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Scoping Comments by Kristine White

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Additional submitted attachment is included below.

To CEC:

I would like to submit these comments to you regarding my extremely strong opposition to installing the proposed Prairie Song BESS in Acton, CA.

Putting any BESS in any high severity fire zone is an insane idea. In Acton, it's especially crazy and beyond irresponsible to the point of potentially criminal. In the event of a severe wind-driven toxic BESS fire or wildfire, evacuation for me and my neighbors from the rural communities of Acton and neighboring Agua Dulce would be extremely difficult or impossible for all of us and our animals. Due to the mountains, there are only a couple of routes out of the area, the 14 freeway and Sierra Highway. These run parallel to each other and do not provide enough space for the entire community to leave all at once. These could also be shut down since they are directly next to the proposed BESS site. Many of us residents have large animals, with a lot of people owning multiple horses, cattle, sheep, goats, dogs, and cats. The number of livestock trailers on the canyon roads alone could quickly clog up the exit routes. I speak from personal experience, as I am a horse trainer and I've had to evacuate horses, dogs and cats during small and medium sized wildfires.

On top of all that, there is a lack of municipal water to fight fires. There is a risk of contaminating our ground water which is vital to the private wells of which most residents depend on as their only water source for themselves and their livestock. Most people who live in city environments don't understand and can't relate to the idea of not relying on a piped-in water source.

When the Marici BESS location was proposed, Firefighter Union 1014 wrote a letter stating vehemently strong opposition to putting a BESS anywhere near ANY residents or near a fire station. I don't understand how this isn't just common sense for everyone.

I can't believe it is ever considered to put any BESS in any high severity fire zone, especially after we all have seen what can happen from the Pacific Palisades and Altadena fires. Can you imagine if there had been a BESS in one of those locations?! All BESS should be located in low-risk fire areas and should be

located far away from any homes or where animals are kept.

Additionally, we residents are incurring tremendous expense and difficulty in obtaining and keeping insurance on our homes due to living in a high severity fire zone, especially after the many terrible California wildfires which have occurred over this past decade or so, sending rates skyrocketing. I'm sure putting a BESS in this area would make our situation much worse, as well as decreasing our property value.

Most of us live in this community because it is a beautiful, rural, small town environment. We do not want it turned into a heavy industrial atmosphere, let alone a dangerous one.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kristine White
White Star Sport Horses, LLC
Agua Dulce, CA