

DOCKETED

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Opposition to Installation of Battery Installations in a Neighboring Community

This cannot happen to our community! We pay very high property taxes to live in our lovely family friendly neighborhood. We need to keep it safe from this threat!!
Safety & Fire Risk

Large lithium-ion battery installations can undergo “thermal runaway,” where cell failure cascades and leads to overheating, fire, explosion or toxic gas release.

The local planning staff have noted that such fires are “a different type of fire” and local fire-departments may not yet be fully equipped or trained for the hazards.

Given the scale of the Corby project, if something goes wrong the impacts could extend to surrounding residential areas.

Location & Land Use

The site is on “prime agricultural land” (important for food/farming uses) according to Solano County documents.

If the facility is close to homes, schools, or sensitive uses (which appears to be a concern of local groups) you can argue the location is inappropriate for a high-hazard infrastructure.

The local ordinance in Vacaville currently prohibits such large scale BESS in City limits which shows local regulation is still catching up.

Emergency Response & Community Impact

In the event of a fire or major malfunction, there may be evacuation, shelter-in-place orders, or air quality impacts (from toxic gases). Local documents reference concerns over groundwater contamination from fire suppression.

The facility will likely involve large trucks, noise (cooling systems, fans), fencing, lighting “all of which can affect residential amenity.

Regulatory Bypass / Lack of Local Control

The project is potentially seeking CEC “opt-in” certification which allows it to bypass some local planning/permitting controls.

Because the technology is relatively new at this scale, local regulations might not yet reflect the full range of risks; hence cautious local governments have been imposing moratoria.

Long-Term & Environmental Impacts

What happens when the batteries reach end-of-life? Are there clear plans for decommissioning, recycling, disposal of hazardous materials?

If a fire happens, fire-suppression may require large volumes of water or chemical agents which could impact soil/groundwater.

The change from agricultural use to industrial use may affect local ecosystems, drainage, farmland value.

Property Value / Amenity / Community Perception

Even if the facility operates without incident, nearby residents may perceive a risk, which can reduce amenity and indirectly impact property values.

The visual/industrial nature of the facility (containers, fencing, lighting) may be at odds with local character.

To make a stronger objection, youâ€™ll want to request and scrutinize key documents. For the Corby project you might ask/seek:

The exact site plan: distance from nearest residences, schools, etc.

Fire risk assessment & emergency response plan (including consultation with local fire department).

Noise study (operational noise, cooling fans/inverters, HGV traffic).

Spill/run-off/groundwater contamination risk from fire suppression.

Decommissioning plan for the facility and batteries.

Alternatives considered (why this site? why not further from homes?).

Why the project is using the CEC opt-in rather than full local permitting, and what safeguards for local residents exist.

A buffer zone map showing how many homes/live-units sit within e.g. 0.5 mile/1 mile of the site.

Whether local farmland is being permanently lost, and whether this contradicts local agricultural preservation policies.