

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	26-OPT-02
Project Title:	Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System
TN #:	270342
Document Title:	Becky Steinbruner Comments - Protect Groundwater Resources Near Seahawk BESS Project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Becky Steinbruner
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	5/28/2026 7:23:31 PM
Docketed Date:	5/29/2026

*Comment Received From: Becky Steinbruner
Submitted On: 5/28/2026
Docket Number: 26-OPT-02*

Protect Groundwater Resources Near Seahawk BESS Project

Dear CEC,

Please require analysis of impacts to local groundwater resources should one or both of the Seahawk BESS Project stormwater / fire suppression runoff holding ponds leak or breach the bounds of the ponds.

I am worried about the adverse impacts to groundwater and surface water sources that would be potentially adversely impacted by the the project at 90 Minto Road. The County's Draft BESS Ordinance is silent on the requirements for restricting large-scale BESS projects proximity to private and municipal groundwater and surface water resources. This is important because the current plans for the 90 Minto Road BESS project would include two large subsurface stormwater and fire suppression water collection basins that could become defective and leak into the groundwater table, especially in seismic events. The Zayante-Vergelis Fault is within 1000' of the proposed Project. The area is classified as an active seismic area, according to the Santa Cruz County and USGS information.

In research at the County Assessors Office, I discovered that there are parcels near the 90 Minto Road BESS project that have private wells:

1) APN 051-101-24 (38.4 acres zoned Commercial Ag, just down the dirt road from the proposed BESS site.)

2) APN 051-091-01 (address is 78 Minto Road, a 16.14 acre parcel zoned CA, and the subject of the Sequoia LLC Option and Lease)

There are likely other parcels with private wells more distant from the project. College Lake is very close to the 90 Minto Road BESS project site and now provides reclaimed water for injection in the coastal groundwater basin area.

Furthermore, the proposed Seahawk BESS Project is adjacent to College Lake, which is now an integral component of the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency water treatment and groundwater overdraft mitigation work. <https://www.pvwater.org/college-lake-project>.

Please require analysis of potential impacts to the groundwater and surface water resources in the Seahawk BESS Project area` to require monitoring wells at depths appropriate to be constructed at the perimeter of any proposed BESS projects to determine any leakage from the subsurface fire suppression and stormwater collection basin and that the monitoring wells be checked monthly by an independent contractor chosen the the County Environmental Health Services and reported quarterly on the California GEO-Tracker system portal as well as with the Regional Water Quality

Control Board.

Please require the Seahawk BESS Project to obtain a permit from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board before any other permitting is approved.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner