

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Soda Mountain Solar
TN #:	266365
Document Title:	Letter of Support - CESA
Description:	This document is a letter of support for the Soda Mt. Solar project by the California Energy Storage Alliance.
Filer:	Hannah Arkin
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September 26, 2025

California Energy Commission 715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Informational and Environmental Scoping Meeting for Proposed Energy Storage Project (Docket Number 24-OPT-03)

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA), I write to express our strong support for the proposed Soda Mountain Solar Storage Project, which will include 300-megawatts (MW) of energy storage. This project will provide safe, reliable, and clean power to approximately 300,000 homes when the energy is most needed.

CESA is a 501(c)(6) membership-based advocacy group committed to advancing the role of energy storage in the electric power sector. We strive to advance a more affordable, efficient, reliable, safe, and sustainable electric power system for all Californians. Soda Mountain LLC. is a CESA member.

The Soda Mountain Battery Storage Project is ideally situated.

The project site is located adjacent to existing transmission corridors and major load centers, enabling interconnection without requiring costly or time-consuming upgrades. Its strategic location ensures that the project can be brought online quickly and cost-effectively, delivering immediate benefits for grid reliability.

Safety and best practices are central to the project.

California has already deployed nearly 16,000 MW of energy storage across 214 utility-scale facilities and more than 250,000 customer-sited systems. The Soda Mountain project includes state-of-the-art safety design, including robust fire protection, perimeter safety features, vegetation management, infrared cameras, air monitors, and an advanced battery management system. Soda Mountain has also closely collaborated with local fire authorities to develop an emergency response plan.

The Soda Mountain project will use the latest energy storage chemistries and safety technologies. While a few, isolated incidents at older facilities have raised concerns, no injuries or external damages have resulted, and testing has shown no contaminants of concern in those instances. Modern battery technologies—particularly lithium-iron-

phosphate (LFP) that will be employed by the Soda Mountain project —are less prone to thermal runaway, and modular system design limits the severity of any single incident.

Battery storage is essential for maintaining a reliable grid.

Energy storage has already proven indispensable during record-breaking heat waves, helping California avoid blackouts and grid emergencies. As the state retires thousands of megawatts of nuclear and ocean-cooled natural gas plants and experiences surging electricity demand from electric vehicles and data centers, additional large-scale storage projects will be vital. Soda Mountain is well-timed and well-positioned to fill this critical need.

Battery storage is vital to meeting California's climate and environmental goals.

The Governor's Office estimates that California will need more than 50,000 MW of energy storage by 2045 to achieve its greenhouse gas reduction targets. Only about 16,000 MW are currently operational. Projects like Soda Mountain are necessary to capture renewable energy when it is abundant and store it for delivery during peak demand hours—reducing reliance on polluting fossil plants, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and improving air quality across the state.

For these reasons, CESA respectfully urges your support for the 300-MW Soda Mountain Solar Project. It is the right project, in the right location, at the right time. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@storagealliance.org or (916) 231-2150.

Sincerely,

Scott Murtishaw

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sm' or 'Scott Murtishaw' in a stylized cursive script.

Executive Director,
CESA