

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	26-OPT-02
Project Title:	Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System
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Document Title:	Carol McGrath Comments - PLEASE NO BESS AT 90 MINTO ROAD, WATSONVILLE, CA
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*Comment Received From: Carol McGrath
Submitted On: 6/29/2026
Docket Number: 26-OPT-02*

PLEASE NO BESS AT 90 MINTO ROAD, WATSONVILLE, CA

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

June 29, 2026

To: California Energy Commission

Re: **Docket #: 26-OPT-02 Project Title: Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System**

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW BESS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY AT 90 MINTO ROAD, WATSONVILLE, CA

First, I'd like to thank Drew Bohan for attending our "Ban Lithium BESS Santa Cruz" meeting on Sunday, June 28. We appreciate that he gave his Sunday to present at our meeting.

Second, I'd like to pose several points and questions as a concerned life-long resident of Watsonville, CA in Santa Cruz County.

- We desperately need to preserve our farmland. Measure J passed to preserve our farmlands. A privately owned, commercial battery storage facility is inconsistent with the purpose and intent of Measure J. **Does our vote not count?**
- It should be **very clear to you the potential dangers** of placing this proposed BESS at 90 Minto Road. No one knows, including yourselves, what the consequences of any type of malfunction would cause. Just to highlight a few concerns, I am listing them here.
 - How would an incident affect human beings, wildlife and natural resources? Do you have a family, children, animals? Would you want a BESS near where you live? Our instincts are to protect our families!
 - A fire, explosion would put toxic elements into our air, water, and soil, to say nothing of putting toxic chemicals into humans and animal's bodies. **You are aware of this as there have been previous incidents.**

- If there were an incident, emergency responders would have a difficult time getting into the plant due to the narrow roadway and parked cars on both sides of Minto Road creating literally a one-way road.
- Noise and Electromagnetic Fields do not enhance quality of life. Sensory overload is a real thing.
- An objective independent review by an independent, uninvolved entity is necessary to ensure agricultural, environmental, engineering, and public safety.
- Long-term responsibility for monitoring, maintenance, battery replacement, emergency response, cleanup, recycling, and decommissioning responsibilities need to be clearly established prior to approval.
- Regarding community and environmental justice, the proposed project is located near homes, schools, parks, farms, and disadvantaged communities. Public health, environmental protection, and quality of life deserve careful consideration.
- Approval of this project could influence future decisions about placing large industrial battery facilities on agricultural land throughout Santa Cruz County.

I'm requesting that you do not allow this BESS to be built for all of the above reasons and more.

In closing, this decision deserves the highest level of environmental review.

And, I hope you will make the right decision, and you know what that is, in light of the factual information you have regarding previous BESS incidents.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Carol McGrath

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