

DOCKETED

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Opposition to Corby BESS location and battery type

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Chris Whitaker and I am a Solano County resident and I oppose the Corby BESS project. In addition to investigating impacts to the nearby Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, I would like to request the inclusion of Vacaville's East of Leisure Town Road Growth Area in the EIR or any other applicable reviews as it is anticipated there will be nearly 4,000 new homes built just south of the Corby site. This hazardous Corby project will negatively impact potentially 15,000 additional people, as well as new schools and parks. This area is south/southeast of the Corby site and is in similarly close proximity as the 55+ elderly community of Leisure Town that could be adversely impacted by a BESS fire.

I have read some of the supposed support letters submitted by Corby (very few of which reside in Solano County or California), and while they discuss the generic benefits of battery storage, they do not mention the location or the battery type. I am not opposed to less hazardous clean energy being stored in industrially zoned areas, but I do not agree with placing them on prime ag land and storing of hazardous lithium-ion batteries, which have a long history of catching fire. We are not a county (or city) of No, but we do not need this on prime ag land or this type of battery posing a high risk of becoming a Battery Chernobyl and further destroying the local ecosystem or harming human lives.

Lastly, I would like to point out the potential damage from setting the precedent of allowing these projects in sacred spaces. Approving one of these projects in non-industrial zoned areas could equate to approving a dozen of these types of dangerous projects. Approving one of these projects only rewards and encourages more intentional misconduct by greedy corporations purchasing prime ag land and strong arming the local communities against their will through unconventional means. The opportunity cost of sacrificing working farmland, along with its long-term contributions to California's food security, long-term economic value, playing a key role as a critical component of achieving a low-carbon economy through ecological stability, as well as rich regional heritage, should be recognized as significant and avoidable when evaluating this and any future similar BESS projects.

Given the above considerations and those of the other opposition letters, please choose safety and integrity over corporate convenience, and deny this Corby project application.

Best regards,
Chris Whitaker