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California Energy Commission

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Vaca Dixon Power Center Battery Energy Storage System Project (26-OPT-01)

Dear Commissioners, As a resident of Vacaville, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed siting of the Vaca Dixon Power Center Project 26-OPT-01 (Vaca Dixon BESS LLC and Arges BESS LLC applicants) in Vacaville. I am respectfully asking the California Energy Commission to **deny** this project based on the following concerns:

1. **Unacceptable Public Safety Risks:** The facility's proximity to residential areas and nearby Kaiser Permanente, a level II trauma center raises public safety concerns about the impact of fires, explosions, or toxic fume release from lithium-ion battery fires, which are difficult to extinguish and can release dangerous chemicals and heavy metals.
2. **Agricultural & Environmental Impacts**: Building the facility on or near prime agricultural land would result in the permanent loss of a valuable resource and could negatively affect nearby farming operations. There is a risk of contamination from fires to irrigation canals, residential and city well water located nearby. There are more appropriate locations for this project that Solano County has identified.
3. **Transportation Impacts:** The project location near Interstate 80 poses a significant risk for closures and disruptions to transportation routes during construction and in the event of an emergency, which could have negative economic impact to the City of Vacaville and the regional corridor.
4. **Strain on Community Resources:** A fire at the proposed facility may heavily strain local emergency services and may place unsustainable demands on local water resources. Additionally, costs may be passed to taxpayers for special equipment, emergency training, and post- fire environmental remediation.
5. **Negligible Local Benefit** This project offers no community energy discounts, as power is sold to out of area providers. Additionally, it displaces land designated for a business park – effectively killing long-term growth and the high paying jobs our community needs.
6. **Haphazard Development and Zoning Violations** By exploiting the AB205 opt-in program, the [illegible] bypass local authority and ignore the zoning laws designed to protect our community. This results in haphazard industrial sprawl that forces projects into areas never intended for such use, undermining our local General Plan and permanently scarring the landscape.

The CEC should deny the **Vaca Dixon Power Center Project** permit, despite its proximity to the Vaca-Dixon Substation. Please deny this project and any other additional lithium ion BESS proposed for Vacaville and Solano County. This is due to significant public safety risks, adverse agricultural and environmental impacts on prime farmland, potential transportation disruption, a strain on community resources, negligible community benefits, and the developer's attempt to circumvent local government oversight. Prioritizing the health, safety, environment, and agricultural heritage of Solano County, along with respecting local and community voices, must outweigh any financial incentives or cost-saving measures for the developer.

Sincerely, Name: Joel V. Barrilleaux Email Address: [redacted]
Signature Joel V. Barrilleaux Phone [redacted]