

DOCKETED

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Letter to New Leaf Energy Investors

It seems prudent to let New Leaf Energy investors in on our concerns about the siting of the Seahawk BESS in an extremely vulnerable area in Santa Cruz County. We have invited their involvement in the process and are hopeful they understand the risks of this location.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

PO Box 74
Aptos, California 95001
United States of America
July 4, 2026

Raoul Hughes, CEO
Bridgepoint Group plc
5 Marble Arch
London
W1H 7EJ
United Kingdom

Re: Siting of Lithium BESS in Santa Cruz County, California by New Leaf Energy

Dear Mr. Hughes:

Greetings from Watsonville, California. I am writing to you today about a matter that is of grave concern here in our community. One of your down line corporations through Energy Capital Partners (ECP), New Leaf Energy, is applying for a permit to put a lithium Battery Energy Storage System in the outskirts of our town immediately adjacent to a dense, low income, working class neighborhood and next to one of the primary water sources for our residents and farming community.

New Leaf originally applied for their permit from our County, but the County was slow to respond with an adequate ordinance and New Leaf kept trying to manipulate the process. Finally, last month, New Leaf decided to apply for their permit from the State of California through California's new AB205 Opt-In process that allows the state to by-pass counties and grant permits for renewable energy projects. The siting of this lithium chemistry BESS is so poor that our friends and neighbors have all been pushing back. The California Energy Commission has been listening to our comments, but we thought we should go directly to you for relief because ultimately Bridgepoint holds the primary responsibility for what happens when a Battery Energy Storage System developed by one of their companies fails and causes public health and environmental harm.

We should mention that this proposed BESS is just a few miles north of the Vistra BESS that failed catastrophically in January 2025 which incorporated the older Li-MNC chemistry batteries. New Leaf insists that their batteries from CATL and their site layout out is exceedingly safer than the BESS at Moss Landing, but as we have been doing our research, we have found this to NOT be true. The lithium-iron-phosphate (LFP) batteries are just as likely to fail in thermal runaway and when they do they can spread more toxic gases in a plume that can extend for miles in addition to depositing large quantities of heavy metals which are an additional long term hazard. Further, the individual batteries only last about four years and must be changed out for new replacements which adds to the handling and transport risks inherent in these batteries that have a strong tendency to self-ignite. Our small rural community does not deserve and

cannot properly manage this kind of risk. The new grid scale sodium chemistry batteries have a much lower risk of exploding.

We are fairly certain that New Leaf may have difficulty finding an insurance carrier for the eventual owner/operator of this BESS and while the facility itself could be a simple write off for that company, the liability would still carry back to the developer, New Leaf, and your company. The public health, business and environmental losses could total into the billions. We have been assured that all the regulatory requirements are being met, but as we dig into this matter more diligently it is obvious that New Leaf is trying to bypass many of the laws and codes and is committing subterfuge with incomplete, shoddy and untruthful reports. All these things reflect poorly on your company's ESG commitment which investors look to when stepping into asset placement.

We have checked with the major insurance carriers and they are all concerned and are researching higher premiums and calculating risks. They are quite risk adverse after the Vistra catastrophe and the numerous other losses from thermal runaway events.

We would appreciate your investigation of this matter and appreciate your concern and assistance in advance. Please, feel free to contact me for additional information or take a trip to our area for a tour with our group. We would be pleased to host all of you on a visit to our beautiful valley. We have some great restaurants, fine wines and a perfect little airport that can accommodate corporate jets. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Karell Reader

Karell Reader, MPP
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831-421-1932 PST

Cc: Doug Kimmelman, ECP Executive Chairman
Tyler Reeder, ECP President/Managing Partner
Murray Karp, ECP COO/Managing Partner
Monica Martinez, Chairman, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
David Hochschild, Chairman, California Energy Commission