

**DOCKETED**

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<b>Project Title:</b>	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
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<b>Document Title:</b>	Erim Blackstock Comments - Lithium ion plant in our community
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*Comment Received From: Erim Blackstock*

*Submitted On: 10/26/2025*

*Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

## **Lithium ion plant in our community**

Dear Members of the Vacaville Planning Division,

I am writing as a concerned neighbor of the proposed lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant slated to be built directly behind our residential community in Vacaville. While I understand the importance of advancing clean energy and battery technologies, placing such a facility so close to homes raises serious public health and safety concerns that I respectfully ask you to reconsiderâ€”and to instead require locating the plant in a more appropriate, non-residential zone.

Large-scale lithium-ion battery plants carry distinct risks. When lithium-ion cells are damaged, stressed or overheated, they may undergo thermal runawayâ€”a chain reaction of heating, fire and gas releaseâ€”posing explosion and fire hazards. ¶ Fires in these systems are extremely hard to extinguish, can emit toxic gases and are a risk to first-responders and the public. ¶ In the event of an uncontrolled incident, adjacent homes could face evacuation, toxic smoke exposure, and long-term contamination of soil or air.

Moreover, battery manufacturing involves materialsâ€”such as cobalt, nickel and lithium compoundsâ€”that have been associated with respiratory issues, neurological effects and environmental contamination in exposed communities. ¶ The cumulative impact on a neighborhood of families, children, elders and people with respiratory vulnerabilities (such as asthma) is unacceptable.

For the safety and wellbeing of our community, I urge the City of Vacaville to require that this facility be sited away from residential neighborhoods, in an appropriately zoned industrial or buffer-zone location that minimizes risk to the public, and after full environmental and safety impact review. Locating the plant away from homes will better protect our families, property values, and emergency-response readiness.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request. I trust that you share a commitment to safe, responsible development that protects our communityâ€™s health, welfare and quality of life.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

Erin Blackstock  
800 Cosmos Dr  
Vacaville, CA 95687

October 26, 2025

Dear City Officials,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Vacaville regarding the proposed lithium-ion battery manufacturing plant planned to be built directly behind my neighborhood. While I fully support the advancement of renewable energy and sustainable technologies, placing a facility of this nature so close to residential homes presents significant public health and safety risks that cannot be ignored.

Lithium-ion plants pose serious hazards when battery cells are damaged or overheated, leading to potential thermal runaway, explosions, and fires that release toxic gases difficult to control or extinguish. These incidents endanger nearby families, first responders, and the broader community. In addition, the production process involves materials such as lithium, cobalt, and nickel—substances known to cause respiratory and neurological issues with prolonged exposure. These risks are amplified in a residential area where children, elderly individuals, and those with respiratory conditions could be severely affected.

For these reasons, I strongly urge city leadership to reconsider the proposed location and instead require that such a facility be built in a properly zoned industrial area, safely distanced from neighborhoods and schools. Relocating the plant would demonstrate the City of Vacaville's commitment to protecting the health, safety, and well-being of its residents while still supporting responsible economic development.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

**Erin Blackstock**