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*Comment Received From: Audra Blotzer
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No Battery Storage Plant

I am writing as both a concerned mother of three young children and a local real estate professional to express my strong opposition to the proposed lithium-ion battery energy storage facility in Vacaville.

While I understand the importance of advancing energy infrastructure and supporting California's long-term energy goals, I do not believe this type of facility belongs in close proximity to residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, or growing family communities.

As a mother, my primary concern is the health and safety risks associated with lithium-ion battery storage facilities. Across the country, there have been documented incidents involving thermal runaway events, fires, toxic chemical releases, and explosions at battery storage sites. These fires are notoriously difficult to extinguish and can release hazardous pollutants into the air, soil, and water. The possibility of exposing local families, children, first responders, and surrounding communities to these risks is deeply concerning.

In addition to immediate safety concerns, there are unanswered questions regarding the long-term environmental and public health impacts of living near large-scale battery storage operations. Residents deserve transparency regarding evacuation plans, air quality monitoring, emergency response capabilities, groundwater protection, and the cumulative impact these facilities may have over time.

As a local Realtor, I am also extremely concerned about the effect this project could have on our housing market and property values. Buyers carefully consider environmental risks, proximity to industrial uses, wildfire hazards, and perceived safety concerns when choosing where to live. The introduction of a large lithium-ion battery storage facility near residential areas could negatively impact buyer demand, stigmatize surrounding neighborhoods, and reduce property values for existing homeowners.

Our community has worked hard to build neighborhoods that are attractive to families, military personnel, and professionals seeking a safe and healthy place to live. Projects like this risk undermining public confidence in the area and could have lasting economic consequences for homeowners and the broader local real estate market.

I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to carefully consider alternative locations farther from residential communities and to fully evaluate the long-term health, environmental, economic, and public safety impacts before approving this project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Audra Blotzer
Vacaville, California