

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Noah Galgan  
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## **Formal Opposition to Vaca-Dixon Power Center BESS Project on Kilkenny Road**

To the lawmaker who does not take many concerns for who these projects actually affect,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Vaca-Dixon Power Center Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project planned for Kilkenny Road along Interstate 80 in Vacaville.

This 157 MW lithium battery storage facility, owned by Middle River Power, raises serious concerns regarding public safety, environmental protection, land-use compatibility, and local governance. The project appears to be an attempt to bypass the City of Vacaville's existing ban and pending ordinance on lithium BESS facilities by seeking state-level approval despite clear local opposition.

Key concerns include:

**Proximity to populated areas and critical infrastructure**

The proposed site is dangerously close to homes, businesses, a hospital, and a major transportation corridor (Interstate 80). A failure event could place thousands of residents and commuters at risk.

**Public safety risks associated with lithium battery thermal runaway**

Lithium-ion battery fires are difficult to extinguish, can burn for days, and release toxic gases. Thermal runaway events pose a real and documented danger to first responders and nearby communities.

**Environmental and agricultural contamination risks**

A fire or system failure could contaminate soil, groundwater, and nearby agricultural operations—posing long-term risks to food production, water quality, and public health.

**Regional transportation and economic impacts**

An incident at this location could necessitate closure of Interstate 80, disrupting regional commerce, emergency services, and daily travel across Solano County and beyond.

**Unfunded emergency preparedness and response costs**

This project would impose new and ongoing training, equipment, and response costs on local fire and emergency services, with no clear plan for full cost coverage by the developer.

**Violation of local land-use policy and community intent**

The project conflicts with the City of Vacaville's BESS moratorium and proposed ordinance, undermining local authority and established community planning processes.

Poor land-use outcome with minimal public benefit

The facility would generate few to no long-term jobs while occupying land zoned for business and economic development that could otherwise support meaningful employment opportunities.

Vacaville residents should not be asked to bear disproportionate safety, environmental, and economic risks for a project that provides limited local benefit and directly contradicts adopted and proposed city policy.

I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to deny approval of the Vaca-Dixon Power Center BESS project and to uphold the importance of local land-use decisions, public safety, and environmental stewardship.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Lifelong Vacaville Resident