

# Flexible Capacity Requirement Assessment Survey FAQ

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## Flex RA Survey Frequently Asked Questions

### General Submission Information

#### Who needs to fill out the Flex RA Survey?

All load serving entities (LSEs) that have renewable resources, whether they are RA contracted or not, are required to fill out the Flex RA Survey.

#### How will I know if I need to fill out the Flex RA Survey?

The California ISO keeps an annual list of load-serving entities (LSEs) that are required to fill out the survey. If an LSE is asked to submit the survey, they **MUST** submit it even if they do not have resources to add to the survey.

#### What if I was asked to complete the Flex RA Survey but do not have any renewable resources to add to the spreadsheet?

If your organization is asked to submit the survey, you **MUST** submit it even if you do not have resources to add. If this is the case, just fill out the *Contact* tab with your contact information and submit to the California ISO.

#### Where can I find out more information about the tariff requirements to complete the Flex RA Survey?

All of the specific Flex RA items are located in section 40.10 of the tariff. You can find that information on the caiso.com website [here](#).

#### Where can I find out more information about the Flex RA Survey submission annual process?

You can find more information about the Flex RA Survey annual process on the Reoccurring Stakeholder Processes page on the caiso.com website [here](#).

#### How do I know what resources I should include on the Flex RA Survey?

If a resource is registered with the California ISO as variable energy resource (VER), it should be included on the RA survey. This includes co-located VERs and hybrid resources with variable energy components. **ALL RENEWABLE RESOURCES OR COMPONENTS**, even if they don't have an RA contract, are required to be included in the survey.

**What if my hybrid and co-located resource does not have a renewable component?**

Hybrid and co-located resources only need be included on the survey if they have a renewable component. For example, do not include resources on the Flex RA Survey if they are a gas/battery hybrid. The Flex RA Survey should only list batteries with solar and wind components. Resources on the survey should have at least one renewable energy type.

**How often do I need to complete the Flex RA Survey?**

The Flex RA Survey is required to be completed and returned to the CAISO annually and at the end of each calendar year by all load serving entities (LSEs) that have renewable resources.

**What if I find an error or need to update the data after I've submitted by survey?**

If an LSE finds an error in their submitted survey before January 15, they can update their CIDI ticket with the corrected data. If the error was found after January 15, LSEs can re-submit their data to update the CAISO; however, per section 40.10.1.2.1 of the CAISO Tariff, the ISO will not re-run the Flex RA study unless the incomplete or inaccurate information is 1) in excess of 200 MW or 2) 1% of the total MWs of wind and solar capacity submitted within all LSE surveys and the CAISO has sufficient time to complete re-running the study by May 1 of the Flex RA study year.

**When does the Flex RA Survey need to be completed and returned to the California ISO for the 2025 study year?**

The Flex RA survey should be completed and returned to the California ISO by **January 15, 2024** at the latest.

**What if the due date for the Flex RA Survey falls on a weekend?**

Even if the due date for the Flex RA Survey falls on a weekend, customers are still required to complete it and submit it by that date. We recommend that customers complete and submit the survey by the Friday before the weekend deadline in case you have questions that need to be answered by CAISO staff.

**What if I do not submit the survey by the due date?**

There is a \$500 per day fine for missing the due date. This requirement and an outline of the financial penalty is outlined in the CAISO tariff in section 37.6.1. This penalty includes weekend (Saturday/Sunday) days and holidays.

**What if I cannot submit the survey on time because I have a question and CAISO staff are not available to respond on weekends?**

Customers will still be assessed the penalty for submitting the Flex RA Survey late regardless of information they have received from the California ISO. The CAISO recommends that customers begin filling out their survey in early January and reach out to the Flex RA team at [FlexRA@caiso.com](mailto:FlexRA@caiso.com) as soon as they have a question to ensure it can be answered before the deadline. The CAISO also recommends that the customer submit the survey earlier than the due date in case they have questions or issues submitting

**Will I get notified by the California ISO if I have not submitted the Flex RA Survey by the deadline?**

A week before the due date, customer who have not completed the survey will receive a notification from the California ISO.

**How will I receive a copy of the Flex RA Survey?**

A market notice will go out in mid-December with a link to the survey. You can also access the survey on caiso.com on the Reoccurring Stakeholder Processes page [here](#). You can navigate there manually by going to: Stay Informed > Reoccurring Stakeholder Processes > Flexible Capacity Needs Assessment 2025 > Data request template.

**How do I submit the Flex RA Survey?**

The Flex RA Survey is a Microsoft Excel document that should be submitted as an attachment using the Customer Inquiry, Dispute and Information (CIDI) ticket process.

**What should the subject of the CIDI ticket be when I submit the Flex RA Survey?**

Submit the data request template with subject "2025 Annual Flex RA Submission"

**Is there a specific way I should title the Flex RA Survey file before I attach it to the CIDI ticket?**

Please name your Flex RA Survey file in the following way: *2025 Flexible Capacity Requirement Assessment Data Request \_LSE ID*.

**What if I don't have access to submit a CIDI ticket?**

Please email our customer service team as [customerservices@caiso.com](mailto:customerservices@caiso.com) and mention that you need to submit a Flex RA survey.

## Filling Out the Survey

### What type of megawatt units should be used on the survey?

All information submitted on the Flex RA Survey should be submitted in Megawatts (MW) and **NOT** Megawatt/hours (MW/h).

### Do I need to submit information for resources if they non-RA contracted?

Yes, customers need to submit values that reflect owned or contract capacity being put onto the ISO system and is not limited by their RA contract values (please see *Instructions* tab on the survey for more information). For example: If your RA contract is only for 50 MW but your POI is 100 MW, the CAISO will still need the contract capacity, not just limit of RA contract. In some cases, the owned or contract capacity will be equal to the Pmax or nameplate capacity of the resource.

### Is the nameplate capacity the same as the Pmax in Masterfile?

Often the nameplate capacity is the same as the pmax in the Master File *unless* there are limitations on the resource. For example, if a 100 MW resource is limited to 80 MW due to limitations (such as a POI) at the plant, the Masterfile would show a Pmax of 80 MW but the nameplate capacity would show 100 MW.

### Do I need to submit information for resources that are outside of the CAISO's BA?

If the RA contract is external to the ISO, then yes it should be included on the survey. It should also be included on the survey if it is being firming or dynamically scheduled in within the ISO. These resources should be placed on the *Non-CAISO MW by Tech* tab.

### How will I know what values/amounts to include for years that have not occurred yet?

The 2023 values that are provided on the survey should be the values that you have knowledge of and existed as of December 31, 2023. The values for 2024 onward should be the most recent knowledge of the projects you have planned, **NOT** what exists as of December 31, 2023.

### Would a pseudo-tie or dynamically scheduled resource be considered a CAISO resource or a non-CAISO resource?

A pseudo-tie is classified as a CAISO resource and a dynamically scheduled resource is classified as a non-CAISO resource.



## Contact Information Tab

### What information should be included on the Contact Information tab?

Include your entity's current LRA ID, current LSE ID, and your email address.

### Should I include more than one email address on the Contact Information tab?

We usually only need one valid email address from each entity. This should be the person who is submitting survey. However, if there are additional, they can be included.

## CAISO MW by Tech Tab and Non-CAISO MW by Tech Tab

### Were there changes made to the CAISO MW by Tech/Non-CAISO MW by Tech tabs on the Flex RA Survey?

Yes, the California ISO has made a few changes to the CAISO MW by Tech tab:

1. The ISO has removed the 'MSS load following' sheet and turned it into a dropdown on the 'CAISO MW by Tech' sheet. Now resources that are MSS load following will indicate it by resource ID on the CAISO MW by tech sheet instead of a separate sheet.
2. We removed the latitude, longitude and interconnection columns from the 'CAISO MW by Tech' sheet. These were legacy pieces of data we no longer need.

### Can I have the same ACC/Project names for multiple rows?

Yes. Project names (or ACC) may be the same on multiple lines for hybrid and co-located resources since it is one project but with multiple components.

### What if I do not yet have a CAISO ID for my project?

If it is a project that is expected to be built in the next few years, you may not have resource ID yet. Please use the ID given from the CAISO NRI team.

### For contracts for which the project is under construction and doesn't have a commercial operation date (COD) yet, should the value be entered for the projected COD and thereafter? What happens if the COD shifts after the survey has been submitted?

Data entered should be representative of contracts or information known as of the survey deadline. LSEs can re-submit their data to the CAISO; however, per section 40.10.1.2.1 of the CAISO Tariff, the ISO will not re-run the Flex RA study unless the

incomplete or inaccurate information is 1) in excess of 200 MW or 2) 1% of the total MWs of wind and solar capacity submitted within all LSE surveys and the CAISO has sufficient time to complete re-running the study by May 1 of the Flex RA study year. Data entered in this survey will be used for the final 2025 allocation and draft 2026 and 2027 allocations, so if the resource has a COD after 2025, then updates to this can be captured in next year's survey.

**What should I select in the “MSS Load Following” drop down box column on the “CAISO MW by Tech sheet”?**

LSEs with MSS Load Following resources should identify the resources included in the load following portfolio by selecting “Yes” on the MSS Load Following column.

**What should I select in the firmed/non-firmed drop-down box on the “Non-CAISO MW by Tech” sheet?**

Select “Yes” if the resource is firmed and “No” if it is non-firmed. Firmed values are located outside of CAISO and are firmed by the host BA (the BA where the resource is located). These resources aren't incorporated into the Flex RA study. Non-firmed resources are incorporated into the Flex RA study since they flow into the ISO as dynamic schedules and are firmed by the ISO.

**Can I only use the prelisted selections listed on the template drop down boxes on the CAISO MW by Tech tab?**

Yes, if there is a drop down select box, you should only select from the options on the pick lists. You should not write anything else in these columns.

**What values should I enter for each month listed on the survey?**

Enter contact capacity for the END of each month in MW.

**How far out should I fill out values for the MW by Gen Tech tabs?**

Please fill out all dates known. Data is requested to the end of 2032 if you plan on resource generating for the next 10 years and the data is available. If a resource is changing LSEs or you anticipate it to go offline, update the monthly MW values to 0 at the end of the month in which the change is happening. For example, if a resource is anticipated to go offline on March 15, 2025, enter “0” as the MW value for March 2025.

**Do I need to re-enter MW values at the top of the survey?**

No, once the monthly values are added to the spread sheet by resource in rows 28 and below, the template will automatically map out to total values out at the top.

**When filling out the capacity for hybrid resources, should I include the total capacity for that resource?**

No, you should enter capacity for that row for *only that fuel type*. You will need to break out values for each component. **DO NOT** lump into one big number. For example: if you have a hybrid resource with 100 MW solar generation plus 100 MW battery that has a capacity of 200MW, it needs to list the 100 MW for battery on a separate row from the 100MW of solar.

**Do I need to split out resources that have different resource IDs?**

Yes, resources should be split out by resource ID.

**What if I don't yet know the exact number of MWs that each component of a hybrid or co-located resource will be generating?**

Be as exact as possible with the level of detail of how the resource is going online.

**Can you show me an example of how a hybrid resource would look like on the survey?**

Yes, please see below.

Project Name (ACC for Co-Located resource)	CAISO ID (Component ID for hybrids)	MSS Load Following?	Resource category	Technology or hybrid component	Existing on 1/1/22	Jan-22
EXAMPLE Hybrid Resource A	Example_Hybrid_VER1	No	Hybrid Resource	PV Fixed		50
EXAMPLE Hybrid Resource A	Example_Hybrid_Battery	No	Hybrid Resource	Battery		25
EXAMPLE Hybrid Resource A	Example_Hybrid_VER2	No	Hybrid Resource	PV Tracking		50

**Can you should me an example of how a co-located resource would look like on the survey?**

Yes, please see below.

Project Name (ACC for Co-Located resource)	CAISO ID (Component ID for hybrids)	MSS Load Following?	Resource category	Technology or hybrid component	Existing on 1/1/22	Jan-22	Feb-22
EXAMPLE Colocated Resource 1	Example_Colocated_wind	No	Co-Located Resource Configuration	Wind	20	20	20
EXAMPLE Colocated Resource 2	Example_colocated_solar	No	Co-Located Resource Configuration	PV Not yet decided	40	40	40

**Behind the Meter PV Tab**

**Were there changes made to the CAISO MW by Tech/Non-CAISO MW by Tech tabs on the Flex RA Survey?**

On the 'Behind-the-meter PV' sheet, row 3 (the cumulative BTM PV sum) will now do the addition by year for the LSE. You only need to enter data on row 2.

**What values should I enter on the Behind the Meter PV tab?**

LSEs should enter their expected build out of their behind the meter wind and solar resources. For 2023, enter the year end installed capacity and for 2024-2029 enter the incremental increase for each year. These values should be for year end, including for 2023.

**Where can I get more information on how to fill out the Behind the Meter PV tab?**

If you need additional help on how to fill out this tab, instructions on how to complete the sheet are listed on the *Instructions* tab of the Flex RA Survey.

**I am a CCA. Do I need to fill out the Behind the Meter PV tab?**

If the BTM capacity is reported by the IOU providing transmission, then the CCA does not have to include the capacity. If that IOU providing transmission is not reporting the contracted capacity, then the CCA would have to do the reporting.

**What is the difference between the two values/rows on the Behind the Meter PV tab?**

The incremental row should list the MWs you are **ADDING** each year. For example: 200MW in 2024, another 300 mw in 2025, etc. The cumulative row will automatically total the amount of MWs you will have each year based upon the values you enter in row 2, so for this example, at the end of 2025 the cumulative row would show 500 MW.

**If a resource is a Feed-in-Tariff but not behind the meter, should it be included in the Behind the Meter PV tab?**

If CAISO will see the variability from this resource at the utility interface meter then it should be included in the BTM tab only. It would only be included on the other tabs if it was a grid-scale solar resource that plans to go through the NRI process.