

California State Energy Profile

California Quick Facts

- California was the fourth-largest producer of crude oil among the 50 states in 2017, after Texas, North Dakota, and Alaska, and, as of January 2018, third in oil refining capacity after Texas and Louisiana.
- California is the largest consumer of jet fuel among the 50 states and accounted for one-fifth of the nation's jet fuel consumption in 2016.
- California's total energy consumption is second-highest in the nation, but, in 2016, the state's per capita energy consumption ranked 48th, due in part to its mild climate and its energy efficiency programs.
- In 2017, California ranked second in the nation in conventional hydroelectric generation and first as a producer of electricity from solar, geothermal, and biomass resources.
- In 2017, solar PV and solar thermal installations provided about 16% of California's net electricity generation.

Last Updated: November 15, 2018



California Energy Consumption Estimates, 2017

Source: Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System

Data

Last Update: June 20, 2019 | Next Update: July 18, 2019

Energy Indicators

Demography	California	Share of U.S.	Period
Population	39.6 million	12.1%	2018
Civilian Labor Force	19.2 million	11.9%	Apr-19
Economy	California	U.S. Rank	Period
Gross Domestic Product	\$ 2,968.1 billion	1	2018
Gross Domestic Product for the Manufacturing Sector	\$ 316,764 million	1	2018
Per Capita Personal Income	\$ 62,586	7	2018
Vehicle Miles Traveled	343,862 million miles	1	2017
Land in Farms	25.6 million acres	16	2012
Climate	California	U.S. Rank	Period
Average Temperature	60.1 degrees Fahrenheit	12	2018
Precipitation	18.0 inches	42	2018

Prices

Petroleum	California	U.S. Average	Period	find more
Domestic Crude Oil First Purchase	\$ 65.34 /barrel	\$ 57.47 /barrel	Mar-19	
Natural Gas	California	U.S. Average	Period	find more
City Gate	\$ 3.57 /thousand cu ft	\$ 4.06 /thousand cu ft	Mar-19	find more
Residential	\$ 13.64 /thousand cu ft	\$ 9.48 /thousand cu ft	Mar-19	find more
Coal	California	U.S. Average	Period	find more
Average Sales Price		\$ 33.72 /short ton	2017	
Delivered to Electric Power Sector	\$ 0.00 /million Btu	\$ 2.07 /million Btu	Mar-19	
Electricity	California	U.S. Average	Period	find more
Residential	19.30 cents/kWh	12.83 cents/kWh	Mar-19	find more
Commercial	14.58 cents/kWh	10.44 cents/kWh	Mar-19	find more
Industrial	11.23 cents/kWh	6.73 cents/kWh	Mar-19	find more

Reserves	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Crude Oil (as of Dec. 31)	2,209 million barrels	5.6%	2017	find more
Expected Future Production of Dry Natural Gas (as of Dec. 31)	1,560 billion cu ft	0.4%	2017	find more
Expected Future Production of Natural Gas Plant Liquids	78 million barrels	0.4%	2017	find more
Recoverable Coal at Producing Mines			2017	find more
Rotary Rigs & Wells	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Natural Gas Producing Wells	3,780 wells	0.8%	2017	find more
Capacity	California	Share of U.S.	Period	
Crude Oil Refinery Capacity (as of Jan. 1)	1,892,471 barrels/calendar day	10.2%	2018	
 Electric Power Industry Net Summer Capacity	76,236 MW	6.9%	Mar-19	

Supply & Distribution

Production	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Total Energy	2,431 trillion Btu	2.9%	2016	find more
Crude Oil	14,021 thousand barrels	3.8%	Mar-19	find more
Natural Gas - Marketed	209,327 million cu ft	0.7%	2017	find more
Coal			2017	find more
Total Utility-Scale Net Electricity Generation	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Total Net Electricity Generation	16,960 thousand MWh	5.2%	Mar-19	
Utility-Scale Net Electricity Generation (share of total)	California	U.S. Average	Period	
Petroleum-Fired	*	0.2 %	Mar-19	find more
Petroleum-Fired Natural Gas-Fired	* 36.8 %	0.2 % 34.8 %	Mar-19 Mar-19	find more find more
Petroleum-Fired Natural Gas-Fired Coal-Fired	* 36.8 % 0.1 %	0.2 % 34.8 % 24.3 %	Mar-19 Mar-19 Mar-19	find more find more find more
Petroleum-Fired Natural Gas-Fired Coal-Fired Nuclear	* 36.8 % 0.1 % 6.7 %	0.2 % 34.8 % 24.3 % 20.1 %	Mar-19 Mar-19 Mar-19 Mar-19	find more find more find more find more
Petroleum-Fired Natural Gas-Fired Coal-Fired Nuclear Renewables	* 36.8 % 0.1 % 6.7 % 55.5 %	0.2 % 34.8 % 24.3 % 20.1 % 19.8 %	Mar-19 Mar-19 Mar-19 Mar-19 Mar-19	find more find more find more find more

Supply & Distribution				
Motor Gasoline (Excludes Pipelines)	141 thousand barrels	0.9%	Mar-19	
Distillate Fuel Oil (Excludes Pipelines)	6,298 thousand barrels	6.1%	Mar-19	find more
Natural Gas in Underground Storage	331,705 million cu ft	6.0%	Mar-19	find more
Petroleum Stocks at Electric Power Producers	166 thousand barrels	0.7%	Mar-19	find more
Coal Stocks at Electric	0 thousand tons	0.0%	Mar-19	find more
Power Producers				
Fueling Stations	California	Share of U.S.	Period	
Fueling Stations Motor Gasoline	California 7,471 stations	Share of U.S. 6.7%	Period 2016	
Fueling Stations Motor Gasoline Liquefied Petroleum Gases	California7,471 stations253 stations	Share of U.S. 6.7% 8.2%	Period 2016 2019	
Fueling Stations Motor Gasoline Liquefied Petroleum Gases Electricity	California7,471 stations253 stations5,088 stations	Share of U.S. 6.7% 8.2% 24.0%	Period 2016 2019	
Fueling Stations Motor Gasoline Liquefied Petroleum Gases Electricity Ethanol	California7,471 stations253 stations5,088 stations155 stations	Share of U.S. 6.7% 8.2% 24.0% 4.6%	Period 2016 2019 2019 2019	

Consumption & Expenditures

Summary	California	U.S. Rank	Period	
Total Consumption	7,881 trillion Btu	2	2017	find more
Total Consumption per Capita	199 million Btu	48	2016	find more
Total Expenditures	\$ 124,724 million	2	2017	find more
Total Expenditures per Capita	\$ 2,872	44	2016	find more
by End-Use Sector	California	Share of U.S.	Period	
Consumption				
» Residential	1,416 trillion Btu	7.1%	2017	find more
» Commercial	1,473 trillion Btu	8.2%	2017	find more
» Industrial	1,818 trillion Btu	5.7%	2017	find more
» Transportation	3,175 trillion Btu	11.3%	2017	find more
Expenditures				
» Residential	\$ 22,640 million	9.2%	2017	find more
» Commercial	\$ 22,426 million	12.1%	2017	find more

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» Industrial	\$ 14,242 million	7.5%	2017	find mor
» Transportation	\$ 65,416 million	12.7%	2017	find mor
by Source	California	Share of U.S.	Period	
Consumption				
» Petroleum	683 million barrels	9.4%	2017	find mor
» Natural Gas	2,115 billion cu ft	7.8%	2017	find mor
» Coal	1 million short tons	0.2%	2017	find mor
Expenditures				
» Petroleum	\$ 71,487.0 million	11.3%	2017	find mo
» Natural Gas	\$ 14,480.4 million	10.2%	2017	find mo
» Coal	\$ 127.4 million	0.4%	2017	find mo
Consumption for Electricity Generation	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find mo
Petroleum	NM	NM	Mar-19	find mo
Natural Gas	43,867 million cu ft	5.4%	Mar-19	find mo
Coal	5 thousand short tons	*	Mar-19	find mo
Energy Source Used for Home Heating (share of households)	California	U.S. Average	Period	
Natural Gas	64.4 %	48.0 %	2017	
Fuel Oil	0.2 %	4.7 %	2017	
Electricity	26.5 %	39.0 %	2017	
Propane	3.2 %	4.7 %	2017	

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Renewable Energy Capacity	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Total Renewable Energy Electricity Net Summer Capacity	31,284 MW	13.9%	Mar-19	
Ethanol Plant Operatin Capacity	g 219 million gal/year	1.4%	2018	
Renewable Energy Production	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Utility-Scale Hydroelectric Net Electricity Generation	4,407 thousand MWh	17.3%	Mar-19	

Environment

Utility-Scale Solar, Wind, and Geothermal Net Electricity Generation	4,557 thousand MWh	13.6%	Mar-19	
Utility-Scale Biomass Net Electricity Generation	454 thousand MWh	9.2%	Mar-19	
Distributed (Small- Scale) Solar Photovoltaic Generatior	1,251 thousand MWh	42.2%	Mar-19	
Ethanol Production	5,320 Thousand Barrels	1.4%	2016	
Renewable Energy Consumption	California	U.S. Rank	Period	find more
Renewable Energy Consumption as a Share of State Total	13.4 %	16	2016	
Ethanol Consumption	38,179 thousand barrels	1	2017	
Total Emissions	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Carbon Dioxide	363.3 million metric tons	7.0%	2016	
Electric Power Industry Emissions	California	Share of U.S.	Period	find more
Carbon Dioxide	44,433 thousand metric tons	2.4%	2017	
Sulfur Dioxide	1 thousand metric tons	0.1%	2017	
Nitrogen Oxide	69 thousand metric tons	4.4%	2017	

Analysis

Last Updated: November 15, 2018

Overview

California is the most populated state in the nation, has the largest economy, and is second only to Texas in total energy consumption.^{1,2,3} Although California has the world's fifth-largest economy, the state has one of the lowest per capita energy consumption levels in the United States.^{4,5} California's extensive efforts to increase energy efficiency and implement alternative technologies have restrained growth in energy demand.⁶ California is also rich in energy resources. The state has an abundant supply of crude oil and is a top producer of conventional hydroelectric power.^{7,8} California also leads the nation in electricity generation from solar, geothermal, and biomass resources.⁹

Stretching two-thirds of the way up the West Coast, California is the nation's thirdlargest state by land area.¹⁰ Transportation dominates California's energy consumption profile.¹¹ More motor vehicles are registered in California than in any other state, and commute times in California are among the longest in the country.^{12,13} The state also accounts for one-fifth of the nation's jet fuel consumption.¹⁴ California leads the nation in agricultural and manufacturing gross domestic product (GDP), and the industrial sector is the state's second-largest energy consumer.^{15,16} However, per capita energy use in California's residential Residential energy use per person in California is lower than that of any other

sector is lower than that of any other state except Hawaii.¹⁷ In most of California's more densely populated areas, the climate is dry and relatively mild.^{18,19} More than two-fifths of state households report that they do not use air conditioning, and about one-seventh do not use space heating.²⁰

state except Hawaii.

Electricity

Almost half of California's net electricity generation was from renewable resources, including hydropower, in 2017. Natural gas-fired power plants fueled more than two-fifths of the total in-state net electricity generation.²¹ Nuclear power, which until 2012 provided almost one-fifth of the state's total net electricity generation, now supplies less than one-tenth of net generation, as one of the two nuclear power plants in the state was permanently retired in mid-2013.^{22,23} California has the nation's second-largest conventional hydroelectric generating capacity after Washington state, and is among the top three hydropower-producers in the nation.^{24,25} In 2015, because of prolonged drought, hydropower supplied only about 7% of California's net generation. However, by 2017, hydropower's share rebounded with increased precipitation, and hydroelectric power plants provided one-fifth of the state's net generation.^{26,27}

Reductions in California's hydroelectric generation and nuclear capacity and generation have been largely offset by other renewable generation. Non-hydroelectric renewable technologies, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass, provided more than one-fourth of the state's net generation in 2017.²⁸ There are no utility-owned coal-fired power plants in California.²⁹ In 2017, less than 0.2% of the total net electricity generated in California came from industrial coal-fired cogeneration units.^{30,31}

Expanded transmission capability helps the Southern California electric grid address the decreased nuclear generation. The Sunrise Powerlink Transmission project, which was put into service in June 2012, added approximately 800 megawatts of transmission capability to the Southern California electric grid. It was designed to link electricity generated from renewable resources in the southeastern corner of the state to San Diego.³² Additional transmission projects, many aimed at improved system reliability, have come online or are in the planning and construction phase.³³

More than one-fourth of California's electricity supply comes from generating facilities outside the state.³⁴ In 2017, at least half of the power delivered to California from states in the Pacific Northwest was from renewable energy sources. States in the Southwest delivered power generated from coal, renewable resources, natural gas, and nuclear energy. Slightly more than one-fourth of the southwestern power came from renewables, including from hydroelectric power plants with capacities greater than 30 megawatts, and another one-fourth from coal-fired power plants.³⁵ Electricity supplied from out-of-state coal-fired power plants has decreased following the enactment of a state law in late 2006 that requires California utilities to limit new long-term financial investments in base-load generation to those power plants that meet California emissions performance

More than onefourth of California's electricity comes from outside the state.

standards. Essentially all of California's imports of coal-fired generation will end by 2026.³⁶ In 2017, almost all the coal-fueled electricity generation consumed in the state was imported and provided about 4% of California's power.³⁷

In 2003, as a response to unstable electricity prices and blackouts in 2000 and 2001, a California Energy Action Plan was adopted to eliminate outages and excessive price spikes. The Energy Action Plan's goals are to ensure that adequate, reliable, and reasonably priced electric power and natural gas supplies, including prudent reserves, are provided. The plan calls for increased energy conservation and efficiency, new in-state generation facilities, and upgraded and expanded electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure to ensure that generating facilities can quickly come online when needed. The plan was updated in 2008.^{38,39} A 2015 state law requires that annual targets be set in order to double statewide energy-efficiency by 2030.⁴⁰

Although California has the second-highest retail electricity sales in the nation, after Texas, retail sales are the lowest in the nation on a per capita basis.^{41,42} More than one-fourth of California households use electricity for home heating.⁴³

California has encouraged use of non-carbon-emitting vehicles, and, by the end of 2017, California drivers owned 8% of the global electric vehicle fleet, and more than one-fourth of the nation's electric vehicle charging stations are in California.^{44,45}

Renewable energy

California is among the top states in the nation in electricity generation from renewable resources. In 2017, the state was the leader in total utility-scale electricity generation from renewable resources, including hydroelectric power. California typically leads the nation in generation from solar, geothermal, and biomass energy. In 2017, the state was also the nation's second-largest producer of electricity from conventional hydroelectric power and the fifth-largest producer from wind energy.⁴⁶

In 2014, California became the first state in the nation to get more than 5% of its utility-scale electricity generation from solar resources.⁴⁷ In 2017, solar resources, both photovoltaic (PV) and thermal, provided more than one-tenth of the state's utility-scale net electricity generation. When distributed (customer-sited, small-scale) generation is included, solar energy provided about one-sixth of the state's net generation. Electricity generation from solar PV in California accounts for more than two-fifths of the U.S. total. About one-third of the solar PV generation in the state is from distributed generation. Almost three-fourths of all U.S. solar thermal electricity generation is in California as well.⁴⁸ California's greatest solar resource is in the state's southeastern deserts where all the solar thermal facilities and the largest solar PV plants are located. However, solar PV facilities are located throughout the state.^{49,50,51} On a smaller scale, the California Solar

Solar energy provides more than one-tenth of California's utility-scale net electricity generation.

Initiative encourages Californians to install solar power systems on the rooftops of their homes and businesses.⁵² By 2017, California had about 10,700 megawatts of utility-scale solar power generating capacity installed, more than any other state, and, when distributed generation was included, the state had almost 20,000 megawatts of installed solar capacity.^{53,54} By mid-2018, total installed solar capacity was almost 23,000 megawatts.⁵⁵ The state's 2019 building energy efficiency standards require solar PV systems on all homes built in 2020 and later.⁵⁶

California is the nation's top producer of electricity from geothermal energy with almost 2,700 megawatts of installed capacity and 43 operating geothermal power plants. The state accounts for almost three-fourths of the nation's total electricity generation from geothermal energy.^{57,58} Substantial geothermal resources are found in California's coastal mountain ranges, in the volcanic areas of northern California, near the Salton Sea in southern California, and along the state's border with Nevada.⁵⁹ The Geysers, located in the Mayacamas Mountains north of San Francisco, is the largest complex of geothermal power plants in the world and has more than 700 megawatts of installed capacity.⁶⁰

California also leads the nation in utility-scale electricity generation from biomass.⁶¹ Nearly three-fifths of California's biomass generating capacity comes from the state's more than two dozen power plants fueled by wood and wood waste. ⁶² Wood pellets made of renewable materials, mainly recycled wood waste, are used for heating as well as for electricity generation. A facility in northern California has the capacity to manufacture 100,000 tons of wood pellets per year.⁶³

California produces more than 5% of the U.S. total utility-scale wind generation, ranking fifth in the nation behind Texas, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Kansas.⁶⁴

California's wind power potential is widespread, especially along the state's many mountain crests to the south and east, as well as offshore along the northern California coast.⁶⁵ There are six major wind resource areas in the state and many smaller wind sites.⁶⁶ As of mid-2018, California had nearly 5,700 megawatts of installed wind capacity.⁶⁷

California is the top producer of electricity from geothermal energy in the nation.

Concern over the environment prompted several state policy initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. California's Low Carbon Fuel Standard, issued in January 2007, called for a reduction of at least 10% in the carbon intensity of the state's transportation fuels by 2020. The standard requires fossil fuel substitutes that demonstrate lower lifecycle GHG emissions than the fuels they replace.⁶⁸ A number of alternative pathways have been identified that reduce the levels of GHG emissions in the production of ethanol, biodiesel, and renewable diesel.⁶⁹ California does produce some biodiesel.⁷⁰ There are seven ethanol production plants in the state, but California consumes more than one-tenth of the nation's fuel ethanol supply, which is seven times more than the state produces.^{71,72,73}

California established an emissions cap-and-trade program as part of the state's Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. The program's goal is the reduction of the state's GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, to 40% of 1990 levels by 2030, and eventually to 80% of 1990 levels by 2050. To minimize the costs of pollution controls, a system for trading emissions allowances was created, and auctions began in November 2012.⁷⁴ The program sets statewide limits on the sources responsible for 85% of California's GHG emissions.⁷⁵

The California renewable portfolio standard (RPS), implemented in 2002 and revised several times since then, requires that 33% of retail sales of electricity in California come from eligible renewable resources by 2020, 60% by 2030, and 100% by 2045.⁷⁶ By August 2017, 32% of the state's retail electricity sales were generated from renewables.⁷⁷ The state requires that retail electricity suppliers disclose the fuel sources used to generate the power they supply as well as the GHG emissions intensity of those sources.⁷⁸ California recognizes cost-effective energy-efficiency as an important resource for meeting the state's clean energy targets. In addition to the RPS, California created an energy-efficiency resource standard. The standard's goal is to lower electricity and natural gas consumption through increased energy efficiency and reduced demand. Targets were set for the state's three natural gas utilities and three large investor-owned electric utilities.⁷⁹

Petroleum

California has the fourth-largest share of the nation's crude oil reserves after Texas, North Dakota, and the Gulf of Mexico, and the state is the fourth-largest producer of crude oil among the 50 states, after Texas, North Dakota, and Alaska.^{80,81} Reservoirs in the geologic basins along California's Pacific Coast, including the Los Angeles basin, and in the state's Central Valley contain major crude oil reserves. The most prolific oil-producing area in the state is the San Joaquin basin in the southern half of the Central Valley, where several of the nation's largest oil fields are located.^{82,83,84} Overall, California's crude oil production has declined during the past 30 years, but the state remains one of the top producers of crude oil in the nation, accounting for about 5% of total U.S. production in 2017.^{85,86}

Federal assessments of California's offshore areas indicate the potential for large, undiscovered recoverable crude oil resources in the federally administered Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).⁸⁷ Concerns about the cumulative impacts and risks of offshore oil and natural gas development after the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill resulted in state legislation that imposed a permanent moratorium on offshore oil and natural gas leasing in state waters.⁸⁸ Congress imposed a federal moratorium on oil and natural gas leasing in California federal waters in 1982. The federal moratorium expired in 2008.⁸⁹ No lease sales for the California federal OCS are included in the current 2017-22 lease sale schedule, but some have been proposed in a revised schedule.^{90,91}

California ranks third in the nation in petroleum refining capacity after Texas and Louisiana, and the state accounts for one-tenth of the total U.S. refining capacity.⁹² A network of crude oil pipelines connects California's oil production to the state's refining centers, which are located primarily in the Central Valley, the Los Angeles area, and the San Francisco Bay area.^{93,94} California refiners also process large volumes of foreign and Alaskan crude oil received at the state's ports. As crude oil production in California and Alaska has declined, California refineries have become increasingly dependent on imports to meet the state's needs.^{95,96,97} Led by Saudi Arabia, Ecuador, and Colombia, foreign suppliers now provide more than half of the crude oil refined in California.^{98,99}

California ranks third in the nation in petroleum refining capacity, and more than half

Many of California's largest refineries are highly sophisticated and can process a wide variety of crude oil types. To meet strict state environmental regulations, California refineries are configured to produce cleaner fuels, including reformulated motor gasoline and low-sulfur diesel. Refineries in the state often operate at or near maximum capacity because of the high demand for those petroleum products.¹⁰⁰ California requires that all motorists use, at a minimum, a specific blend of motor gasoline called CaPEC (California Reformulated Gasoline) a

is refined from foreign crude oil supplies.

specific blend of motor gasoline called CaRFG (California Reformulated Gasoline) as part of an overall program to reduce emissions from motor vehicles.¹⁰¹ When unplanned refinery outages occur, replacement supplies must be brought in by marine tanker from refineries in the state of Washington or on the U.S. Gulf Coast. Refineries in several other countries can also supply CaRFG. Locating and transporting replacement motor gasoline that conforms to California's strict fuel specifications from overseas can take several weeks.^{102,103}

California is the second largest consumer of petroleum products in the nation and the largest consumer of motor gasoline and jet fuel. Almost all of the petroleum consumed in the state is used in the transportation sector.^{104,105} The industrial sector, the second-largest consuming sector, uses less than one-eighth as much petroleum as the transportation sector.¹⁰⁶ Less than 0.3% of California households heat with fuel oil or kerosene, and only 3% heat with hydrocarbon gas liquids (HGL) such as propane.¹⁰⁷

Natural gas

California accounts for less than 1% of total U.S. natural gas reserves and production.^{108,109} As with crude oil, California's natural gas production has experienced a gradual overall decline in the past three decades.¹¹⁰ The state's reserves and production are located primarily in geologic basins in the northern portion of the Central Valley. Some natural gas fields are also located in the southern portion of the Central Valley, in coastal areas in northern California, and offshore along the Southern California coast.¹¹¹

California's natural gas output equals about one-tenth of state demand.^{112,113} Almost two-thirds of California households use natural gas for home heating, and more than two-fifths of California's utility-scale net electricity generation is fueled by natural gas.^{114,115} Several interstate pipelines bring natural gas into California from the Southwest, and from the Rocky Mountain region, as well as from western Canada, by way of Arizona, Nevada, and Oregon. In 2011, natural gas supplies first arrived via the Ruby Pipeline, which runs from Wyoming to Oregon, and directly links natural gas produced in the Rocky Mountain region to markets in Northern California.^{116,117} Almost all the natural gas delivered to California is used in the state or is placed in storage. Some natural gas is exported to Mexico, and a much smaller amount is liquefied and shipped to Hawaii.^{118,119}

California has 14 natural gas storage fields that help stabilize supply; together those fields have an annual natural gas storage capacity of about 600 billion cubic feet with an annual working capacity of almost 375 billion cubic feet.¹²⁰ In October 2015, a natural gas leak was detected at the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility in Los Angeles County. The leak was plugged in February 2016 after almost 6 billion cubic feet of methane had escaped into the atmosphere, and almost 7,000 households and several schools were relocated.¹²¹ In 2017, state regulators gave permission for natural gas injections at Aliso Canyon to resume with a reduced maximum storage capacity and at lower maximum injection pressures.¹²² As a result of the incident new rules covering the management of natural gas storage facilities were put in place at the state level. The new state rules mandate the creation of approved risk assessment and emergency response plans and put in place new testing, monitoring, and data management requirements.¹²³

Coal

California does not have any coal reserves or production and has phased out almost all use of coal for electricity generation.^{124,125} In 2017, coal fueled less than 0.2% of the state's utility-scale net generation, and all of that power was generated at industrial facilities.^{126,127} Most of the coal consumed in California arrives by rail from mines in Utah.¹²⁸ Much more coal is exported through California ports than is consumed in the state.¹²⁹

Energy on tribal lands

California has the largest Native American population in the nation.¹³⁰ The state is home to more than 100 federally recognized tribal groups.¹³¹ Although tribal areas are spread throughout the state, they account for less than 1% of state lands, and most California reservations and rancherias are lightly populated.^{132,133} Many of the tribal lands are small, including the nation's smallest reservation, the 1.32-acre Pit River Tribe cemetery.¹³⁴ The largest is the Hoopa Valley Reservation in northern California's Humboldt County. Two-thirds of that reservation's almost 144-square-mile area is commercial timberland.¹³⁵ The Colorado River Tribe Reservation, which straddles the Colorado River and the California-Arizona border, is among the larger reservations in the state, although only about 67 square miles of the reservation's 420-square-mile area is within California.¹³⁶

California's diverse geography gives tribes access to a variety of renewable energy resources, and several tribes are developing those resources. In 2018, 3 California tribes were among 15 U.S. tribes selected to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for deployment of energy infrastructure projects on tribal lands. All three projects involved distributed solar PV. The Bishop Paiute Tribe will install solar panels on 38 existing single-family homes that belong to low-income families, adding to the more than 50 residential solar installations already completed.¹³⁷ A second 2018 DOE-funded project will install solar PV at the Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation's tribally owned fish hatchery in northern California. The third project involves the installation of a hybrid solar PV-battery storage-liquid propane microgrid system for five tribal buildings for the San Pasqual Band of Indians.¹³⁸ The Ramona Band of Cahuilla is one of the first reservations in the nation to become independent of the grid. They have established a microgrid for an eco-tourism project and have met the project's energy needs with renewable resources.¹³⁹ Other reservations in the state have pursued similar goals. In 2015, the Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria in Northern California became the first California tribe to install a hybrid solar, wind, and advanced energy storage microgrid for power generation.¹⁴⁰ In 2016, as part of the construction of its microgrid, the members of the Blue Lake Rancheria installed a 500-kilowatt solar array, and in 2017, the microgrid became operational.^{141,142} The project won an industry project of the year award in 2018.¹⁴³

In 2010, the Campo Kumeyaay Nation in Southern California was the first tribe in the nation to develop a utility-scale wind project with 25 wind turbines constructed on land leased from the tribe.^{144,145} The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, whose reservation includes 6,700 acres in the city of Palm Springs, is working on the development of a combined wind and solar project on their large reservation in Southern California.^{146,147} Other tribes are in areas of abundant biomass potential. The Blue Lake Rancheria Tribe in Humboldt County uses wood waste from timber harvesting to fuel a first-of-a-kind biogas fuel-cell system.¹⁴⁸ In addition to the tribes that have abundant solar, wind, and biomass resources, some California tribal lands have geothermal electricity generation potential, particularly in the Imperial Valley in southern California, in the Geysers area in northern California, and along the state's eastern border.¹⁴⁹

Endnotes

¹ U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. and World Population Clock, Most Populous States, 2017.

² U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Interactive Data, Regional Data, GDP and Personal Income, Annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by State, GDP in current dollars, NAICS, All industry total, All Areas, 2017.

³ U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), State Energy Data System, Table C10, Energy Consumption by End-Use Sector, Ranked by State, 2016.

⁴ Cooper, Jonathan J., "California Is Now World's 5th Largest Economy, Surpasses UK," NBC Bay Area News (May 4, 2018).

⁵ U.S. EIA, State Energy Data System, Rankings: Total Energy Consumed per Capita, 2016.

⁶ California Energy Commission, Tracking Progress, Energy Efficiency, updated September 2018.

⁷ U.S. EIA, Crude Oil Proved Reserves, Reserves Changes, and Production, as of December 31, 2016.

⁸ U.S. EIA, Electric Power Monthly (February 2018), Table 1.10.B.

⁹ U.S. EIA, Electric Power Monthly (February 2018), Tables 1.15.B, 1.16.B, 1.17.B, 1.18.B.

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