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Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

Protect Agricultural Land use

Protect Agricultural Land Use

I am writing to submit formal comments regarding the proposed Corby BESS project and to express serious concerns about its potential real impacts.

First, the project would remove 40 acres of agricultural land from production for decades, including prime farmland, unique farmland, and historic land of statewide importance to protected species.

1) Does the mitigation plan set aside the same quality of land? (Prime ag land, unique farmland and farmland of statewide importance) or does it just reserve any Ag land?

Second, the proposed location poses a severe risk of groundwater contamination. The groundwater table at the site is only 15 feet deep, providing an insufficient soil buffer to prevent hazardous runoff from reaching the underlying aquifer. In the event of a facility fire, highly mobile contaminants—specifically ultrashort-chain PFAS such as PFPrA—could easily infiltrate nearby creeks, seasonal wetlands, and the residential and municipal wells used for drinking water and agricultural irrigation.

2) This has happened in real life. In fact, NextEra owner /operator of the proposed Corby BESS is currently named in a lawsuit for well water contamination due to another BESS project of their that caught fire in New York. See docket # TN 270411 for entire documented lawsuit. If you approve this project you are knowingly putting our community at the same risk. Is this a risk that you are willing to take?

There are other viable alternative locations that are already approved by the county for lithium-ion BESS development. Solano county has identified a superior site - Lambie Industrial Park. This is a remote location far from municipal wells and residential areas.

In the draft EIR staff states that BESS fires can happen as frequently as every 11 years. The Corby Project is planned for operation for 30 years.

3) Does the California Energy Commission feel that public safety and water quality should be second priority to developers interests?

4) Please re-analyze and compare Lambie Industrial Park and the proposed location on prime ag land in regards to public safety and potential water contamination.

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Furthermore, the local fire department and the Environmentalist have already indicated that the proposed on-site water tanks are insufficient to extinguish a battery fire.

5) How will you enforce the developer to have enough water on hand for a potential fire? This water insufficiency problem should be solved prior to certification of the project not before.

Respectfully,

Amber Cargo-Reed