

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	265593
Document Title:	Neil Serr Comments - Recommendation for Siting in an Industrial Zone
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Neil Serr
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/14/2025 9:39:16 AM
Docketed Date:	8/14/2025

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Submitted On: 8/14/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05

Recommendation for Siting in an Industrial Zone

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in its current location on prime agricultural land in Solano County, and to urge you to require that the facility be sited within a recognized industrial center.

Concerns with the Current Agricultural Location

Inappropriate land-use conflict: The selected 40-acre site near the PG&E Vaca-Dixon Substation is on prime farmland—soil with optimal physical and chemical properties for crop production—which should be preserved for food security and agricultural heritage.

Community objections: Local officials and citizens have expressed concern not about BESS technology itself but the inappropriate location, particularly because of its proximity to sensitive land uses.

Benefits of Industrial Center Siting

1. Zoning Compatibility & Regulatory Efficiency

Industrial zones are specifically designated for utility and infrastructure uses, often including BESS as permitted or conditional use—streamlining CEQA and local permitting processes.

2. Proximity to Infrastructure & Reduced Transmission Losses

Ideal sites are typically located within three miles of a strong substation, ensuring minimal losses and lower interconnection costs.

Additionally, large-scale projects like the Darden Clean Energy Facility are being sited on degraded farmland to avoid impacts on productive agricultural zones.

Recommendations for Commission Action

To align with state-wide land-use and clean energy goals, I respectfully recommend that the Commission:

Reject the current siting of the Corby BESS project on prime agricultural land.

Require resiting in an appropriate industrial zone, preferably near existing substations with sufficient capacity.

Mandate a comprehensive alternatives analysis in any Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that compares location options based on grid access, land use compatibility, environmental impact, and public safety.

Set clear siting standards: Limit BESS deployment to industrial or degraded lands (e.g., brownfields, former power plants) to avoid conflicts with agriculture and community values.

California is leading the clean energy transition”but this leadership must be matched by thoughtful planning and land stewardship. Siting the Corby project within an industrial setting, not on productive farmland, reflects our shared values of sustainability, safety, and community respect.

Thank you for your careful consideration and continued service.

Sincerely, Neil Serr