

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	266511
Document Title:	Solano County Farm Bureau Comments - Solano County Farm Bureau Opposes the Use of Prime Farmland for BESS Projects
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Solano County Farm Bureau
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	10/13/2025 1:22:28 PM
Docketed Date:	10/13/2025

*Comment Received From: Solano County Farm Bureau
Submitted On: 10/13/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

**Solano County Farm Bureau Opposes the Use of Prime Farmland
for BESS Projects**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Solano County Farm Bureau

130 Allison Court 2-A Vacaville, CA 95688
707-449-8044

October 2025

Dear California Energy Commission,

2025 SCFB
Board of
Directors

Fairfield-Suisun
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Cliff Howard
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Alexis Harvey
Treasurer

The Solano County Farm Bureau respectfully asks you to not permit locations of utility-scale battery energy storage systems (BESS) on Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance for a number of reasons, to wit:

-- Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance is not replaceable. Once it is converted to urban uses such as a BESS project, it is gone forever.

-- It is well documented that BESS projects have unique fire risks and have the capability to emit toxic fumes – take for example the recent fire at the Moss Landing

BESS site and the resulting pollution from smoke and heavy metal fallout.

-- That's why it's imperative that these systems are placed in appropriate locations that won't cause contamination to farm workers, agricultural land, or the environment in the case of a fire. This being so well known, recognize that if this were to happen to farm business properties, it is likely that costly lawsuits concerning negligence, trespass, etc. would ensue.

-- Like other energy production and transfer installations, BESS projects greatly affect the land uses in the area in which they are sited. Take a look at any similar installation and you will find a pattern of expansion once the first project is installed. It is a cascade effect that can seriously devalue, inhibit and the negative impacts on lawful agricultural uses of land in the neighborhoods where such projects are established.

We insist, therefore, that the siting of BESS projects utilize local jurisdiction to ensure proper placement without the use of Prime Farmlands or Farmland of Statewide Importance; there is an absolute necessity of local jurisdiction control of the permitting process and approval of these projects. We note that there are already multiple BESS developers interested in building BESS projects who have already bought up multiple large parcels of agricultural land in Solano County. This matter is urgent!

Sincerely,

Cliff Howard

President, Solano County Farm Bureau