

DOCKETED

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Do not build the Battery Storage Facility

My name is Seann Mullen, and I am a resident of Vacaville. I am speaking today to express my strong opposition to the proposed lithium-ion battery storage facility being planned for our community.

While I understand the need for cleaner energy solutions and grid stability, this particular project poses unacceptable risks to public safety, environmental health, and nearby property values.

1. Fire and Explosion Risk

Lithium-ion battery facilities have been linked to multiple catastrophic fires and toxic chemical releases across the country — incidents that have required large-scale evacuations and long-term cleanup. These batteries can enter “thermal runaway,” creating fires that burn for days and release dangerous fumes, including hydrogen fluoride. Placing such a high-risk industrial site near homes, schools, and businesses in Vacaville is irresponsible and endangers both residents and first responders.

2. Environmental and Air Quality Concerns

If a fire or chemical release occurred, the resulting contamination could affect air quality, soil, and local water supplies. Vacaville is proud of its clean environment and open space — a hazardous energy storage facility is incompatible with our community’s long-term sustainability and health.

3. Impact on Property Values and Community Character

Industrial battery plants reduce surrounding property values due to perceived and actual risks. Homeowners and small businesses who have invested in this community should not bear financial loss or safety burdens for a project that offers them no direct benefit.

4. Lack of Local Benefit and Oversight

This facility would primarily benefit energy corporations and the regional power grid, not Vacaville residents. The city assumes all the safety and environmental risk with little to no return in jobs or local energy savings. Before allowing such a development, the city should demand transparent safety studies, detailed emergency response plans, and clear accountability in case of accidents.

5. Better Alternatives Exist

There are safer, lower-risk technologies — such as flow batteries, distributed rooftop solar, or smaller-scale community storage — that could achieve the same energy goals without putting neighborhoods at risk. Vacaville should advocate for innovation that aligns with public safety and environmental stewardship, not projects that expose us to

industrial hazards.

In summary, I urge the city of Vacaville to deny approval for this lithium-ion battery storage facility until full environmental impact assessments are completed, community concerns are addressed, and safer alternatives are explored. Our health, safety, and quality of life must come before corporate energy interests.

Thank you.
Seann Mullen