

DOCKETED

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Corby Project

Please accepted the attached file in lieu of the Public Comment I was unable to remotely submit during the November 6 CEC Hearing. The log-in information provided by energy.ca.gov resulted in my being locked out of proceedings.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Because I was locked out of remotely commenting during the recent CEC hearing in Vacaville, I am submitting my expanded commentary via this portal.

I am a long-term resident of Vacaville and opposed to the Corby Project.

First and foremost, the physical safety and long-term health of the population must be prioritized.

The Moss Landing fire is a cautionary tale.

The fourth fire in just five years, it resulted in widespread contamination of surrounding marshlands, according to scientists from San Jose State University.

As safety systems failed, plumes of toxic black smoke reached altitudes of 1,000 feet and were widely dispersed by prevailing winds.

According to firefighters, smoke particles from lithium ion battery fires do not fully combust; rather, they rain down as nanoparticles to contaminate water, soil, and living tissue with toxins such as nickel, manganese, and cobalt—essential components of these batteries.

Elkhorn Slough, California's second largest estuary, is now polluted with "shocking" levels of these contaminants.

Monterey County officials state they were "misled" by safety assurances made by Vistra Energy, the Texas-based company which built the Moss Landing plant in 2020.

Should safety assurances posited by Next Era, a company seeking to circumvent Solano County and Vacaville's legally elected representatives, be accorded any more weight?

Eleven percent of Moss Landing's residents faced mandatory evacuation while this fire raged.

Eleven percent of Vacaville's current population equals approximately 12,000 people. Where, and how, would they go should disaster strike?

Vacaville is not situated on a slough or wetland; however; our canal system feeds acres and acres of essential farmland—farmland which feeds people and must not be diverted to feed corporate profit, convenience, or the insatiable demands of artificial intelligence.

At the hearing, CEC member Kaycee Chang stated that the [Corby] project must create a “net positive economic benefit to the local government that would have permitting authority.”

After the proposed construction, however, very few permanent positions would be required to operate Corby. Power would be exported, at profit, again denying the local government “net positive economic benefit.”

If this project were to be sanctioned by the CEC, Vacaville would assume the lion’s share of risk but very little of any reward.

This factor alone precludes CEC approval.

Indeed, Next Era seeks to profit from—to colonize—Vacaville’s abundant open space and existing infrastructure with only perfunctory regard to due process, environmental fallout, the loss of precious resources, or the economic and cultural significance of this 40 acre parcel—and others like it.

Stephen Anh, Project Director for Next Era, states that his company “has signed power purchase agreements to provide the power from this site by 2027.”

Unless CEC approval is a foregone conclusion, this claim is both precocious and unfounded.

Vacaville’s surface and groundwater, its protected agricultural land and heritage, and above all the health and safety of its people must be prioritized, especially when alternative technologies exist.

The precautionary principle must herein be applied.

I respectfully urge The CEC to unconditionally deny the Corby Project.