The California Push for Energy Storage Deployment

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Abstract:
In recognition of the need of a bold move to reduce the costs of storage through increased demand, California (CA) has mandated the installation of 1,325 MWs of cost-effective energy storage by 2024 by the three major investor owned utilities (IOUs) – PG&E, SCE and SDG&E – under the jurisdiction of the CPUC. The storage procurement must be carried out in accordance with the framework specified by the CPUC. The CPUC mandate is significant as it is likely to engender similar measures in other venues as well as act as a catalyst for the speedier large-scale storage deployment. This presentation discusses the CPUC mandate, the specifications of the CPUC storage procurement framework, the key implications of the mandate and the challenges and opportunities in the CA push for storage deployment. While the CPUC Decision may be the successful in reducing costs of storage through increased demand, challenges that arise due to the unique nature energy storage resources need to be resolved to stimulate the continuing future investment in storage projects and to enable sustainable paths to meet the future energy needs.