

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
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Document Title:	Notice of Availability
Description:	Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (within the Staff Assessment), Public Comment Period, and Notice of September 1, 2026, Public Meeting, for the Proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project (24-OPT-05)
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**Notice of Availability
for the Draft Environmental Impact Report
(within the Staff Assessment),
Public Comment Period,
and
Notice of September 1, 2026, Public Meeting,
for the Proposed
Corby Battery Energy Storage
System Project (24-OPT-05)**

To: Reviewing Agencies, Persons, and Other Interested Parties
From: California Energy Commission (CEC)
Project Title: Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project
Project Applicant: North Bay Interconnect, LLC and Corby Energy Storage LLC
Docket Log: 24-OPT-05
Review Period: July 15, 2026, to September 14, 2026

You are receiving this notice as you have been identified as: (1) a property owner or occupant adjacent to the project site or a property owner within 1,000 feet of the project site or 500 feet of linear project components; (2) a responsible, trustee or other interested agency; or (3) an interested party who has requested to be included on the project mailing list.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1879, the California Energy Commission (CEC) has prepared a Staff Assessment (SA) that includes a draft environmental impact report (EIR) for the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project (project), in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 21178) of Division 13, including Sections 21183 and 21183.6, of the Public Resources Code. CEQA is codified at Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq. and its implementing regulations are set forth in the CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.).

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

The applicant is seeking a certification from the CEC to construct and operate the project. The SA describes the proposed project and evaluates the potential environmental impacts associated with its construction and operation, and the project's consistency with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. The SA analyzes project alternatives in addition to a "no project" alternative. Pursuant to CEQA, the SA includes sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project.

The SA, which includes a Draft EIR, was released for public review on July 15, 2026. The SA will be available on the CEC's webpage for the project, as listed below in this notice. Comments on the SA will be received for a period commencing on July 15, 2026, and ending at 5:00 P.M. on September 14, 2026.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Division 15, Chapter 6.2 of the Public Resources Code (sections 25545 - 25545.19) gives the CEC authority to efficiently and expeditiously certify certain clean and renewable energy facilities, including solar photovoltaic, onshore wind, and energy storage systems, and facilities that produce or assemble clean energy technologies or their components. Known as the Opt-In Certification Program, this optional certification process allows developers to submit project applications to the CEC through June 30, 2030. A CEC certification issued under this program is in lieu of permits that would otherwise be required by the local land use authority and most, but not all, state permits.

North Bay Interconnect, LLC and Corby Energy Storage, LLC (applicant), propose to construct, own, and operate the Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project (Corby BESS or project). The BESS facility would be constructed on an approximately 40.3-acre parcel in Solano County, California. The project would include a 300-megawatt (MW), 1,200-megawatt-hour (MWh) battery energy storage system (BESS), associated project substation, inverters, and other ancillary facilities, such as fencing, sound barrier, roads, optional groundwater well, water tank, stormwater retention basins, storage containers, and a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

The project would connect to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) Vaca-Dixon Substation, northwest of the project site and across Interstate 80 (I-80), via a 1.1-mile-long 230-kilovolt (kV) generation tie (gen-tie) line, portions of which would be installed overhead and underground. The underground portions of the gen-tie line would run east-west parallel to and crossing Kilkenny Road, either within acquired easements on adjacent parcels or within the City of Vacaville roadway right-of-way. The overhead portions would include two structures on the project site, four structures between Kilkenny Road and I-80 on private land owned by the applicant, and up to four structures north of I-80 on PG&E's Vaca-Dixon Substation property, for a total of up to 10 overhead gen-tie structures. To accommodate the interconnection of the project and other future projects, PG&E is currently performing network upgrades which include grading, construction of concrete pads, and relocating existing structures within the Vaca-Dixon Substation. Specifically for the project, PG&E would install a new 230-kV double bus bay structure (hereinafter "Corby Bay") with associated foundations and supports on approximately 0.6 acres previously

graded within the existing substation. Corby Bay would house four switch support structures and associated equipment for the new 230-kV connection. Ownership of the gen-tie line would be split at a designated point of change of ownership (POCO): PG&E would construct, own, and operate the segment of the gen-tie line from the new Corby Bay to the POCO, including 5 of the 10 gen-tie structures, while the project applicant would be responsible for the segment from the POCO to the project site.

PROJECT LOCATION

The permanent operational facility, including the BESS array, project substation, associated equipment, roads, fencing, sound barrier, optional groundwater well, water tank, and drainage facilities, would be located on Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 0141-030-090. The project parcel is bound on all sides by existing agricultural lands, with rural residences located to the north and west along Kilkenny and Byrnes roads. The project site is located approximately 250 feet southeast of the City of Vacaville's jurisdictional boundary, and approximately 5 miles northeast of the city center. I-80 is approximately 0.6 miles northwest of the project site. The nearest airports to the project site are Nut Tree Airport, located approximately 2.9 miles southwest of the project site and Travis Air Force Base located approximately 7.25 miles north of the project site.

The energy would be transported from the project substation to the nearby PG&E Vaca-Dixon Substation through a 1.1-mile-long 230-kV gen-tie transmission line sited on an approximately 19.4-acre gen-tie corridor. The first section of the gen-tie corridor would begin at the northwest corner of the project site and would follow one of the following route options:

Underground Route Option #1 would be located within easements secured from private landowners (APNs 0141-030-080 and 0141-010-030) and Solano Irrigation District (SID). This east-west portion of the gen-tie would be underground, crossing Kilkenny Road and an SID canal before turning 90 degrees and running east-west parallel to the canal. The encroachment permit that normally would be required by the City of Vacaville for the Kilkenny Road crossing would be subsumed by the CEC certification.

Underground Route Option #2 would be located within easements secured from the private landowner of the parcel immediately west of the project site (APN 0141-030-080). The encroachment permit from the City of Vacaville to install the gen-tie within the city-maintained Kilkenny Road right-of-way would be subsumed by the CEC certification.

To the west of the initial east-west underground section (Option #1 or #2), the gen-tie corridor would run north-south up to I-80 with four overhead structures on two parcels that would be owned by the applicant (APNs 0133-060-010 and 0133-060-020). The overhead gen-tie line would continue northwest across I-80, requiring crossing agreements between PG&E and both SID and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for irrigation canal and I-80 crossings, respectively. Up to four overhead structures and the new Corby Bay would be sited on PG&E's Vaca-Dixon Substation parcel (APN 0133-060-070).

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES

The project site is not listed on the California Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List (also known as the Cortese List), published under Government Code section 65962.5 or a list of hazardous waste facilities, hazardous waste property, or hazardous waste disposal site.

ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Based on the CEC staff's analysis in the Draft EIR (within the SA), CEC staff recommends the CEC issue a certification for the project as discussed below.

In all but one resource area, CEC staff concluded that the project would result in less than significant impacts, with mitigation incorporated where applicable, including: air quality; biological resources; climate change and greenhouse gas emissions; cultural and tribal cultural resources; efficiency and energy resources; geology, paleontology, and minerals; hazards, hazardous materials/waste, and wildfire; land use and agriculture; noise and vibration; public health; socioeconomics; solid waste management; transmission line safety and nuisance; transportation; and water resources. The SA also evaluated the potential for the proposed project to induce growth, cause associated secondary environmental impacts, and contribute considerably to significant cumulative environmental effects when combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects.

CEC staff concluded that the proposed project would substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings, resulting in a significant and unavoidable visual impact even after implementation of conditions of certification (COCs) (see **Section 5.15, Visual Resources**, in the SA).

Under CEQA, to approve a project with unavoidable impacts, an agency must find that specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project outweigh those impacts. Such a determination must be supported by specific findings regarding benefits of the project, supported by substantial evidence.

Here, although CEC staff concludes that the project would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to visual resources, staff also concludes that these impacts are outweighed by the project's benefits and are therefore acceptable. The project would provide regional economic benefits, construction and engineering jobs, grid reliability benefits, support for California's renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, and displace fossil fuel generation and corresponding air pollution (see **Section 3, Project Description, Section 4.1, Facility Design, Section 4.3, Transmission System Engineering, Section 5.1, Air Quality, Section 5.3, Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Section 5.11, Socioeconomics, and Section 7, Public Benefits**). Accordingly, Staff concludes that substantial and compelling evidence in the record supports a CEC decision to approve the project by issuing a statement of overriding considerations (see **Section 11, Override Findings**, in the SA).

PUBLIC REVIEW

This Notice of Availability provides public notice that the Draft EIR (included in the SA) is available for review, consistent with Public Resources Code section 21092 and CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15087). The SA, which includes the Draft EIR, is being circulated for review and comment by state agencies via the California State Clearinghouse and via direct mail to federal, regional and local agencies (including the county clerk), as well as organizations and individuals who have requested notification. Consistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15087, this Notice of Availability of a Draft EIR has also been mailed to owners and occupants contiguous to the project site and linear project components. In accordance with Public Resources Code section 25545.7.6(b), the CEC has scheduled a public review period for the SA (which includes a Draft EIR), ending at 5:00 P.M. on September 14, 2026.

Access to the SA and other project information/reports will be available electronically through the CEC's project docket website at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-05> and at the State Clearinghouse (SCH #2025101073) through the CEQANet Database at: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/>.

Persons who cannot access the materials through the link above are encouraged to email the Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs at the CEC at: publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov with a subject line "Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project" or call (916) 269-9595 to arrange for alternative means of access to project materials.

Written Comments: The preferable method to submit responses is via the CEC's electronic commenting (e-commenting) system. To access this system, go to the CEC's webpage for this proceeding, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/battery-storage-system/corby-battery-energy-storage-system-project>, click on the "Submit e-comment" link, and follow the instructions in the online form. Please be sure to include the project name in your comments. Once filed, the comments will become part of the proceeding's public record. Alternatively, comments may be submitted to Renee Longman at: STEPsiting@energy.ca.gov.

Notice of Scheduled Public Meeting (Hybrid: In-Person and Remote)

The CEC will host a public meeting on the Staff Assessment for the proposed project, pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25545.7.2(b)(2) and 25545.7.6. The purpose of the meeting is for CEC staff to present the Staff Assessment, which includes a draft environmental impact report (Draft EIR), and receive comments on the assessment from government agencies, California Native American tribes, the public, and the project applicant. This is a hybrid meeting, with both a publicly accessible physical location and public access online or by phone through Zoom™. In-person and remote Spanish interpretation will be provided.

Date: September 1, 2026

Time: 4:00 p.m. – approximately 9:00 p.m.*

**The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time. The end time is an estimate and the meeting may end earlier or later than anticipated. Breaks will be announced during the meeting.*

Location: Ulatis Community Center, 1000 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville, CA 95687

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

- **To join via Zoom.** Click on <https://energy.zoom.us/j/81029675843?pwd=fS5WOyeU3B4fGNmGVO6FvsG7sj8tIG.1> or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID **810 2967 5843** and passcode **896185** and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at (888) 475-4499 or toll at (669) 219-2599. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID **810 2967 5843** and passcode **896185**.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose “Show Subtitle” or “View Full Transcript” from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the “Live Transcript” or select “Hide Subtitle” from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A more accurate transcript of the workshop will be docketed and posted as soon as possible after the meeting concludes.

Zoom Spanish Interpreting Services. Open the Zoom meeting. In the “Navigation” panel, click “Settings,” then click the “Meeting” tab. Under “In Meeting (Advanced),” click “Language Interpretation” toggle to enable/ disable. If a verification dialog displays, click “Enable” or “Disable” to verify the change. If the option is grayed out, it has been locked and you will need to contact your Zoom admin. Click “Mute Original Audio” to reduce background noise.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at 916-269-9595.

Oral comments will be accepted at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to two minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the “raise hand” feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to “raise your hand” and *6 to mute/unmute.

Public Advisor. The CEC’s Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 269-9595 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

An additional public meeting notice with a meeting agenda will be published separately, including on the docket website listed above.

Dated: July 15, 2026
Renee Longman, AICP, LEED AP BD+C
Project Manager