

DOCKETED

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CEC Hearing Public Comment

I attended the public hearing but with only 2 minutes to speak, it was impossible to portray all of my concerns. Please see the attached speech in full.

Thank you,
Deanna Cole

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

It may seem strange that we are here about a proposed battery energy storage system, and I present you with a family photo collage. Let me explain.

My name is Deanna Cole, and I live with my husband and 2 of our 4 children at 5405 Kilkenny Road, the corner of Kilkenny & Byrnes Road. If that location sounds familiar, it should. We own the home on the 10-acre parcel directly adjacent to, just north of the proposed CORBY BESS project. One single road and one canal ditch dividing us from this proposed building site.

We are the second-generation owners of this property. My father-in-law purchased the property and built our home in the 70's, where my husband and his brothers grew up. Fast forward a few decades. When we married, we purchased a home and lived within the city limits of Vacaville. But, the peace and tranquility and open space of country living kept calling to my husband, so in 2003, pregnant with our youngest child, we sold our home in the city and answered that call and moved our family to his childhood home in the country, to help my father-in-law maintain the property AND to raise our 4 children, on the same land and in the same house my husband grew up in and loved during his childhood.

I prepared this photo collage to bring with me today, with pictures that have captured so many moments, right from our front porch. I could have made a much larger collage with all the pictures & memories we have collected and treasured over the years, but I scaled it down for logistical purposes.

Each of these pictures share 3 common denominators – each picture was taken from our front yard, each picture has at least one or more of our beloved family members and lastly, the main purpose of this collage being here today is that each picture has the proposed site of this CORBY Battery Energy Storage System project as it's back drop. The backdrop that until most recently had been home to a beautiful orchard or fields of hay.

Considering everyone that will be affected by allowing this project to be built and the risks it opens us up to, my family and my neighbors will be immediately and possibly most permanently affected. I have so many uncertainties – when a fire starts, will I be alerted in time to get out? I will have to evacuate myself, my family, our horses, our lamb, our dogs, and our cats. Where will we go? We obviously will not be able to safely shelter in place. How long will we be displaced? And ultimately the dreaded question...will we ever be able to return to our home and the way of life we have worked so long and so hard to create? Could we safely return considering the contamination a fire will bring, the contamination that containing a fire will create, and the fear of long-term health affects? We will be faced with contaminated soil and contaminated ground water. We are on a well, so our drinking water will be contaminated. Our pasture is irrigated by the canal ditches that surround our property, that will be contaminated. You tell me, what does that future look like? Is there even a future for us there?

Setting aside the risk of a potential fire, how will we physically and mentally handle living next to and listening to the constant noise of this facility. The fans and compressors used to keep the batteries from overheating and igniting. The constant high frequency humming and the buzzing sound from the converters and other components. Will we ever know the peace and serenity we have grown accustomed to? How will we financially recover? Who will cover the additional insurance costs and ensure our property will even be insurable, living directly next to this dangerous facility. Who will take responsibility for the plummet in the property value of our home? Like most homeowners, our home and our property are one of our greatest assets and our investment into our future and the future of our children. And ultimately, will my property be deemed unsellable? Who would want to purchase our home and property next to this danger?

In writing this letter today, I had intended to focus my time on one particular topic, but I just couldn't narrow it down to one topic that concerned me more than another and my conscience was telling me to speak from

the heart. I needed to bring my reality into light. I had to share with you the sleepless nights I've had worrying and wondering and praying about the effects this will have, if the application for this particular project, at this particular location, is approved. I implore you to put yourself in my shoes. I ask you to consider how you would feel if this was in your front yard. Imagine the concern you would feel going to bed each night or leaving for work each morning, worried that this will be the time when a fire will break out, and you won't be able to evacuate in time.

I ask you to please consider everything I have mentioned. Please do a detailed analysis of all aspects of this project and I prayerfully request that you deny this application for this proposed location and require NextEra and any future builders to build their projects on industrially zoned sites, like the Lambie industrial site, where no family has to fear the affects of this potential hazard in the backdrop of their family photos.

Thank you so much for your time to allow us to have a voice and your sincere consideration of the risk vs. reward of this project to my family, my neighbors and to all the members of our community. May God bless you as you make this decision.

