

DOCKETED

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California Energy Commission
715 P Street
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Opposition to Siting of Large Battery Energy Storage Facility in Residential and Agricultural Zone. Docket 24-OPT-05 Corby Energy Storage System

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed development of a large battery energy storage system (BESS) facility in a location currently zoned for residential and agricultural use. While I support California's transition to renewable energy, the siting of this industrial-scale project in such a sensitive and incompatible area poses serious risks to public safety, environmental health, and local ecosystems.

The proposed site is surrounded by critical infrastructure and environmental features that make it wholly unsuitable for a BESS project:

- **Water canals flank two sides of the property**, serving as vital irrigation infrastructure for local agriculture and potentially acting as conduits for chemical runoff or contamination in the event of a battery failure, fire, or hazardous material release.
- An **underground gas pipeline runs through the southwest corner of the site**, creating a dangerous proximity between volatile energy infrastructure and flammable materials. The risk of thermal runaway or explosion in lithium-ion battery systems, while statistically rare, could be catastrophic in this context.
- Within approximately **1,000 yards of the proposed facility lies Horse Creek**, a year-round stormwater canal that flows directly into the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. This waterway serves not only as a drainage system but also as important wildlife habitat. Notably, **North American river otters (*Lontra canadensis*)**, a keystone species and indicator of ecosystem health, are known to thrive in this canal.
- **All three water canals** near the proposed site—including Horse Creek—**ultimately drain into the Delta**, a region of critical environmental importance that supplies water to millions of Californians, supports vital agricultural operations, and sustains diverse wildlife populations.

Introducing a high-risk industrial energy facility into this context puts both human populations and sensitive ecosystems in direct jeopardy. Lithium-ion battery fires release toxic gases and require specialized suppression efforts that rural or agricultural emergency services may not be equipped to handle. A single incident at this site could send contaminants into the surrounding water infrastructure and ultimately into the Delta, with far-reaching and long-lasting consequences.

Moreover, the project conflicts with the intended land use of this zone. Residential and agricultural areas are not designed to accommodate industrial-scale infrastructure—especially one involving hazardous materials and fire risk. Placing a BESS facility here would degrade quality of life for nearby residents, undermine agricultural viability, and violate the spirit of land-use zoning intended to separate industrial hazards from family homes and working farmland.

I respectfully urge the Commission to deny approval of this project at the proposed location and to prioritize public and environmental safety by ensuring that such facilities are only sited in properly zoned industrial areas with adequate infrastructure, emergency response capacity, and environmental buffers.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these serious concerns.

Sincerely,

Harilaos Bouzos / Susanna Bouzos
