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California Energy Commission
715 P Street
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Opposition to Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) in Vacaville, CA – Environmental and Zoning Concerns. Docket 24-OPT-05 Corby Energy Storage System

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission,

I am writing as a concerned resident to express my strong opposition to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in Vacaville, California. While I fully support California's commitment to renewable energy and energy storage, this project presents serious and unacceptable risks due to its location, environmental conditions, and proximity to residential and agricultural areas.

Our family farm is located within 500 yards of the proposed project site, and we have lived and worked there for over 40 years. We currently operate a 160-acre almond orchard with 17,000 almond trees. This project poses a direct threat to our livelihood in terms of safety, potential contamination of our groundwater, reduced property values, and the risk of fallout from a fire or chemical incident at the facility affecting our crops and land. The long-term consequences of such an event could be devastating to our farm, our health, and the surrounding agricultural community.

The proposed site lies in an area with a high-water table, just 8 to 10 feet below the surface. The project includes stormwater collection ponds designed to allow water to seep directly into the ground. According to the **Corby BESS Document Volume 2, Appendix 4-1 (Aesthetics Appendices), Section 3.3.1.5 Ancillary Facilities, Site Drainage and Retention**, the project design includes two retention basins "to capture the increase in runoff." These basins will be located *east of the project substation and southeast of the BESS array* and will collect stormwater via *overland flow and a perimeter ditch*. The document also notes that "except for equipment enclosures and potentially asphalt-paved site maintenance roads, most of the project site will be surfaced with crushed rock, allowing infiltration." This confirms that the site has been designed to allow water—and any potential contaminants—to percolate directly into the ground, posing a serious risk to the groundwater system in the event of a leak, spill, or system failure.

Vacaville is situated above the Solano Subbasin, a major component of the larger Sacramento Valley groundwater basin. This subbasin includes both shallow alluvial aquifers and the deeper Tehama Formation aquifer, which are critical to the region's water supply. The City of Vacaville relies on these aquifers through a network of local production wells to meet a substantial portion of its municipal drinking water needs. The vulnerability of this aquifer system makes the placement of industrial energy storage infrastructure with known chemical risks deeply inappropriate and potentially dangerous.

In addition to the environmental threat, this project is proposed for prime agricultural land, which should be preserved for farming and food production. Furthermore, the site is in close proximity to residential neighborhoods, putting local families at risk of exposure to noise pollution, chemical hazards, and reduced air and water quality. These types of industrial-scale energy projects belong in appropriately zoned industrial areas, where they can be properly monitored and mitigated without endangering vital resources or surrounding communities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to deny approval for this BESS project in its current proposed location. At the very least, a comprehensive Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should be required to fully evaluate the potential risks to public health, water resources, agriculture, and residents. Long-term planning for energy infrastructure must prioritize not only sustainability, but also responsible land use, community safety, and environmental protection.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Eleni Bouzos