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## As a Mom, Volunteer, and Local Leader, I Say NO to the South OC BESS Project

My name is Lidia Corey. I'm a mom of four â€" one of whom lives with a chronic illness. I'm also a small business owner, PTA president, active volunteer for Laguna Niguel Little League and LN Girls Softball, and an advocate for Monarch butterfly conservation. Like so many in our community, I care deeply about the safety of our children, the integrity of our neighborhoods, and the future of South Orange County.

That's why l'm speaking out against the proposed South OC Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project.

This facility, which would store massive amounts of lithium batteries dangerously close to homes, schools, and recreational areas, is not only poorly located â€" it is a direct threat to the people who live, learn, and play here. The risks of fire, chemical exposure, and long-term environmental damage are real and well-documented.

We are not a dumping ground for hazardous infrastructure. Our community deserves smart, safe energy solutions — not shortcuts that put our families at risk.

As a parent, volunteer, and someone deeply rooted in this community, I will not stay silent. I urge others to learn the facts, ask hard questions, and stand up for the health and safety of our neighborhoods. This project may be backed by big business, but we are backed by truth, values, and a commitment to protect what matters most.

We live here. We raise our kids here. And we have every right to say this is not okay.

—

Lidia Corey

Mom of 4 | PTA President | Local Volunteer | Small Business Owner | Monarch Butterfly Activist