



Summary of the California Public Utilities Commission's High DER Future Grid Study Workshop #2

Tuesday, March 12, 2024 | 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. PT

Overview:

On March 12th, 2024, Gridworks facilitated the second of three workshops for the California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC or Commission) 2024 Future Grid Study workshop series under Task 7 Track 2 of Rulemaking (R.) 21-06-017. Throughout this workshop series, Gridworks, a contractor supporting the Commission, will facilitate conversations between utilities, stakeholders, and the CPUC on how to ensure additional distributed energy resources (DERs) installed provide maximum value to the grid through effective distribution system operations. This three-part series will identify operational needs, assess gaps and develop recommendations to address gaps, and provide an opportunity for parties to collaborate to modernize the electric grid for a high DER future. Each workshop in the series will build upon the previous workshop to assist parties to develop their input on the rulemaking.

The second workshop was divided into two sections: an operational needs discussion and a gap assessment. The gap assessment included a utility panel and an advocate panel, Q&A, and discussion. All presentations and the workshop recording are posted online.

Meeting Materials:

- [Workshop Agenda](#)
- [Recording](#)
- Presentation materials posted at <https://gridworks.org/initiatives/california-future-grid-study/>

Workshop Objectives:

- A. Review the Operational Needs identified in Workshop #1
- B. Share expert and party perspective on the following question:

“What are the existing gaps and barriers in achieving the needs identified above within our current Distribution System Operator (Utilities)?”

- C. Co-create a gap assessment
- D. Lay the groundwork for the focus of our next workshop,

“What are the potential solutions in overcoming these barriers?”



Workshop Structure:

Workshop #2 spanned six hours and contained presentations from eight speakers representing utilities and advocacy organizations. There were 182 participants in total. Throughout the panel presentations, the audience had the ability to use the chat feature in Zoom to ask questions, provide comments, and use Slido, an external survey tool to submit answers to the workshop question: “*What are the existing gaps and barriers in achieving the needs identified above within our current Distribution System Operator (Utilities)?*”

Commissioner Houck spoke at the beginning of the workshop. She acknowledged the ample feedback provided in the first workshop and expressed her interest in discussing the gaps during this second workshop.

During the operational needs discussion, participants were given 15 minutes to answer the pre-workshop survey if they had not done so prior to the workshop. The survey asked stakeholders to rank the importance (low, medium or high) and urgency (short-, medium- or long-term) of the operational need identified in Workshop #1. In total, 36 participants responded to the survey. Results from the pre-workshop survey were then presented, and participants had a chance to share feedback on the operational needs that scored highest in importance and urgency.

The latter portion of the workshop focused on conducting a gap assessment. There were two panels, one composed of speakers from the utilities, and one composed of speakers from advocacy organizations. The workshop concluded with a facilitated discussion based on the information shared during the two panels.

Operational Needs for a High DER Grid:

The list below is the identified operational needs, compiled from answers submitted through Slido and from the presentations during Workshop #1. Workshop #2 focused on identifying the gaps and barriers in achieving these operational needs.

- DER Visibility to Distribution System Operator¹
- DER Visibility to CAISO²
- DER dispatchability/control³
- Operational planning and analysis⁴
- Reliability Coordination at T-D interface⁵
- DER Technical Performance Standards⁶

¹ Source: IOU, Public Advocates, and thought leader presentations

² Source: CAISO, Public Advocates, and thought leader presentations

³ Source: IOU, Public Advocates, and thought leader presentations; 1 stakeholder comment

⁴ Source: CAISO, IOU, Public Advocates, and thought leader presentations

⁵ Source: CAISO and Public Advocates presentations

⁶ Source: Public Advocates and thought leader presentations

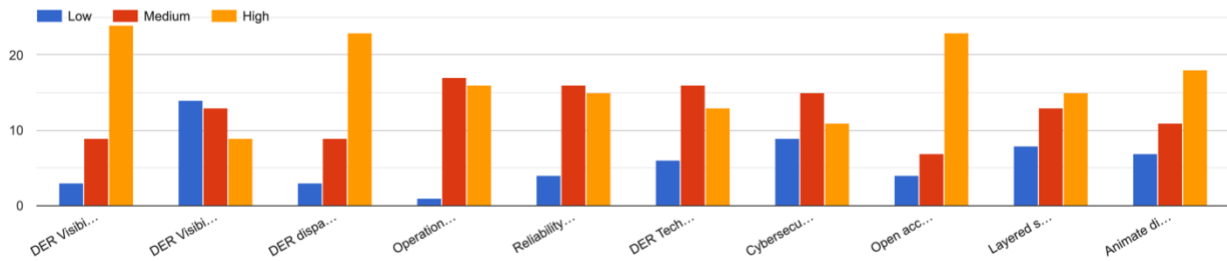


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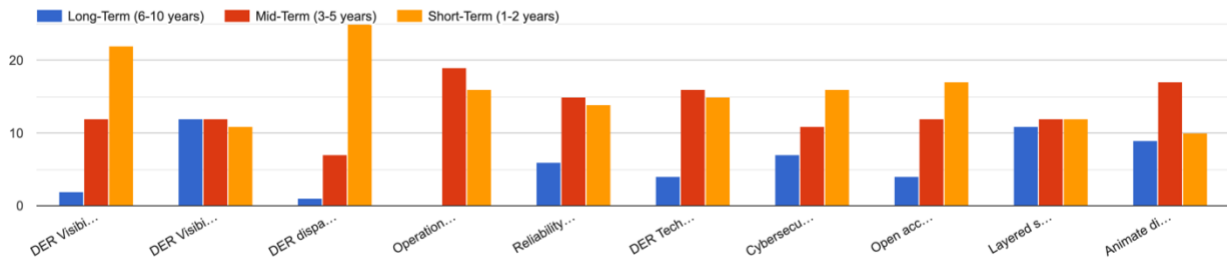
- Cybersecurity⁷
- Open access to distribution system⁸
- Layered system architecture from bottom-up⁹
- Animate distribution-level markets/granular pricing¹⁰

Prior to Workshop #2, stakeholders were asked to respond to a two-question survey, where they ranked the importance (low, medium or high) and urgency (short-, medium- or long-term) of the operational need identified in Workshop #1. The results from that survey are below.

In the meeting summary there are ten categories of operational needs. Please rate them according to importance.



In the meeting summary there are ten categories of operational needs. Please rate them by urgency.



⁷ Source: Thought leader presentations

⁸ Source: Energy Division, IOUs, Public Advocates, and The Climate Center presentations; 5 stakeholders

⁹ Source: 350 Bay Area presentation; 4 stakeholder comments

¹⁰ Source: Energy Division, thought leaders, IOUs, UCAN, The Climate Center, and Joint CCAs presentations; 7 stakeholder comments



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Affiliation

36 responses

