

2026 Load Forecast for 2026-2036

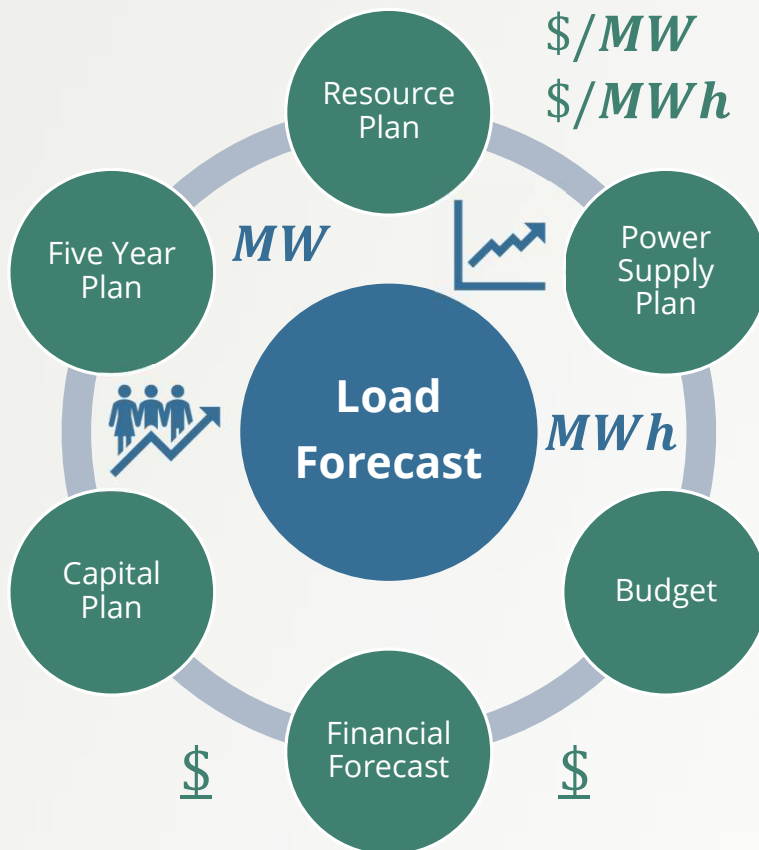
May 26, 2026
for Resolution No. 2726



Forecast is a critical input to District planning

Estimates:

- 1) Energy (MWh)
 - 2) Demand (MW)
 - 3) Customer Count
- by **month**,
by **revenue class**,
for next 10-years



Input to:
**2027
Budget
&
2026
Resource
Plan**

Regional load growth ≠ Benton PUD load growth

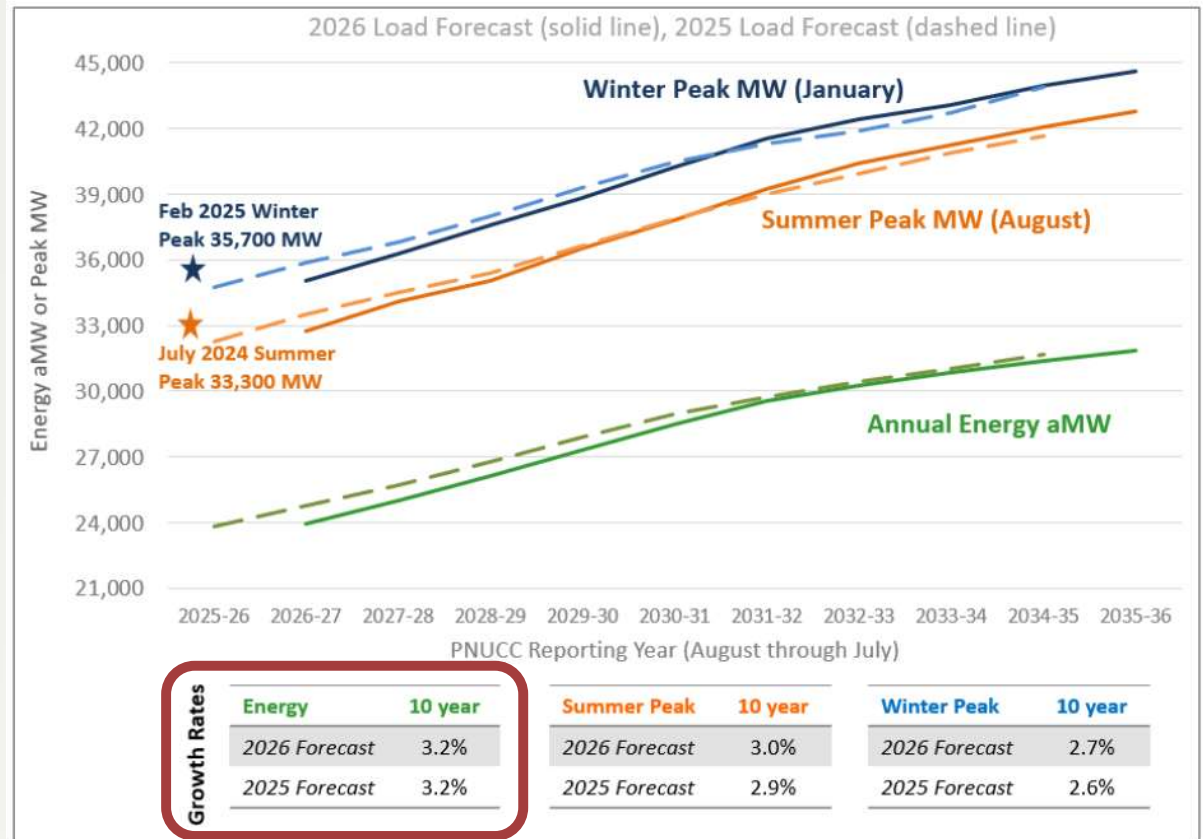
Northwest Regional Forecast
of Power Loads and Resources
August 2026 through July 2036

Executive Summary

"After decades of slow growth...Higher levels of demand are present today, **driven by population growth, expanded air-conditioning use and structural changes such as electrification of transportation and buildings, advanced manufacturing and the emergence of new large electricity consumers...**"

PNUCC
April 2026

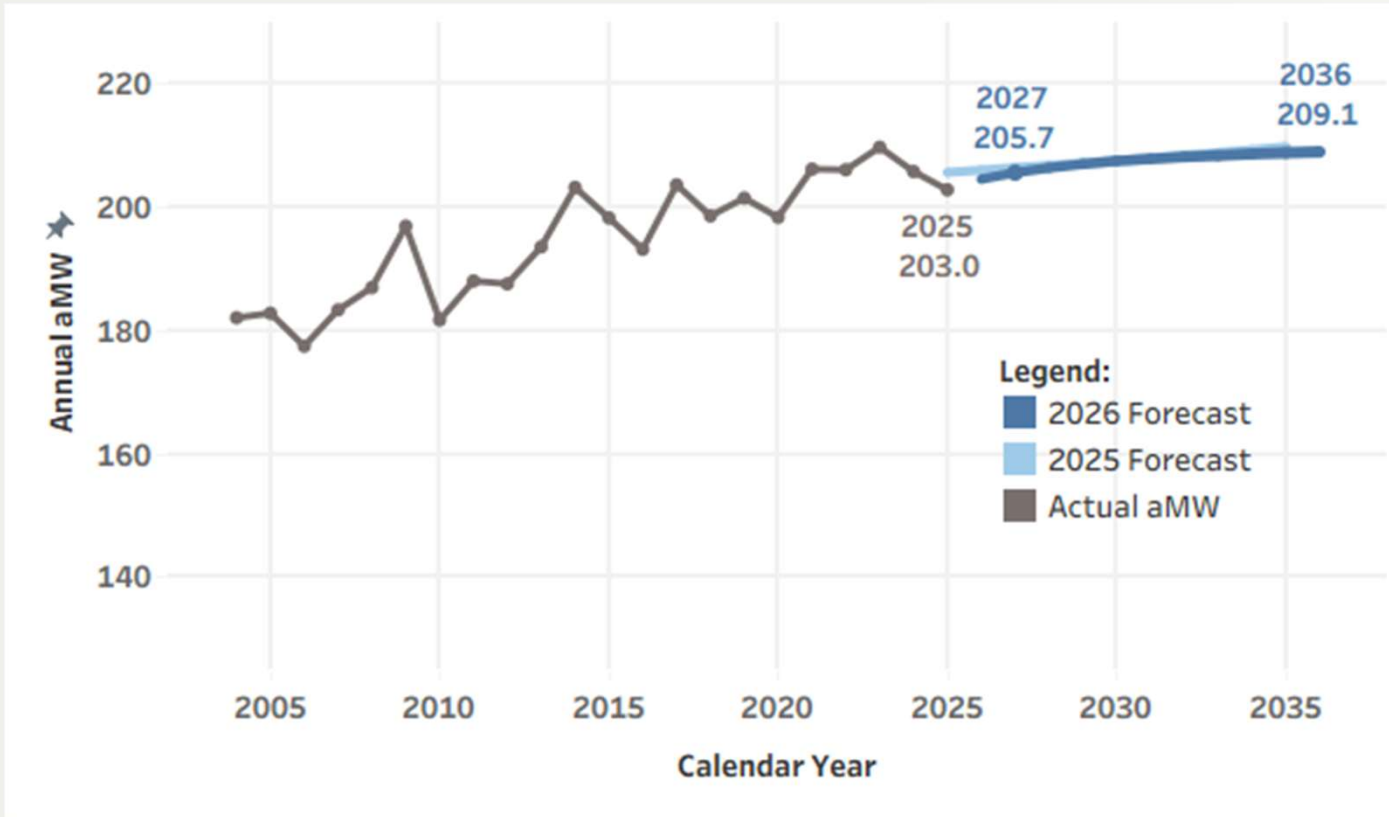
Figure 1: 2026 Load Forecast Compared to 2025 Load Forecast



Forecast of Annual Retail Load

(Figure 1-1)

10-year net growth of 3.4 aMW

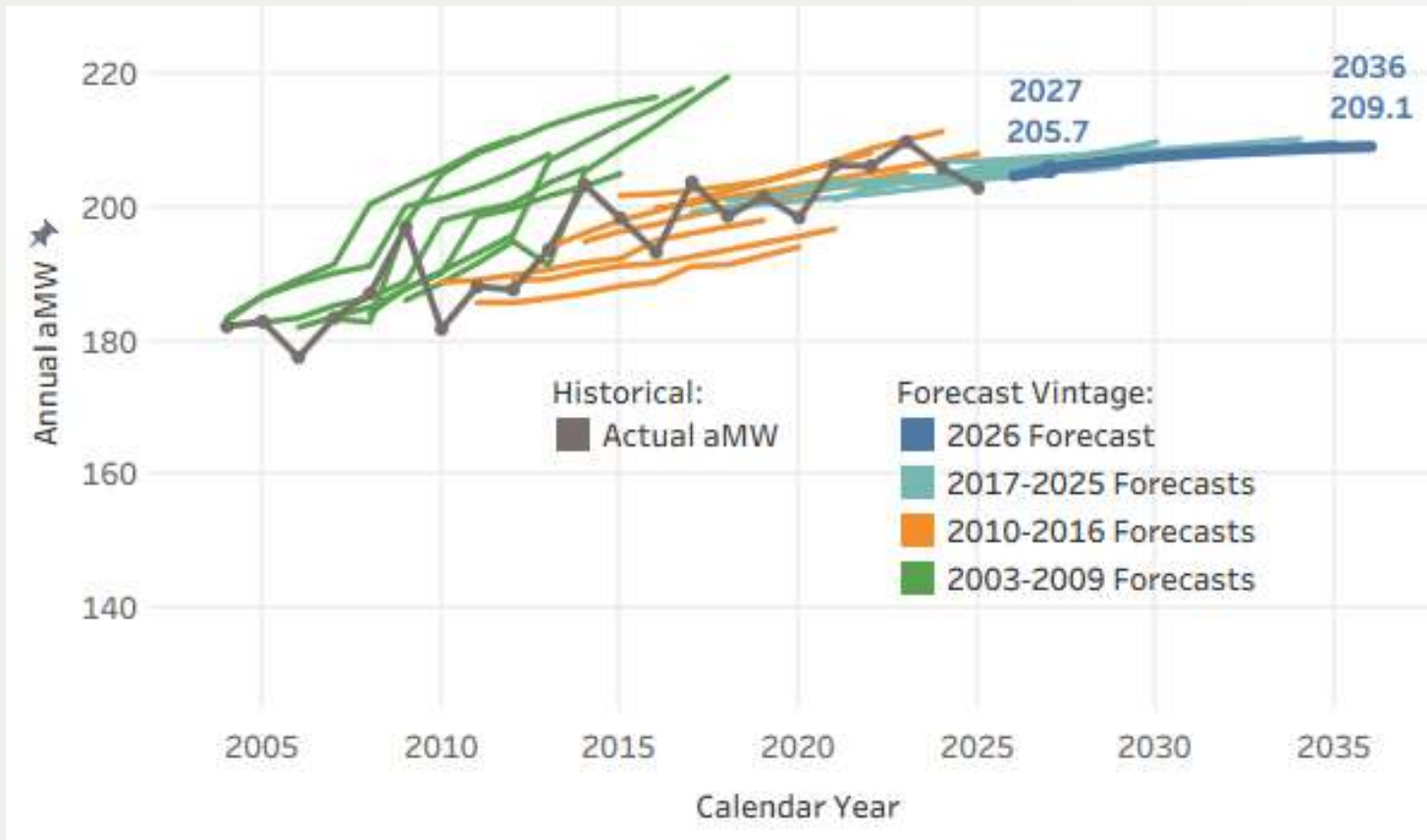


Forecast Year	10-Year AARG%
2017	0.30
2018	0.21
2019	0.27
2020	0.17
2021	0.47
2022	0.29
2023	0.24
2024	0.16
2025	0.19
2026	0.21%

AARG% = Annual Average Rate of Growth Percentage

Forecast Growth Rate History

(Figure 3-1)



Forecast Vintage	10-Year AARG% Average
2017-2025 (9 years)	0.26%
2010-2016 (7 years)	0.54%
2003-2009 (7 years)	1.65%

AARG% = Annual Average Rate of Growth Percentage

What causes changes in Benton PUD's load?

1) Changing customer count

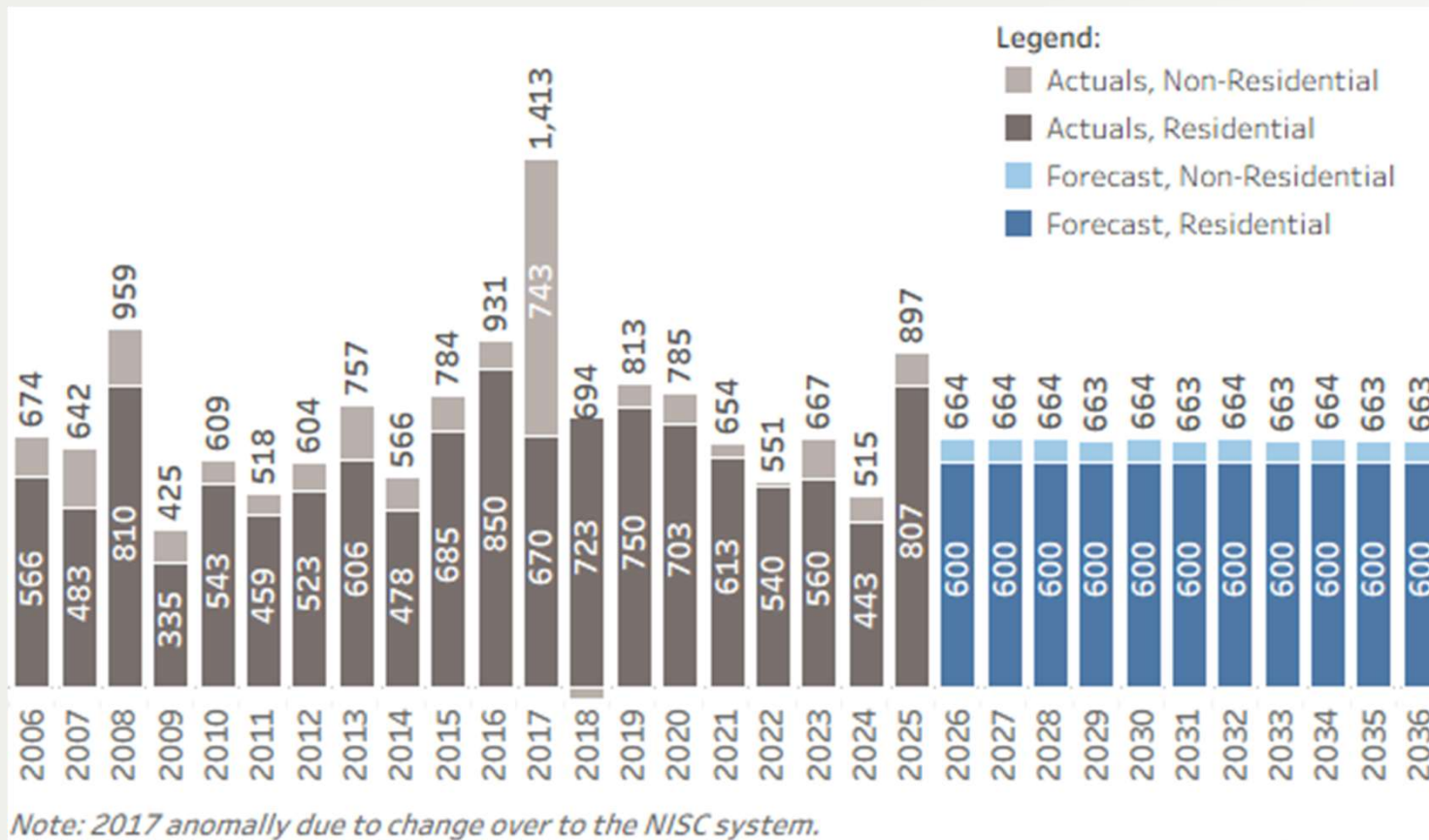
- **New Services (+)**
- **Retired Services (-)**
- **Connects (+)**
- **Disconnects (-)**
- **Utility Annexation (+/-)**

2) Changing use per customer

- **Weather (+/-)**
- **Conservation (-)**
- **Codes & Standards (-)**
- **Customer Generation (-)**
- **Outages (-)**
- **Electricity Intensive Load (EIL) (+)**
- **Electrification (+)**
- **Electric vs. Natural Gas (+/-)**
- **Appliances/Devices (+/-)**
- **Customer Behavior (+/-)**
- **Single-Family vs. Multi-Family (+/-)**

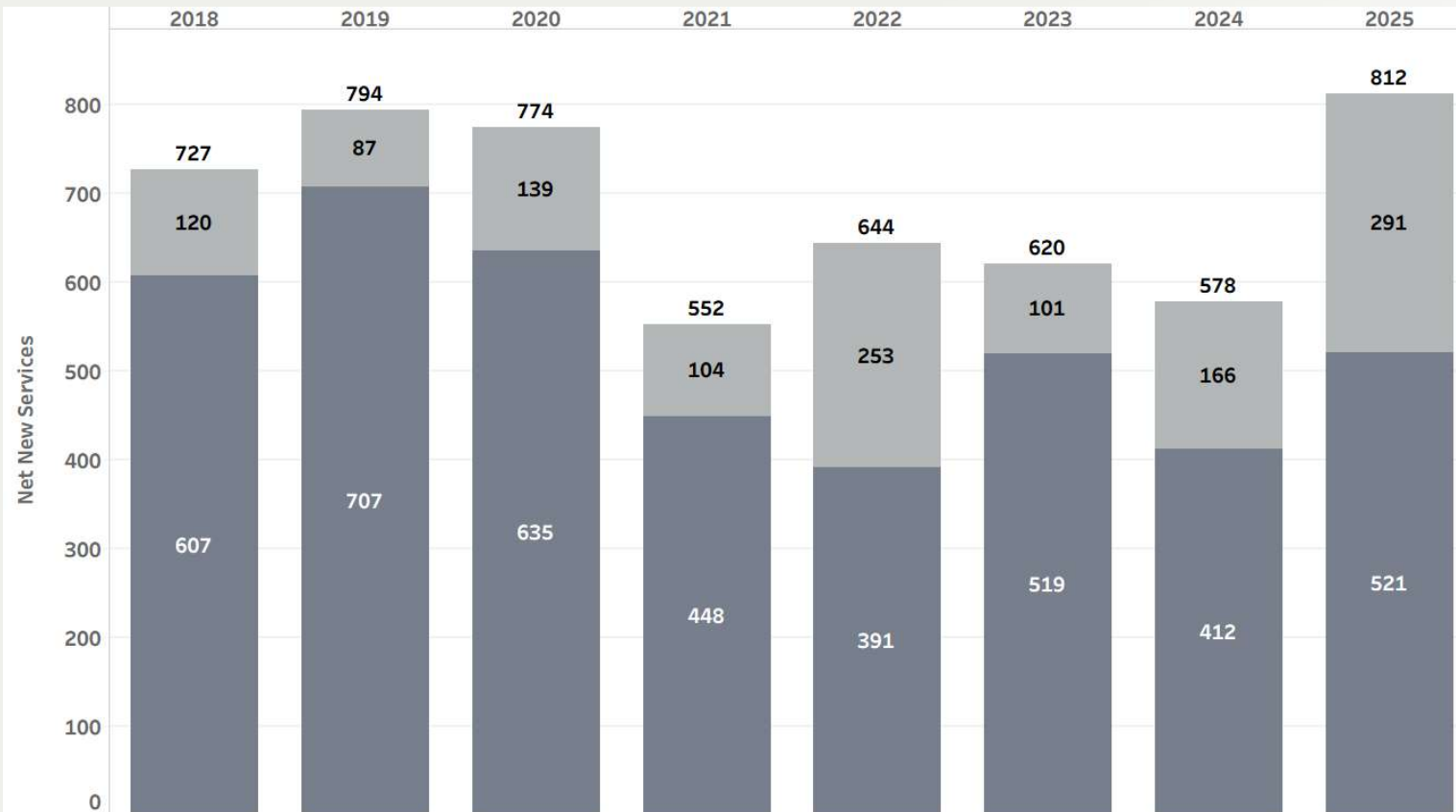
Forecast of Annual Increase in Customers

(~Figure 1-2)



Adding:
~664
customers
per year
 Non-Res. = 64
 Residential = 600

Historical Count of Annual Net New Services



Apartment?

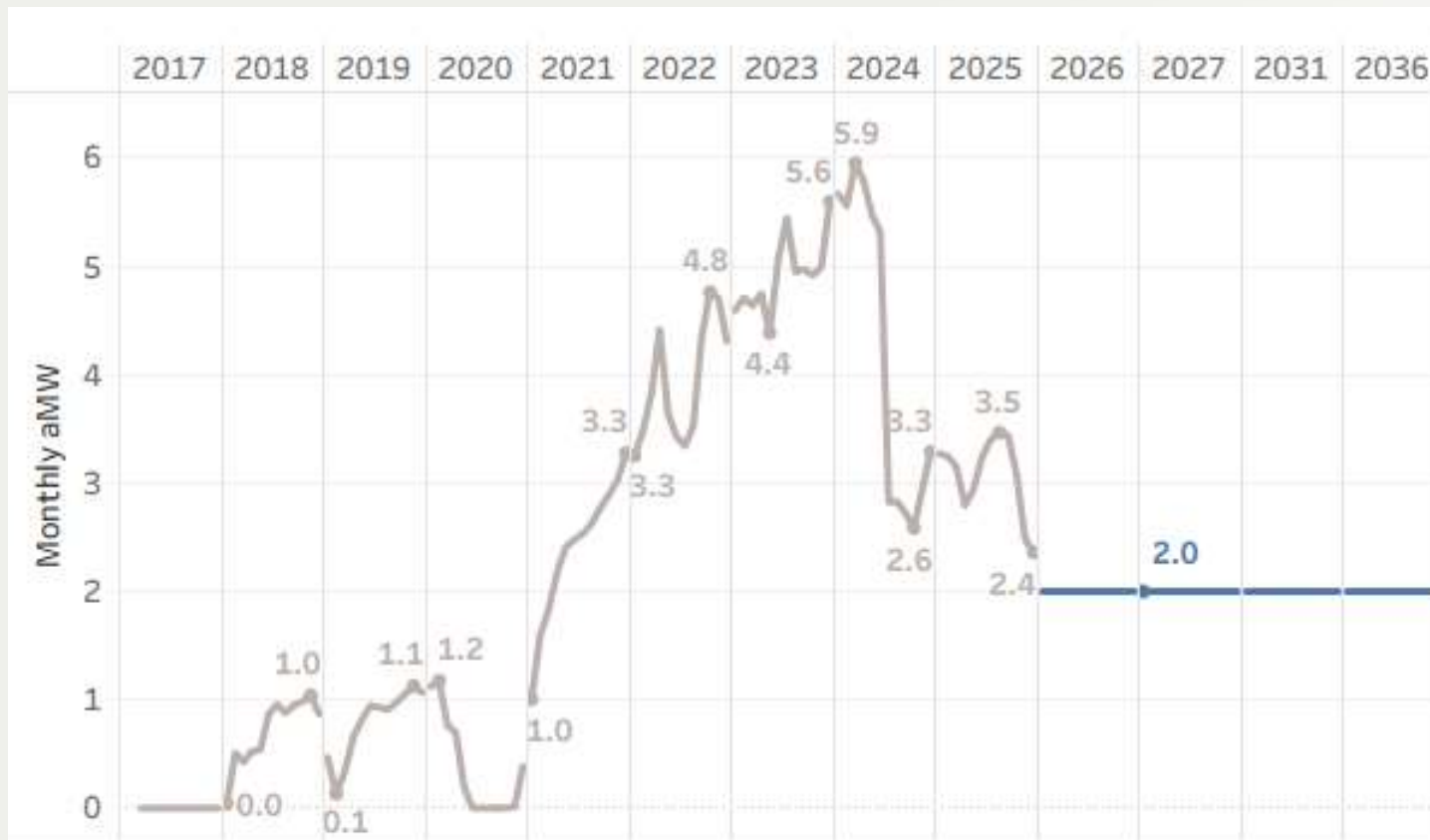
True

False

New
services for
apartments
were up
significantly
in 2025

Forecast of Electricity Intensive Load (EIL)

(Figure 3-5)



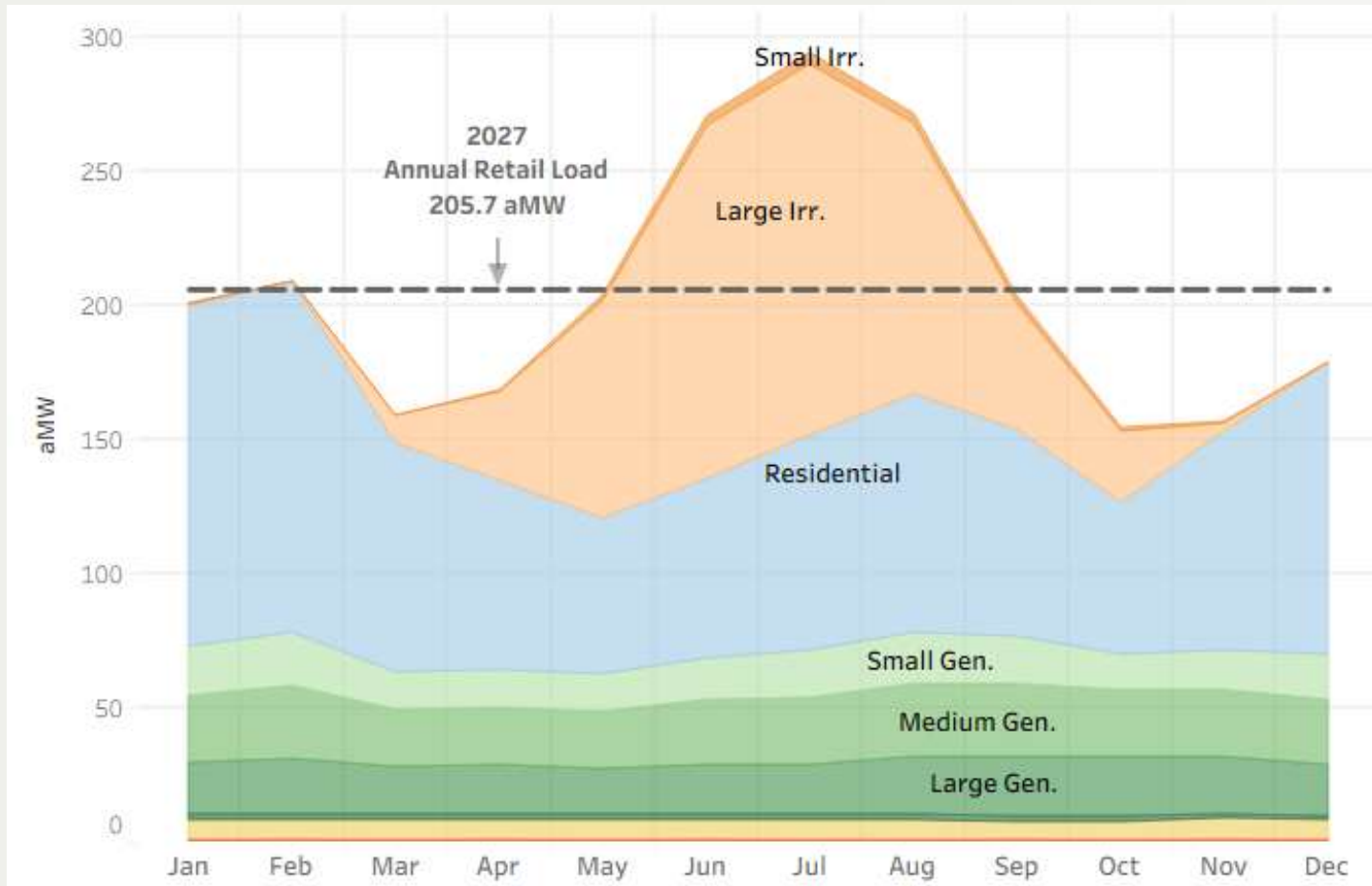
EIL*
Forecast
has decreased

Forecast Year	EIL Forecast aMW
<=2023	n/a
2024	5.0
2025	3.0
2026	2.0

*For EIL loads on Rate Schedule 23
 - Large General Service

Forecast of 2027 Retail Sales by Month

(Figure 1-5)



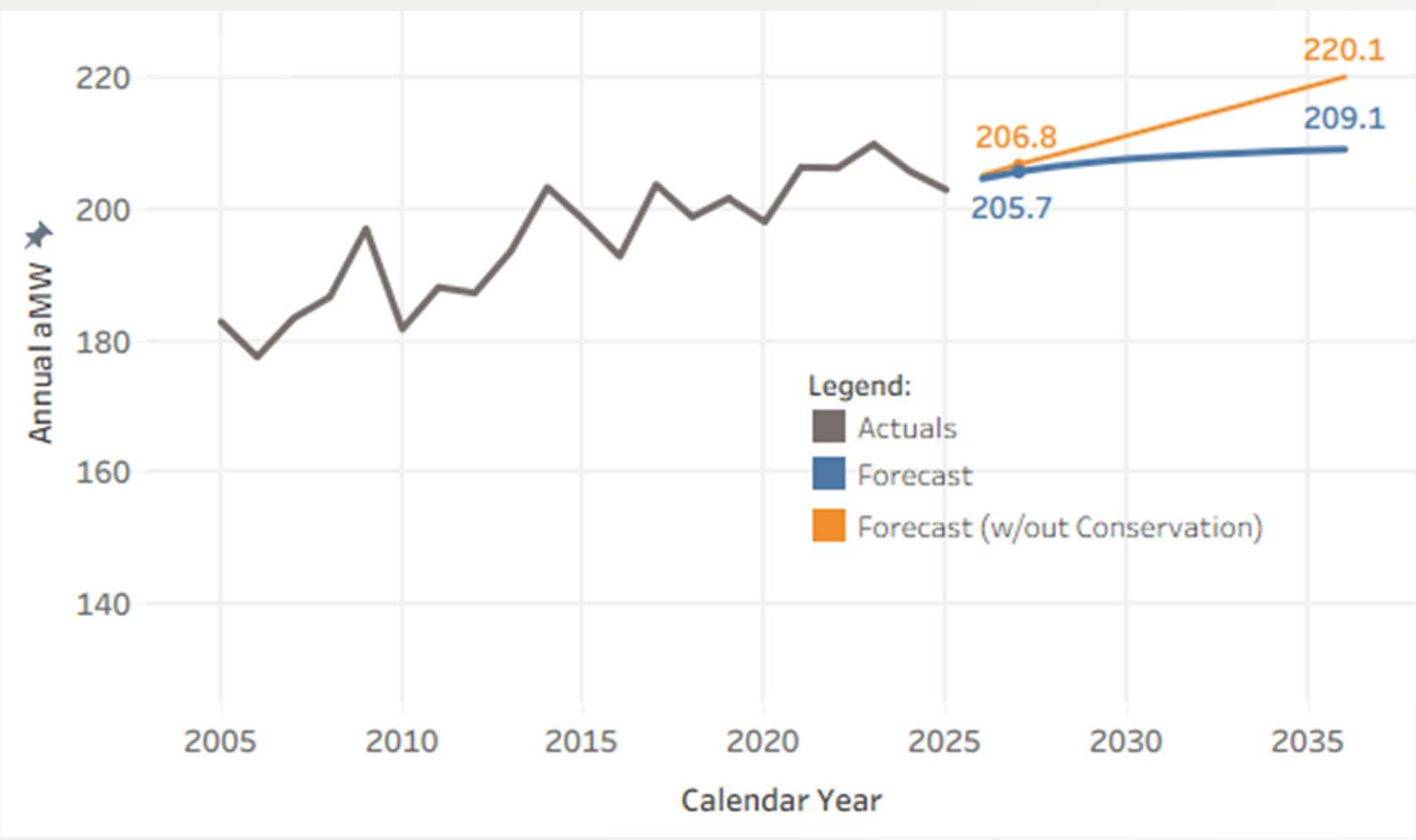
Monthly load derived from:

4 to 5-year average load

(Jan-2022 to Mar-2026)

Forecast includes Conservation

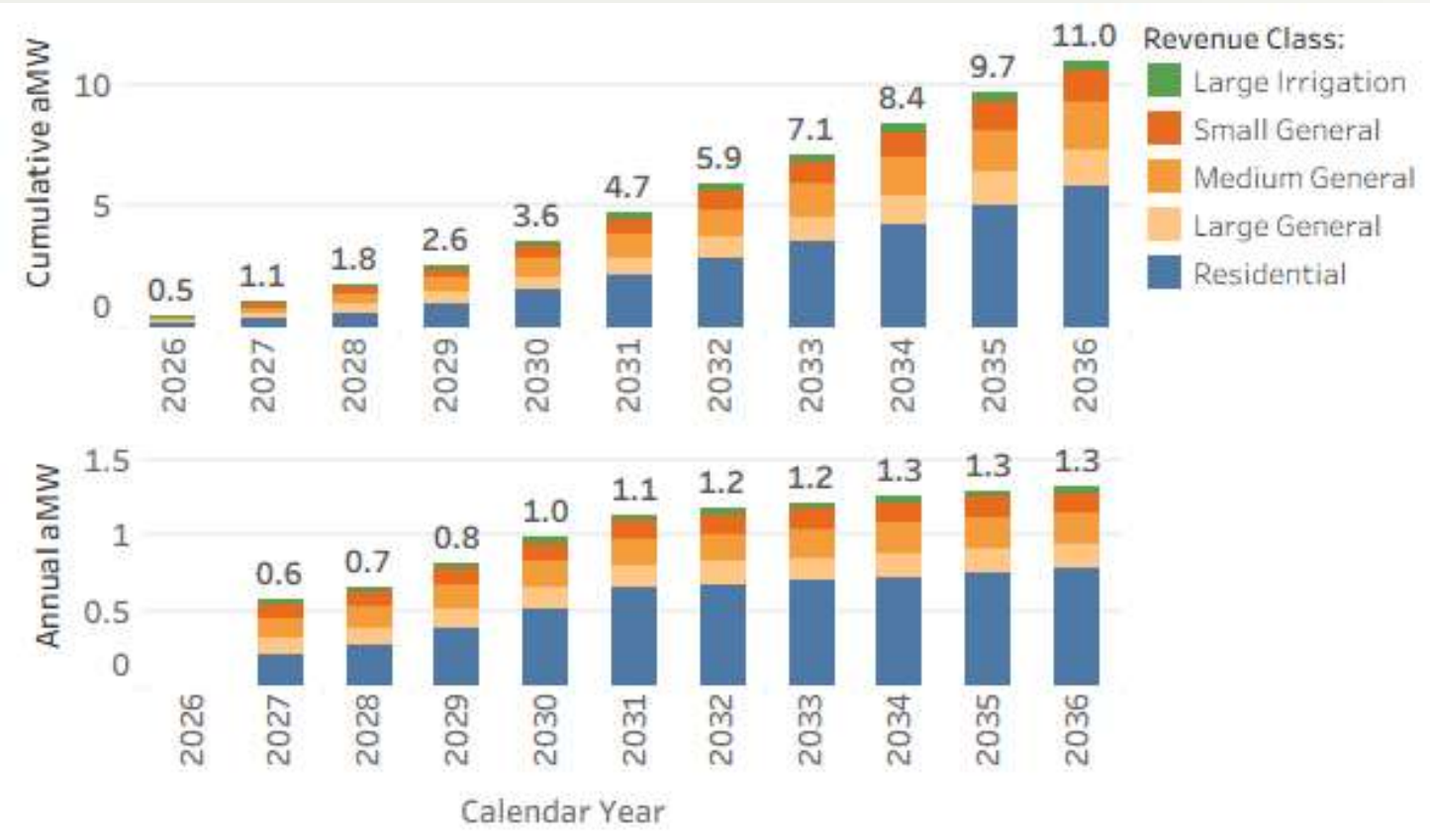
(Figure 1-3)



11.0 aMW
of Cumulative
Conservation
by 2036

Conservation Forecast by Revenue Class

(Figure 2-2)



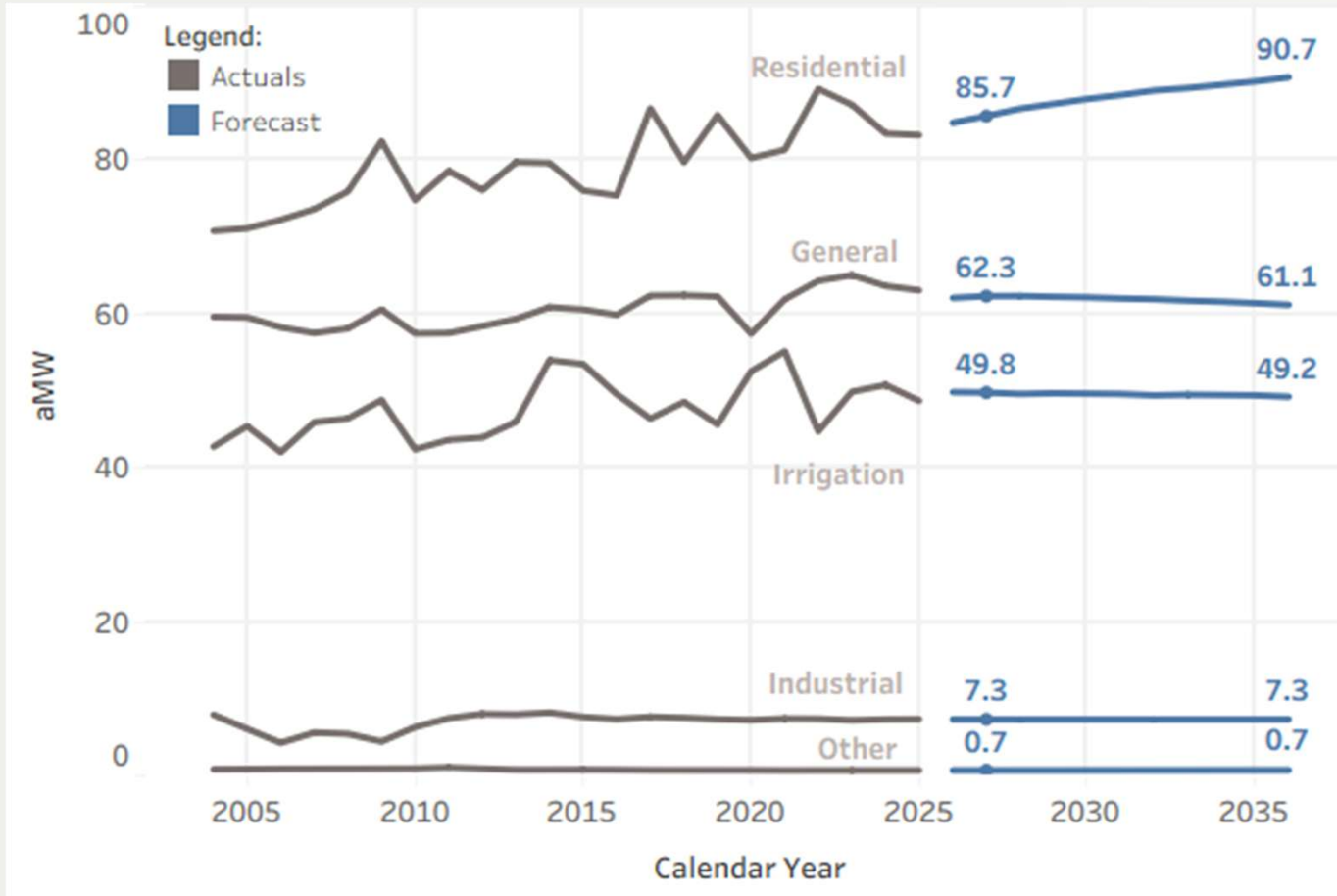
11.0 aMW
of Cumulative
Conservation
by 2036

Non-Res. **5.2 aMW**
+ Residential **5.8 aMW**
= Total **11.0 aMW**

0.6 – 1.3 aMW
of Annual
Conservation

Forecast of Annual Retail Load by Revenue Class

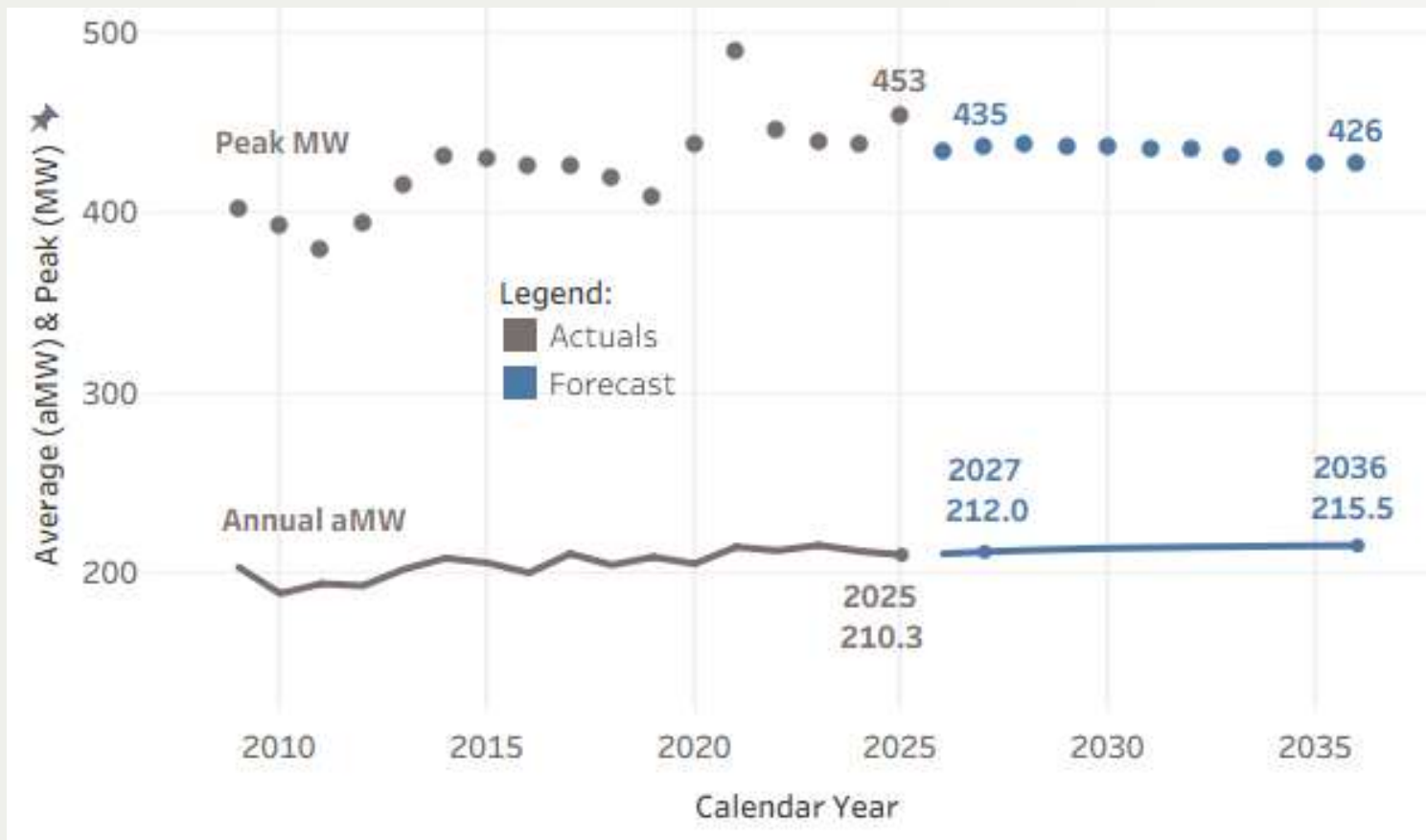
(Figure 1-4)



Residential is increasing, but usage per customer is still declining

Non-Residential is either flat or declining slightly, primarily due to conservation

Forecast of Annual Wholesale Load & Peak Demand (~Figure 1-6)



Peak Demand
Decreasing due to conservation, (during average weather)

Wholesale Load
= Retail Load
+ Losses of
~ 6 MW (3%)

Questions?

for Resolution No. 2726