

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	25-OPT-02
Project Title:	Prairie Song Reliability Project
TN #:	266030
Document Title:	Sacrifice is a burden for all
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Don Laird
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/16/2025 2:50:35 PM
Docketed Date:	9/16/2025

*Comment Received From: Don Laird
Submitted On: 9/16/2025
Docket Number: 25-OPT-02*

Sacrifice is a burden for all

Through the ignorance of youth, my wife and I sold our 2-year-old tract home in Santa Clarita in 1987 for 2 1/2 acres of barren land in Acton. Our dream was to build a home with our horses and dogs. Through the last 3 decades that dream was realized despite the up and downs of life and our careers. We are now retired public servants ready to enjoy the benefits of a life well earned.

As we settle in for our final phase of life, LA County is allowing Prairie Song Lithium-Battery facility to be built in our town. It has become well known the potential dangers these battery storage facilities bear upon a community. Adding to this disastrous scenario the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors could not have placed it in a worse place if they hired a team of experts to pick the spot. The State of California has designated the lands surrounding Acton as a "High Fire Zone". Southern California Edison has turned off our power, numerous times, as a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) with a warning we may receive even more PSPS in the near future. I have neighbors who have lost their homeowners fire insurance due to the wildfire threats. Over the crest, which will be the home for Prairie Song Battery Storage facility, will blow Santa Ana winds with speeds hitting 45 to 60 mph and gust even stronger. Even without the Santa Ana winds, wind speeds generally run between 10 and 20 mph on a daily basis. If you have any doubts, ask anyone in Acton who has to dust their homes on a daily basis.

A majority of the community receives its supply of water from private wells. If an accident happens and there is a fire and then a run-off of chemicals, there could be a degradation of the ground water which would affect thousands without an alternative outside trucking water in on a weekly basis. Since the Battery Storage facility is located at the top of Acton any fires would immediately cause the closures of the 14 Freeway between the Antelope Valley and Los Angeles, the Angeles Crest Highway and Sierra Highway. This closure which could last days or weeks (a truck of these batteries was left to burn itself out on Highway 15 and it took 72 hours). If County officials had to close the 14, Angeles Crest and Sierra Highway, this would effectively close off the Antelope Valley to Santa Clarita and the San Fernando Valley. With 75% of the workers in the Antelope Valley commuting to and beyond the Santa Clarita Valley, this closure would cause a mass shutdown of businesses due to missing workers. Truck traffic would be diverted to Highway 58 to Bakersfield and down the 5 to Los Angeles. The cost will be in the millions.

But on a personal note, our dream, one that we have been working on for 38 years could be erased from this earth in an instant due to a runaway fire cause by an accident at the Prairie Song facility. And what do we get out of taking upon ourselves the risks of hosting the Prairie Song Battery Facility? We receive nothing while Los Angeles

receives the electricity it requires, Data Centers receive their energy, Southern California Edison receives a fee as does the County of Los Angeles and the residents of Acton are left standing amongst the ashes as everyone offers their thoughts and prayers. Well, thoughts and prayers have yet to feed a family, provide a warm place on a cold night or leave a legacy to our children when we pass on.

Sacrifice is a burden shared by all, not just the few. In 1941, our country asked for our young men and women to sacrifice their dreams to defeat an outside threat, it asked the American consumer to sacrifice their wants for the war effort, and it asked our business to sacrifice their product for war materials. America asked everyone to share the burden, not just a town of 7500 people so a city of 10 million will be able to watch TV at night.

Please, take people over profit.

Thank you
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