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Comment Received From: Joseph Petrillo
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Corby Energy Project Site Selection Needs to be Revisited

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Corby Energy Project Site Selection Needs to be Revisited

I am a member of both *Citizens for Battery Transparency* and *Citizens for Safe Energy Storage*. I have previously sent detailed comments to the Commission regarding the inappropriate siting of lithium-ion battery energy storage (BESS) facilities emphasizing the proper use of site selection methodologies, protocols and siting criteria to determine a preferred site. The proposed site for the Corby Energy project is close to populated areas which would make evacuations very difficult, putting first responders in harms way. The proposed site is prime agricultural farmland, proximate to the historic Kilkenny ranch, home to important ecological species including burrowing owls, and has open water canals on the property.

This project would decrease property values and is inconsistent with current local land use policies. I understand that the applicant has bought additional land and plans to expand this project if it is approved by the Commission. All this even though the proposed site is not zoned for heavy industrial activity.

The Commission is choosing to run roughshod over city and county jurisdictions especially when these same authorities enacted specific prohibitions (ordinances) to keep the citizens of Vacaville and Solano County safe from BESS. The Morro Bay debacle should give the Commission pause about the inappropriate siting of these dangerous utility scale BESS facilities.

In an important recent related development, Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro signed an Executive Order that includes strict rules and regulations regarding the siting of data centers (with or without BESS as backup) that require local regulatory authorities to make the siting decisions. Not the state! To quote Governor Shapiro: *"put more power back into local communities, if the community won't approve the project, the state won't approve it either"*

It is hard to understand how the Commission is supporting the proposed location for the Corby Energy Project given the fact that the Staff Assessment identified a very reasonable alternative – Lambie Industrial Park – that is not only zoned for heavy industry (MG-3) but also has the infrastructure to support a large BESS project.

The Staff Assessment appears to give much more weight to the applicant's views and positions than to the opinions of citizens, including the Vacaville City Council and the Solano County Board of Supervisors, regarding an appropriate location for this BESS facility. The applicant states that it has reached an interconnection between PG&E and CAISO as one of the key reasons for selecting the proposed site. Interconnection agreements should not precede and take precedence over the selection of a proposed site.

The Commission and staff should revisit their selection process and site selection criteria and perform a comprehensive evaluation of the alternatives, particularly the Lambie Industrial Park.

The Lambie site clearly has many advantages over the proposed site, not the least of which is that it is zoned for industrial use and has the necessary infrastructure to accommodate a BESS facility. It is also not proximate to important people, places and things unlike the proposed site.

I hope that the Commission will take seriously the views and opinions of residents and city and county authorities and make the right decision for the residents of Vacaville and Solano County.

I appreciate the Commission's attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Joseph Petrillo