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Comment Received From: Falgunee Upadhyay
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Opposing Corby BESS Project - Community Protection

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Falgunee Upadhyay. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project. This facility is far too close to homes, farmland, I-80, and our local hospital, putting thousands of residents at risk. I urge the CEC to reject this proposal or require it to be relocated to an appropriate industrial zone.

The project's proximity to vulnerable areas makes it unsafe. Even though the developer emphasizes Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) chemistry, these batteries still fail and each container holds roughly 57,000 pounds of hazardous material. A single container fire could create a toxic plume requiring evacuation or shelter-in-place orders. LFP fires also emit large amounts of hydrogen gas, raising explosion risks that cannot be ignored.

Serious questions remain about emergency response. How will residents be notified quickly enough when toxic fumes can spread in minutes? Who will pay to clean homes, wells, soil, and farmland if contamination occurs beyond the project boundary? Without a legally required, independently managed cleanup fund, these costs will fall on local families and public agencies, an unacceptable burden.

This project also destroys 40 acres of prime agricultural land, permanently removing productive farmland and risking contamination of surrounding crops, livestock, and well water if a fire occurs. Toxic plumes can travel far beyond the project site and damage entire agricultural areas.

The economic benefits being advertised are misleading. A single thermal runaway incident would result in massive cleanup costs, long-term environmental damage, and immediate property value loss for surrounding residents. Meanwhile, taxpayers would be responsible for funding specialized hazmat training and emergency equipment all while receiving none of the energy produced, which is contracted for use outside our community.

This site was chosen for developer convenience, not community safety. A shorter gen-tie line should not outweigh the lives, health, and property of the people who already live here.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Commission to reject the Corby BESS project at this location and protect the wellbeing of Solano County residents.

Sincerely,
Falgunee Upadhyay