

**DOCKETED**

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## **Water usage**

A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project that's drawing water from a well, while my neighbors and I also depend on the same aquifer for your wells is a concern. That's a valid issue, because groundwater is a shared resource, and heavy use by one facility can affect everyone nearby.

### **1. Typical Water Use of BESS Projects**

Construction may use significant water (dust suppression, concrete mixing, cleaning equipment).

Fire suppression systems can also be designed with water-based systems (sprinklers, hydrants) or non-water systems (foam, gas, etc.). If water-based, a large reserve might be stored onsite.

Some facilities keep water tanks filled for safety/emergency response and those tanks might be periodically topped off from the well.

### **2. Groundwater Concerns**

If the project is drawing water from the same aquifer, there's potential for drawdown (lowering of the water table), which can affect residential wells.

Impacts depend on how much water is used, how fast, and how the aquifer recharges in our area.

### **3. Information requested**

Request water usage estimates: BESS developers usually file environmental documents or permits. You can ask the project developer for the Water Use Assessment.

Check permits: In most jurisdictions, wells used for industrial/commercial purposes require a permit and sometimes a pumping limit. Do they have a limit? Why did they drill a well without a permit?

Ask about alternatives: They could truck in water for construction or fire suppression instead of drawing from the aquifer.

These are all questions that need to be answered. Thank you.