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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:

Corby Battery Energy Storage)
System Project Opt-In) Docket No. 24-OPT-05
Application for Certification)
_____)

INFORMATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING FOR THE
PROPOSED CORBY BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM PROJECT

Hybrid Meeting In-person and via Zoom

Ulatis Community Center
1000 Ulatis Drive
Vacaville, CA 95687

Thursday, November 6, 2025

2:00 p.m.

Reported by:

Martha Nelson

APPEARANCES

COMMISSIONERS

Noemi Gallardo, Lead Commissioner

David Hochschild, Chair, Associate Member

COMMISSIONER ADVISOR

Caroline Grey, Senior Advisor to Chair Hochschild

Jimmy Qaqundah, Advisor to Commissioner Gallardo

CEC STAFF

Kaycee Chang, Supervisor, CEQA Project Management Unit

Drew Bohan, Executive Director

Eric Knight, Branch Manager, Siting and Environmental
Branch

Brett Fooks, Branch Manager, Safety and Reliability Branch

PUBLIC ADVISOR'S OFFICE

Ryan Young, Deputy Public Advisor

PRESENTER

Alvin Greenberg, Risk Sciences Associates, CEC Staff
Consultant

GOVERNMENT COMMENT

Mitch Mashburn, Chair, Solano Board of Supervisors

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cara Martinson, Public House, and California Energy Storage Alliance

Joel Barrilleaux

Paul Troxell

Mike Wood

Harilaos Bouzos

Alison Harris

Miranda Jachens, Solano County Farm Bureau

Collen Britton

Linda Geller

Leo Escarcega

Reva Correia

Louis Derfus-Lebs

Wendy Breckon

Linda Jacobs

Sarah Dunn

Michael Geller

Ralph Muehlenbruch

Brian Brisbin, Cupertino Electric

Mabrey Scott

Karen Bell

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Debbie Reuter

Deanna Cole

Noelle DeMartini

Joanne Motherspaw

Marion Elkins

Don Doolan

Travis Breckon

Cara Eich

Chris Whitaker

Rosie Noguera

Gall Culley

Chris Heise

Jhauna Dyer

Robin Jaeckel

Tonya Espinoza

Pam Barringer

Michele Guerra

Amber Cargo-Reed

Derek Johnson

Ruben Galvan, Nor Cal Carpenters Union Local 180

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Grover Wright

Carina Brassfield

Dan Bouzos

Ronda Madrid

Alicia Minyen

Michael Elm

Arvin Chuadhary

Macy Nielson

Lewis Derfuss

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1 either show subtitle or view full transcript. The closed
2 captioning service can be stopped by exiting out of the
3 live transcript or selecting the hide subtitle icon. We
4 also have enabled Spanish interpretation on Zoom.

5 For those participating in person, please be
6 mindful of speaking slowly and clearly into the microphone
7 for those participating online to hear, our Spanish
8 interpreters, and the court reporter.

9 Finally, the meeting is being recorded. The
10 meeting recording will be available on the California
11 Energy Commission's website.

12 Next slide, please.

13 This slide provides an overview of today's
14 agenda. We will be sharing information with the public on
15 our Opt-In Certification Program and the process, and the
16 Applicant will be sharing information about the proposed
17 project. There will be plenty of opportunities for
18 comments from California Native American tribes, government
19 agencies, elected officials, and interested parties and
20 members of the public. You may have seen a printout of the
21 agenda, which is available at the back tables with our
22 Public Advisor's office.

23 Next slide, please.

24 I just want to take a step back and introduce the
25 California Energy Commission, or CEC. The CEC is the

1 state's lead agency on energy policy and planning,
2 including leading the 100 percent clean energy planning
3 process. We are committed to promoting a clean,
4 affordable, and reliable energy supply for all
5 Californians.

6 Next slide, please.

7 The CEC was created by statutes in 1974. We have
8 a variety of functions and work closely with other energy-
9 related agencies, like the California Public Utilities
10 Commission and the California Air Resources Board. Our
11 primary functions include state energy policy, energy
12 efficiency and reliability, and clean energy transition
13 planning and infrastructure.

14 Next slide, please.

15 The CEC is led by our five commissioners. We are
16 fortunate to have with us today our Lead Siting
17 Commissioner, Commissioner Noemi Gallardo, CEC Chair David
18 Hochschild, and our Executive Director Drew Bohan, who I
19 would like to invite to share welcoming remarks, starting
20 with Drew.

21 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR BOHAN: Thank you, Kaycee.
22 I'll be very brief and hand it off to my boss, Commissioner
23 Gallardo.

24 I just wanted to say thank you all for coming
25 out. This morning we got up, drove here, went to the

1 proposed site, took a look at it, drove around to get a
2 sense of what the surrounding area looks like. I've driven
3 on a lot of the paved roads around here, have not been on
4 that particular stretch, so it was good to see.

5 And we've gotten over 1,500 comments about this
6 project. I've read through a pretty significant number of
7 them, and we're grateful that people are engaged, that
8 enough people are willing to come out and speak to us today
9 because what you can get from a piece of paper or, you
10 know, on a screen and what you can get from people in
11 person is different.

12 And finally, my job as the lead staff on this is
13 to work with our staff team to ultimately make a
14 recommendation on this project to the commissioners, and
15 they ultimately decide whether this project goes forward or
16 not. That won't happen for many, many months. Today
17 you'll hear more and more about this, but we're not here to
18 make any decisions, but just to hear from the public and
19 let you know a little bit about what this project looks
20 like. And we're excited to get going, so thank you all
21 very much.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Buenas tardes. Good
23 afternoon, everyone. It is wonderful to be here in the
24 City of Vacaville, also in the County of Solano, and we
25 appreciate the welcome from all of you. And we're

1 especially grateful for the participation of Supervisor
2 Mashburn, who's joining us here. We really appreciate
3 that. I know how busy you must be.

4 I also want to thank the staff of the Ulati
5 Community Center, and I apologize if I pronounce that
6 incorrectly, but it's really nice to be here at this
7 location. I appreciate the staff at the center helping us
8 set up.

9 So I am Noemi Gallardo. I am one of the five
10 commissioners at the California Energy Commission. I
11 wanted to explain a little bit about how we are set up.

12 So the Energy Commission assigns two
13 commissioners for each of the policy areas that we have
14 that are priorities. So there's a Lead Commissioner and
15 there's an Associate Commissioner. So I am the Lead
16 Commissioner on what we call sitings. That's the
17 certification and oversight of eligible power plants,
18 thermal power plants, and also now these clean energy
19 facilities going through the Opt-In Certification Program,
20 which you will hear more about today. And Chair David
21 Hochschild is the Associate Commissioner here for these
22 types of proceedings.

23 So both the Chair and I will be working with
24 staff throughout the review of this application with all
25 the analysis that needs to be done of this project called

1 Corby. So ultimately, he and I will have the
2 responsibility of making a recommendation to our fellow
3 commissioners, and then all five commissioners will take
4 the vote and decide whether to approve or deny the project
5 at the end of the session. So I wanted to make sure that
6 that was clarified for you.

7 So right now, we are in the early stages of this
8 proceeding. It's when we review the application for the
9 Corby Project. And today, the most important job of the
10 Energy Commission is to learn from the Applicant and also
11 from all of you who are in the audience. We've counted
12 about maybe 16. I think we'll probably get a fuller room
13 as time goes. And we also have folks who are joining us
14 remotely, which we really appreciate. And I was told
15 there's about 40 people online.

16 So as our Executive Director, Drew, noted this
17 morning, we visited the site of the proposed project, which
18 is about six miles or less from here. And those site
19 visits that we do are not required. There's no obligation
20 for us to do it. However, we think it is vital to get a
21 first-hand experience of where those projects will be
22 sited, so we can get a better understanding overall of the
23 potential effects, the project parameters, and any possible
24 impacts.

25 And so one of the things that we think about as

1 commissioners when we're going to vote on something is,
2 would we be comfortable, would we feel safe if a type of
3 project that we're looking at would be located near our
4 homes? So we put ourselves in your shoes. And that is
5 very important to us and also to the staff.

6 So that's why we treat each project as unique.
7 It is extremely important for us to hear from the local
8 community, as well, because you are who lives here. You
9 are who would be affected. And so that also helps us
10 better understand.

11 And the staff is extremely diligent about
12 reviewing each project, again, as a unique project. They
13 do a comprehensive job. It takes a lot of work and a lot
14 of time, but they do this independent research and analysis
15 to ensure that we get the most information possible to make
16 the best decision possible.

17 So I'd also like to thank the Applicant at this
18 time, NextEra, for facilitating the visit we had today to
19 help us better understand the project and also for engaging
20 with us in this proceeding.

21 So we know there is a lot of interest in this
22 proposal. We have received, as Drew said, over 1,500
23 comments already. That's in our dockets. We do take a
24 look at all of those comments. And we are expecting, as an
25 indicator, we're expecting a lot of public comment today,

1 which we do appreciate and we definitely welcome.

2 And we just want to make clear that we want to
3 listen to each and every single person, no matter what your
4 stance is, no matter what your opinion is. And so we ask
5 that everyone be polite. Please be respectful of the
6 Public Advisor who will be making sure everybody gets a
7 chance, but we'll also set time limits. And so in order
8 for us to be able to listen to everybody, we ask that you
9 respect those time limits.

10 So I think we can move forward now. I just want
11 to make sure we thank the staff for all of the hard work
12 they put in. We also work with peer agencies at the state
13 level, also federal level. And so I want to thank them for
14 all of their participation.

15 And a final point is that this is our first
16 public meeting. We will have at least two more, so there
17 will be other opportunities for you all to engage with us.
18 And, of course, you can continue providing public comment
19 through our docket.

20 So again, thank you so much for joining us today,
21 whether it's in the room or on Zoom. We really appreciate
22 it. We look forward to hearing from you.

23 And I will pass it on now to our Chair, David
24 Hochschild.

25 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you, Commissioner.

1 Good afternoon, everyone. I'm David Hochschild.
2 I'm Chair of the California Energy Commission. I want to
3 thank the community for having us here for this public
4 hearing. We're here to listen and take all your comments.

5 I also want to thank a soldier from Travis Air
6 Force Base. When I did the site visit this morning, my car
7 got stuck in the mud and he pulled over and pushed me out,
8 so appreciation to him.

9 And I did want to apologize. I have a speaking
10 engagement, I have to leave at 4:15, so I want to apologize
11 in advance, but everyone else will be staying for the
12 entirety of the hearing. And we'll be here until everyone
13 has had a chance to be heard.

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Or, to be clear, until
15 the building closes. So thank you also for the Community
16 Center being willing to stay open.

17 So now it will be our Public Advisor who will
18 provide more information about how to participate in the
19 proceeding.

20 MR. YOUNG: Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you
21 for joining us today. I'm Ryan Briscoe Young, the Energy
22 Commission's Deputy Public Advisor. Today, we're going to
23 have some presentations, hear from government
24 representatives, and then have our main comment period. I
25 just wanted to mention at the beginning of our time here, a

1 few instructions for later in the day, which I'll repeat
2 again then.

3 We ask that everyone who would like to make a
4 comment to turn in their blue card as soon as possible to
5 the Public Advisor's table, which is in the back there.
6 The blue card looks like this. And if you represent a
7 government entity, local, state, et cetera, please indicate
8 that on your blue card and your comment will be taken first
9 and without a timer. Thank you so much.

10 Back to you, Kaycee.

11 MS. CHANG: Thank you.

12 One of the programs we implement is the Opt-In
13 Certification Program. Like you heard, the goal of today's
14 CEC meeting is to provide an opportunity for interested
15 members of the public, including surrounding communities,
16 to learn about the proposed project and our process. Your
17 comments provided today or in writing to our proposed
18 docket, project docket, will be considered for our Staff
19 Assessment.

20 I will kick it off by providing an overview of
21 the Opt-In Certification Program.

22 Through Assembly Bill 205, the Opt-In
23 Certification Program provides an optional permitting
24 pathway in a condensed timeline for the types of energy
25 facilities listed on this slide and certain transmission

1 lines associated with these generating or storage
2 facilities.

3 Prior to the signing of AB 205, the CEC's
4 permitting authority was limited to thermal power plants
5 with a generating capacity of at least 50 megawatts. AB
6 205 expands the types of facilities that can be certified
7 by the CEC to include energy storage systems of at least
8 200 megawatt hours, like the proposed Corby Battery Energy
9 Storage System project.

10 The Opt-In process provides for early tribal
11 consultation, robust public input, and rigorous
12 environmental review. The CEC is the lead agency for the
13 California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA, and is
14 charged with preparing the Staff Assessment, which includes
15 the appropriate CEQA document. In this case, CEC staff
16 will be preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report, or
17 EIR. We will discuss the contents later in the
18 presentation.

19 We don't do this alone. We consult with our
20 state partner agencies, including the California Department
21 of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control
22 Board, and the applicable Regional Water Quality Control
23 Board, and the Department of Toxic Substances Control. We
24 are also coordinating with local agencies, such as the
25 Dixon Fire Department and Solano County.

1 CEC approval or certification of an Opt-In
2 application requires the CEC find that the construction and
3 operation of the proposed project will have an overall net
4 positive economic benefit to the local government that
5 would have had permitting authority over the site and
6 related facility. With the passage of Senate Bill 254,
7 there is a rebuttable presumption that the project will
8 provide an overall net positive economic benefit.

9 The CEC must also find that the Applicant has
10 entered into one or more legally binding and enforceable
11 agreements with or that benefit a coalition of one or more
12 community-based organizations.

13 At the stage of application completion, where we
14 are now with the Corby Battery Energy Storage System
15 project, the Applicant submitted the required Community
16 Benefits Plan in its application, which included a timeline
17 for execution. An actual community benefits agreement is
18 not necessary for application completeness, but the
19 Applicant must provide additional information updating or
20 supplementing the information in the application no later
21 than 45 days after an application has been deemed complete.

22 The CEC must also find that the Applicant will
23 use a skilled and trained workforce and pay construction
24 workers at least prevailing wages subject to statutory
25 enforcement or a project labor agreement.

1 Any significant effects of the project must be
2 avoided or substantially lessened, or the CEC must adopt a
3 Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant
4 effects found infeasible to avoid or mitigate.

5 The list of requirements is not exhaustive, and
6 based on the project, other requirements may apply.

7 This slide shows the timeline for our process.
8 The application was deemed complete on October 17th, 2025,
9 which started our 270-day schedule, and today we are
10 hosting the informational and scoping meeting. We are
11 actively working on the Staff Assessment, which includes a
12 Draft Environmental Impact Report, or EIR, working towards
13 day 150, the day we are to file the document. We will then
14 host a public meeting on the Staff Assessment 30 to 60 days
15 after filing. The updated Staff Assessment would be
16 published at least 30 days prior to a publicly noticed CEC
17 business meeting at which the CEC will render its decision,
18 and that is to be 270 days after the application is deemed
19 complete or as soon as practicable thereafter.

20 We want to mention that our work does not stop at
21 day 270. If the proposed project is approved by the CEC,
22 the project then goes to our Compliance Monitoring and
23 Enforcement unit, who ensures the facilities comply with
24 all provisions in their associated certification. They
25 also analyze any proposed changes to the design, operation,

1 or performance. The team performs both formal inspections
2 and unannounced inspections, reviews monthly and annual
3 compliance reports, and investigates complaints.

4 For more information about the Opt-In Program,
5 please visit our webpage.

6 We will now invite to the podium and pass the
7 microphone to the project Applicant representative, Stephen
8 Ahn, for their presentation of the proposed Corby Battery
9 Energy Storage System project.

10 MR. AHN: Can you guys hear me? Oh, better. All
11 right. Good afternoon, commissioners, staff, and members
12 of the public. My name is Stephen Ahn, and I'm here
13 representing the project Applicant, Corby Energy Storage,
14 LLC.

15 Next slide, please.

16 Here's a brief overview of our parent company,
17 NextEra Energy Resources, LLC. We are an American-owned
18 and operated energy infrastructure company. As the world's
19 largest generator of renewable energy from wind and solar,
20 and a leader in battery energy storage, we have deployed
21 over \$12 billion in California to support its clean energy
22 goals. This investment had led to 2 gigawatt of battery
23 projects across the state and three wind projects right
24 here in Solano County.

25 Next, please.

1 This map shows our company's operating assets
2 across 41 states in the U.S. and also in Canada. We have
3 more than 50 operational battery projects in our portfolio,
4 and we are committed to owning and safely operating our
5 projects to be a long-term partner in the communities where
6 we operate.

7 Next, please.

8 Why are battery projects needed? Battery
9 projects like Corby support grid reliability for the region
10 without the need for costly system upgrades. These
11 projects are also required by the California Public
12 Utilities Commission to help meet the state's clean energy
13 and reliability goals. And Corby fulfills a portion of the
14 requirement for the year 2027.

15 Next, please.

16 To introduce the proposed project, Corby is a
17 300-megawatt, 4-hour duration battery project. It is fully
18 contracted to deliver power to the region by April 2027.

19 The project will be located on approximately 16
20 acres within a privately owned 40-acre parcel in Solano
21 County. It is less than a mile southeast of PG&E's Vaca-
22 Dixon substation on the other side of I-80 near the City of
23 Vacaville. Our design incorporates measures to avoid
24 impacts on natural resources and utilizes proven lithium-
25 ion battery technology, along with other components listed

1 here and industry best practices.

2 Next, please.

3 When choosing the project location, we consider
4 factors such as minimizing energy losses from long
5 transmission lines, which is why we sited the project near
6 the existing Vaca-Dixon substation. We also balanced
7 proximity to load centers with the density of residential
8 areas to manage peak loads, prevent blackouts, and minimize
9 impacts on nearby communities.

10 I would also like to explain why the Birds
11 Landing substation near Lambie Industrial Park and our
12 existing wind sites were not considered. That substation
13 is very congested and would either require extensive system
14 upgrades or a long gen-tie line back to the Vaca-Dixon
15 substation. Both options would delay the project beyond
16 2027 and increase costs for load-serving entities, which
17 would ultimately be passed on to rate payers.

18 Next slide, please.

19 The proposed Corby Project brings many benefits
20 to the county. I already mentioned improved grid
21 reliability for the region, but it will also create high-
22 paying construction and full-time jobs while helping
23 attract new businesses to the area.

24 Over the life of the project, it is also expected
25 to generate more than \$70 million in property tax revenue

1 to support local initiatives.

2 Additionally, we have entered into a community
3 benefits agreement with the Solano Community Foundation to
4 support local jobs, housing, health care, the environment,
5 and schools.

6 Next, please.

7 Given our three wind sites here in Solano County,
8 we have been part of the community for a long time. Since
9 introducing Corby, we have also worked with groups like the
10 community college, the Community Foundation, local economic
11 organization, and the fire department to provide additional
12 support.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Here is a list of extensive technical studies we
15 conducted to ensure compliance with all applicable laws,
16 ordinances, regulations, and standards, or LORS.
17 Additional details are available in our application in the
18 docket if you're interested.

19 Next, please.

20 So now I will hand it over to Josh Adams, our in-
21 house fire safety expert, to go over the safety aspect of
22 the project.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. ADAMS: Good afternoon. Thank you for
25 allowing us to speak here today. My name is Josh Adams. I

1 am the Fire Safety Engineering Manager for Battery Energy
2 Storage Systems for NextEra Energy Resources. So I'll go
3 ahead and just kind of give a little bit of a background
4 about what is energy storage and kind of the codes and
5 standards and some of the safety systems around these that
6 ensure that they're going to operate safely.

7 So an energy storage system is basically just a
8 set of devices assembled together capable of storing energy
9 and releasing that energy into electricity at a future
10 time. More specifically, an electrochemical energy storage
11 system is one that stores that energy through a chemical
12 reaction and then reverses that chemical reaction to
13 release the energy. So a battery energy storage system,
14 for example, would be an electrochemical energy storage
15 system.

16 Two terms that are really required to properly
17 define a battery energy storage system is going to be your
18 energy. Now, if you kind of compare that to a tank of
19 water, the energy would be analogous to say gallons; right?
20 So that's measured in watt hours, or for systems that we
21 deal with in megawatt hours. And then you're going to have
22 power, and power is a flow rate of energy. So again, with
23 the water analogy, that would be equivalent to, say,
24 gallons per minute.

25 In order to get the accurate description, you do

1 need both of those values. In many cases, you have your
2 duration factored in. So if you have, for example, a 100
3 megawatt system, 100 megawatt power output with a 4-hour
4 duration, that's going to be a 400 megawatt-hour energy
5 storage system. So that tells you physically how large the
6 system is.

7 The energy is stored in the batteries in DC
8 voltage and the batteries would be analogous again to the
9 tank itself. That energy then gets passed through the
10 inverter. The inverter converts that energy from that DC
11 voltage to the AC voltage, that 60 hertz AC that's in all
12 of our walls and all of our buildings.

13 That then goes through a medium voltage step-up
14 transformer at the site. Usually steps that voltage up
15 typically to about 34.5 kilovolts. And then from there, it
16 ties into the substation that it's located right next to,
17 and that steps it up to those actual transmission line
18 voltages, whatever the hundreds of thousands of volts,
19 those transmission line voltages are.

20 That whole system is controlled by the energy
21 management system. So the energy management system is a
22 site level controller. It controls when the site is
23 supposed to move power, you know, store power, release
24 power to the grid. When it needs to shut down, it can
25 isolate certain parts of the system.

1 And then lower at the battery level, there's
2 actually a lower level control that's the battery
3 management system, the BMS. And that reports up to the EMS
4 and it actually gives you a lower fidelity or a more fine-
5 tuned way of actually isolating certain parts of the system
6 and monitoring and controlling them.

7 All of that is controlled by the system operator.
8 In NextEra's case, that's our 24/7/365 Renewable Operations
9 Control Center, or the ROCC. The ROCC is a pretty
10 ubiquitous term in power energy systems. Some might call
11 it their remote operations center, but ultimately the
12 acronym often comes out to be ROCC. And that facility is a
13 high-tech facility, 24/7/365. There are a minimum of 10
14 people in that facility at any time. They're monitoring
15 our entire fleet of wind, solar, batteries, and they can
16 respond to any abnormal situation immediately and shut down
17 and isolate the system before it ever even becomes an
18 actual issue.

19 Next slide, please.

20 So if you've never actually seen a battery energy
21 storage facility, this is an aerial view of a facility that
22 we have here in California. And as I mentioned, there's
23 that inverter system. There's the inverter and the medium
24 voltage transformer. That's that power conversion system
25 that you see on here. They're actually taking that

1 inverter and that medium voltage transformer and they're
2 packing those into one package, and so that's what you'll
3 see there.

4 And then that gray container is the battery
5 energy storage container. They're typically about a 20-
6 foot shipping container size and shape. We'll dive a
7 little bit more into that and what goes into those
8 containers. And then you'll have other equipment at the
9 site, auxiliary transformers for powering all the auxiliary
10 equipment, HVAC systems, fire control panel systems, and
11 things like that.

12 And then you can see on the kind of picture to
13 the right, this is the preliminary site plan. And you'll
14 notice that the access roads don't have any dead ends. We
15 design our systems to be fully compliant with California
16 Fire Code section 503 for fire apparatus access roads,
17 making sure they're at least 20 feet wide. They extend to
18 within at least 150 feet of the furthest piece of
19 equipment. And they don't have any dead ends or if they
20 do, they have adequate turnarounds for the fire apparatus
21 access.

22 Next slide, please.

23 Okay, so diving into one of the containers,
24 right, so you've got your inverter that ties to the medium
25 voltage transformer to the grid and then the battery

1 container. The lowest anatomy of your battery energy
2 storage container is your cell. It's very similar to
3 what's in all of our computers and phones. You know, it's
4 much larger. It's in the range typically of about 13 to 15
5 pounds each, so that kind of gives you an idea, it's the
6 size of a large textbook, gives you an idea. They may
7 change in dimension based on the manufacturer, but roughly
8 speaking, that's their size and shape.

9 Those batteries get assembled into a module. You
10 can think of kind of a shelf as the module. That's going
11 to have usually a series parallel connection of cells. It
12 will have thermal barriers between the cells to prevent
13 propagation if anything were to happen. It has voltage
14 sensors, temperature sensors, cooling apparatus, so a
15 cooling plate on the bottom of the module for the thermal
16 management system to regulate the temperature of the cells
17 and keep them within an optimal range.

18 Those cells then get stacked up into a rack.
19 That rack is typically connected in series and that's going
20 to make up the full voltage of your battery energy storage
21 system, which voltage nowadays nominally is around 1,500
22 volts. That's oftentimes also where you'll have that
23 localized BMS, that battery management system that I talked
24 about.

25 So that BMS will have fuses, it will have circuit

1 breakers, it will have safety devices and built-in
2 protocols in it so that if it detects anything abnormal, it
3 can shut the system down. A BMS that is tested and listed
4 to UL 1973 is certified as a thermal runaway prevention
5 device, so it will actually detect the precursors to a
6 thermal runaway and shut the system down before it ever
7 actually reaches that stage.

8 Those racks then get assembled into essentially
9 a 20-foot shipping container. They're custom built, but
10 they're almost all approximately 20 feet by 8 feet wide by
11 9.5 feet tall. There's a variety of reasons for that.
12 There's safety reasons as well as logistic reasons just for
13 getting them into the country and on the site, or most will
14 be actually assembled here in America.

15 Next slide, please.

16 Okay, so we take a multi-layered approach to
17 safety, so the highest approach is the codes and standards.
18 We make sure that all of our projects comply with NFPA 855.
19 That's the standard for the installation of stationary
20 energy storage systems. It covers everything in energy
21 storage systems from cradle to grave, from design aspect
22 all the way through to commissioning, and then even end-of-
23 life decommissioning. It requires that you submit, you
24 know, hazard mitigation plans and emergency response plans,
25 so all of that is covered in there.

1 Within 855, there is a requirement that all
2 battery energy storage systems be listed or certified to UL
3 9540, and that within itself then contains additional
4 requirements for UL 1973 testing certification. 1973 is
5 essentially an abuse test; right? You force the worst
6 things to happen. You actually put these things through
7 the ringer to make sure that they're safe, that they're not
8 going to, you know, go into, say, thermal runaway easily,
9 and that if they do, you've got mitigation systems in place
10 to keep it contained.

11 So that kind of leads into the physical
12 safeguards. We've got advanced detection systems. I
13 mentioned the BMS; right? It can detect high temperatures.
14 It can detect higher voltages, low voltages, things like
15 that, and shut the system down. We also have fire alarm
16 control systems that are designed in compliance with NFPA
17 72, which is the fire alarm signaling code, and that will
18 detect any abnormal condition if the runaway respond and
19 trigger the safety systems and any response.

20 And then we've got, like I said, the smart
21 monitoring. We've got the remote safety capability. So
22 even if something isn't an emergency, if it's just trending
23 abnormally, our ROCC can kind of see those trends and
24 isolate that part of the system and shut it down and send
25 someone to investigate before a problem ever happens.

1 And then we do have emergency response action
2 plans. So we do work closely with the fire department.
3 We've been working very closely with the Dixon Fire
4 Department to make sure that they're comfortable with the
5 project that we're going to be installing in their area,
6 well, hopefully installing in their area. And the
7 emergency response plan, we provide a training on that.
8 We'll provide annual refresher trainings on that. Above
9 and beyond that, we'll actually go out earlier and provide
10 them a higher level education on what is battery energy
11 storage and more in depth about what the design of these
12 systems are.

13 Next slide, please.

14 So I've kind of thrown out some acronyms,
15 International Fire Code, National -- NFPA 855. So just a
16 little background on what those are.

17 National Fire Protection Association, NFPA, 855,
18 as I said, is the standard for stationary energy storage
19 systems, covers everything from cradle to grave. The
20 National Fire Protection Association is a non-profit
21 organization made up of experts from throughout the
22 industry. You know, when you're talking about battery
23 storage, specifically, you're going to have design
24 engineering experts, manufacturers, you're going to have
25 fire marshals or retired fire chiefs. So it's built up of

1 all the experts and stakeholders from throughout the
2 industry. And for example, NFPA 70 or 70E is the National
3 Electric Code; right? NFPA 72 is the Fire Alarm Signaling
4 Code.

5 And then California adopts the California Fire
6 Code, which is an adoption of the International Fire Code.
7 So IFC is the International Fire Code. That's written by a
8 very similar body to NFPA. They just operate on a more
9 global scale.

10 Next slide, please.

11 So this is our safety and training program. So
12 we will offer a virtual BESS 101. So we, you know, will
13 work with the fire departments, with the local elected
14 officials to provide them with the information, get any
15 questions answered that they may have. And then I
16 mentioned, we go out and we provide a fire safety technical
17 presentation to the fire department, so that's prior to the
18 project, is prior to construction. That's a really high-
19 level education just about battery energy storage and fire
20 safety.

21 And then after we've completed construction, but
22 prior to commissioning the project, we will have finalized
23 that emergency response plan. We'll deliver that to the
24 fire department and then they will get a very site specific
25 technology specific emergency response plan training. And

1 then they'll get annual refresher trainings or additional
2 trainings at their behest.

3 Next slide.

4 That is the end of the presentation. Thank you
5 very much.

6 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you. I do have a
7 question for you.

8 MR. ADAMS: Yes.

9 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Oh, Josh, you did also.
10 I'm just curious for the ROCC. Where is that
11 located? Are you able to specify?

12 MR. ADAMS: Yeah, that ROCC is located in our
13 headquarters in Florida.

14 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay.

15 MR. ADAMS: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay. But the ROCC can
17 see everything?

18 MR. ADAMS: It can see everything. Yeah, it's
19 24/7/365. It's got redundant power supply backup. So even
20 if we lost grid power, it would have all its backup power.
21 And then we even have a secondary location. And it's also,
22 you know, Cat 5 hurricane rated. So it's a secure facility
23 with all the redundant backup so that it can continue
24 operating, yeah.

25 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. ADAMS: Absolutely.

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right.

3 And I will ask a favor. I've heard some phones
4 making noises. If you could please turn those off or just
5 turn them down, just to make sure we're able to hear
6 everything, that would be really helpful.

7 And I also wanted to note that we have
8 interpreters here today. They're in the room. And they're
9 also needing to make a little bit of noise in order to
10 ensure that anyone who's Spanish speaking can also
11 participate. So that's why I'm also asking if we can quiet
12 over here, that way there's less noise in the room as a
13 whole.

14 But thank you so much, everybody for being so
15 polite. I appreciate it.

16 All right. Go ahead, Kaycee.

17 MR. KNIGHT: Thank you, Stephen and Josh.

18 My name is Eric Knight. I'm the Manager of the
19 Siting and Environmental Branch at the CEC.

20 Now that you've heard about the Opt-In process
21 and you've heard about the project, I want to cover CEC
22 staff's preparation of a Staff Assessment for the Corby
23 Battery Energy Storage System project. So I'd like to make
24 a couple of points up front here.

25 First, although we've been engaged in data

1 completeness review of the application with the Applicant,
2 CEC staff's actual analysis work is still in the early
3 stages. That's why we're here today, engaged in project
4 scoping efforts. So as part of staff's independent
5 information gathering, we're looking for input on the scope
6 of what our CEQA analysis should include.

7 Second, while this is an accelerated process, a
8 complete and independent environmental analysis will be
9 conducted.

10 Next slide, please.

11 The CEC has an interdisciplinary team of
12 technical specialists and will prepare a Staff Assessment.
13 The Staff Assessment is an independent technical and
14 environmental review prepared by the CEC that is more
15 comprehensive than a typical EIR. The Staff Assessment
16 includes a Draft EIR following the requirements of CEQA and
17 the CEQA guidelines. We will later show the topics in the
18 environmental engineering impact analyses and some
19 mandatory Opt-In requirements that are included in the
20 Staff Assessment.

21 The environmental justice assessment includes an
22 analysis of the proposed project's impact on environmental
23 justice population based on the presence of a minority or
24 low-income population and considers whether the project
25 would have a disproportionately high or adverse human

1 health or environmental effect on that population.

2 And finally, the Staff Assessment will include
3 compliance conditions and a Compliance Monitoring Plan.
4 This is to ensure should the proposed project be approved
5 that the construction, operation, and decommissioning
6 complies with all conditions of certification.

7 Next slide, please.

8 So the purpose of the Staff Assessment is to
9 provide objective information regarding the proposed
10 project's significant effects on the environment, identify
11 possible ways to minimize those significant effects,
12 describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the proposed
13 project, their feasibility, and their comparative merit,
14 and provide evaluation of the extent to which the
15 application complies with additional licensing requirements
16 set forth in the Public Resources Code. This information
17 will be considered by the CEC commissioners in deciding
18 whether to grant a certificate to build and operate the
19 proposed project.

20 Next slide, please.

21 These are the topics that our CEC technical team
22 of engineers and environmental specialists are analyzing to
23 produce the Staff Assessment. The topics incorporate those
24 in Appendix G, environmental checklists to the CEQA
25 guidelines, and include other topics required by the Public

1 Resources Code.

2 The Staff Assessment will also evaluate a range
3 of reasonable alternatives to the proposed project. In
4 addition to a no-project alternative, the Staff Assessment
5 will consider alternatives that would avoid or lessen the
6 proposed project's significant effects while also feasibly
7 attaining most of the project's -- excuse me, the proposed
8 project's objectives.

9 Next slide, please. No, that is this one.
10 Whoops. Stay there, please.

11 The Staff Assessment will also include an
12 evaluation of the proposed project's compliance with a
13 mandatory Opt-In requirements, which includes skilled
14 workforce requirements and a community benefits agreement.
15 Mandatory Opt-In requirements are not limited to those
16 listed here on the slide, and it can be found in California
17 Code of Regulations Title 20, section 1879.

18 Next slide, please.

19 The CEC sent a Notice of Preparation, or an NOP,
20 of a Draft EIR for the Corby Energy Storage Project to the
21 State Clearinghouse and mailed the NOP to responsible and
22 trustee agencies and filed a copy with a Solano County
23 Clerk and project docket at the CEC. The NOP is available
24 for public review in the project's docket.

25 Based on a preliminary review of the application

1 materials, the NOP identifies several topic areas with
2 probable significant -- or probable environmental effects,
3 excuse me, that will be evaluated further in the EIR.
4 However, since we're early in the -- since we're still
5 early in the analysis phase, additional environmental
6 effects may be identified as staff conducts a comprehensive
7 environmental review.

8 The following slides identify some key topics for
9 analysis in the EIR that staff has identified thus far.

10 These topics include biological resources, cultural and
11 tribal cultural resources, land use and agriculture, visual
12 resources, worker safety and fire protection, which
13 includes battery safety.

14 Next slide, please.

15 This project site consists of agricultural land
16 for row crops with surrounding agricultural uses, including
17 orchards and irrigated pastures. The proposed project
18 could have direct and or indirect effects to the following
19 special status species: the Western burrowing owl, a state
20 candidate for listing species; Crotch's bumble bee, a state
21 candidate for listing species; the White-tailed kite, a
22 state fully protected species; and the Swainson's hawk, a
23 state threatened species.

24 Next slide, please.

25 Some of the probable environmental effects

1 regarding biological resources that could occur from
2 construction and operation of the proposed project include:
3 the disruption of nesting habitat for common and special
4 status bird species; loss of potential nesting and foraging
5 habitat for Swainson's hawk, White-tailed kite and Crotch's
6 bumble bee; also, the potential loss of foraging habitat
7 for Western burrowing owl; and burrows present could
8 provide denning habitat.

9 CEC staff is gathering information and conducting
10 analysis to determine appropriate avoidance, minimization,
11 and mitigation measures in consultation with the California
12 Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and
13 Wildlife Service to protect these species, their habitat
14 and dispersal corridors.

15 Potential impacts of the Solano Irrigation
16 District Canal during horizontal directional drilling of
17 the canal. CEC staff is coordinating with the California
18 Department of Fish and Wildlife and conducting analysis to
19 determine appropriate best management practices, avoidance,
20 and minimization measures to avoid adverse impacts to the
21 canal.

22 During operation, noise, lighting and ongoing
23 maintenance could adversely affect the use of habitat by a
24 variety of species, including burrowing owls, migratory
25 birds and other sensitive wildlife. CEC staff is

1 conducting analysis to determine the appropriate best
2 management practices and avoidance and minimization
3 measures to avoid impacts during operations.

4 Next slide, please.

5 For cultural and tribal culture resources,
6 records, checks and archaeological surveys were completed
7 by the Applicant's consultants. Three culture resources
8 that are potentially eligible for listing in the National
9 Register of Historic Places and the California Register of
10 Historical Resources are within a half of a mile of the
11 project area. These are the Vaca-Dixon Historic District,
12 the Vaca Peabody 230 kilovolt transmission line and the
13 Kilkenny Ranch. Potential impacts of these resources will
14 be evaluated in the EIR and mitigation measures identified
15 as warranted.

16 Consultation letters were sent to Native American
17 individuals and tribes from the California Native American
18 Heritage Commission list on October 22nd, 2025.

19 Consultation is ongoing. We will adopt protocols for
20 unanticipated discoveries to protect any cultural or tribal
21 cultural resources that may be encountered during
22 construction.

23 Next slide, please.

24 The proposed project site contains three
25 Department of Conservation designated important farmland

1 categories, including prime, statewide, and unique
2 farmland. The proposed project implementation could result
3 in the conversion of 40.3 acres of land to a non-
4 agricultural use. Staff will assess the land conversion
5 effects and evaluate impacts to the important farmland
6 designations using the California land evaluation and site
7 assessment model.

8 Staff will also evaluate project compliance with
9 the Solano County Agricultural Mitigation Program
10 requirements. The proposed project site is zoned as
11 exclusive agriculture by Solano County. Staff will
12 evaluate whether the proposed project would cause a
13 significant environmental effect from a conflict with a
14 land use plan policy regulation, including Solano County's
15 BESS ordinance, which was adopted on Tuesday, November 4,
16 2025, and which prohibits BESS facilities in specific zone
17 districts, including the exclusive agricultural zone.

18 Next slide, please.

19 Preliminary research suggests that the project
20 could cause a substantial level of visual change to the
21 existing landscape. During operation, it is likely the
22 project would cause a degradation of the existing visual
23 character or quality of public views of the site and its
24 surroundings when viewed from Kilkenny Road and Byrnes
25 Road. It is also likely that glare and night lighting

1 associated with the proposed project would significantly
2 affect daytime and nighttime views in the immediate project
3 vicinity.

4 Staff will evaluate whether the proposed project
5 would conflict with any applicable zoning or other
6 regulations governing scenic quality. Staff will propose
7 conditions of certification to mitigate visual impacts to
8 the extent feasible.

9 Next slide, please.

10 The CEC will review the history of battery energy
11 storage system fire incidents and evolving strategies for
12 BESS safety. The Applicant has proposed battery storage
13 systems that are in containers and would use lithium iron
14 phosphate batteries. The Worker Safety and Fire Protection
15 section of the Staff Assessment will also consider
16 potential impacts and available mitigation measures for
17 transporting the battery storage containers to the proposed
18 project site.

19 Next slide, please.

20 CEC staff receive email updates when new files
21 are posted to the project docket and are reviewing files on
22 a regular basis as they come in. To date, the CEC has
23 received over 1,500 comment letters on the project. This
24 slide represents some of the known areas of concerns raised
25 by the public based on comments received to date. This

1 includes concerns about fire or thermal runaway, battery
2 energy storage system safety, potential conflicts with
3 local land use designations, concerns related to the
4 location of the proposed project, and comments on the
5 potential Lambie Industrial Park alternative.

6 Staff uses comments to help develop the scope,
7 the content of the environmental analysis, and learn about
8 areas of potential concerns with each within each resource
9 topic.

10 Next, I'd like to introduce Brett Fooks from CEC
11 staff.

12 MR. FOOKS: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is
13 Brett Fooks. I am the Manager of the Safety and
14 Reliability Branch here in the CEC's STEP Division.

15 The public has raised several concerns about
16 battery energy storage fires that have occurred in the
17 state. The two incidents that I would like to touch on are
18 the one at Moss Landing and the one at Otay Mesa.

19 This slide depicts Vistra's Moss Landing Energy
20 Storage Facility. The phase one portion of the project
21 depicted by the purple rectangle had a 300 megawatt, 1,200
22 megawatt-hour capacity and began commercial operation in
23 late 2020. This project was a utility-scale battery energy
24 storage system that used a lithium-ion nickel manganese
25 cobalt, or NMC, chemistry and was located within an older

1 converted turbine building hall. The fire started on
2 January 16th, 2025.

3 Next slide, please.

4 The Gateway Energy Storage Facility located in
5 Otay Mesa has a 250 megawatt, 1,000 megawatt hour capacity
6 and began commercial operation in mid-2020. This project
7 is a utility scale battery energy storage system that has a
8 lithium-ion NMC chemistry and is located within a warehouse
9 built for battery storage. The fire started on May 15th,
10 2024.

11 Next slide, please.

12 On the left, you see a picture of the Moss
13 Landing Energy Storage Facility. As I previously
14 mentioned, both the Moss Landing and Gateway facilities
15 became operational in mid to late 2020 are located indoors
16 and using NMC lithium-ion chemistry. Since 2020, battery
17 storage codes in the industry have evolved to make these
18 currently proposed projects safer.

19 The two industry best practices I would like to
20 highlight are the use of containers and a different
21 lithium-ion chemistry. As you can see from the picture on
22 the right, recent battery energy storage projects have been
23 placed in separate containers and not in a building. As
24 discussed in staff's Darden Clean Energy Project
25 Assessment, the reasoning for this is that the

1 containerization minimizes the damage caused by thermal
2 runaway fires and reduces the threat of fire propagation.

3 In essence, each container has a smaller amount
4 of stored energy. And if an incident were to occur, it
5 could be confined to one container. Thus, the threat of
6 the other containers catching fire would be minimized,
7 unlike in a building application.

8 The second item that has changed in the battery
9 energy chem is the battery energy chemistry that is used in
10 utility-scale battery storage systems. Moss Landing and
11 Gateway used a NMC lithium-ion chemistry. The industry has
12 primarily moved on to a lithium iron phosphate, or LFP,
13 lithium iron chemistry base. The primary difference
14 between NMC and LFP is energy density. LFP has a lower
15 energy density. It also has a higher threshold temperature
16 for thermal runaway. Both of these characteristics make it
17 a comparatively safer technology.

18 The takeaway from this I want to leave with
19 everyone is that containers help to reduce the threat of a
20 fire spreading and the LFP chemistry helps to reduce the
21 chance of thermal runaway occurring.

22 Next slide, please.

23 The CEC has experience with permitting and
24 constructing battery energy storage systems from the
25 smallest to the largest scale utility applications. The

1 Marsh Landing, Russell City, Sentinel, and Stanton Energy
2 projects are fully operational and range from 10 to 17
3 megawatts. The Henrietta Project has 99 megawatts, while
4 the Border Project has 52 of battery energy storage.

5 I want to emphasize the range of CEC's projects
6 because we perform a rigorous analysis for any battery
7 energy storage project, no matter its location or size,
8 with an emphasis on safety. The CEC looks at every aspect
9 of safety to ensure that if a project were certified, it
10 would not create a significant impact during the
11 construction or operation of the project. Additionally,
12 our staff stay up to date with the latest codes, standards,
13 research, and best practices for battery energy storage
14 systems.

15 Now I would like to introduce my colleague, Dr.
16 Greenberg, who will go into greater detail about the CEC
17 staff analysis as it pertains to battery energy storage
18 systems. Thank you.

19 DR. GREENBERG: Thank you, Brett.

20 Good afternoon. I'm Dr. Alvin Greenberg and I'm
21 the guy responsible for conducting an independent analysis
22 and assessment of the safety of this project, and that will
23 be included in one section of the Staff Assessment called
24 the Worker Safety and Fire Protection section.

25 I worked with the California Energy Commission as

1 contract staff for over 31 years and have analyzed these
2 issues for a vast array of energy projects ranging from
3 natural gas fired power plants, solar photovoltaic, and
4 other solar projects, wind turbines, geothermal, coal
5 gasification, and now more recently, battery energy storage
6 systems.

7 I've also conducted power plants compliance
8 inspections and served as a safety monitor for the
9 construction of a photovoltaic solar facility and for the
10 demolition of older solar facilities. Having a safety
11 monitor during construction of any CEC licensed energy
12 facility is one of our standard requirements.

13 Staff is very much aware that safety is of great
14 concern to all of you and it is a priority for us. Working
15 with my colleagues who will be responsible for assessing
16 impacts to public health, we are focused on conducting a
17 thorough and professional and independent analysis of this
18 proposed project. And I can commit to you that we will
19 read every single comment received from the public before,
20 during, or after this scoping meeting.

21 Although I'm just beginning my analysis after
22 reading the application and receiving answers to my
23 questions posed to the Applicant in the form of data
24 requests, I want to share with you a little bit of the
25 process that staff follows and the new standards and

1 requirements the CEC is implementing this year for all
2 battery storage system projects under our jurisdiction.

3 Next slide, please.

4 This slide depicts risk assessment and risk
5 management. The first step in our process is to identify
6 each hazard that might be posed to on-site workers or the
7 off-site public during both construction and operation of
8 the energy storage system.

9 Next, staff will examine and assess the chances
10 of that hazard impacting the off-site public and the
11 workers on the site by conducting the following reviews.
12 The information provided by the Applicant about the battery
13 chosen for use on this project, which is the CATL EnerC+
14 (phonetic) battery. We'll review past accidents of this
15 battery energy storage system and frankly, any other
16 battery energy storage system. We'll review engineering
17 studies and published scientific studies, as well as
18 industry reports.

19 Additionally, staff will also be reviewing any
20 available root cause analyses from past battery energy
21 storage system incidents to learn what worked, what didn't
22 work. Staff will then address the hazards that require
23 mitigation, assess whether the Applicant's proposed
24 mitigations are adequate, and determine whether additional
25 mitigation is required. If additional controls are needed,

1 staff will then propose additional mitigation in the form
2 of what we term a condition of certification, it's a
3 condition of licensing, which is abbreviated a COC. So you
4 will hear that term COC quite often. And this becomes an
5 enforceable requirement of the project if it's approved.
6 Staff is committed to ensure the safest possible energy
7 production and storage for all Californians.

8 Next slide, please.

9 Staff will evaluate this project against the most
10 recent new safety standards and codes that include the
11 National Fire Protection Association, UL Solutions, the
12 California Fire Code, and the California Public Utilities
13 Commission General Order 167-C that was adopted just this
14 past March.

15 Next slide, please.

16 The NFPA is the nation's premier fire safety
17 organization with a membership of over 50,000 fire
18 department members, fire protection professionals,
19 academics, and regulators. It's a global, self-funded,
20 non-profit organization that develops and maintains
21 consensus-based standards and codes for fire, electrical,
22 and related hazards. Its mission is to eliminate death and
23 injury and economic loss from fire and other hazards by
24 providing information, research, education, and advocacy.
25 Currently, there are 384 NFPA standards.

1 The most recently updated standard, 855, which is
2 the 2026 update that was just released two weeks ago, that
3 addition applies to the design, construction, installation,
4 commissioning, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning
5 of stationary battery energy storage systems. The standard
6 includes such important requirements as emergency planning
7 and training, system interconnections, and maintenance.

8 And there have been several updates of the 2023
9 addition, but some of the new requirements that I'd like to
10 highlight include the requirement for a hazard mitigation
11 analysis for BESS installations, enhanced fire and
12 explosion testing, including large-scale fire testing to
13 better assess performance under the worst case conditions,
14 and the requirement for a thermal runaway propagation
15 prevention system, that's a mouthful, but that's also very
16 important.

17 Because this is a consensus-based standard and
18 some of the provisions of 855 are not currently an
19 enforceable code, staff will propose a COC requiring
20 compliance with NFPA 855.

21 Next slide, please.

22 UL safety standards. These safety standards were
23 developed by UL Solutions, which is formally was called
24 Underwriters Labs, a name you're probably all familiar
25 with. And you can find it on a label on electrical kitchen

1 appliances, power tools, even extension cords. UL is a
2 131-year-old company that researches safety and develops
3 standards addressing the risks from fires and electric
4 shocks. Both Federal OSHA and Cal/OSHA require that almost
5 all electrical devices and cables in workplaces meet
6 relevant UL standards.

7 They also developed standard UL 9540, which is a
8 certification that signifies that an energy storage system
9 has undergone rigorous testing and evaluation and that it
10 meets the safety standards for electrical and
11 electrochemical energy storage technologies. Staff has in
12 the past and will in the present and the future require
13 this certification.

14 The companion standard to UL 9540 is UL 9540-A,
15 which provides a test method for evaluating thermal runaway
16 propagation in battery energy storage systems and is
17 required before a UL 9540 certificate can be issued. Staff
18 will require this testing.

19 And UL 1973 covers a wide range of battery
20 technologies, including lithium-based and requires a range
21 of safety performance tests. Staff will also require these
22 tests and certification.

23 Next slide, please.

24 California State Fire Code. Now, this was
25 amended July 1st, 2024, to add regulations governing

1 battery energy storage system placement and operation in
2 all of California. These new regulations must be followed
3 by all such projects and it specifically includes
4 requirements in section 1207, which outlines scope, hazard
5 mitigation analysis, fire tests, and separation
6 requirements for battery energy storage system
7 installations.

8 Next slide, please.

9 Operation and maintenance standards, also
10 applicable, as the previously mentioned, California Public
11 Utilities Commission General Order 167-C. And this
12 established stricter standards for maintenance and
13 operation of battery energy storage systems and increases
14 oversight of emergency response plans.

15 The following are mitigation requirements that
16 are examples, it doesn't include all of them, but that the
17 Energy Commission has already required for a battery energy
18 storage system or will soon require them for those that
19 come before the Commission.

20 Deflagration panels or active ventilation
21 systems, such as explosion proof fans and vents that open.
22 Now, these would either direct in any explosion upwards
23 rather than to the side or avoid to avoid impacting
24 adjacent units and avoiding propagation or remove any
25 flammable gases before they can explode.

1 Thermal infrared cameras. These are used to
2 detect heat anomalies before they induce a thermal runaway
3 event.

4 Instruction and operations and maintenance fire
5 protection program required by Cal/OSHA and includes
6 several programs that protect workers and provide for fire
7 prevention.

8 A command and control center that would be used
9 if a fire does occur so that the responding fire department
10 can receive telemetry data from the units and direct
11 operations from outside the battery area, thus protecting
12 the first responder firefighters.

13 I would now like to pass the microphone to
14 Caroline Grey.

15 MS. GREY: Hi, everyone. My name is Caroline
16 Grey and I'm a Senior Advisor to the Chair here at the
17 Energy Commission.

18 I know there's so much information that you guys
19 are observing today, but the thing that I really want to
20 say to you is that the single most important factor in the
21 Energy Commission's decisions around permitting is safety.
22 As you've heard, our review process, led by the expert
23 staff that you see arrayed in front of you, takes an
24 exhaustive approach to every dimension of battery safety.
25 We've never had a fire at a storage facility permitted by

1 the CEC and we intend to keep it that way. We look forward
2 to analyzing the project's choice of site, design,
3 technology, and more over the months to come.

4 I also want to emphasize, as you can see on the
5 slide, that battery safety is a top priority for the entire
6 state of California, not just the California Energy
7 Commission. Our agency is proud to be a part of the new
8 California Battery Safety Collaborative, which includes
9 senior leadership at CAL FIRE, the California Air Resources
10 Board, the California Public Utilities Commission, and the
11 Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development.
12 This group is taking an all-of-government approach to
13 ensure that our battery systems are safe and reliable for
14 the communities that they serve.

15 As others have indicated, as the industry has
16 moved to the new codes and chemistries that you've just
17 heard about, there really have been significant
18 improvements in battery safety, but we cannot take that for
19 granted and we don't here at the Energy Commission. The
20 state's Battery Safety Collaborative is committed to
21 ensuring best-in-class safety in every aspect of a battery
22 project's life, including permitting, installation,
23 monitoring, and emergency planning. And that's the lens
24 through which the CEC will review the battery project
25 before us today.

1 And now I'll turn it back to my colleague,
2 Kaycee.

3 MS. CHANG: Thank you.

4 The CEC is in the early stages of analysis of the
5 proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project, now
6 that the application is complete. Staff will use the
7 information gathered during this scoping process in the
8 preparation of the Staff Assessment. For example, we have
9 a court reporter transcribing today's meeting who will
10 capture any verbal comments made today.

11 With certain exceptions, the Staff Assessment is
12 prepared within 150 days of the application completeness
13 determination. The Staff Assessment is anticipated to be
14 published in March 2026. There will be a 60-day public
15 review period for the Staff Assessment and CEC will then
16 come back and hold a public meeting during that period.
17 Following the close of the 60-day public review period,
18 staff may prepare and publish an updated Staff Assessment
19 and will file the CEC Executive Director's recommendation
20 on whether the CEC should issue a certificate to build and
21 operate the project. A CEC decision on the proposed
22 project will be made at a publicly noticed CEC business
23 meeting.

24 And now I'll pass the microphone to Ryan Young,
25 our Deputy Public Advisor.

1 MR. YOUNG: Well, again, good afternoon. I'm
2 Ryan Young, Deputy Public Advisor with the CEC. Today I'm
3 going to present on how members of the public, California
4 Native American tribes and others can participate in this
5 proceeding.

6 Next slide, please.

7 I'm with the Office of the Office of Public
8 Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs. Part of our
9 mission is to facilitate public and tribal engagement in
10 CEC programs and policies. We are a free resource
11 available to anyone who wants to participate in CEC
12 proceedings, including the Corby proceeding.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Now I'm going to talk about different ways to
15 participate in the CEC's Corby proceeding. There are
16 multiple ways you can participate. The first is just to
17 follow the proceeding. The second is to comment on the
18 proceeding. And the third option available to California
19 Native American tribes is tribal consultation. I'll now go
20 into more detail on how to follow this proceeding.

21 Next slide, please.

22 One of the most popular ways to participate in
23 our programs and policies is to simply follow them. You
24 can follow our proceedings by reviewing materials we post
25 on our website, signing up for email updates and by

1 attending events like the one you're at today. Our events
2 are almost always hybrid or fully virtual via Zoom, so the
3 public can attend from anywhere with a phone or Internet
4 connection.

5 On this slide, you'll see a snapshot of the CEC
6 webpage for the proposed Corby Project. It has information
7 on the proposed project, as well as project status. It has
8 a place where you can subscribe for free email updates on
9 this proposed project under the subscribe section. There's
10 also a link to submit written comments directly to our
11 project docket.

12 What is a docket?

13 Next slide, please.

14 The CEC has publicly accessible online dockets
15 for all of its proceedings. This is basically a place
16 where application materials, public comments, notices,
17 agendas, and other documents are filed and available
18 online.

19 On this slide, you'll see an image of the docket
20 for the proposed Corby Project. With few exceptions, all
21 materials in the docket are linked and available for anyone
22 to view for free.

23 Next slide, please.

24 Another way to participate is to comment. For
25 all the CEC programs and policies, any person can comment

1 verbally at a CEC event or in writing. Please note the
2 comments will become part of the public record with access
3 available via any internet search engine. To comment
4 verbally, just attend an event and wait for the
5 instructions during the public comment period to make your
6 comment. For a hybrid event, you can comment in person or
7 via Zoom, online or by phone. Coming up on our agenda is
8 just such a comment period.

9 The CEC also welcomes written comments. As I
10 stated before, on the CEC website, we have a docket for
11 each project and proceeding. Written comments can be
12 submitted to the docket for the proceeding at any time, but
13 the most effective time to do so is during the announced
14 public comment periods. On our website, you can submit a
15 comment electronically by typing it into our e-comment page
16 or uploading a document, such as a letter. We also have
17 email and paper options to submit comments that are
18 detailed in the notice for today's event.

19 If you need assistance providing a comment, you
20 can always contact the Office of the Public Advisor, my
21 office, and I'll have our contact information on a later
22 slide.

23 Next slide, please.

24 The CEC invites tribal consultations for this and
25 other Opt-In proceedings. William Larson from the CEC

1 Siting Division is available for inquiries and other
2 communications from California Native American tribes.

3 Next slide, please.

4 Thank you for attending this event and your
5 interest in this proceeding. We're all here to serve the
6 state of California and your participation helps us do our
7 jobs.

8 I have put the contact information for our office
9 on this last slide and my office is available to assist you
10 in the proceeding. And just a reminder to turn in your
11 blue cards, they look like this at the back table should
12 you wish to make a comment shortly.

13 All right, thank you. I'm now going to turn to
14 the public comment section.

15 Again, thank you for joining us today. This is,
16 again, Ryan Young, the Deputy Public Advisor, and we
17 welcome public comment at this time.

18 We'll start with commenters joining us in person
19 and then transition to our online and phone attendees. If
20 you are joining us here at the in-person location, again,
21 fill out and turn in a blue card at the Public Advisor's
22 table as soon as possible.

23 I'm first going to invite public officials to
24 approach the podium and make comments.

25 I'll start with Mitch Mashburn. You're invited

1 to approach the podium, set your affiliation. And we're
2 asking -- for you, you're not going to have a timer.

3 MR. MASHBURN: I appreciate that very much. I'm
4 probably the only local elected official you're going to
5 hear from for this area, because I am the only local
6 elected official representing those folks, so having a
7 little extra time is appreciated.

8 I'm here today before you to speak as the Chair
9 of the Solano County Board of Supervisors as well. And in
10 that role, I'm speaking to you for 425,000 Californians
11 right now who on Tuesday, by unanimous vote of our board
12 and all of the districts, passed an ordinance in our county
13 regulating BESS. It's one of the most thorough ordinances
14 in the state right now that I know of.

15 In that ordinance, we identified over 30 sites
16 within this county, 30 lots and sites within this county as
17 viable options for folks like this company that want to
18 place a battery storage facility in our county. We did
19 that because we're not the county of no. We recognize that
20 there is a need in California for this type of storage.
21 All we're saying is place it where we as the local
22 residents feel is the appropriate location.

23 With that said, I do have a paired statement that
24 I'd like to read into the record. And then I'd like to,
25 after seeing the presentation from the proposal, I'd like

1 to rebut some things and to speak to some issues.

2 So with that, I'm here on behalf of my
3 constituents in District 5 of Solano County to voice strong
4 opposition to the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage
5 System project. The concerns of our community are clear
6 and compelling. I ask that you deny the permit for this
7 project. The widespread opposition to this proposal stems
8 from serious issues related to its location and potential
9 impacts.

10 And our residents are particularly concerned
11 about public safety. The proposed location creates an
12 unacceptable fire risk threatening nearby homes, Highway
13 80, a major hospital with the potential toxic fumes and a
14 potential for mass evacuations.

15 Environmental stewardship, building on prime
16 agricultural land violates the county's mission and voter
17 approved Measure T. All of our county voted to approve
18 protecting those lands. 425,000 people voted and said they
19 wanted them protected. This potential project violates
20 that.

21 Threatening the local economy and risking
22 contamination of our water sources. Our local autonomy and
23 benefit, the Opt-In process bypasses local regulations,
24 deprives fire districts of essential funding and shifts all
25 the risks and costs to the community and its taxpayers.

1 And I would point out, based on the last
2 presentation, the community benefit box that was checked by
3 this group when they made a contribution to the Solano
4 Community Foundation, that foundation has little or almost
5 none, negligible impact on any of the local affected
6 residents, none, but that's your community benefit. None
7 of the community that's affected will be benefiting from
8 that, just to be clear.

9 This project attempts to override the extensive
10 work Solano County has undertaken to create a safe path
11 forward for battery energy storage systems. For two years,
12 our county has studied the impact of these systems,
13 carefully considering public safety, environmental concerns
14 and appropriate siting.

15 The result was a well thought out ordinance that
16 identifies suitable industrial locations for BESS projects
17 and ensures safety requirements are met. This ordinance
18 allows for safe installations that do not burden our
19 residents or our resources. The proposed Corby Project
20 disregards this careful and transparent process by
21 overriding local regulations in a direct challenge to the
22 county's authority and disrespects our community's efforts
23 to ensure the long-term well-being of Solano County
24 residents.

25 We ask that you respect our local process and

1 deny this application.

2 That was my formal piece. Now I'd like to speak
3 the informal piece.

4 So when y'all drove in here today, I'm assuming
5 if you came from Sac, you probably came down Leisure Town
6 Road over here, just guessing, and then you hit the
7 lattice. If you don't, maybe head out that way on the way
8 home because it'll get you to Sac faster than trying to go
9 back over here and cut into the freeway.

10 When you drove down that road, one of the places
11 you passed, and this is just to give you an example of some
12 of the impacts, there's a little community that we call
13 Leisure Town. There's 1,100 homes there and it's a senior
14 community, 55 and older, so you have thousands of residents
15 in there.

16 We know from previous fires that there's a plume.
17 We know that there are evacuations that have to occur.
18 Leisure Town, when I saw your slide, it said they live a
19 half mile out. Leisure Town sits about two miles, two and
20 a half miles away as the crow flies. But from what I read
21 about some of those other evacuations, they have to be
22 pretty significant and they're more than a half a mile.

23 Can you imagine as a first responder having to go
24 in a community of thousands of these seniors who are
25 mobility impaired, have all kinds of issues, and they're

1 trying to evacuate them in a safe fashion and timely
2 fashion so that they're not affected by this plume? It's
3 just not going to happen.

4 That's the reason that our local fire agency in
5 Vacaville, all of their members via their union, posted a
6 letter of opposition to this project. The City of Dixon's
7 Fire Department, which provides services for this, it's
8 important that you understand, that fire service, this sits
9 at the very edge of their response area, the very edge of
10 it. So the actual first responders that in all probability
11 will be there first are Vacaville. And Vacaville, well,
12 they have a letter of opposition in to this project that's
13 already been submitted.

14 All those things said, really what it comes down
15 to is a moral decision for us as Californians and for you
16 as this board, and that is 425,000 residents are telling
17 you, we don't want this project. And one energy oligarch
18 that's a for-profit company is telling you they do. We're
19 giving them an option. We said Lambie. We said, pick any
20 one of these other 39 sites.

21 And I'll give you an example of why that is
22 important to me too. Not this company, I can't put this
23 one on NextEra, but we had a company before this one who
24 came into Vacaville. Actually, they wanted to place two,
25 one of the other side of town. And they met with all of us

1 elected officials. And they wanted to give us all the
2 reasons this was the great thing, including \$20 million
3 worth of reason to the City of Vacaville in public benefit
4 they wanted to give.

5 At the time, nobody in our county wanted it here
6 in Vacaville. And I expressed that to them. And I said,
7 hey, we got this industrial park with a peaker plant. You
8 can tap right into the grid. It's a great spot. And they
9 said, yeah, that doesn't work so much for us. That's 17
10 miles from the Dixon Plant. We want to tap into that. And
11 I said to them, well, how much does it cost for you to run
12 a power line over to the Dixon substation? And they said,
13 that's a million bucks a mile. We can't afford that. I
14 said, well, you were going to give Dixon 20 million bucks.
15 So how about you just keep 17, put in the lines, and you
16 only got to give us three. That was the end of the
17 meeting. They didn't want to talk anymore after that.

18 What I'm telling you that for is to let you -- so
19 that you see where we're coming from. They have options.
20 They're making profit. If they make enough money that they
21 can give away \$20 million, not NextEra, but this other
22 company, and I'm sure NextEra is going to make this as
23 much, if they've got that much money that they can afford
24 to give that away to a community, my community would say,
25 hey, give us way less, place it somewhere else in the

1 county where we have agreed, where we will support you. I
2 won't be up here carrying a pitchfork and a torch. I'll be
3 over there with you cutting a ribbon. Put it somewhere
4 that it's safe where the only people that are going to be
5 affected -- not even people, the only things affected are
6 cows and sheep. And we'll be a happy county, and we won't
7 have all these people out here that you're going to have to
8 sit to.

9 And I applaud you for that, because I've sat in
10 this type of meeting before, and you're going to be here
11 for hours. I applaud you for doing that, and I appreciate
12 it, but I'd much rather be standing over there with you
13 cutting a ribbon than standing on this side with pitchforks
14 and torches.

15 And it's as simple as the denial of this
16 application and telling them, do it right. Do it right by
17 the Californians, not by a for-profit company, do it right
18 by 425 [sic] Californians.

19 Thank you for your time.

20 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

21 Seeing no other public officials in the room,
22 we're going to transition to our Zoom attendees. If you
23 are a public official joining us via Zoom, online, or by
24 phone, please let us know you'd like to make a comment by
25 using the raised hand feature on Zoom. If you are online,

1 you're going to click on the open palm at the bottom of
2 your screen to raise your hand. And if you're joining us
3 by phone, please press star nine to raise your hand.
4 Again, this is for public officials. I'll go to public
5 next.

6 All right, I'm not seeing any on Zoom. One more
7 check to see if there's any public officials in the room
8 that would like to approach the podium.

9 Okay, I'm first going to ask Cara Martinson to
10 come up. Please approach the podium. Spell your name for
11 the record. You're also invited to share your affiliation
12 and position on the project, if any, and then you may
13 begin. We're asking for comments to be two minutes or
14 less. There will be a timer on the screen.

15 We're next going to go to Joel Barrileaux in just
16 a moment.

17 Cara?

18 MS. MARTINSON: My name is Cara Martinson,
19 C-A-R-A M-A-R-T-I-N-S-O-N. I'm with Public House
20 Consulting. And today I am here representing the
21 California Energy Storage Alliance, or CESA, in support of
22 this project. CESA is the trade organization that
23 represents companies like NextEra and other developers and
24 associates that are developing and advocating for energy
25 storage in California.

1 I'll keep my comments brief because the
2 presentation covered really sort of the vast majority of
3 the work that we as an industry have been striving to do in
4 California, and that is safety as our top priority.

5 As you all know, storage is a critical part of a
6 reliable grid. It's not just companies that I represent
7 that are interested in developing these projects. It's the
8 Governor's Office that has set a goal of 52 megawatts by
9 2045 to meet our climate and energy targets. That's a
10 significant amount of storage, and we've come a long way in
11 a very short period of time.

12 But really within the last couple years, I think
13 we've made great strides. All of the information that was
14 presented, the codes and standards, the recent legislation
15 that was passed that requires emergency response plans,
16 that requires pre-application consultation, that delegates
17 authority to the Office of the Fire Marshal to evaluate
18 site configurations, whether projects should be in
19 buildings or containers. All of this work is really
20 critical.

21 But I think the most important role that the
22 industry plays not only in helping to support these types
23 of development is to provide the education. We've also
24 been working with Solano County on their ordinance and plan
25 to continue to work with counties across California so that

1 they might not have to permit a project through the Energy
2 Commission. They'll have a robust set of standards at the
3 local level.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

6 Joel Barrio, please approach the podium. Spell
7 your name for the record. You're invited to share your
8 affiliation and position on the project and then you may
9 begin. We're asking for comments to be two minutes or
10 less. There'll be a timer on the screen. And then we're
11 going to go to Paul Troxell after that. Joel, please
12 proceed.

13 MR. BARRILLEAUX: My name is Joel Barrilleaux,
14 B-A-R-R-I-L-L-E-A-U-X. I'm just member of the public.

15 Okay, members of the Energy Commission, I spent
16 22 years in the Navy and during that time, I worked on
17 advanced combat direction systems.

18 I'm strongly opposed to this project by NextEra,
19 and the reason being is that they plan to use batteries
20 that are manufactured by the Chinese corporation,
21 Contemporary Amperex Technology Company. You cannot, in
22 good conscience, approve this. It presents an unacceptable
23 cybersecurity and physical safety risk. The U.S.
24 Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland
25 Security have recognized the significant national security

1 threats posed by Chinese-made batteries and components by
2 companies like CATL.

3 In December 2023, Duke Energy disconnected CATL
4 batteries from Marine Camp Lejeune, North Carolina due to
5 cybersecurity concerns.

6 National Defense Authorization Act of 2024
7 prohibits the Department of Defense from acquiring items
8 from CATL.

9 The Corby Project proposes to operate its
10 facility remotely via supervisory control and data
11 acquisition system. Reliance on a system made by a
12 foreign -- you know, a country that we don't have very good
13 relations with exposes us to possible remote hacking and
14 could trigger thermal runaway, which has devastating
15 effects here.

16 Like I say, the Department of Defense has banned
17 the acquisition of CATL products. Why would we put them
18 next door to us?

19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

20 After Paul Troxell, we're going to have Mike
21 Wood.

22 Paul, please approach the podium. Spell your
23 name for the record. You're invited to share your
24 affiliation and position on the project. And you may
25 begin. We're asking for comments to be two minutes or

1 less. You may begin when you're ready.

2 MR. TROXELL: Last name is Troxell,
3 T-R-O-X-E-L-L. I come from -- I'm retired from the oil
4 industry and so I'm somewhat familiar with regulations and
5 processes for handling hazardous materials. And I'd like
6 to thank the Vacaville Firefighters Association for their
7 letter not supporting this project.

8 This project is just a bit over two miles from my
9 home as the crow flies. And after watching the Moss
10 Landing debacle, I cannot fathom that anyone would want to
11 consider putting this type of facility so close to a
12 residential area. Not only my home, but so close to
13 hospitals, trauma hospitals nonetheless, along major
14 highways. And in the event of a Moss Landing style event,
15 consider how people would be evacuated from residences and
16 hospitals.

17 Also consider the loss of farmland, not only to
18 build this, but the losses due to the pollution from an
19 event. Thousands upon thousands of acres for decades
20 afterwards would be useless. The pollution of water, not
21 only in the irrigation canals, but also the groundwater for
22 decades afterwards.

23 The Solano County Board of Supervisors has
24 already banned the storage of ag -- the storage facilities
25 on ag land and only allows it in industrial zones. What

1 you all are trying to do is bypass their laws for this
2 effort.

3 Yes, we indeed do need energy, but need not -- we
4 do not need to create things that have the potential to
5 poison and kill people, property, livestock, and make the
6 land poisoned for decades afterwards. We should be
7 building clean generation projects, not projects with great
8 toxic potential.

9 Consider that we are not able to extinguish a
10 Tesla at this moment once it catches fire. How would we
11 put out 40 acres of Teslas? We wouldn't be able to. It
12 would be a repeat of the Moss Landing disaster and who
13 would be held responsible for that?

14 Think of the people here in Vacaville and Dixon.
15 Think of the children. Think of the better plan to provide
16 more energy instead of creating what could be a major
17 disaster. I agree, we need more energy. AI is going to
18 demand tremendous amounts of energy, but what about human
19 intelligence?

20 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. Please wrap up your
21 comment.

22 MR. TOXELL: If it's good enough for AI, it's
23 good enough for humans. Thank you.

24 MR. YOUNG: Thank you so much.

25 After Mike Wood, we're done, we're going to hear

1 from Harilaos Bouzos. I apologize if I didn't pronounce
2 that correctly.

3 Mike, please spell your name for the record.
4 You're also invited to share your affiliation. We're
5 asking for comments to be two minutes or less. You can
6 proceed.

7 MR. WOOD: Thank you. My name is Mike Wood,
8 M-I-K-E W-O-O-D, common spelling. No particular
9 association. I'm a 31-year resident of Vacaville. I've
10 been involved in the aviation industry for over 35 years.

11 Three issues I'd like to raise. The first is
12 agricultural.

13 The trend here in Solano County and Vacaville in
14 particular has been a reduction of our agricultural lands
15 while the population has simultaneously skyrocketed. This
16 growing population places even more demand on these
17 resources and it seems silly to me to sacrifice valuable
18 agricultural land for this project here when there are
19 other locations that make more sense.

20 It also makes no sense to me to jeopardize our
21 water table, which is rather shallow and vulnerable in this
22 area. And so I don't think it makes sense for this project
23 from that perspective.

24 The next is safety. I mentioned that I'm going
25 to have a background in the aviation industry. That is a

1 controlled, regulated, and codified industry just as much
2 as public utilities. We have leading engineering, safety,
3 maintenance programs in that industry, yet we still have
4 accidents like the regrettable one the other day with the
5 MD-11 from UPS because error and mistakes are an inevitable
6 part of the human condition in everything that we try.

7 And so we've talked previously, and you noted
8 about the problems at Moss Landing and Gateway, and you
9 gave us assurances that the tech that has evolved is now
10 safer and that it's better, and that your agency will
11 conduct a rigorous analysis of those safety issues. But I
12 would caution that the residents that live in those local
13 areas were also given rosy engineering analyses. They were
14 promised high levels of safety and they were told by
15 government agencies, perhaps not yours, but certainly other
16 state and local agencies, that those projects would be safe
17 and should go forward. Yet we had those fires. Because
18 just like in my industry, those types of things will
19 happen. And so we need to be prepared for that.

20 The last thing is the cleanup for this. We're
21 going to be stuck with the tab of cleaning this up years
22 from now when Corby has gone on and reorganized and
23 declared bankruptcy and done other things so that they
24 don't have responsibilities for cleaning this up. Your
25 local residents will though. And we don't want to be stuck

1 with that tab for cleaning up this project. Those
2 batteries will wear out just like all of our electronic
3 devices do.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comment. Please
5 wrap up.

6 MR. WOOD: And when they are done, we don't want
7 to have to be stuck with cleaning them up.

8 MR. YOUNG: After Mr. Bouzos, we're going to hear
9 from Allison Harris.

10 Mr. Bouzos, please approach the podium. Spell
11 your name for the record. You're also invited to share
12 your affiliation. Comments will be two minutes or less.
13 You can proceed.

14 MR. H. BOUZOS: Hi, my name is Harilaos Bouzos,
15 B-O-U-Z-O-S. I'd like to thank the commissioners for
16 allowing us to speak here today.

17 My family owns a ranch less than 500 yards away
18 from the proposed BESS facility. We have over 17,000
19 almond trees that rely on clean soil and groundwater.

20 I'm not against renewable energy or energy
21 storage, but I strongly oppose this site. After the tragic
22 incident at Moss Landing BESS facility, we must look at
23 these projects differently. The risk of fire contamination
24 and long-term environmental damages are real.

25 AB 205 may allow faster approvals and bypass

1 local zoning, but that doesn't mean companies should choose
2 sites that are unsafe or poorly suited. Common sense and
3 public safety still need to guide siting decisions.

4 According to the project's own Draft Geotechnical
5 Report, Volume 2, Appendix 2, the geohazard assessment
6 shows the site's risk for shallow groundwater is moderate
7 to high, with groundwater found just 7.5 to 15 feet below
8 the surface. The project design also includes two large
9 stormwater collection ponds, approximately four to five
10 feet deep. And at the bottom of these ponds, five dry
11 wells are planned to help discharge the water into the
12 ground and the underlying aquifer.

13 My question is straightforward: If this facility
14 were to catch fire, as has happened at other battery energy
15 storage sites, what measures are in place to prevent toxic
16 runoff during the thermal runaway event? Specifically, how
17 will runoff from rain or firefighting efforts be contained
18 to ensure it doesn't contaminate Vacaville's groundwater?

19 Most of our city's drinking water comes from
20 wells and draw from the same aquifer. I urge the
21 Commission to examine this issue closely during its review,
22 as it appears that NextEra has not adequately addressed
23 this concern.

24 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

25 After Alison Harris. We're going to hear from

1 Miranda Jachens.

2 Allison, please approach the podium. Spell your
3 name for the record. Share your affiliation and position.
4 Comments are going to be two minutes or less. You can
5 proceed.

6 MS. HARRIS: Alison Harris, A-L-I-S-O-N
7 H-A-R-R-I-S. I am a realtor here in Solano County and a
8 resident for over 48 years. And I'm here today to speak in
9 opposition of the Corby Battery Energy Storage System
10 Project.

11 While I support clean energy and storage, I'm
12 deeply concerned that approving this project would have
13 severe and unacceptable cumulative impacts on our
14 community. My primary concern is that this project fails
15 to comply with Solano County's new ordinance on BESS
16 facilities. The Solano County Board of Supervisors adopted
17 this ordinance, which explicitly states that BESS projects
18 are only permitted in industrial and commercial service
19 zones, not on agricultural land, and not on prime
20 agricultural land.

21 Allowing the Corby Project to proceed would set a
22 dangerous precedent undermining our county's zoning efforts
23 and land preservation policies and putting the public at
24 risk. Approving the Corby Project could create a cascade
25 of similar projects amplifying all the concerns the public

1 has raised regarding health, safety, and the quality of our
2 life.

3 Our local economy is built on agriculture and
4 losing prime agricultural land to industrial facilities
5 like this would have a lasting negative impact.

6 Finally, we must consider the future. Corby has
7 already planned for a phase two expansion with land
8 contracts ready. Additionally, another BESS application
9 from Middle River Power is also in the works for the same
10 street on agricultural land. Approving this project
11 without taking these future plans into account would be a
12 grave mistake.

13 We must ask how many BESS projects in one area is
14 enough? This is not just about one project. It's about
15 the future of our county. I urge you to deny the Corby
16 Project and uphold our local zoning and land use rules. We
17 ask that you protect our community and our agricultural
18 future from this dangerous precedent.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

21 After Miranda Jachens, we're going to hear from
22 Colleen Britton.

23 MS. JACHENS: Hi, Miranda Jachens, M-I-R-A-N-D-A
24 J-A-C-H-E-N-S. My name is Miranda Jachenss, the Executive
25 Director of Solano County Farm Bureau, and I represent over

1 500 members, including members who have farmed that land
2 and surrounding lands for generations.

3 On behalf of our members, we want to urge you to
4 deny the Corby Project application as it's proposed today.
5 The current proposal sits on prime ag land, farmland of
6 statewide importance, and unique farmland, which once
7 converted to urban uses, such as battery energy storage
8 systems, is gone forever.

9 Additionally, the surrounding agriculture areas
10 will be affected by decreased property values and could be
11 affected by pollution after toxic fumes during a fire at
12 the storage facility. Not only the crop of that year will
13 be affected, but also for years to come.

14 That's why it's imperative that these systems are
15 placed in appropriate locations that will not cause
16 contamination to farmworkers or agricultural lands in case
17 of a fire or other contamination possibilities. The
18 proposed Corby site should be preserved for our robust
19 agriculture community that feeds not only this county, this
20 state, but also our nation.

21 We urge you not to approve this current site as
22 BESS site and to keep our community farming. Thank you.

23 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

24 After Colleen, we're going to hear from Linda
25 Geller.

1 Colleen, please approach the podium. Spell your
2 name for the record. State your affiliation and position
3 on the project. And we're asking for comments to be two
4 minutes or less.

5 MS. BRITTON: Thank you. My name is Colleen
6 Britton. It's spelled B-R-I-T-T-O-N. I've been a resident
7 of Vacaville since 1974. And I am opposed to this battery
8 storage facility for several reasons.

9 I'd like to echo all the reasons that Mitch
10 Mashburn mentioned, especially the risk to the hospital.
11 To think of an evacuation of that hospital, which is
12 basically right across the freeway from this facility, is
13 almost an impossibility. So the risk of a plume and a fire
14 is beyond reproach.

15 And I think that the cost risk of this facility
16 is definitely not worth it. And since the county has
17 already approved other sites, I think you should reconsider
18 those sites and keep our community safe, and also not
19 infringe on local government who have represented the
20 people and opposed such a thing already.

21 So thank you.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

23 I just want to offer a quick reminder to please
24 turn in your blue cards. If you've just arrived, they look
25 like this to the back table, if you wish to make a public

1 comment. Thank you.

2 Linda. And then we're going to hear from Leo
3 Escarcega.

4 Linda, we're asking for comments to be two
5 minutes or less. Please proceed.

6 MS. GELLER: Hey, my name is Linda Geller. It's
7 L-I-N-D-A G-E-L-L-E-R. And I'm sorry, this is a very
8 emotional thing for me.

9 I actually live on the historic Kilkenny Ranch.
10 And I have for almost 40 years. I agree with all the
11 people -- well, most all the people that have spoken today.
12 And I would like to focus, though, on the aesthetics of the
13 project, and also reinforce that we are not a county of no,
14 but we are a reasonable county.

15 This would make a significant change to our
16 bucolic agricultural area. First of all, there's no way I
17 could even access my house without looking at those
18 horribly massive industrial poles that would create
19 eyesores and visually intrude our landscape. NextEra has
20 marginalized its impact on our community. And we are very
21 close to that proposed storage facility.

22 The project has an industrial character. It is
23 an industrial-scale facility planned for an area that is
24 currently agricultural and directly rural residential
25 areas. You can easily drive by or drive on to Kilkenny

1 Road on your way back to Sacramento. It is so close. I
2 encourage you to do so. It would be an eyesore.

3 Again, as everybody has said, this is not only
4 agricultural land, it is important agricultural land. It
5 is prime agricultural land. Our neighbors are farmers.
6 And it would ruin the aesthetics and the economy that the
7 Solano County has fought hard to preserve with Measure T.

8 It is so near Interstate 80, which is mentioned
9 in the Solano County comment letter as a state-designated
10 scenic corridor. The impacts of the facility, including
11 potential those 100-foot tall poles for the gen-tie route,
12 would need to be thoroughly analyzed for their impact on
13 scenic view sheds from the highway, not to mention the
14 residents.

15 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

16 MS. GELLER: The poles will change the rural
17 character of the area, destroying our views, bringing our
18 property values down, and also devalue our historic
19 Kilkenny Farm.

20 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comment. Please
21 wrap it up.

22 MS. GELLER: Okay. They had allegedly detailed
23 plans for landscaping that are a joke. That wall only
24 covers one part of the project. So I strongly --

25 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. Thank you for your

1 comment.

2 MS. GELLER: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Ryan, before we move
4 forward, I just wanted to clarify.

5 I'm Commissioner Noemi Gallardo, the Lead
6 Commissioner for siting and for overseeing this project.
7 For those who came in, I wanted to let you know that the
8 commissioners here and staff did a site visit where the
9 proposed project will be located. So just so you're aware,
10 we did get to see the area.

11 Thank you, Linda, for sharing. And then for the
12 others who came in late.

13 Go ahead, sir.

14 MR. ESCARCEGA: Good afternoon, Commission. Leo
15 Escarcega, E-S-C-A-R-C-E-G-A, a resident of Vacaville.

16 This site location for this BESS project is not
17 appropriate for the following reason. On a site visit, the
18 Commission would clearly see as far as one can see that
19 this location is surrounded by agricultural land, farm and
20 ranches that have existed for generations, providing food
21 for Solano County, the state of California, north and
22 south, and all points in between. Farming and ranching
23 that has provided a way of life, a way to earn a living, if
24 you will, all this will be put at risk with a BESS project
25 at this location.

1 It is my understanding that this facility is
2 scheduled to come online in 2027, should it be allowed to
3 be built. I respectfully urge the Commission to extend the
4 timeline to this Applicant in order to do further research
5 into a proper location for this type of industrial
6 facility.

7 Thank you so much.

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

9 I'm going to ask Reva Correia to approach the
10 podium. And then after that, we're going to hear from
11 Louis Derfus-Lebs (phonetic).

12 Reva, please spell your name for the record.
13 You're invited to share your affiliation and position on
14 the project, if any. And you may begin.

15 MS. CORREIA: My name is Reba Correa, it's R-E-V,
16 as in Victor, -A, Correia, C-O-R-R-E-I-A.

17 I'm a resident of Solano County, and I live right
18 across the freeway, I-80, on a small farm, amongst a lot of
19 other small farms and orchards. And this project would
20 destroy our way of living. And this is the third time
21 there was one on Meridian Road. There was going to be one
22 on Vacaville -- I mean, on Leisure Town Road. And so they
23 keep going within the communities, and it's jeopardizing
24 our safety and our lifestyle. There's noise with these
25 things that goes 24/7. Then we have to worry about thermal

1 runaway. There would be no way that we would be able to,
2 my family, evacuate, you know, our horses and our sheep and
3 goats.

4 And it just -- I don't understand why the state
5 has allowed these companies to circumvent the ordinances
6 and the moratorium that our city council and our Solano
7 County supervisors worked tirelessly to develop. It's just
8 not right. And I'm just in support of you finding a safer
9 place and not allowing this project to go through.

10 I think if anybody with any common sense would
11 look at the location, I mean, if something happened and you
12 tried to evacuate people on I-80, you would be closing down
13 I-80 going east and west and have to find (indiscernible).
14 And if you get an aerial view, it's going to be very
15 difficult to evacuate. And I think that would be a real
16 eyesore for the State of California to allow something like
17 that because the congestion on that freeway is already bad.
18 But if you back up that, the freeway east and west, you've
19 got a real problem.

20 So I really support the Lambie Industrial Park.
21 And let's let us have our country life.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

24 After Louis, we're going to hear from Wendy
25 Breckon.

1 Louis, your comments will be two minutes or less.
2 Thank you.

3 MR. DERFUS-LEBS: Yeah. Welcome to Vacaville,
4 one of the cities that make up Solano County.

5 I want to oppose this proposed approval of Corby
6 Energy storage systems as well as other proposed BESS with
7 lithium-ion technology at the proposed locations within our
8 city and county as the hazardous technology is not suitable
9 at the proposed locations. We are not opposed to
10 technology as long as it is safe and in the proper
11 location.

12 Let's talk about the location first. Vacaville
13 and Solano County are, for the most part, a mixed prime ag,
14 retail, bedroom-residential and light-safe industry. It is
15 the home of many farms, parks, retails, such as Nut Tree
16 Factory Stores, to name one. It provides quality homes and
17 a safe community for the military services that include the
18 Air Force, Navy, Army from Travis, and the Coast Guard
19 personnel from Station Vallejo, Rio Vista, and Alameda.
20 People also live and commute here from the Bay Area and
21 Sacramento to enjoy the quality of life of our community
22 offers. Our safe industrial -- our safe industries include
23 two prisons, biotech, such as Genentech and Alzer
24 (phonetic) and Johnson & Johnson, Amazon, and other
25 distribution centers.

1 The proposed sites are on prime agricultural
2 land, too close to residential and sensitive areas, such as
3 Kaiser Hospital, a Level 2 trauma center, and two major
4 interstates, I-80 and I-505. We have offered safer
5 alternatives, such as Lambert [sic] area and the massive
6 windmill farm along Highway 12 at Fairfield and
7 Collinsville, which already has the infrastructure tied to
8 the energy grid. But these ideas were rejected by Corby
9 due to increased costs and potential project completion
10 delays. We don't believe these are valid responses when it
11 comes to safer location alternatives.

12 Hazardous lithium battery technology. By nature,
13 lithium battery technology comes from many risks, which
14 include fire, high noise, danger to the local habitat,
15 animals, hazardous toxic air, and ground pollution.

16 Let me qualify my experience. I served 26 years
17 active duty Air Force, in which was required annual hands-
18 on basic fire training, and eight and a half years as a
19 refinery outside operator at Shell Martinez, which required
20 me to attend fire school in Elko, Nevada, as well as annual
21 hands-on firefighting training as part of our refinery fire
22 crew. So I also have experience in these types of fire.

23 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comment.

24 MR. DERFUS-LEBS: I have another page. I'm going
25 to give the comments there. I just want to conclude.

1 I ask you to ask yourself one question: If this
2 hazardous lithium technology was being proposed in your
3 neighborhood, would you and your family -- where you and
4 your family live and play, would you approve it? I think I
5 know the answer. Don't approve it in our neighborhood.

6 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

7 After Wendy, we're going to hear from Linda
8 Jacobs.

9 Wendy, please approach the podium. State your
10 affiliation. Spell your name for the record. Your
11 comments will be two minutes or less. Thank you.

12 MS. BRECKON: Thank you. I'm Wendy Brecken. I'm
13 a resident of Vacaville. My spelling is W-E-N-D-Y
14 B-R-E-C-K-O-N.

15 There are three things I'm asking that the EIR
16 study in the scoping analysis.

17 One is that we need a detailed, comprehensive
18 plume modeling analysis giving the actual high-wind
19 conditions in Vacaville. This analysis must include
20 weather patterns and Stability Classes D, E, and F, and a
21 model of simultaneous thermal runaway in all containers to
22 accurately assess the risk to our community. NextEra did
23 not do this.

24 NextEra's plume modeling analysis was inadequate
25 and only considered an average wind speed of 20 miles per

1 hour. The highest actual wind speeds occur in Vacaville
2 June through September and gusts vary from 45 miles per
3 hour to 52 miles per hour. That's double what NextEra has
4 considered.

5 The reason this is important is because BESS fire
6 spreads with wind as shown in the Victoria BESS fire in
7 Australia where 12 mile per hour winds was enough to spread
8 from battery container to battery container.

9 Lithium-ion batteries are extremely inherently
10 unstable meaning they are prone to catch fire and emit
11 toxic plumes. Multiple factors can contribute to the
12 degradation of a lithium-ion battery causing a fire. Poor
13 battery cell design, manufacturing defects, faulty
14 software, water intrusion, charging beyond safe limits,
15 extreme heat, and in Vacaville more than six months of the
16 year it is extreme heat, over 95 degrees Fahrenheit.
17 Physical damage -- batteries are brought in by trucks --
18 power outages, failed generator backups, and even
19 cyberattacks.

20 Please ensure that the EIR study is the best way
21 to avoid these causes of battery fire. In addition, please
22 look at the worst case scenarios with simultaneous thermal
23 runaway across all site modules which our county ordinance
24 requires. NextEra only studied a single container event.
25 This is a new high-risk technology.

1 MR. YOUNG: Thank you for your comment.

2 After Linda Jacobs, we're going to hear from
3 Sarah Dunn.

4 Linda, please spell your name for the record.
5 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.
6 Proceed, please.

7 MS. JACOBS: Is this on? Honorable
8 commissioners, I'm Linda Jacobs, L-I-N-D-A J-A-C-O-B, like
9 boy, -S. I've lived here since I was stationed at Travis
10 in 1975.

11 I have serious concerns about the public health
12 risk associated with the battery storage. NextEra was
13 asked by this Commission to provide data on potential
14 emissions, including metals and the particulate matter in
15 thermal runaway event. The alarming response, their
16 alarming response, they claimed no data was available.

17 Large scale BESS is new technology. We are still
18 learning the true impacts. Real-world examples challenge
19 NextEra's stance. During the Moss landing fire in January,
20 a scientist found heavy metal contamination, nanoparticles
21 of nickel and cobalt, et cetera, 100 times normal
22 background levels up to two miles away, contaminating a sea
23 estuary. This is incredibly concerning, even with the new
24 upgrades.

25 NextEra asks the -- asked the CEC to ignore this

1 evidence because industry data isn't standardized. If the
2 data isn't available, these projects should not be built
3 where they can cause harm. This is just common sense.
4 When nuclear power plants were new, they were built far
5 away from people until their safety was ensured.

6 We must apply the same abundance of caution here.
7 We must be proactive and not reactive. If NextEra cannot
8 definitively study how far heavy metal contamination will
9 spread, this project should not be permitted in areas so
10 close to homes and agricultural lands.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

13 After this comment, we're going to hear from
14 Michael Geller. Please go ahead and spell your name for
15 the record. And your comments will be two minutes or less.
16 Thank you. Proceed.

17 MS. DUNN: My name is Sarah Dunn, it's S-A-R-A-H
18 D-U-N-N. I'm a Vacaville resident.

19 Hello, commissioners. I support battery energy
20 storage in general. However, I'm opposed to this specific
21 project due to three core issues, it's technology, it's
22 location, and it's inherent risk it puts on our community.

23 The Corby Project relies on technology that is
24 already becoming obsolete. As demand for power grows with
25 data centers, electric vehicles, and all electric

1 appliances, we need substantially more power than these
2 limited four-hour lithium-ion systems can provide.

3 The future of energy storage is in long-duration
4 systems like flow, iron-zinc, and iron-air chemistries,
5 which you also permit. I wholeheartedly support these
6 safer alternatives, which also avoid the severe fire risks
7 associated with the lithium-ion. These are technologies
8 that we should be investing in.

9 NextEra insists on using lithium-ion technology,
10 which remains vulnerable to dangerous thermal runaway
11 incidents. In fact, since the application started last
12 year, since they submitted their application, there has
13 been five documented large-scale BESS fires, four of them
14 were in containers, such as NextEra's project, and seven
15 fires occurred in the United States with LFP batteries --
16 I'm sorry, not in the United States, but seven BESS fires
17 have occurred with the LFP technology. So this technology
18 is not immune. So the concerns the community have is
19 valid.

20 Any claimed net positive economic benefit is
21 invalid if we fail to measure the potential for a
22 multimillion-dollar liability a fire would place on our
23 first responders, our environment, and our community.
24 Since these events cannot be entirely prevented, the only
25 truly effective mitigation is proper locations, locating

1 these facilities in appropriate spots.

2 This project wants to remove 40 acres of prime
3 state-protected farmland for production from 30 years. The
4 only reason for this location is the proximity to the PG&E
5 substation, not public safety or adherence to our county
6 plans.

7 Solano County spent 15 months researching and
8 implementing an ordinance that identifies suitable
9 locations to protect our residents. So in conclusion, I
10 ask you, why are we considering giving up state-protected
11 farmland for a short-term fire-prone system that will be
12 obsolete in just a few years?

13 Commissioners, please do a further analysis on
14 the alternatives and direct NextEra to move their project
15 and minimize the risk to our environment, our people, and
16 follow the rules of our county.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

19 After Michael Geller, we're going to hear from
20 Ralph Muehlenbruch.

21 Michael, please spell your name for the record.

22 MR. GELLER: My last name is --

23 MR. YOUNG: And you'll have two minutes or less.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. GELLER: Okay. Last name is G-E-L-L-E-R. I

1 live at 5310 Kilkenny Road, 1,000 feet or less from the
2 proposed site. As such, my wife and I are some of the
3 individuals most affected by your decision on this matter.

4 CEQA mandates identification and protection of
5 historical resources eligible for or listed on the National
6 Register of Historic Places. The Corby proposal dismisses
7 the Kilkenny House and Kilkenny Ranch as historically
8 significant property, even after hearing responses to the
9 contrary from the Vacaville Heritage Council and the Solano
10 County Historical Society.

11 However, we find that it does qualify for the
12 National Register under Criterion A in the area of
13 agricultural history and woman's history for its
14 association with Catherine Kilkenny and Criterion C in the
15 area of architecture as an intact example of a Queen Anne-
16 style rural farmhouse which was constructed in 1900 by
17 George H. Sharpe. People who live in Vacaville know the
18 name George H. Sharpe. He provided the Frank H. Buck Home,
19 the William Henry Buck Home, the Harveston House at the Nut
20 Tree, and the Carnegie Library to name just a few historic
21 buildings that he constructed.

22 The 160 acres originally purchased by the
23 Kilkenny family in 1875 included our property and both 40-
24 acre parcels Corby has now acquired. Yes, they are already
25 planning for an expansion.

1 I'm requesting a cultural resources assessment
2 and studying impact analysis with consultation under CEQA
3 section 15064.5.

4 My second issue is the major concern on the
5 impact of property values. We believe the EIR must include
6 a detailed analysis of how construction noise and health
7 concerns impact surrounding properties.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

10 After Ralph, we're going to hear from Brian the
11 contractor.

12 Ralph, please spell your name for the record.
13 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank
14 you.

15 MR. MUEHLENBRUCH: You're afraid to try the last
16 name? My name is Ralph Muehlenbruch, that's R-A-L-P-H
17 M-U-E-H-L-E-N-B-R-U-C-H.

18 I'm a resident living in the North Village
19 Subdivision of Vacaville located a mile away from the
20 proposed Corby Project. As such, I have a keen interest in
21 the attempts to construct a BESS facility in Vacaville and
22 in Solano County.

23 I am not opposed to these facilities per se, but
24 I am opposed to locating them in areas that would be
25 adversely affected should a thermal runaway incident occur,

1 areas such as residential housing, schools, hospitals, and
2 prime agricultural lands.

3 I'm not here to rehash the hazards posed by BESS
4 facilities as they have been and I'm sure will be further
5 stated by other commenters. Rather, I am here to address
6 the fact that the very process supported by AB 205
7 circumvents the will of the people as reflected by the
8 passage of city and county ordinances by duly elected city
9 and county representatives who are accountable to the
10 electorate.

11 The state legislature has put the unelected
12 members of the California Energy Commission in an
13 unenviable position as they have been placed in the
14 crosshairs of the AB 205 legislation that now makes them
15 the decision maker, not the democratically elected city
16 council members or county supervisors. And the Commission
17 can now supersede our local ordinances created through the
18 ordinance adoption process. However, just because you can
19 supersede our local ordinances doesn't mean you should.
20 And I hope the Commission truly appreciates the
21 distinction.

22 Solano County invested 15 months of study into
23 creating an ordinance that allows BESS facilities and
24 orders that they consider appropriate in the county we know
25 best. We've heard much lately about threats to democracy,

1 but we in Vacaville and in Solano County are actually
2 experiencing that threat if our local ordinances are
3 circumvented. I respectfully ask the CEC and their
4 considered wisdom to not allow that to happen.

5 Thank you for the time to address this important
6 matter.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

9 After Brian, we're going to hear from Mabrey
10 Scott.

11 Brian, please spell your name for the record.
12 Comments will be two minutes or less. Thank you.

13 MR. BRISBON: Thank you. Brian Brisbin,
14 B-R-I-A-N, last name Brisbin, B-R-I-S-B-I-N. I am
15 affiliated with Cupertino Electric, a local Bay Area
16 contractor. We've been in business for 70-plus years.

17 I'm here speaking in support of the project for
18 two main reasons. One, this creates local jobs, many of
19 which are in this room today with the Local 180, the IBW,
20 local laborers and operators. Many of these folks will
21 have the opportunity to go build on this site.

22 Cupertino has also worked on many renewable
23 projects with NextEra safely. So safety being the prime
24 focus of how we build things at Cupertino, just want to
25 support the project, that we are first in class in terms of

1 safety. And yeah, that is what I'm here to say.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

4 After Mabrey Scott, we're going to hear from
5 Karen from Keep Vacaville Safe.

6 Maebry, please spell your name for the record.
7 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank
8 you.

9 MS. SCOTT: Whoops. My name is Mabrey Byrnes-
10 Scott, and the last name is S-C-O-T-T. I am a farmer and I
11 live on Byrnes Road. I am in opposition to the proposed
12 lithium battery plant that's at Kilkenny and Byrnes Road.
13 I am not in opposition to any kind of battery plants, but
14 the location.

15 Why near homes and families? Over a hundred
16 years ago, my family came across in a wagon train to what
17 is now Solano County. They started farming. Why is a
18 lithium battery plant being put on prime ag land?

19 Our elected supervisors passed an ordinance
20 against such a situation. These were elected by the Solano
21 County citizens. Why is Corby trying to go over their
22 heads?

23 Please deny this for the citizens' sake. Thank
24 you.

25 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

1 After Karen, we'll hear from Debbie Reuter.
2 Karen, please spell your name for the record.
3 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. BELL: My name is Karen, spelled K-A-R-E-N,
6 last name Bell, B-E-L-L. I'm here, of course, to oppose
7 the project from Corby. Though it's important that we do
8 have this kind of renewable energy and battery storage in
9 general, but the site that Corby has chosen is
10 fundamentally inappropriate. It places our agricultural
11 land and the land that I live on, that most of the people
12 here in the room live on, places it at an unacceptable
13 risk.

14 And besides everything that everyone is
15 discussing this afternoon, I wanted to address the
16 sensitive wildlife in this area. I'm an animal lover, and
17 not too many of us care about the animals, but my family
18 does. And I know that from the slides that were up
19 earlier, that there were a lot of surveys that said that
20 there was wildlife, like the Burrowing owls and the White-
21 tailed kites. All of those species are protected, but
22 there's one, the honeybee population, that our farmers
23 depend on heavily. And without the important pollinators,
24 those bees, then what would happen to our agricultural
25 community?

1 The bees are incredibly profoundly sensitive to
2 their environment, and they rely on sound and vibrations
3 for communication and navigation, and if they're lost due
4 to disruption of their habitat, what would happen to our
5 local farmers, to our agricultural economy?

6 When making this decision --

7 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

8 MS. BELL: -- please consider our local farmers
9 and what the wildlife would be affected by.

10 Thank you.

11 MR. YOUNG: Thank you so much.

12 After Debbie Reuter, we're going to hear from
13 Deanna Cole.

14 Debbie, please approach the podium. Spell your
15 name for the record. Comments will be two minutes or less.
16 Thank you.

17 MS. REUTER: My name is Debbie Reuter, and my
18 last name is spelled R-E-U-T-E-R.

19 Well, I oppose the location of the proposal, and
20 I am not against the actual structure, but it's where it's
21 at, like many people have said.

22 And someone mentioned jobs, and I noted that the
23 jobs aren't permanent; right? Once it's built, those jobs
24 will go away. So I guess for a short period of time, there
25 will be jobs.

1 But the reason they're choosing that spot is
2 because they want to save money. They don't want to save
3 people's lives or health. So when we keep saying why, why,
4 that's why. That's capitalism. That's how it goes. If
5 they can get away with it, they'll do it.

6 And also they're disingenuous. I looked through
7 everything online to see where their batteries came from.
8 I don't know how the person found that they were made in
9 China, but that's not one of the top 10 battery
10 manufacturers.

11 And another thing with the battery manufacturers
12 is I went to EEPower, which is a digital publication for
13 energy engineers, and one of the things they say that's
14 leading to the fires is the audit system. They hire third-
15 party auditors, like for their quality control, who have no
16 skin in the game.

17 So I just think we're not being told everything
18 and some of the things we're told aren't true. So I don't
19 think people are safe when they're that close. I don't
20 know, I guess if you have a job like that, that's what
21 you're supposed to do. But it's very disheartening.

22 And I just ask that you consider a different
23 location. That's all. And if they have to spend more and
24 we have to wait a little more, I'm fine with that. I just
25 want to feel safe and I want my family to feel safe.

1 That's all.

2 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

3 After Deanna Cole, we're going to go to Noelle
4 DeMartini.

5 Deanna, please spell your name for the record.
6 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank
7 you.

8 MS. COLE: My name is Deanna Cole, that's
9 D-E-A-N-N-A. Last name is Cole, C-O-L-E.

10 It may seem strange that we're about a proposed
11 battery energy storage system and I present you with this
12 family photo collage. Let me explain.

13 I live with my husband and two of our four
14 children at 5405 Kilkenney Road, the corner of Kilkenney and
15 Byrnes Road. If that location sounds familiar, it should.
16 We own the home on the 10-acre parcel directly adjacent to,
17 just to the north of the proposed Corby BESS project, one
18 single road and one canal ditch dividing us from the
19 proposed building site as you saw. If you did the site,
20 you were right in my front yard -- site visit, I should
21 say.

22 We're the second generation owners of this
23 property. My father-in-law purchased the property and
24 built our home in the 1970s where my husband and his
25 brothers grew up. Fast forward a few decades when my

1 husband and I married, we purchased a home and lived within
2 the city limits of Vacaville, but the peace and tranquility
3 and open space of country living kept calling to my
4 husband. So in 2003, pregnant with our youngest child,
5 number four, we sold our home in the city and answered that
6 call and moved our family to his childhood home in the
7 country to help my father-in-law maintain the property and
8 to raise our four children on the same land and in the same
9 house my husband grew up in and loved during his childhood.

10 I prepared this photo collage to bring with me
11 today with pictures that have been captured, that have
12 captured so many moments right from our front porch. I
13 could have made a much larger collage with all the pictures
14 and memories we've collected over the years, but I scaled
15 it down for logistical purposes. Each of these pictures
16 shares three common denominators. Each picture was taken
17 from our front yard. Each picture has at least one or more
18 of our beloved family members. And lastly, the main
19 purpose of this collage being here today is that this
20 picture has the proposed site of the Battery Corby Project
21 as its backdrop, the backdrop that until most recently had
22 been a home to beautiful orchard or fields of hay.

23 In consideration of everyone that will be
24 affected by allowing this project to be built and its risk
25 it opens us up to, my family and my neighbors will be

1 immediately and most permanently, possibly most permanently
2 affected. I have so many uncertainties. When a fire
3 starts, will I be alerted to get out in time?

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Ma'am, would it be okay to
6 take a closer look at that?

7 MS. COLE: Absolutely, yes.

8 CHAIR HOCHSCHILD: Thank you. If you can --

9 MS. COLE: I just ask, and I look at all the
10 things that I'm up against, the noise, the potential fire
11 evacuation, we have horses, we have dogs, we have
12 categories, my family, will we get out of there? I can't
13 host anybody at my home for fear of what they might have
14 potential.

15 So thank you. I just hope you look at a
16 different site. Thank you so much.

17 MR. YOUNG: After Noelle, we're going to go to
18 Joanne Motherspaw.

19 Noelle, please spell your name for the record.
20 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank
21 you.

22 MS. DEMARTINI: Noel, N-O-E-L-L-E, DeMartini,
23 D-E-M-A-R-T-I-N-I.

24 Good afternoon. My name is Noel DeMartini. I
25 was born and raised here in Vacaville. I'm going to read a

1 letter from the Vacaville Firefighters Union.

2 But before I do that, I would like to ask you,
3 the Energy Commission, to truly ask yourselves if while in
4 doing good with clean energy, which is your mission, do you
5 also want to leave behind a legacy that comes into a small
6 town such as ours and takes prime ag land and farmland that
7 despite the county and town saying no, this is not safe and
8 that we are worried, it is -- sorry, excuse me, that we are
9 worried about this lithium-ion battery storage facility and
10 that would endanger the lives of our residents?

11 Would any of you, would any -- sorry. Would any
12 of you like one of these placed in your front yard or near
13 your home? Would the potential pollution, noise and lights
14 and fires scare you?

15 I will now read the Firefighter Union letter. So
16 this is the Vacaville Firefighters Local 3501.

17 "To the honorable members of the California Energy
18 Commission, the Vacaville Firefighters Association
19 formally submits this letter in opposition to the
20 proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System project.
21 Our position is based on the risk the project poses to
22 the health and safety of the public and our members.
23 Bypassing local government and critical local funding
24 mechanisms will only further increase the risk.

25 "There is a clear and documented danger posed by

1 lithium-ion BESS fires. Fires in these facilities
2 result in the release of highly toxic gases and heavy
3 metals that pose both acute and chronic health risks.
4 "As we have learned from recent incidents, fires and
5 battery storage facilities are complex and resource
6 intensive. These emergencies require large personnel
7 and equipment commitments, such a response would
8 strain resources and inhibit or delay our ability to
9 respond to emergency calls from our residents.
10 "Solano County has identified more remote industrial
11 locations appropriate for BESS facilities. In the
12 event of a thermal runaway incident at the proposed
13 location, there will be an immediate threats to
14 Interstate 80, surrounding rural homes and a large
15 subdivision. A significant fire at the proposed
16 facility site could cause evacuations or shelter in
17 place for thousands of residents.
18 "Most importantly, the public and first responders
19 could be exposed to toxic gases when helping with
20 evacuations or responding to the incident itself.
21 "We urge the California Energy Commission to place the
22 health of our residents and firefighters above
23 corporate convenience."

24 Thank you.

25 MR. YOUNG: After Joanne, we're going to hear

1 from Marion Elkins.

2 Joanne, please approach the podium, spell your
3 name for the record and comments will be two minutes or
4 less, please.

5 MS. MOTHERSPAW: Joanne, J-O-A-N-N-E, Motherspaw,
6 M-O-T-H-E-R-S-P-A-W. I'm a concerned citizen. I'm here
7 representing myself.

8 To be honest, it was important for me to be here
9 today when I found out the California Energy Commission
10 would be here. I had to look you up on your website. We
11 had to look you up on your website to find out what y'all
12 actually do. And you are charged with this final decision,
13 I understand by reading what I read and it says your
14 commission will ensure us a safe, resilient, reliable
15 supply of energy and 100 percent clean energy.

16 This should make me feel good. But after
17 researching the BESS incidents like Moss Landing, for me,
18 the answer was no. If it is not safe, it cannot be
19 reliable and should never be placed where people are in
20 harm's way.

21 Now reading the letter submitted by our
22 professionals from the fire department, that would be
23 charged with handling an incident that affects everything
24 outside of the BESS fencing, like our senior communities,
25 schools, hospitals, and highly likely evacuations in case

1 of any toxic fire, they themselves say they are not
2 equipped.

3 I wanted to be on record opposing any placement
4 of a battery storage station in the proposed area or on any
5 prime ag land where our animals and food are raised.

6 Thank you for listening.

7 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

8 After Marion Elkins, we're going to have Dan
9 Doolan.

10 Marion, please spell your name for the record.
11 Comments will be two minutes or less. Thank you.

12 MS. ELKINS: Hi, my name is Marion Elkins,
13 M-A-R-I-O-N E-L-K-I-N-S.

14 I heard what you said and I sincerely hope that
15 you are going to carefully consider this project as you
16 said. I support sustainable green energy. I belong to a
17 local climate reality commission. I understand the need
18 for energy storage, but I wanted to have the least negative
19 impact on my city and county possible.

20 And most importantly, I want it to be safe.
21 Safer batteries are available, flow sodium ion and others.
22 Sodium ion is both cheaper and safer.

23 As others have told you, this will destroy our
24 farms and farmland, the lives of humans and animals if
25 there's an incident.

1 I heard the mention of the protected species
2 also. And, you know, that always sounds good, but every
3 time we have a development, they're mentioned and there's
4 some way to mitigate the destruction and the development
5 gets built anyway. Pretty soon, they're all going to be
6 gone and won't be an issue. I hope we don't do that.

7 As others have said, this is a mile away from
8 homes, almost two miles from our hospital. There's still a
9 risk of thermal runaway fires and toxic gases. The
10 officials in Monterey where Moss Landing happened are still
11 identifying further environmental damages from the most
12 recent fire that happened in January. NextEra themselves
13 have had thermal runaway incidents and multiple fires in
14 New York in 2023. They have also lobbied against renewable
15 energy policies.

16 There is an industrial park in which it would be
17 more appropriately located. Their objections of more
18 effort and cost to them should not override the health and
19 safety concerns of local residents.

20 Thanks.

21 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

22 After Dan, we're going to have Travis Breckon.

23 Dan, please spell your name for the record.

24 Comment for two minutes or less. Thank you.

25 MR. DOOLAN: D-O-O-L-A-N.

1 Commissioners, thank you for listening to us
2 today. It means a lot to have you here.

3 All along the talks have been safety, safety,
4 safety. And it appears that cost is going to trump safety.

5 Lithium-ion batteries are not good for this.
6 They have other batteries, but they cost more. Like Sarah
7 said, there are new technologies out there besides lithium-
8 ion batteries.

9 And one of the sites I looked at was the
10 windmills out in the countryside here. They all are hooked
11 to the grid, every single one of them. If those battery
12 storages were underneath those windmills, they would have
13 direct contact to the grid. It may cost more, but safety
14 should be our top priority.

15 I hear that they want to provide the fire
16 department with an emergency response plan. I didn't hear
17 anything about them funding for new firefighters or new
18 apparatus. I didn't hear anything about that portion of
19 it. They could pull an emergency response plan out of a
20 catalog. Are they going to provide an umbrella policy in
21 case there is a catastrophic failure down the road? Who's
22 going to pay for this? They should have a policy in effect
23 \$50 million, \$100 million policy.

24 And the last thing I have here was my
25 understanding is that all of the storage for these

1 batteries will be given to San Francisco. There's nothing
2 for us here in Vacaville. We are the ones that are -- we
3 have all the danger. And there is --

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 MR. DOOLAN: -- none for San Francisco at this
6 point in time.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. YOUNG: After Travis, we're going to hear
9 from Cara Eich.

10 Travis, please spell your name for the record.
11 Comments will be two minutes or less.

12 MR. BRECKON: Good afternoon. My name is Travis
13 Brecken. B, as in boy, -R-E-C-K-O-N. I'm a resident of
14 Vacaville. That was in a mile of where that project is
15 supposed to be built. I'm a U.S. Army veteran and 30-year
16 law enforcement retiree. And I, again, I oppose this
17 project for all the reasons that especially Mitch Mashburn,
18 our representative, said.

19 But another concern I have is especially the fire
20 risk. This is a very important issue and must be looked at
21 very closely. My main worry is that the small amount of
22 water that is provided for fighting fires, the plant plan,
23 in my understanding, includes a 24,000-gallon water tank.
24 But Dixon Fire says fighting fires in the county area often
25 needs a flow of 1,500 gallons every minute. That means

1 that the water tank would run out in only 16 minutes. This
2 is a major problem and puts our community and our
3 firefighters in severe danger.

4 From the recent fires, especially the one at Moss
5 Landing, the battery site in January, the lithium battery
6 caught fire and it burned, from my understanding, from what
7 I saw on the news, for over four days. And the fire
8 simmered for even a longer time.

9 Also, the danger of the wildfire is a serious
10 worry. The wildfire from lightning or something else up to
11 the battery containers make a small fire turn into a huge
12 one. And if that happens, the water tank on the site would
13 not be nearly enough to cool the batteries and stop the
14 fire from jumping from one container to the next.
15 Firefighters often use a lot of water just to cool the
16 batteries that are surrounding the ones that are burning.
17 And a 16-minute water supply is not even close enough to
18 meet the needs.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

21 After Cara, we're going to hear from Chris
22 Whitaker.

23 Cara, please spell your name for the record.
24 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

25 MS. EICH: Hi, I'm Cara Eich, C-A-R-A E-I-C-H.

1 And I'm here to speak, representing young families of
2 Vacaville.

3 So I live in one of the new developments off of
4 Leisure Town. We have a ton of young families in our
5 neighborhood, all new homes, and they're continuing to
6 build homes out there, you know, by the hundreds. And we
7 have lots of kids in our neighborhoods. There's a school.
8 My five-year-old is here with me today, actually. He's
9 been sitting through this, so I appreciate his quietness
10 for everyone's benefit.

11 But I really want to hit a couple things here,
12 and I don't want to belabor things that other people have
13 said, but the biggest thing here, obviously, is the fire
14 danger. So, you know, they're building these new houses.
15 How does that make sense that we are planning to put this
16 Corby Project right next to these brand new developments
17 with this high population of people, kids, schools? It
18 just doesn't make any sense.

19 Second, I want to stress that the facility
20 provides no economic benefit to Vacaville. The power
21 stored here isn't going to stay here. It's destined for
22 San Francisco to stabilize their grid. So essentially,
23 Vacaville is taking on all the risk with none of the
24 reward. There's no long-term jobs, no significant tax
25 windfall, and no economic opportunity for the future. It's

1 just industrial danger in these residential and ag areas.

2 And third, someone, you know, this has been
3 mentioned before, but devastation of property values and
4 potentially even homeowners insurance eligibility. We
5 already have the toughest time, as we all know, in Northern
6 California, getting homeowners insurance. This is going to
7 make that extremely more difficult, given the fact that not
8 only now we have the wildfire issue, but we'll have this
9 fire risk as well. So now you're telling all these young
10 families who, you know, have saved up to buy these new
11 homes that are not cheap, that, you know, sorry, you're out
12 of luck because this facility is being built as your new
13 home is being built right next to it.

14 Another point is we all support the future of
15 renewable energy, but as others have mentioned, there are
16 other options.

17 Lastly, there's no accountability when things go
18 wrong. The Corby Project is being proposed under a
19 Delaware LLC, which means that when, not if, but when the
20 fire occurs, residents will have no legal recourse. The
21 LLC can dissolve or declare bankruptcy, and NextEra is
22 going to walk away without paying a dime to the families
23 who lose --

24 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

25 MS. EICH: -- their homes and their health or

1 their peace of mind.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. YOUNG: After Chris, we're going to hear from
4 Rosie Noguera.

5 Chris, please spell your name for the record.
6 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank
7 you.

8 MR. WHITAKER: Chris Whitaker. That's Whiskey
9 Hotel India Tango Alpha Kilo Echo Romeo.

10 I'm a beginner farmer and Vacaville resident.
11 I'm here today to voice my opposition to the proposed Corby
12 BESS Project here in Solano County. I'm concerned about
13 the project's inappropriate location and its negative
14 impacts on the surrounding community and the environment.
15 I urge you to study these impacts in greater detail as part
16 of the CEQA review.

17 An additional concern is a potential impact on
18 the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, which is located
19 just 1.7 miles from the proposed project site. This
20 ceremony is a -- or sorry, this cemetery is a sacred and
21 tranquil final resting place for our veterans. Siting a
22 large-scale industrial project so close raises significant
23 concerns about visual impacts, noise pollution, and the
24 potential for a shelter-in-place order in the event of a
25 fire. How would such an order be managed during multiple

1 funeral services? The potential for road closures and
2 other disruptions to such a somber and important place must
3 be thoroughly investigated.

4 In addition to agriculture, many residents chose
5 to live in rural Vacaville precisely for the peace, open
6 space, and scenic views. They did not purchase their homes
7 with the expectation of looking at a large industrial
8 facility or a sound wall. This project would fundamentally
9 alter the rural character of the area, diminishing the
10 quality of life for those who live here.

11 Finally, we must consider the precedent that this
12 project would set. Approval of one BESS project could lead
13 to the further industrialization of this area. The
14 cumulative impacts of multiple such projects on our
15 community's rural landscape, soundscape, and overall well-
16 being would be significant. I respectfully ask that the
17 Commission conduct a detailed study of these impacts and
18 ultimately deny this project.

19 Please protect our community's quality of life
20 and the sanctity of our National Cemetery.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. Officer Rosie, we're
23 going to hear from Gall Culley.

24 Rosie, please spell your name for the record.
25 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank

1 you.

2 MS. NOGUERA: My last name is Noguera, that's
3 N-O-G-U-E-R-A. Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing our
4 voices to be heard and for listening to our concerns.

5 We are all aware of the risk as we have seen at
6 Moss Landing and all of these other locations that have
7 burned throughout the years. Solano County has worked
8 diligently on establishing safety guidelines and
9 restrictions to protect all of its residents, which
10 includes 10,000 military personnel and 3,500 inmates, as
11 well as our agricultural land.

12 NextEra claims that they can't look at
13 alternative locations because of deadlines. But the truth
14 is that they have been working on building something here
15 for three years. They were originally denied a zone change
16 when they purchased the land on Meridian and Midway in
17 2022. They then purchased land in unincorporated
18 Vacaville. Their application states that they can build
19 this project up to six and a half miles away, which is not
20 safe. They have had plenty of time to find a safe
21 location, but they have chosen not to in order to maximize
22 their profit margin.

23 They also stated during their presentation that
24 they have a signed community benefit agreement with the
25 Solano College Foundation, but it is my understanding that

1 they do not. They are using the CEC as a backdoor to
2 override Vacaville/Solano County's ordinance. This clearly
3 speaks as to the character of this company, their
4 unwillingness to work with the community, and their total
5 disregard for the safety of the people. They keep
6 insisting on building these sites next to our homes, our
7 schools, our hospitals, you name it.

8 The CEC and the CPUC, with all due respect, do
9 not know the lay of the land like the people do. Please
10 deny their application. Please require them to follow our
11 guidelines and require them to prioritize the safety of the
12 people over profits and convenience.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

15 After Gall Culley, we're going to hear from Chris
16 Heise.

17 Gall, please spell your name for the record.
18 Comments will be two minutes or less. Thank you.

19 MS. CULLEY: My name is Gall Culley. It's
20 spelled G-A-L-L C-U-L-L-E-Y.

21 Commissioners, my name is Gall Culley. I'm a
22 real estate and land agent, a homeowner, and an active
23 member of the community who believes in both innovation and
24 responsibility when it comes to how and where we grow. I
25 spend my days walking fence lines, touring farmland, and

1 standing shoulder to shoulder with people who live off the
2 land. I see firsthand how decisions made in distant rooms
3 can shape safety, value, and vitality of rural communities
4 like ours.

5 A battery energy storage facility is being
6 proposed in the Vacaville-Dixon Transfer Station area where
7 Interstate 80 and Interstate 505 meet, the major north-
8 south corridor of the entire West Coast. It may look like
9 open ground, but it sits beside our regional hospitals and
10 our main evacuation routes. One malfunction, a fire, an
11 explosion, or a chemical release could shut down both
12 interstates, block emergency access, threaten air, soil,
13 water that sustains our region.

14 Across the country, other large-scale storage
15 sites have shown what can happen when these systems fail.
16 Fires burn for days, evacuations that displace families,
17 and chemical runoff that seeps into farmland and
18 groundwater. These are not small risks, and once
19 contamination occurs, the damage lasts for decades.

20 As a real estate professional, I can tell you
21 those risks don't just harm the environment, they erode
22 property values. Buyers hesitate, lenders tighten, and
23 neighborhoods lose stability. Perceptions become reality,
24 and once trust in the area's safety is shaken, it can take
25 years, even generations, to rebuild.

1 That's why projects like this belong in
2 industrial-zoned areas, not besides hospitals, highways, or
3 agricultural land. That's why local fire districts --

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 MS. CULLEY: -- must have full oversight and why
6 the public deserves transparency. I'm not against clean
7 energy.

8 MR. YOUNG: Please conclude your comment.

9 MS. CULLEY: Thank you.

10 MR. YOUNG: Thank you so much.

11 After Chris Heise, we're going to hear from
12 Jhauna Dyer.

13 Chris, please approach the podium, spell your
14 name for the record, and comment to be two minutes or less.
15 Thank you.

16 MS. HEISE: My name's Chris Heise, C-H-R-I-S
17 H-E-I-S-E. Hi.

18 Over the last two years, our community has been
19 discussing and researching BESS and lithium-ion batteries.
20 I'm here to say that I don't support the Corby Project.

21 Since November 2024, the U.S. has had five
22 documented large-scale BESS fires. Four out of the five
23 have been in containers, just like the Corby Project
24 proposes. They use lithium-ion batteries. They are very
25 toxic and extremely susceptible to thermal runaway.

1 These fires are not put out. They have to burn
2 out and in the process, release an array of deadly toxins,
3 including carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide, and hydrogen
4 fluoride. These toxins are especially dangerous because
5 they are dermally absorbed through the skin and no
6 protective clothing can protect you against it.

7 Carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide are known as
8 the terrible twins. They both prevent the body from using
9 oxygen, and cyanide affects the organs that rely on high
10 levels of oxygen, such as the heart and brain.

11 The location is wrong. The site they are
12 proposing is prime ag land. This would not only
13 contaminate that land but the land in the surrounding area
14 and water with heavy metals and forever chemicals. After
15 the Moss Landing fire, they are finding these contaminants
16 miles away from Moss Landing site. Solano County has an
17 ordinance banning these from ag land.

18 The site is also located too close to homes, a
19 Level 2 trauma center, and a major freeway. A lithium-ion
20 fire at this location would endanger the health and well-
21 being of countless lives, and there is no way to ensure the
22 safety of our community and prevent economic loss to local
23 people and businesses.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

1 After Jhauna Dyer, we're going to hear from Ruben
2 Jaeckel.

3 Jhauna Dyer, please approach the podium. Spell
4 your name for the record. You're invited to share your
5 affiliation and position on the project, and we're asking
6 for comments to be two minutes or less. Jhauna Dyer? Oh,
7 I see you.

8 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: There's no rush.

9 MR. YOUNG: Yeah.

10 MS. DYER: Good. Good. (Off mic.)

11 (Indiscernible.) Good afternoon. My name is Jhauna Dyer,
12 J-H-A-U-N-A, last name D-Y-E-R. I'm a master's trained
13 registered nurse. I currently work as a surgical nurse,
14 both at a local hospital, and I'm a member of the Air Force
15 Reserve Medical Unit locally. I do not speak on behalf of
16 the military though.

17 I've been a resident of Vacaville for the past 11
18 years. My home and our animals are less than half a mile
19 from this proposed site. I'm here to voice my opposition
20 to this project.

21 The community members of Vacaville came together
22 the first time this was proposed, as Mitch Mashburn spoke
23 about, and we unanimously oppose the risk that a project
24 like this poses to our community. I was also present at
25 those meetings, on two legs at that time, and spoke in

1 opposition for the same reasons. It is sneaky and
2 undermining to try to circumvent the local ordinances in
3 order to cheat the parameters we have already set.

4 I've dedicated my life to caring for this
5 population, spending the last 22 years caring for the
6 health of this community, and this project is in opposition
7 to my life's work. One event, just one event, will destroy
8 the health, homes, and land of this community. All the
9 risk analysis in the world does not prevent worst-case
10 scenarios.

11 We know we are not able to put out these fires.
12 That in itself identifies that the risk benefit analysis is
13 not in favor of this project. Placing it in this location
14 is foolhardy and short-sighted to hope that the best, that
15 the inevitable will not occur, so when it does occur, as it
16 is a matter of when, why are we allowing members of the
17 community to absorb the consequences of these events? It
18 would be to their health, their properties, their animals,
19 as we've all spoken about. We are placing grave risk to
20 our first responders, and we will overwhelm our hospitals.

21 The backlash and potential lawsuits that will
22 occur against the state for allowing a project, already
23 known as extremely high risk, that the county has opposed,
24 and everyone in this room knows is not safe, will not
25 benefit the state when one event does occur. We already

1 know the company will quickly file for bankruptcy to avoid
2 responsibility. There are other alternatives, and it's out
3 of complete disregard for the community that this would
4 even be considered.

5 For the construction workers, this is a short,
6 temporary job, not permanent jobs. The inherent risk is
7 the running of the company, and as an occupational health
8 technician, previous to being a registered nurse, I have
9 yet to find a company with zero occupational health
10 injuries, and so we know that risk analysis does not
11 guarantee no risk, and this risk is too great for our
12 community.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

15 After Robin Jaeckel, we're going to hear from
16 Tonya Espinoza.

17 Robin, please approach the podium and spell your
18 name for the record. Comments are limited to two minutes
19 or less. Thank you.

20 MS. JAECKEL: Jaeckel, J-A-E-C-K-E-L. Good
21 afternoon.

22 I'm concerned with the possibility of a BESS
23 facility being considered for this area. Common sense
24 should tell anyone that approving something like this near
25 people's homes, agriculture, and IAD is a bad idea.

1 We spend our entire adult lives working hard,
2 paying bills on time, helping neighbors, and finally paying
3 off our homes. That is the responsible and wise thing to
4 do. Then we're posed with the threat of BESS, which offers
5 no benefit to us, only risk. If this is allowed, our
6 property values will be zero. We could not even sell to
7 move out for safety's sake. Anyone with common sense would
8 not buy near this type of facility. As you might have
9 heard, this has happened in Texas.

10 Who will reimburse us for our loss? The Fifth
11 Amendment contains the takings clause that allows the
12 government to take private property for public use if
13 compensated. Also, the Fifth Amendment states that no
14 person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property
15 without due process of the law. If approved, this would
16 essentially be taking our property values.

17 It would be irresponsible to authorize BESS to
18 build here when Solano County has approved an ordinance to
19 only allow the BESS facility to be built in industrial
20 areas. Please deny this application.

21 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. (Indiscernible.)

22 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you everyone who's
23 participating. We are going to take a break for about 30
24 minutes, so we'll be back at about 5:15. Okay. Thank you.

25 (Off the record at 4:44 p.m.)

1 (On the record at 5:18 p.m.)

2 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right, so I'd like to
3 welcome everyone back to your seats so we can get started.
4 We want to make sure we have enough time for everyone who
5 wants to make a comment to be able to make a comment. All
6 right. Thank you so much.

7 I will hand it back to our Deputy Public Advisor
8 to let us know who is up next to speak.

9 MR. YOUNG: Thank you and welcome back. The CEC
10 resumes public comment. For those of us that are just
11 joining us for the evening and you want to make a public
12 comment, you're going to fill out one of these blue cards
13 and submit it to the Public Advisor's desk in the back.

14 In the meantime, Tonya Espinoza, if you would
15 please approach the podium? Spell your name. Comments are
16 going to be two minutes or less.

17 And then we'll hear from Pam Barringer.

18 MS. ESPINOZA: My name is Tonya Espinoza,
19 T-O-N-Y-A E-S-P-I-N-O-Z-A. I am a concerned resident of
20 Vacaville. I'm here today to speak in opposition of the
21 Corby Battery Energy Storage project proposed for
22 Vacaville.

23 While I appreciate the need for energy storage, I
24 must firmly express my concerns, particularly regarding the
25 social justice aspect of this project as it relates to the

1 environmental review process.

2 First, the location is deeply troubling. In
3 2022, the City of Vacaville identified Census Tract 2904 as
4 a locally disadvantaged community, a community that already
5 bears disproportionate environmental burdens, such as
6 higher rates of asthma and proximity to existing hazard
7 waste sites. Citing the Corby Project less than one mile
8 from the area exuberates [sic] existing risks and
9 environmental inequalities. We have a responsibility to
10 protect our most vulnerable communities, not burden them
11 further.

12 Second, the proposed community benefits are
13 minuscule compared to the potential revenue and risks. I
14 estimate the Corby Project is slated to bring in billions
15 in revenue over its 30-year function in Vacaville, yet the
16 proposed community benefits totaling \$500,000, this is a
17 drop in the ocean compared to the profits, and certainly
18 inadequate compensation for the very real safety risks,
19 potential reduction in property values, and other burdens
20 our community would be taking on.

21 Third, the benefits and burdens are unequally
22 distributed. Corby has contracted Clean Power San
23 Francisco to provide energy to San Francisco. San
24 Francisco has a significantly higher average income,
25 approximately -- I'm not going to have enough time.

1 I urge the Commission to deny this application.
2 Vacaville will not benefit. All of this is going to San
3 Francisco. Please look out for our community.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 We're next going to hear from Pam, and after
6 that, Barbara Elzig (phonetic).

7 Pam, please spell your name for the record and
8 comments will be two minutes or less. Thank you.

9 MS. BARRINGER: Thank you. Pam Barringer,
10 B-A-R-R-I-N-G-E-R.

11 I am not here to say that I don't disagree with
12 battery energy storage. I'm disagreeing with your
13 locations. And I am thinking that you guys actually have
14 three choices, not just for Corby, but for all the other
15 ones that are trying to go around the moratorium for the
16 City and for the County of Vacaville.

17 The first option would be let Corby use their
18 lithium-ion, but let them use it at Lambie's Industrial
19 Park. If they want -- that's a safe place for lithium-ion,
20 okay? Not a safe place is in the areas that they are
21 wanting it now. Not safe. It's around too many
22 residentials, too many farmlands. And I'm not just talking
23 Corby, I'm talking all the other companies that are coming
24 through the back door that want to put lithium-ion in our
25 residential areas.

1 I don't have to tell you folks how dangerous
2 lithium-ion is. You're all intelligent. You all know how
3 dangerous it is. There is an alternative, okay, not safe
4 lithium-ion in the locations that the companies are wanting
5 now, okay?

6 But another safe option is in the areas that they
7 want now, don't use lithium-ion, use a non-toxic, non-
8 harmful battery solution storage that is out there. You
9 know they're out there. There's many of them out there.
10 That is a safe option.

11 So three options right now, two are safe, one is
12 not. How does the CEC really feel about its California
13 residents? Because it's not just Vacaville, it's
14 everywhere. Grass Valley, I know it wasn't mentioned here
15 tonight, Grass Valley, at one of their refuse transfer
16 stations, just had to put out a fire from people throwing
17 away lithium-ion batteries --

18 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

19 MS. BARRINGER: -- that they use in their farm
20 equipment, okay? So --

21 MR. YOUNG: Please conclude your comment.

22 MS. BARRINGER: -- please don't put price on life
23 and farms. Please choose one of the safe options and you
24 have two.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

2 After Barbara Elzig, we're going to welcome
3 Michele Guerra.

4 Barbara, please approach the podium. Spell your
5 name for the record. You can also share your affiliation
6 and position on the project. Barbara Elzig? Okay.

7 Michele Guerra. We're asking for comments to be
8 two minutes or less. Please proceed.

9 MS. GUERRA: Thank you. Michelle Guerra, last
10 name G-U-E-R-R-A. And I'm just coming here speaking as a
11 local citizen. And I just want to thank you for coming
12 here and listening to the voice of the citizens in our
13 community. We appreciate that.

14 My big concern about all of this is that, you
15 know, for far too long, California has put a lot of
16 investment into bad energy, you know, things that are not
17 really renewable and things that are not really safe. And
18 so this community is coming here and we are resonating the
19 same thread to you, it's not safe, it's not safe, it's not
20 safe.

21 You know, our ag land is precious. Once you
22 destroy ag land and the water systems, you can't get that
23 back, you know? And we know the cleanup is extensive and
24 it can take decades.

25 And we're thinking about the moral issue here.

1 We're thinking about the livelihood of others, the cancer
2 that people can get, which I don't know if you've all seen
3 people or family members who get cancer. You know, I know
4 firefighters because my husband's retired. But you know,
5 cancer is really serious and it's nasty and it's a horrible
6 death. We don't wish it on anybody.

7 So why would we put something in here that's
8 going to threaten our fire department if something happens
9 and a fire starts, that's going to ruin our waterways,
10 destroy our ag land? And you all know. Think about if you
11 had your family planted in our community next to this type
12 of a plant, would you want your children playing on
13 property where water damage has happened that can't be
14 cleaned up?

15 And I think that's what's really important here.
16 There is a moral issue. And at one time we have to touch
17 our human side and really think about what's best for
18 people, livestock, and the future of our farms and our
19 food, food resources. Right now, people are struggling.
20 Look at what's happening. We do not have SNAP right now.
21 Imagine if we didn't have the farmers to provide the food
22 to those programs.

23 So we really need you to think seriously about
24 not putting this in our environment and maybe don't even
25 put it in California anymore. We don't -- we need to find

1 other sources that are going to be better to renew our
2 energy.

3 So thank you for your time.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 We're first going to have Amber Cargo-Reed, and
6 then Derek Johnson.

7 Amber, please approach the podium. Spell your
8 name for the record. We're asking for comments to be two
9 minutes or less. Thank you.

10 MS. CARGO-REED: Let me adjust the microphone.
11 I'm a little vertically challenged here.

12 So my name is Amber, A-M-B-E-R, Cargo, C-A-R-G-O,
13 hyphen, Reed, R-E-E-D. I am here as a resident of
14 Vacaville. I am a native of Vacaville and I appreciate
15 that you are hosting this forum to be able to hear the
16 comments and wishes and concerns of the people of
17 Vacaville, Dixon and Solano County.

18 Everyone that has come up here spoke with such
19 passion. They've provided alternative solutions to this
20 that the location is on agricultural land and we just do
21 not have the resources to be able to put out the fire if
22 there were one to occur and it would damage the land.

23 But I also want to speak to something that was
24 brought to my attention that NextEra is telling everyone
25 that the Solano Community College Scholarship Foundation

1 has accepted or doing some sort of business. And I'm here,
2 too, as the Vacaville Area 6 not representing the college
3 on this issue, but I happen to know that they do not have
4 an agreement at this time. So if you have any questions or
5 concerns about the validity of what I'm saying, please
6 reach out to the Solano Community College Superintendent
7 President Dr. Kellie Butler.

8 So I do support the citizens. I know that we, as
9 advanced as we've come up with wanting clean energy, I know
10 that we can come up with a better solution than putting it
11 next to families, family homes, agricultural land that
12 cannot be brought back once this is put there. Once this
13 is done, this cannot be undone.

14 So all I ask is that you consider not to
15 circumvent the system, that we have local rules, we have
16 alternatives and that there are other spaces that we could
17 have these battery facilities, just not on the agricultural
18 land that could harm our citizens.

19 And also, like I said, please reach out to the
20 Superintendent President Kellie Butler, Dr. Kellie Butler,
21 if you want to fact check me on whether there was an
22 agreement made with the college.

23 Thank you.

24 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

25 After Derek, we're going to ask Ruben Galvan to

1 come up.

2 Derek, please spell your name for the record.

3 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

4 MR. JOHNSON: Derek Johnson, D-E-R-E-K
5 J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

6 Solano County is an agricultural county at its
7 core. Nearly 67 percent of our land is farmed and our
8 leading crops and livestock generate over \$1.6 billion in
9 gross value annually and sustain more than 6,000 jobs. And
10 over 90 percent of these farms are family owned.

11 This project would permanently convert prime
12 farmland into an industrial site. Once soils are compacted
13 under concrete pads, access roads and heavy infrastructure,
14 their natural structure, microbial life and water holding
15 capacity are destroyed. After a 20- or 30-year project
16 cycle, proponents may suggest that the land can be returned
17 to its native state. But the science is clear; recovery of
18 prime soils after industrial disturbance can take 50 to 100
19 years or longer, and even then, no guarantee of full
20 restoration.

21 And what if there's a fire? Toxic compounds
22 could contaminate nearby fields and pastures. How could a
23 farmer ever decontaminate their soil, certify their crops
24 or livestock as safe, or convince buyers their products are
25 uncontaminated? Even the perception of contamination hurts

1 our agricultural brand. There is no mitigation strategy
2 that can erase this risk, no compensation package that can
3 restore consumer confidence, and no economic offset can
4 replace the generational loss of farmland that underpins
5 Solano's \$1.66 billion economy.

6 This decision also carries profound irony.
7 Sacramento brands itself as the farm-to-fork capital,
8 celebrating the direct connection between California's
9 farmland and its tables. Yet approving this project
10 undermines the very farmland that makes that identity
11 possible. One cannot champion farm-to-fork while
12 simultaneously sanctioning the industrialization of the
13 farmland that sustains it.

14 Renewable energy is essential, but siting
15 matters. If Corby's approved, others will follow suit, run
16 the same playbook, compounding and expanding our farmland
17 degradation beyond just this project. We have alternative
18 site options that do not require the permanent destruction
19 of our most valuable soils, all of which have been rejected
20 by this Applicant.

21 For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to
22 deny approval of the Corby BESS siting. Protecting
23 Solano's farmland is not just a local issue. It is a
24 matter of --

25 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

1 MR. JOHNSON: -- significant importance for food
2 security, environmental resilience and intergenerational
3 equity.

4 Thank you.

5 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

6 After Ruben, I'm going to ask Grover Wright to
7 come up.

8 Ruben, please spell your name for the record.
9 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

10 MR. GALVAN: Good evening, everybody. My name is
11 Ruben Galvan, R-U-B-E-N, Galvan, G-A-L-V, as in Victor,
12 -A-N. I'm a field representative of the NorCal Carpenters
13 Union, Local 180, which covers Solano County.

14 I'm here today because I believe every project in
15 the community should be built the right way, meaning with
16 strong labor standards that respect the people doing the
17 work. That means fair wages so folks can make an honest
18 living and be able to support their families. It means
19 good health insurance because the work we do is tough and
20 we deserve to go home safe and stay healthy.

21 It also means giving opportunity for apprentices
22 from state accredited programs a real shot, letting them
23 learn the trade, build skills, and have a future in this
24 industry.

25 And just as important, we need real labor

1 compliance, not just works on paper, but follow through.
2 When workers are treated fairly, the job gets done safer,
3 better, and on time.

4 At the end of the day, we all take pride in what
5 we build. When projects uphold strong labor standards, it
6 shows respect for the working families of our community.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

9 After Grover, we're going to have Carina
10 Brassfield.

11 Grover, please spell your name for the record.
12 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

13 MR. WRIGHT: My name is Grover Wright, G-R-O-V-E
14 R-W-R-I-G-H-T.

15 You know, folks, the Moss Landing fire was a
16 miracle. Do you realize that? And why was it a miracle?
17 Because the wind wasn't blowing. Please look at the
18 photographs, and all you see is this really hot fire and
19 all of it rose up. And it is verified by the scientific
20 analysis of the county and other people who were around the
21 base of it said no heavy metals, no fluorides, no problem.

22 But guess what? What would have happened if that
23 Moss Landing fire went into a blaze at this Corby site?
24 And we have 10, 15 mile an hour breeze and it blows it
25 across Interstate 80 where we're going to shut down 215,000

1 to 230,000 cars a day. What about sheltering in place
2 20,000 to 30,000 people in their homes? What about those
3 of us who have cows and horses and everything else? What
4 about the heavy metals then?

5 It's going to be instead of spread all over the
6 estuary about Moss Landing and everything else. Guess
7 where it's going to be? Concentrated in a plume. It's
8 going to be just like that poor darn airplane the other day
9 that went down and made a swath over there in the east in
10 the United States. That is why it was a miracle. It went
11 straight up.

12 Now, one thing that really bothers me the most
13 is, is that every one of these people, including Menard
14 (phonetic), are not telling us the truth. Because Menard
15 came in and said you could stand 15 feet next to a lithium
16 fire and it won't harm you. That's croc.

17 And also, the thing that bothers me the most is
18 they say you can't connect to those power lines that run
19 from here at Vaca-Dixon all the way out there to the
20 southeast. I was the one who in 2023 got in my airplane
21 and flew that thing and found the Lambie and the Creek
22 power plants. And I'm the retired Utility Operations
23 Manager of Vacaville and I know 12,000 volts and above.
24 And you can't tell me that the equipment is straight off
25 the shelf. They can take this and put it out there away

1 from everybody. And that's where it belongs if you have to
2 have lithium. But I suggest we do something other than
3 lithium.

4 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

5 MR. WRIGHT: Thank you.

6 MR. YOUNG: After Carina, we're going to have Dan
7 Baros (phonetic). I apologize if I didn't spell that
8 correctly -- pronounce that correctly.

9 Carina, please spell your name for the record.
10 Comments will be two minutes or less.

11 MS. BRASSFIELD: Carina Brasfield, C-A-R-I-N-A
12 B-R-A-S-S-F-I-E-L-D. And I'm speaking on behalf of Deanna
13 and Matt Cole.

14 Setting aside the risk of potential fire, how
15 will we physically and mentally handle living next to and
16 listening to the constant noise of this facility? Will we
17 ever know the peace and serenity that we have grown
18 accustomed to here in Vacaville? How will we financially
19 recover? Who will cover the additional insurance costs and
20 ensure our property will even be insurable?

21 Who will take responsibility for the plummet in
22 the property value of our home? Like most homeowners, our
23 home and our property are one of our greatest assets and
24 our investment into our future and the future of our
25 children. And ultimately, we -- will our property be

1 deemed unsellable? Who would knowingly want to purchase a
2 home and property next to this danger?

3 I had intended to focus my two minutes on a
4 particular topic, but just couldn't narrow it down to one
5 topic that concerned me more than another, and my
6 conscience was telling me to speak from the heart. I had
7 to share with all of you the sleepless nights I've had
8 worrying and wondering and praying about the effects that
9 this will have if the application for this particular
10 project at this particular location is approved.

11 I implore you to put yourself in my shoes. I ask you
12 to consider how you would feel if this was your front yard.
13 You seem like reasonable people. How would you feel if
14 going to bed each night and leaving to work each morning,
15 you worried if this was the time that a fire might break
16 out and you wouldn't be able to evacuate in time?

17 I ask you to please consider everything that I
18 have mentioned and please do a detailed analysis of all the
19 aspects of this project. And I prayerfully request that
20 you deny this application or the proposed location and
21 require NextEra and any future builders to build their
22 projects on industrially zoned sites. This way, no family
23 has to fear the effects of this potential hazard in the
24 backdrop of their family photos.

25 Thank you so much for your time and allowing us

1 to have a voice and your sincere consideration of the risk
2 versus the reward of this project to our families --

3 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

4 MS. BRASSFIELD: -- and members of our community.
5 Thank you.

6 MR. YOUNG: Dan Baros, I believe -- Bouzos,
7 excuse me. After that, we'll hear from Ronda Madrid.

8 Dan, please spell your name for the record.
9 Comments will be two minutes or less. Thank you.

10 MR. D. BOUZOS: Dan Buzos, B-O-U-Z-O-S.

11 My name is Dan Bouzos. My family owns 160 acres
12 adjacent to the proposed project. We are almond farmers
13 and we're very sensitive to what's happening in the area.

14 Members of the Commission, I would like you to
15 reconsider the location of the Corby Project because of
16 public safety risks, as well as the unnecessary taking of
17 prime land and wildlife habitat. We do not agree with
18 building large industrial projects in our natural open
19 spaces. We need energy storage, but we don't need it in
20 this location. How can we justify industrializing our
21 farmland? If approved, this will likely start a ripple
22 effect of similar projects that will be very detrimental to
23 our county.

24 Additionally, I ask the Commission to fully
25 investigate the following critical environmental concerns

1 that are not adequately addressed in the current
2 application.

3 The application identifies Gibson Canyon Creek as
4 an item of importance. It connects to a tidal slough and
5 it may be considered jurisdictional under the Clean Water
6 Act. I have seen river otters in the creek, as well as
7 other wildlife.

8 Additionally, seasonal wetlands that have been
9 identified on the property fall under the jurisdiction of
10 the Regional and State Water Boards. They were brushed off
11 in the application as having no impact because the
12 batteries are being built on top. However, the
13 construction and potential for contamination during a
14 thermal runway event needs further analysis. We need a
15 complete and independent investigation to ensure full
16 compliance with these critical state and federal
17 regulations before any approval can be considered.

18 Thank you for your time and consideration.

19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

20 After Ronda, we're going to hear from Barbara
21 Elzig, one more time for Barbara.

22 Ronda, please spell your name for the record.
23 We're asking for comments to be two minutes or less. Thank
24 you.

25 MS. MADRID: Hi. Ronda Madrid, R-O-N-D-A,

1 Madrid, M-A-D-R-I-D. I am a citizen here in Vacaville. I
2 vote at every election I've had since I was 18. And I sure
3 hope -- well, I should say 21 because I hadn't changed when
4 I first started voting.

5 I want to know how many of you guys live here in
6 Vacaville that's going to make a decision that's going to
7 affect our lives? So no one here lives in Vacaville?

8 And I also know that this energy from what I was
9 told is not going to go to Vacaville. It's going to go to
10 San Francisco.

11 And I've also been told that you guys have people
12 studying all this stuff, which I'm sure you do. And I just
13 hope you listen to us who live here, who's going to have to
14 put up with something that might happen. And yeah, there's
15 the word might. But Highway 80 is there. The hospital is
16 there. People's homes and children all live right there
17 where they want to put it. It just doesn't make sense that
18 we would even listen to them to begin with. But here we
19 are fighting it time and time again.

20 This is my second time to come before this
21 organization. And now I'm wondering how many times after
22 this they're going to come up with another company that
23 says we want to plant these batteries again in your area.

24 And I just implore you to really study it because
25 you don't look like stupid people. But on the other hand,

1 money talks and bullshit walks. So I hope you really take
2 it into consideration about our lives that are, I feel,
3 going to be in danger.

4 But thank you for being here. Thank you for
5 listening to us. And I just hope you guys really look at
6 the situation and decide not to have it here because it is
7 dangerous. It just -- and I'm not even that versed in the
8 whole situation.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

11 Do we have Barbara Elzig at the room? Okay.

12 Alicia Minyen, please approach the podium. Spell
13 your name for the record. Comments are going to be two
14 minutes or less. Thank you.

15 MS. MINYEN: Hi, good evening. Did you say you
16 needed just me to spell my name? Awesome. A-L-I-C-I-A,
17 Minion, M like Mary, -I-N, like Nancy, -Y-E, like Edward, -
18 N, like Nancy. So I have some questions and comments.

19 Number one, I noticed that in whatever studies
20 have been conducted with regard to fire suppression
21 services, I only see that it's really like Dixon that's
22 really being studied. This project, as you know, is
23 located in the county. And I'd like a thorough study of
24 fire suppression services that can be provided by the
25 county.

1 As you know, a municipal services review is
2 required for jurisdictions. The municipal services review
3 for the county does not contemplate a large lithium-ion
4 battery storage facility. And so I would argue that the
5 municipal services review needs to be revised.

6 In 2020, when the LNU Complex fire occurred, it
7 was clear that all fire districts in our entire county were
8 stretched thin. SID that provides water to this area had
9 insufficient generators. They could not provide water.
10 Another water district in Vacaville could not provide
11 water. We had mutual aid coming out, even from Woodside.
12 They could not bring water to the fire.

13 And so, ironically, LAFCO and the county actually
14 hired Citygate & Associates to conduct an extensive fire
15 suppression services review. And that study raised several
16 challenges, including the county's districts are insolvent.
17 They are inadequately manned. They have insufficient
18 equipment. And so you need to look at that 2020 Citygate
19 study. And I'd ask that Citygate perform a thorough
20 review. It makes no sense to me that you're relying on
21 mutual aid for this project when the county itself is
22 responsible for ensuring that it has sufficient fire
23 suppression services.

24 And I wish I had another minute, but thank you.

25 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

1 Next up we have Michael Elm. Michael, please
2 approach the podium. Spell your name for the record. And
3 comments are limited to two minutes or less. Michael Elm?

4 MR. ELM: That was very prompt. Thank you. And
5 I want to thank you for keeping the meeting open for folks
6 that are working.

7 On behalf of families, I just got to say, no, I
8 don't want to take the two minutes. I'm sure there's a lot
9 of arguments against this, and you've heard a lot today.

10 But I just wanted to go on record saying that
11 this is a part -- this project is a part of our Northeast
12 Corridor growth area for Vacaville. And I would just hate
13 to see this project come to fruition and affect future
14 families that are looking to stay in Vacaville and move to
15 Vacaville.

16 So thank you so much.

17 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

18 I'm now going to turn to Zoom. If you are
19 joining us via Zoom, online or by phone, please let us know
20 you'd like to make a comment by using the raised hand
21 feature on the Zoom. If you are online, you'll check the
22 open palm on the bottom of your screen to raise your hand.
23 And if you're joining us by phone, please press star nine
24 to raise your hand. I'll give that a second. Again, if
25 you're joining us by Zoom, please let us know you'd like to

1 make a comment by using the raised hand feature.

2 Seeing no other comments at this time,
3 Commissioner, I think we'll conclude public comment.

4 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right. Thank you. I
5 was just going to ask if there were any other people in the
6 room who are interested to speak?

7 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. Please spell your name
8 for the record. Comments will be two minutes or less.
9 Thank you.

10 MR. CHAUDHARY: Hi, my name is Arvin Chaudhary,
11 A-R-V-I-N C-H-A-U-D-H-A-R-Y. I live on Willow Road. And
12 one of the major concerns I have as mentioned before is
13 fire and the let-it-burn approach to the fire, if you call
14 it, suppression.

15 And the main factor being that, you know, we're a
16 few thousand feet away from the site. Our well is 25 feet
17 deep and a lot of our neighbors in the area have very
18 shallow wells. There's two levels of aquifer in the area.
19 So any fire will be an immediate contamination of our
20 groundwater and essentially destroy our parcel, destroy our
21 source of water and all of our neighbors. We also, you
22 know, all our neighbors rely on that water level for their
23 farms and ranches and it puts us all out of business. So
24 that's my major concern.

25 I'm not opposed to systems like this, but I think

1 they should be cited properly. And, in fact, they should
2 probably be co-sited with solar panels or something along
3 those lines rather than an agricultural area with shallow
4 groundwater, among other issues.

5 Thank you.

6 MR. YOUNG: Thank you so much.

7 Hi. Please spell your name for the record. Two
8 minutes or less for the public comment period. Thank you.

9 MS. NIELSON: My name is Macy Nielsen, M-A-C-Y
10 N-I-E-L-S-O-N.

11 I was born and raised at the property across the
12 street from the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage
13 Project. I'm here to state that I firmly oppose this
14 project because it threatens my family, my community and
15 the future of Vacaville. I grew up believing this is one
16 of the safest and most family-oriented communities in
17 California, a place where generations could live, farm and
18 raise children. My parents worked hard to build a home we
19 could one day pass down in a piece of land surrounded by
20 open fields, fresh air and peace.

21 But that vision changes the moment you place a
22 massive lithium-ion energy storage plant right across the
23 street. How can I feel safe raising a family next to a
24 facility filled with chemicals capable of spontaneous
25 thermal runaway, a reaction that can lead to explosions,

1 toxic smoke and fires that burn for days? These incidents
2 have already happened in places like Moss Landing, San
3 Diego and even Arizona, forcing evacuations and exposing
4 nearby neighborhoods to hazardous fumes. This isn't fear
5 mongering, it's facts.

6 The Corby BESS site is being proposed on
7 agricultural land, less than a quarter mile from homes and
8 farms. Lithium-ion batteries can contain materials like
9 nickel and cobalt, all of which can lead to leak into the
10 soil or groundwater if damaged, all of which are known to
11 be hazardous to human health.

12 Once contaminated, soil and water are nearly
13 impossible to restore. And even, and what's more, even
14 more concerning is what we don't know. There are no long-
15 term studies showing what 20 or 30 years of exposures to
16 the emissions, vapors or residual waste from these
17 facilities might mean for our health. Could we see higher
18 rates of cancer, neuro issues, respiratory conditions from
19 decades from now? The truth is no one can say for sure.
20 Are we willing to gamble with our family's health just to
21 see what happens?

22 Beyond health and safety, this project risks the
23 value and character of our community. Who will want to buy
24 a home next to hazardous energy storage? What happens when
25 property value drops or when homeowners can't get insurance

1 because of elevated fire and explosion risk? What happens
2 to the small farmers who rely on clean soil and water to
3 sustain their crops?

4 This project belongs in a properly zoned
5 industrial area with adequate distance from homes, not on
6 farmland where families live, children's play and people's
7 livelihoods depend on clean air and water.

8 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Anyone else before we
10 close round number two?

11 MR. DERFUSS: Round number two. Lew Derfuss,
12 D-E-R-F-U-S-S. So I've got a couple of rebuttals to some
13 of your presentation.

14 There was a statement that the safety --
15 potentially these devices, you know, a lot have gone into
16 the safety aspects and controlling, make sure these are
17 safe, yet there's been seven fires with lithium batteries,
18 all within the first three years of operation, seven. So,
19 you know, despite our best efforts, we can't make them 100
20 percent safe. They also talk about provide the safest
21 possible operation, but they're not 100 percent safe.

22 You also made a statement that the CEC has never
23 had a fire on a permitted facility. Well, that's because
24 you didn't permit it, the local community permitted it, and
25 they still had fires.

1 So, let's see, I just want to say that, you know,
2 it's been stated before, but these companies have
3 approached Vacaville with their proposals and we turned
4 them down. So then they went to the county and the county,
5 likewise, turned them down. So now they're like a child
6 who goes to their mom about something and mom says no, then
7 they go to their dad and dad is stuck there, and so on and
8 so forth.

9 You know, I don't believe these companies are
10 reputable. All they're concerned about is the bottom line,
11 how much money they can make on a project. And they're not
12 responsible in the fact that, it was stated earlier, these
13 companies, if something happens, they'll go belly up and
14 declare bankruptcy and leave us holding the bag for the
15 cleanup on the size of this waste.

16 This is not compatible with the areas proposed.
17 Put them out in industrial areas that won't affect the
18 citizens' health --

19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.

20 MR. DERFUSS: -- and cause health issues.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Thank you.

23 All right, we'll go now to our staff for final
24 instructions.

25 I apologize. We can't do a second round. We're

1 not going to be able to answer the questions because we
2 don't have any findings, but we will be back. We are going
3 to have another meeting here in this area so that we can
4 provide more information. We'll be able to answer
5 questions then, okay? Quick one since we --

6 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: The power line that NextEra
7 says they're going to have to build and that's why they
8 can't go out to Lambie is really, really incorrect because
9 the only reason that they are saying the 11 mile back to
10 the back of Dixon substation is because they have a
11 contract there. That's the only reason. They can connect
12 way out there, so that's false.

13 The other thing is, is that they say that they
14 would have -- they can't go out put this out there with the
15 windmill farm, but they've already mitigated all of the
16 biometrics there. That's a fact. They've also had
17 mitigation of the biologicals over at Lambie and Creed, so
18 they can put this out there at both of those locations.

19 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: Okay, we're going to move
20 over to staff now.

21 Kaycee, please proceed.

22 MS. CHANG: Thank you all for taking the time
23 today and sharing your comments.

24 As our Deputy Public Advisor, Ryan Young
25 mentioned, you can submit comments anytime. We did file a

1 Notice of Preparation to the docket on October 20th, 2025,
2 and wanted to note that public comments on the scope and
3 content of the environmental document in response to the
4 Notice of Preparation are due by November 19th, 2025.
5 Comments can be submitted electronically via our e-comment
6 system on the CEC webpage for the proposed Corby Battery
7 Energy Storage System Project, or mail directly to the CEC
8 at the address identified on the slide.

9 Next slide, please.

10 CEC welcomes public participation. As I
11 mentioned, the public comment period on the notice of
12 preparation closes on November 19th, 2025. We will
13 consider all comments received. We anticipate the Staff
14 Assessment will be published and circulated for public
15 review in March 2026.

16 I will now pass it over to Commissioner Gallardo
17 for closing comments.

18 COMMISSIONER GALLARDO: All right. And please
19 leave that slide up there just in case. If we could go
20 back? Perfect.

21 All right, thank you so much, everyone, again,
22 for welcoming us here. It was a pleasure to be here with
23 you. And we will be back, as I said earlier, so if there
24 are additional comments, you can make them then, or we will
25 accept them through the docket and we will be looking at

1 each and every one.

2 That's it for tonight. Have a good night and
3 we're adjourned.

4 (The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 11th day of January, 2026.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

January 11, 2026