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RE: Formal Opposition to the Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project

California Energy Commission
Project Title: Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
Docket No.: 24-OPT-05

RE: Formal Opposition to the Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project

Dear Commissioners:

As a resident of _____, I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project in Vacaville, California, on property currently owned by Corby Energy Storage LLC. I respectfully urge the California Energy Commission (â€œCECâ€œ) to deny the project application and decline to approve the proposed facility.

My opposition is based on substantial concerns regarding public health and safety, environmental and agricultural impacts, transportation and emergency-response risks, burdens on local resources, and the circumvention of local land-use authority.

1. Public Health and Safety Risks

The proposed facilityâ€™s proximity to residential communities and Kaiser Permanente Vacaville Medical Center, a Level II Trauma Center, raises serious public health and safety concerns. Lithium-ion battery energy storage facilities present unique hazards associated with thermal runaway, fires, explosions, and the potential release of hazardous or toxic gases.

An incident at this location could expose nearby residents, patients, healthcare workers, first responders, and motorists to unnecessary risk. The proximity of a large-scale battery facility to homes and critical healthcare infrastructure should weigh heavily against approval of this project.

2. Loss of Agricultural Land and Potential Environmental Harm

The proposed project would place an industrial-scale energy facility on valuable agricultural land in Solano County. Once converted to this type of industrial use, the agricultural character and productivity of the property may be permanently compromised.

Of equal concern is the potential environmental impact of a battery fire or other

emergency. Contaminated firefighting runoff or other releases could affect surrounding agricultural operations, irrigation canals, soil, groundwater, and nearby residential wells. The potential consequences extend beyond the project boundaries and could affect neighboring properties and agricultural resources that are vital to Solano County.

3. Interstate 80 and Regional Transportation Impacts

The proposed project's proximity to Interstate 80 creates an additional and unacceptable risk. Interstate 80 is a major transportation corridor serving Solano County and the greater Northern California region.

A significant fire, hazardous-material release, evacuation, or emergency response at the facility could require lane or roadway closures and disrupt the movement of residents, emergency personnel, commuters, and commercial traffic. Such an event could have substantial regional transportation and economic consequences.

4. Burden on Local Emergency Services and Taxpayers

A large-scale BESS incident could require specialized firefighting equipment, hazardous-material response, extensive emergency personnel, evacuation planning, environmental monitoring, and potentially prolonged remediation.

The CEC should carefully consider who will ultimately bear these costs. Local residents and taxpayers should not be placed in a position where they are expected to subsidize specialized training, equipment, emergency response, environmental testing, cleanup, or remediation necessitated by a privately developed energy project.

The project also raises concerns regarding the availability and use of local water and other emergency-response resources during a prolonged incident.

5. Circumvention of Local Oversight and Lack of Meaningful Community Benefit

Solano County has taken action to address battery energy storage development while it evaluates appropriate regulations and safeguards for these facilities. The use of the AB 205 Opt-In Certification Program to obtain state-level approval despite significant local concerns undermines the ability of the affected community and its local government to meaningfully determine how and where projects of this magnitude should be located.

Local residents will bear the consequences of any fire, evacuation, environmental contamination, traffic disruption, or emergency-response burden. Their concerns should therefore be afforded substantial weight in the approval process.

Furthermore, the project's power purchase arrangements with an energy provider outside the immediate community raise legitimate questions regarding the direct benefits to Vacaville and Solano County residents. The community should not be expected to assume significant risks without clear, substantial, and enforceable local

benefits.

Conclusion and Request for Denial

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission deny certification of the Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project, Docket No. 24-OPT-05. The project's proximity to the Vaca-Dixon Substation does not outweigh the significant public safety, environmental, agricultural, transportation, emergency-response, and community concerns associated with its proposed location.

I further urge the Commission to respect Solano County's efforts to establish appropriate local standards for battery energy storage facilities rather than allowing the state certification process to effectively override legitimate local concerns before those protections are fully developed.

The health and safety of residents, protection of emergency and healthcare infrastructure, preservation of Solano County's agricultural land and water resources, and the right of affected communities to have a meaningful voice in major land-use decisions must take precedence over developer convenience, financial incentives, or cost-saving considerations.

I am therefore asking the California Energy Commission to reject the Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project and not approve this proposed lithium-ion battery storage facility in our community.

Thank you for considering the concerns of the residents and communities who will be directly affected by this decision.

Sincerely,

Maribel Campos