

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Sandra Casares  
Submitted On: 5/30/2026  
Docket Number: 26-OPT-02*

## **Indigenous Opposition**

Please, consider our Native rights and do not destroy the burial sites of our people.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

Central Coast Indigenous Tribes, Inc.  
351 Arthur Road, #B  
Watsonville, California. 95076  
May 31, 2026

Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street, MS-40  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Reference: AB-205 Application Submitted for a Proposed Battery Energy Storage Project  
in Santa Cruz County, CA. Docket Number 26-OPT-02.

Dear Mr. Veerkamp:

We, as members of Central Coast Indigenous Tribes (CCIT), are writing to you concerning the Seahawk Battery Energy Storage facility that is proposed to be built at 90 Minto Road on the outskirts of the City of Watsonville. We have some serious objections.

Our family is directly connected to this Native territory with Cultural Monitors like Ella May Rodriguez Williams and her relatives who were all Romandias. Most of us have been born here and many of us still live here, some right on properties immediately adjacent to the proposed site. We are a combination of Esselen, Rumsen and Chumash with deep roots in the Mt. Madonna and Pajaro Valley. We have for generations looked after the burial sites that are present there at 90 Minto Road and surrounding areas. Most of the members of CCIT are direct descendants of the Romandia-Garcia families and connect strongly to the area and its Native history. We were raised to be stewards and guardians for those earlier dwellers who can no longer speak for themselves.

Siting a large energy storage facility over the ancient burials of our relatives does not respect our rights as Native people and is completely inappropriate. Our Mother Earth needs to be respected and cared for. We should be protecting our resources and not allowing development where there are vast organic farms, homes and sources of our irrigation waters. The developers are not thinking of the big picture and how dangerous this could be to our entire environment and the critical food chain that we are working so hard to protect. This is not "green energy." This is destroying Mother Earth. We saw firsthand what happened at the Moss Landing BESS and even if these batteries are supposed to be safer, there is still a huge risk, especially placing the Seahawk BESS within feet of homes and schools and daycare centers and retirement homes for the elderly.

Please deny the application by New Leaf Energy/Sequoia Energy for the BESS at 90 Minto Road.

Sincerely,

*Sandra Casares*

Sandra Casares, Chairwoman, Central Coast Indigenous Tribes, Inc.