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Opposition to Vaca-Dixon Power Center BESS Project on Kilkenny Road

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed Vaca-Dixon Power Center Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), owned by Middle River Power, which has filed an application with the State Energy Commission to construct a 157-MW lithium battery storage facility on Kilkenny Road along Interstate 80.

This project appears to be a direct attempt to circumvent the City of Vacaville's existing moratorium and proposed ordinance banning lithium BESS facilities within city limits. Allowing this project to proceed undermines local authority, community input, and the intent of Vacaville's established public safety protections.

My concerns include, but are not limited to, the following:

• **Proximity to populated areas:** The proposed site is dangerously close to homes, businesses, a hospital, and a major interstate highway, placing residents, patients, workers, and commuters at unnecessary risk.

• **Public safety risks:** Lithium battery energy storage systems carry well-documented risks of thermal runaway events. Fires involving lithium batteries are extremely difficult to extinguish, can burn for extended periods, and often require large-scale evacuations.

• **Environmental and agricultural contamination:** In the event of a fire or system failure, there is a significant risk of toxic runoff and airborne contaminants affecting soil, groundwater, nearby farming operations, and regional food supply chains.

• **Transportation and economic impact:** A thermal event could necessitate the shutdown of Interstate 80, disrupting emergency response, commerce, and regional travel, with substantial economic consequences beyond Vacaville.

• **Emergency preparedness costs:** This project would impose additional, ongoing financial and operational burdens on local fire departments, emergency responders, and municipal resources—costs that taxpayers should not be forced to absorb for a private industrial facility.

• **Land-use conflict and lost economic opportunity:** The proposed site is zoned for business and commercial development that could generate long-term employment and economic growth. This BESS facility offers no meaningful permanent jobs while permanently consuming valuable land.

â€¢ Violation of local policy: The project conflicts with the City of Vacavilleâ€™s BESS moratorium and proposed ordinance, both of which reflect legitimate safety, zoning, and community welfare concerns.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the State Energy Commission to deny the permit application for the Vaca-Dixon Power Center BESS project. Community safety, environmental protection, infrastructure integrity, and respect for local governance must take precedence over industrial convenience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Eric Romingquet