

# California Governor Warns More Rolling Blackouts ‘Very Likely’; 3.3M Homes Statewide Brace For Power Outages

**SACRAMENTO (CBS SF/AP)** -- With California in the grips of a historic heatwave, Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday signed an emergency proclamation aimed at freeing up energy capacity even as power executives warned of additional statewide rolling blackouts.

Newsom warned customers across the state that more rolling blackouts over the next 72 hours were “very likely” as the state struggles to meet the demand for electricity during a historic, record-breaking heatwave.

The governor warned in his midday news conference that California was short about 4,400 megawatts to supply energy to everyone who demands it Monday, but by late afternoon, California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) officials said they might be able to delay outages until Monday evening.

Officials with Cal-ISO – which oversees roughly 80% of the state’s power grid through Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and San Diego Gas & Electric — said statewide rolling blackouts affecting up to 3.3 million California homes could begin as early as 4 p.m.

LADWP was not expected to be impacted by the outages since the utility is locally-owned runs its own plants and will help supply 900 megawatts of power to the state grid Tuesday.

All California households including homes supplied by LADWP were asked to take measures to conserve energy during the hours of 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. as part of a statewide Flex Alert.

(credit: Justin Sullivan/Getty Images News)



While acknowledging record heat conditions, Newsom conceded that the state was “likely to fall short” of its supply goals as oppressive temperatures stress the state’s energy system.

“You can’t control the weather but you can prepare for weather events,” Newsom said. “We failed to prepare ... I’m ultimately accountable.”

The governor also pointed to the state’s shift to renewable resources as part of the cause for the supply shortage, adding that shutdowns to polluting gas power plants

has created gaps in the state’s energy supply.

While California is committed to a greener future, Newsom said the state “cannot sacrifice reliability” and promised that officials would be “much more aggressive ... in making sure that is the case.”

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