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Comment Received From: Neil Serr

Submitted On: 9/25/2025 Docket Number: 24-OPT-05

## Not at this location

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Neil Serr

5213 Walnut Rd

Vacaville, CA 95687

Date: 9/25/2025

. 3/23/2023

Subject: Opposition to Proposed BESS Facility on Prime Agricultural Land

Dear Members,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility on prime agricultural land within Solano County. While I support the transition to renewable energy, siting such a facility on our most fertile farmland poses significant risks to our community, environment, and local economy.

Key reasons for opposition include:

Loss of Prime Agricultural Land

Solano County contains some of California's most productive farmland. Converting this land to industrial use is permanent and irreversibly reduces our capacity for local food production, threatening food security and undermining long-term agricultural sustainability.

**Environmental and Water Concerns** 

BESS facilities require substantial water for fire suppression and cooling. Additionally, lithium-ion batteries contain hazardous materials that could contaminate soil and groundwater in the event of a fire or leak. Installing a facility on prime farmland endangers the long-term health of our soil and water resources.

Safety Risks

Battery fires are intense, difficult to extinguish, and release toxic smoke and chemicals. The proximity of such a facility to active farmland and residential areas increases the risk to farmworkers, residents, and livestock.

## **Economic and Community Impacts**

The loss of productive farmland threatens local agricultural revenue, reduces property values, and may discourage future investment in farming. The visual and operational impacts of a large industrial facility also disrupt the rural character of Solano County.

## **Policy and Precedent Concerns**

Solano County has ordinances designed to protect agricultural land. Approving this project sets a concerning precedent for future developments, weakening protections for our county's valuable farmland.

Alternative solutions exist: BESS facilities can be sited on industrial zones, brownfields, or other non-agricultural lands, achieving renewable energy goals without sacrificing prime farmland.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to deny approval for this BESS facility on prime agricultural land and prioritize the protection of our county's agricultural heritage and environmental health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Neil Serr**