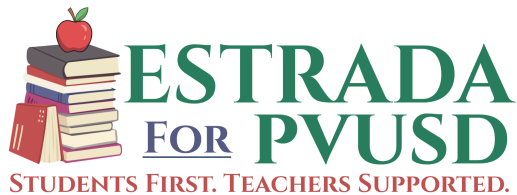


<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	26-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System
<b>TN #:</b>	271069
<b>Document Title:</b>	Eriberto Estrada for PVUSD Trustee 2026 Comments - Formal Opposition to Proposed Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Eriberto Estrada for PVUSD Trustee 2026
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	6/28/2026 10:19:58 AM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/29/2026

*Comment Received From: Eriberto Estrada for PVUSD Trustee 2026  
Submitted On: 6/28/2026  
Docket Number: 26-OPT-02*

**Formal Opposition to Proposed Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



Sunday, June 28, 2026  
California Energy Commission  
Office of Docket Services  
Docket No. 26-OPT-02  
Project Title: Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System

RE: Formal Opposition to Proposed Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) — 90  
Minto Road, Watsonville, CA | Docket 26-OPT-02

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission:

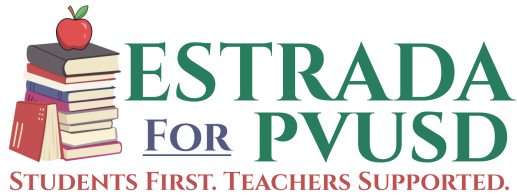
The Eriberto Estrada for PVUSD Trustee 2026 campaign formally opposes the proposed Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project at 90 Minto Road, Watsonville, CA, and respectfully urges the Commission to deny or substantially revise the project as currently proposed.

Our campaign is rooted in the Pajaro Valley community, the same families, farmworkers, children, and neighbors who live and attend school adjacent to this proposed site. We submit this comment on their behalf and in defense of their safety, health, and quality of life.

**We raise the following concerns:**

**1. Proximity to Homes and Schools.** The proposed facility sits directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods and is within the Pajaro Valley Unified School District service area. Children and families should not bear the safety burden of large-scale industrial energy infrastructure sited in a residential agricultural zone.

**2. Fire and Safety Risk.** Lithium-ion BESS facilities carry documented risks of thermal runaway, toxic gas release, and fires that are difficult to suppress. The Watsonville community, including its significant farmworker population, deserves a thorough, independent safety analysis, not assurances provided solely by the project applicant.



**3. Noise Impact.** Reported operational noise levels of approximately 90 decibels would significantly degrade quality of life for nearby residents, many of whom have limited resources to mitigate this impact.

**4. Environmental and Agricultural Concerns.** This area contains prime farmland, sensitive wildlife habitat, and important water resources. A facility of this scale requires rigorous environmental review that fully accounts for potential impacts to soil, water, and air quality.

**5. Inadequate Community Engagement.** The Watsonville community, majority Latino and working-class, has not been given adequate notice or a meaningful opportunity to participate in this process in their primary language. This represents a failure of environmental justice that the Commission must address.

**We respectfully call on the Commission to:**

- Hold a public hearing in Watsonville with Spanish-language interpretation provided;
- Require an independent health, safety, and environmental impact assessment;
- Deny or substantially condition project approval until the above concerns are fully and transparently addressed.

Schools, homes, and farmland are not appropriate neighbors for industrial battery storage facilities. The Pajaro Valley community has consistently been asked to absorb what wealthier communities are not. The California Energy Commission has an obligation to ensure this community is treated with equal protection and equal consideration.

We urge the Commission to act in the interest of public health, environmental justice, and community safety.

Respectfully submitted,

**Eriberto Estrada**

Candidate, PVUSD Board of Trustees; Trustee Area 4