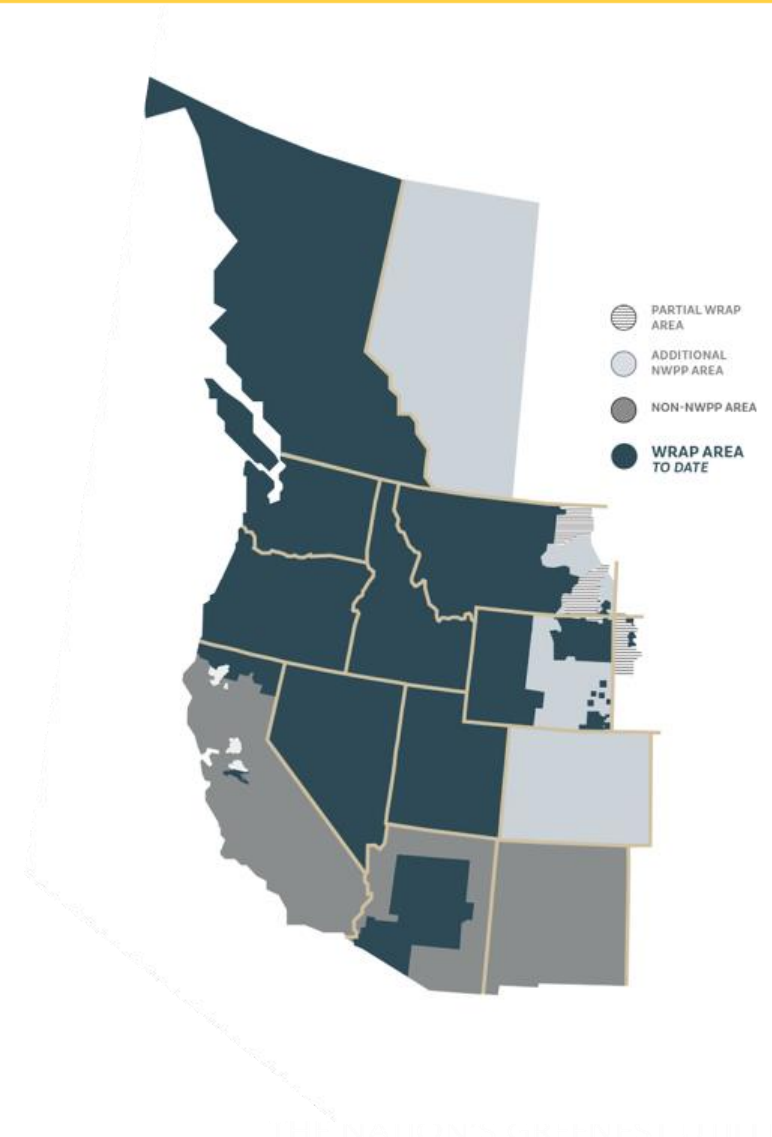
- Recent studies demonstrate resource shortfall by mid-2020s across western U.S.
- Driven by multiple factors
  - Retirement of fossil generation
  - Increasing intermittent renewables
  - Load growth: Data center & agricultural sectors; acceleration of transportation and building electrification
  - Drought conditions and extreme weather events



# Resource Adequacy

---

- Reliability Focus – ensuring sufficient resources to serve electricity demand
- Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP)
  - Related Parallel Development
  - Successful Regional Collaboration
  - Solid Operational & Governance Model
  - Enhances Reliability
  - Is **NOT** an Organized Market



# WRAP Current Status & Timeline

- City Light plans to request City Council approval this Spring to join WRAP



# Questions?



**Seattle City Light**

WE POWER SEATTLE