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Lithium ion BESS should not be in anywhere near residential

Thank you CEC for coming to Vacaville to hear the residents. I actually live in Vacaville unlike some of the project supporters whoâ€™ve signed generic support letter templates when they donâ€™t even live in Vacaville. I joined online through zoom and was unable to comment or ask any questions.

It was nice to hear that when the CEC is evaluating these projects, they are looking through their own lens on whether you would want this in your backyard or city.

Iâ€™ve learned a lot from the residents of Moss Landing who have had to unfortunately endure the lingering effects of a fire that emitted toxic air into the surrounding areas.

According to the CDC, lithium ion battery fires are a serious hazard due to intense heat and the release of toxic gases like hydrogen fluoride. It can release a variety of other toxic gases including methane; hydrogen cyanide, heavy metals among other things. Symptoms can include skin burns, lung damage. Specifically for exposure to hydrogen fluoride, symptoms include eye nose and throat irritation; coughing, chest tightness, severe burns from hydrogen fluoride. When HF is mixed with water (such as fog or rain) it turns into hydrofluoric acid. Vacaville has temperatures in the summer exceeding triple digits and is susceptible to wildfires. Why would anyone want to put extremely dangerous unstable batteries (and a lot of them) in fire country?

Lithium ion batteries are extremely unstable and carry far too much risk to the community. Kaycee Chung emphasized that these project needs to have a net positive effect. I struggle to find what the net positive effect is when the power is being stored and delivered outside of the county and only offers temporary construction jobs and a few operator jobs within the city. The residents of Vacaville are carrying all of the risk with no positive impact. When a fire eventually happens, the toxic fumes will carry into the air in our backyard and the unstable batteries will continue to reignite for multiple days and the toxic runoff cannot be 100% guaranteed contained. The toxic chemicals will seep into our ground water. Would you still want this in your backyard?

Laura Yi