

DOCKETED

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Marzolf

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Myron Curtis Marzolf

Date: June 30, 2026

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California Energy Commission, 715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Regarding: Public Comments

Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Docket Number: 26-OPT-02

Minto Road, Watsonville, CA

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Dear Reader:

Watsonville has been my home for the past 38 years. My residence is located approximately 2,000 feet north of the Minto Road substation.

My work experience, education and registration as a California state landscape architect (retired), allows me, I believe, to make some worthwhile public comments.

I request that you consider the information below in your decision making.

Public Health and Safety:

The BESS project is located near residences, schools, grass lands, forests and agricultural land. The battery chemicals are toxic to humans and animals.

The batteries can release toxic gas from daily operations, explosions and fires.

Battery fires cannot be extinguished; they must burn out over time, (several days of toxic smoke). When a battery explosion occurs homes could catch fire.

Toxic smoke, tainted with carcinogenic materials, could cloud the Pajaro valley for several days, (like what happened during the January 2025 Moss Landing battery fire).

The smoke can be wind driven to other areas such as Monterey, Morgan Hill, San Jose.

Roofs of homes could be layered with toxic ash; down spouts may get clogged.

People could be injured, become sick, get cancer and die.

Cars parked on the streets could be layered with toxic ash and catch fire from hot embers. Cars commuting over the mountains to San Jose could spread their layer of ash beyond Watsonville.

Toxic materials with battery cooling water could contaminate our prime agricultural soils. These toxic waters would drain into the adjacent College Lake Water Storage system.

College Lake Water Storage: This new facility, located near Minto Road, will capture rainwater behind a dam. Toxins from the BESS Minto Road operations could contaminate the dammed water. This toxic water would then be transported, via piping, to recharge the coastal aquifer and for irrigating crops. Agricultural lands could become toxic, our food and drinking water could become toxic. The residual dammed water flows downstream to the Pajaro River and to the ocean. Beaches could become toxic with a loss of tourist revenue. The plan commendably includes fish ladders to help reestablish the steelhead trout. These fish must have clean and cool water to live.

Water: Our region is heavily dependent on ground water for drinking and agriculture.

The coastal aquifer wells indicate that ocean salt water is starting to replace fresh well water. If well water is needed to cool the BESS units, an aquifer over draft could occur.

Evacuation: The main evacuation center for south county is the fairgrounds. This site is within two miles of the proposed BESS storage site. Smoke could cover the 2 mile distance.

Earthquake Faults: the San Andreas Fault is a major active fault approximately five miles distant from the Minto Lane site. In 1989 a 7.1 earthquake caused much damage in Santa Cruz County and the S.F. – Bay area. Electric power poles and lines that cross fault areas can be demolished by the earth shaking and soil movement. Downed electric lines can start fires and make rapid evacuation impossible. The Zayante Vargates Fault is an active fault line also located near Minto Road.

Wildlife: Eagles have their hunting perches atop the existing, tall, metal power poles located in the Minto Lane site. College Lake waterfowl are a food source for the eagles.

Home Values: no one wants to live in an environment near: explosions, fires, and toxins. Home values could plummet with the homes becoming worthless. The County could declare the homes unlivable. The existing homeowners would suffer physically and financially.

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Conclusions: In my opinion the Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System, and similar lithium systems, should NOT be used. Develop a BESS technology that is safe to use around people and is gentle on the environment.

If Seahawk BESS Project is Installed:

The lives of our citizens will be in constant danger. Some will die.

The health of our ecosystem could be seriously damaged.

Other Thoughts:

Install only well tested and proven equipment manufactured in the U.S.A.

This will help ensure quality control and minimize equipment sabotage.

Sincerely,
Myron Curtis Marzolf

Homeowner

