

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	25-OPT-02
Project Title:	Prairie Song Reliability Project
TN #:	266406
Document Title:	Jean Laird Comments - Save Acton from BESS
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Jean Laird
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	10/8/2025 10:14:27 PM
Docketed Date:	10/9/2025

*Comment Received From: Jean Laird
Submitted On: 10/8/2025
Docket Number: 25-OPT-02*

Save Acton from BESS

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed construction of a lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility in Acton, California. This project poses unacceptable risks to our community's safety, environment, and way of life.

Extreme Wildfire Risk

Acton is located in a region designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Lithium-ion batteries are known to pose fire risks due to thermal runaway events, which can result in uncontrollable fires and explosions. In a wildfire-prone area like ours, this risk is magnified. A fire at the facility could release toxic chemicals into the air and groundwater, endangering residents and first responders.

Environmental Contamination

Lithium-ion batteries contain hazardous materials such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel. In the event of a leak or fire, these substances can contaminate soil and water sources. Acton relies on groundwater and local ecosystems that would be vulnerable to such contamination. The long-term ecological damage could be irreversible.

Public Health Concerns

Exposure to chemicals released during battery fires or leaks can cause respiratory issues, skin irritation, and long-term health effects. The proximity of the proposed facility to residential areas raises serious concerns about the health and safety of Acton's population, especially children and the elderly.

Threat to Rural Character and Property Values

Acton is a rural community that values open space, quiet living, and natural beauty. The industrial nature of a BESS facility is incompatible with this lifestyle. Residents have expressed concern that the facility would be unsightly, noisy, and disruptive, leading to a decline in property values and quality of life.

Lack of Transparent Public Process

The approval process for the facility has lacked transparency. A recent lawsuit filed by Save Our Rural Town alleges that the L.A. County Board of Supervisors approved the project without a required public hearing, undermining community trust and participation.

Seismic Vulnerability

Acton lies near the San Andreas Fault. In the event of an earthquake, the structural integrity of the facility could be compromised, increasing the risk of fire, explosion, and

chemical release.

Conclusion

While energy storage is vital for California's renewable energy goals, the location of such facilities must be carefully considered. Acton's wildfire risk, environmental sensitivity, and rural character make it an unsuitable site for a lithium-ion battery facility. Alternative locations with lower risk profiles should be explored.

On a personal note, my husband and I moved to Acton in 1987 after selling our tract home in Santa Clarita. We came here to pursue a dream of establishing a home of our own. In our twenties, we built our house, dug our well, raised horses, and created a life we thought could only exist in dreams. Now I am 65, my husband is 67, and we are both retired—the road ahead of us is shorter than the road behind. When this project goes wrong, and it will, we will not have the time, energy, or the will to rebuild. We saw this heartbreak with older residents after the Eaton fire. Once your dream is stolen, you are left a vacant shell just looking to survive.

I urge you to reconsider this project and protect the safety, dignity, and future of Acton's residents.

Sincerely,
Jean Laird
Acton Resident