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*Comment Received From: Jake Goetze
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Letter Opposing Corby BESS Project site - Wildlife Affects

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Jake Goetze. I was born and raised in Solano county and grew up on byrnes road near the battery plant projected location. I am writing not only out of concern for public safety, but out of deep concern for the wildlife that depends on this land. The land chosen for the Corby BESS Project is not empty, unused, or expendable. It is a living habitat, a place where threatened species hunt, rest, nest, raise their young, and continue the instinctive cycles that have occurred long before any of us lived here. Once it is replaced with fencing, metal containers, noise, and artificial light, it is gone forever, and the animals that depend on it will be forced to struggle, relocate, or simply disappear.

The proposed site serves as critical foraging and potential nesting habitat for the State-Threatened Swainson's Hawk and the Western Burrowing Owl, a Species of Special Concern already in serious decline. These are not casual visitors, they rely on this exact landscape and its rich agricultural fields to survive. Removing that habitat means forcing them to fly farther, burn more energy, and fight against the odds simply to eat and raise their young. For a species already threatened, even small reductions in habitat can be the difference between recovery and collapse.

Construction noise, heavy machinery, ground disturbance, nighttime lighting, and permanent industrial structures will not just change the land, they will push wildlife away, interrupt nesting seasons, cause stress reactions, lead to nest abandonment, and destroy burrows that have taken years to form. These disruptions are not temporary; they will permanently alter the natural rhythm and safety of this land for decades to come. The loss cannot be "offset" on a map or replaced somewhere far away; wildlife does not operate on paperwork, credit systems, or theoretical mitigation plans.

The Western Burrowing Owl, already disappearing from California's grasslands, relies on complex underground burrow systems that will be destroyed by this project. Forced relocation is known to be traumatic and often unsuccessful. We have seen across the Central Valley what happens when development arrives: owls disappear and never return. The disappearance of even a single breeding pair is not a statistic, it is the loss of a future generation.

We are also facing a much bigger question - what precedent do we set by converting natural habitat into industrial energy storage? Once the first phase is approved, it opens the door to more phases, larger footprints, and eventual industrialization of what was once vibrant, living land. Future generations will ask why, when we still had a choice, we did not protect the last remaining pockets of habitat that sustain threatened species.

We should be doing everything we can to leave this land healthier than how we found it, not replace open sky and native wildlife with concrete, fencing, and round-the-clock lighting. These birds, these ecosystems, and this land are part of our shared natural heritage. Once we take it away, it will never return.

I urge you to choose preservation over permanent loss, and to deny approval of the Corby BESS Project at this location.

Thank you,

Jake Goetze