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*Comment Received From: Neil Serr Jr
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Prime Agricultural Land Use

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my opposition to the proposed Vaca Dixon Center Battery Storage System Project on the grounds that it would utilize, or be located in close proximity to, designated prime agricultural land.

Prime agricultural land is a finite and irreplaceable resource that plays a critical role in California's food security, local economies, and environmental sustainability. The conversion of productive farmland to industrial energy infrastructure represents a permanent loss of high-quality soils that have taken generations to steward and maintain. Once removed from agricultural use, such land is rarely, if ever, restored to its original productivity.

While I recognize and support California's commitment to renewable energy development and grid reliability, project siting must be balanced with the protection of vital agricultural resources. There are alternative locations—such as previously disturbed lands, brownfields, or other non-prime areas—that would better align with the State's dual goals of clean energy expansion and farmland preservation.

The cumulative loss of agricultural land across California is already a serious concern. Approving projects that encroach upon prime farmland sets a troubling precedent and undermines longstanding land-use planning principles intended to protect the State's most productive soils.

I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to:

1. Deny approval of the project as currently proposed; or
2. Require relocation of the facility to non-prime or previously disturbed land; and
3. Fully evaluate agricultural land impacts in the environmental review process, including long-term and cumulative effects.

California can and should lead in clean energy innovation without sacrificing the agricultural lands that sustain our communities and economy. Protecting prime farmland is not in opposition to renewable energy goals—it is an essential component of responsible and sustainable planning.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

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