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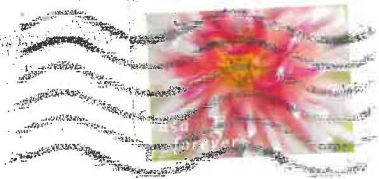
<b>Docket Number:</b>	26-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System
<b>TN #:</b>	270402
<b>Document Title:</b>	Karell Reader-Opposition to Seahawk BESS
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Grace Keenan
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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APR 29 2026



Commissioner David Hochschild  
California Energy Commission  
715 P. Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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PO Box 74  
Aptos, CA 95001  
April 20, 2026

David Hochschild, Chair  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA. 95814

Re: New Leaf BESS Application – Watsonville California

Dear Commissioner Hochschild:

Hello. I am writing today with a concern about a BESS application that we believe will be brought before you under AB205. We have followed other similar applications and have been made aware that applicants have contacted the CEC and been consistently granted Non-disclosure/ Confidentiality-type agreements and agreements which are meant to protect their competitive advantages and proprietary technologies. We would like to request that in the case of New Leaf you use great discretion and deny their request on the grounds of public safety.

As you well know, proprietary technology is relatively rare in a very finite rapidly deploying industry and there is the likelihood that these agreements are used to screen unscrupulous dealings in the field. While we support the transition to “green” and renewable energy and abandoning the heavy use of carbon intense fossil fuels, we would hope that in this time of change-over the public safety will still be paramount to the role of government and the CEC’s highest priority.

We have reason to believe non-disclosures will hide serious flaws in the planning, installation and operation of this BESS facility and a more open and transparent approach needs to be initiated at the very start. Please, let the applicant know in your early reviews that CEC feels compelled to allow all information, plans and reports to be fully viewable by interested parties, with the possible exception of detailed reports on the archeology which need to be discrete for obvious reasons.

It is our belief that Dudek will be the lead on both the EIR and the structural and emergency response portions of review. In our experience they have made many errors and incorrect assumptions in their work and we would appreciate the opportunity to respond to misinformation directly without Public Records Act requests and challenging searches.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,  
  
Karell Reader  
Aptos, California

Cc: Commissioner Siva Gunda  
Commissioner Neomi Otilia Osuna Gallardo  
Commissioner Nancy Skinner  
Commissioner J. Andrew McAllister, Ph.D