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*Comment Received From: Neil Serr*

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## **Risks to Nearby Medical Facilities**

Dear Commissioners,

I write to formally oppose the proposed Corby BESS project, located near Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road in Solano County, due to its proximity to vital medical institutions—including Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center and NorthBay Medical Center in Fairfield—and the potential risks the facility poses to these critical healthcare operations.

### **Proximity and Importance of Nearby Hospitals**

Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center serves as a Level II Trauma Center in the region and features a helipad and newborn care facilities, playing a central role in emergency and routine care for residents of Solano County.

NorthBay Medical Center, located in Vacaville and Fairfield, is a 106-bed acute-care hospital with a Level II trauma center, comprehensive emergency services, advanced cardiac, stroke, maternity, and critical care facilities.

These facilities are essential for delivering emergency medical response and ongoing healthcare services to the community—making any nearby hazards an urgent concern.

### **Potential Risks to Medical Facilities**

#### **Fire and Chemical Risks**

BESS facilities, especially those using lithium-ion technology, carry inherent risks such as thermal runaway, fire, and release of toxic fumes. In a scenario of malfunction or fire, those emissions could endanger patients, staff, and may necessitate evacuation of nearby hospitals.

#### **Air Quality Impacts**

Smoke or toxic particulates emanating from a BESS incident could impair air quality in medical environments—dangerous for vulnerable patients and critical operations, including neonatal and respiratory care.

#### **Emergency Access Disruption**

The location near Interstate 80 and critical infrastructure means that in a BESS incident, evacuation routes or ambulance access to these hospitals could be compromised—delaying life-saving medical care.

#### **Loss of Trust and Operational Stability**

Hospitals must maintain uninterrupted operations. Any local hazard that threatens the public health infrastructure undermines community confidence and disrupts essential services.

#### Community Concern and Local Moratorium

Solano County Supervisors have already imposed a moratorium on BESS permitting in unincorporated areas due to safety concerns and proximity to sensitive land uses such as hospitals.

#### Request for Commission Action

In light of these serious concerns, I urge the Commission to:

Deny the current Corby BESS proposal, unless a clear and demonstrable distance between the facility and these hospitals is guaranteed, along with robust mitigation measures.

Require a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that assesses risks to emergency response infrastructure and hospital operations, including worst-case scenarios (fires, emissions, access blockage).

Mandate adherence to local safety protocols, including not bypassing county moratoriums via the CEC opt-in process—especially when impacts to critical healthcare services are at stake.

Consider alternative siting locations, such as more isolated or industrially zoned areas (e.g., southeastern Solano or existing peaker plant zones), that would avoid placing high-risk infrastructure near essential medical facilities.

Our healthcare systems, particularly Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center and NorthBay Medical Center, are pillars of community safety and health. The Corby BESS project, as currently proposed, conflicts with this trust and the imperative to maintain uninterrupted, safe medical operations for all.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this matter and for your commitment to safeguarding public health.

Sincerely, Neil Serr