

DOCKETED

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Are LFP Batteries Planned for 90 Minto Road, Watsonville Really Safe??

We all know what happened at Moss Landing in January, 2025. Nobody wants to see that kind of tragedy happen again—anywhere, anytime.

Industry claims that the LFP (Lithium Iron Phosphate) batteries planned for 90 Minto Road, Watsonville are safer than the NMC (Nickel, Manganese, Cobalt) types that burned at Moss Landing. This claim is partially true—LFPs are somewhat more stable than NMC, but are still subject to thermal runaway (ignition, explosion) and propagation (fire spreads to ignite neighboring batteries).

LFP batteries'™ threshold temperature for thermal runaway (ignition, bursting into flame) is higher (25 degrees Celsius / 77 degrees Fahrenheit) than that of NMC batteries, but LFP batteries are still subject to dangerous thermal runaway.

For example, failure of the BESS cooling system for LFPs inside their metal containers would quickly result in the batteries'™ getting hotter; they would easily attain the additional 77 degrees that would send them into thermal runaway.

The LFP batteries in the planned BESS at 90 Minto Road, Watsonville are far too dangerous to locate close to homes, schools, water sources, farmland, major thoroughfares, churches, etc. The planned BESS at 90 Minto Road would be dangerously & unacceptably close to these "sensitive receptors."