

| <b>DOCKETED</b>         |  |
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| <b>Docket Number:</b>   | 26-OPT-02  |
| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System  |
| <b>TN #:</b>            | 271086   |
| <b>Document Title:</b>  | Linda Aron (Phoenix Artemisia) Comments - Gross errors by New Leaf - sensitive receptors and failing to designate unincorporated Watsonville as first responders |
| <b>Description:</b>     | N/A  |
| <b>Filer:</b>           | System   |
| <b>Organization:</b>    | Linda Aron (Phoenix Artemisia)   |
| <b>Submitter Role:</b>  | Public   |
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*Comment Received From: Linda Aron (Phoenix Artemisia)*  
*Submitted On: 6/29/2026*  
*Docket Number: 26-OPT-02*

## **Gross errors by New Leaf - sensitive receptors and failing to designate unincorporated Watsonville as first responders**

Hello, at our Community Meeting yesterday on June 28 in Watsonville, during which CEC representatives Drew Bohan and Fabi Lao were present, our unincorporated area Pajaro Valley Fire Chief Dave Martone brought up that an egregious misassignment of City of Watsonville, rather than unincorporated Watsonville/ Santa Cruz County resources, was being used by the applicant to refer to the City of Watsonville as the first responders in our area. We who live in unincorporated Watsonville at the area of 90 Minto Road are never served by the City of Watsonville's police or fire. New Leaf needs to do it's homework better before entering false information on its' application. In addition, their information about the number of childcare facilities, schools and eldercare within 2 miles of Minto Road is not correct. New Leaf Energy used OpenStreetMap (2023) and Vantor (2024) --- crowdsourced and satellite-based sources --- to identify sensitive receptors and demographic data, rather than the County's own GIS info. There is a significant difference in the reports, when using ARC GIS and California Department of Social Services (CDSS) licensing data. New Leaf's analysis passed through internal review, their consultants, and their legal team before submission to the CEC, and these discrepancies went undetected. I thank my colleague Caitlin Lackey for discovering this through her research. Please consider this, along with the applicant's request for confidentiality on fire studies that would prohibit the public from knowing how volatile the battery chemistry is, as an indicator of New Leaf Energy's sloppiness and incompetence in handling the safety and right to transparency of our community, in the matter of such a project of moral consequence. Thank you for denying the Seahawk application.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

## Facilities within 2 miles of 90 Minto Rd.

| Included in New Leaf's Analysis     | Santa Cruz County | New Leaf Energy |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| K-12 Schools                        | 19                | 12              |
| Licensed Childcare                  | 10                | 2               |
| Rest/Nursing/Group Home             | 11                | 2               |
| Not Included in New Leaf's Analysis |                   |                 |
| EDUCATION                           | Santa Cruz County | New Leaf Energy |
| Adult Education Schools             | 2                 | -               |
| CHILDCARE                           | Santa Cruz County | New Leaf Energy |
| Licensed In-Home Family Day Care*   | 47                | -               |
| MEDICAL & RESIDENTIAL               | Santa Cruz County | New Leaf Energy |
| Adult Residential Facility          | 4                 | -               |
| Clinic                              | 7                 | -               |
| EMERGENCY SERVICES                  | Santa Cruz County | New Leaf Energy |
| AMR Station                         | 1                 | -               |
| Emergency Operations Center         | 1                 | -               |
| Fire Station                        | 2                 | -               |
| Regional Evacuation Center          | 1                 | -               |
| Sheriff Sub Station                 | 1                 | -               |
| American Red Cross Shelter**        | 5                 | -               |

\*In-home family day care addresses are protected by California law; count reflects provider self-reporting confirmed through community outreach (D. Dutton-Jones & E. Montes, June 2026). \*\*ARC shelters serve a dual role as sensitive receptors and evacuation destinations. Sources: Santa Cruz County GIS Facilities Layer (June 2026); California CDSS; community outreach (D. Dutton-Jones & E. Montes); ArcGIS analysis (C. Lackey, June 2026). New Leaf source: OpenStreetMap 2023 + Vantor 2024, disclosed in figure captions, Figures 3.5-1-1 through 3.5-1-4 (Section 3.5, May 2026 application).