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*Comment Received From: Ashley Tice
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Strong opposition from a Mom and project manager

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Subject: Formal Opposition Comment – Prairie Song Reliability Project (Docket 25-OPT-02)

To the California Energy Commission,

I respectfully submit this comment in **formal opposition** to the Prairie Song Reliability Project proposed in Acton, Los Angeles County.

I am a current resident of the Anaverde community in Palmdale, Ca. located approximately 5 miles from the proposed site where I am proudly raising my 2 boys. I was also a resident of Acton for 25 years and have experienced the wet seasons, the dry seasons, the windy seasons and most of all the fire seasons. My parents and my brother's family continue to actively reside in Acton today, so you can only imagine how passionately I am against this project in this specific location. This proposal directly affects both the community in which I currently live and the community where I was raised and where my immediate family still resides.

My husband commutes to Glendale and I was raised in a 3rd generation firefighter family that continues on and to round it all out, professionally I serve as a Project Manager in the aerospace industry. My responsibilities include formal risk identification, hazard analysis, mitigation planning, cost versus exposure evaluation, and consequence modeling. My opposition is grounded in both lived regional experience and professional risk management principles.

My concerns are centered on cumulative wildfire exposure, layered hazard risk, emergency evacuation feasibility, insurance market instability, and disproportionate community burden.

1. Cumulative Wildfire Risk and Hazard Layering

The Antelope Valley and surrounding foothill communities are designated high fire severity zones. The 2025 Hawk Fire resulted in evacuations within the Acton and Anaverde community, with additional risks to our neighboring community of Leona valley which demonstrated how rapidly wind driven events escalate under 50 mph gust conditions.

This region has repeatedly shown that small ignition sources can become fast moving, large scale incidents.

Introducing a 1,150 MW lithium battery energy storage facility into a high wind, high fire corridor creates compounded hazard exposure. Utility scale lithium ion battery systems carry documented risks, including:

- Thermal runaway propagation
- High heat release rate fires
- Toxic gas and smoke plume generation
- Extended suppression timelines
- Re ignition potential

In wildfire conditions, external fire exposure and battery storage systems must be evaluated as interacting hazards rather than independent risks. The layered scenario is what drives consequence severity.

2. Emergency Access and Evacuation Constraints

Residential communities including Acton and Anaverde rely on limited primary roadway corridors for ingress and egress. During prior wildfire events, congestion and evacuation sequencing have already strained capacity.

A catastrophic facility event, wildfire encroachment, or combined scenario could:

- Trigger multi community evacuation orders
- Close key arterial routes
- Sever access between commuting family members
- Delay emergency response resources

My husband commutes daily. In a regional emergency, roadway closures could prevent families from reuniting or returning home. That risk is not theoretical. It reflects real geographic and infrastructure constraints we have experienced.

3. Insurance Market Withdrawal and Economic Vulnerability

Fire insurance carriers are already withdrawing or restricting coverage in high risk zones within Palmdale and Acton due to wildfire modeling and exposure assessments.

Many families in our communities are single income households. The financial burden of forced FAIR Plan coverage, increased premiums, or complete non renewal is already destabilizing.

The addition of large scale industrial energy infrastructure within a high fire severity corridor may further influence underwriting models, property valuations, and long term insurability.

Residents should not be required to absorb additional financial exposure associated with siting decisions that prioritize regional grid capacity over localized community stability.

4. Risk Versus Reward Assessment

From a professional project management standpoint, this proposal represents a high consequence exposure scenario in an already elevated hazard corridor.

Even if probability modeling suggests low frequency occurrence, consequence severity includes:

- Regional evacuation
- Long duration roadway closure
- Air quality contamination
- Long term environmental remediation
- Property value impact
- Insurance market contraction

Risk analysis requires weighing both probability and consequence. In this case, the magnitude of potential impact to surrounding communities outweighs the incremental benefit provided by siting this facility in this specific location.

Energy reliability is important. However, infrastructure planning must prioritize appropriate siting, hazard compatibility, and community resilience.

Conclusion

Based on proximity, wildfire history, roadway constraints, layered hazard exposure, and socioeconomic vulnerability, this project is not an appropriate fit for this location.

The profit and development benefit associated with this proposal do not outweigh the scale of potential risk transferred to surrounding communities.

I respectfully urge the Commission to deny approval of this project as currently proposed, or at minimum require substantially deeper cumulative wildfire modeling, evacuation feasibility analysis, emergency response capacity review, and insurance impact assessment prior to any approval.

Public safety and long term community resilience must remain paramount.

Sincerely,
Ashley Tice
Anaverde Community Resident, Palmdale, CA
Former 25 Year Acton Resident