

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	272060
Document Title:	Cynthia Goldberg Comments - No to BESS Corby Project @ Vacaville
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Cynthia Goldberg
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/19/2026 9:08:47 PM
Docketed Date:	8/20/2026

Comment Received From: Cynthia Goldberg
Submitted On: 8/19/2026
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05

No to BESS Corby Project @ Vacaville

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

August 19, 2026

Dear California Energy Commission,

I am writing regarding my strong opposition to the CORBY PROJECT - a lithium ion battery energy storage system (BESS) in Vacaville.

I am a resident of Davis (Yolo County) with family living in Vacaville. I drive on I-80 often 4-6 times per week to provide support to two small grandchildren. My usual route takes me past the Corby Project site. I have enjoyed explaining local agriculture to my curious five-year old passenger...the orchards, the cows, the bees, the goats, the sunflowers. And how this is part of her hometown.

I am well aware that this region needs energy to grow and maybe a BESS is appropriate. But not located adjacent to productive food producing agricultural fields or the only major east-west interstate in all of Northern California. Not a lithium-ion battery BESS... maybe one less risky. Not one that is ONE MILE from a major hospital and surgery center. Not one that is two miles from densely populated residential areas. Not this project in this place!

The City of Vacaville and Solano County governments have opposed this project. The energy company pushing it is not listening. They have already contracted for the energy they will handle. The July 2026 evaluative report done for the CEC stated there were many issues that were not addressed or resolved. Yet moving forward is recommended. Having concerns that are ignored when taking on a controversial and potentially unsafe project would not be a good plan for the people living next door to your family home....so why is it ok for us who live and work nearby the Corby Project? If you are really fine with ignoring public safety concerns and the wishes of the people nearby, maybe this should go in your neighborhood?

As for risky business....the fire fighters have said they do not have the tools to control or manage a fire of lithium-ion batteries. The elected officials who have to create emergency plans and evacuation plans will be paralyzed if they have to close I-80 and perhaps also I-505...the only highways that could be used for evacuation out or for rescue workers coming into the area in case of an emergency. And you can't say such emergencies don't happen since the Moss Landing BESS fire in January 2025 is a horrific example of what can...and does go wrong.

The July 2026 report indicates the Corby Project is lacking evacuation plans, containing water contamination plans, handling cyber security issues, mitigation of decrease in property values and more. It does not make sense to hope that the project operators will create and enforce future mitigation and/or emergency plans, when they have failed to even begin to address these issues. It is irresponsible of the CEC to promote a badly thought out plan with risks in multiple areas. Stop this and require revisions that address these concerns.

And lastly...why is CEC stuck on lithium-ion batteries when there are safer alternatives? Why not offer a modified plan that might offer a better public safety profile? Why not do the right thing and consider how to make this a safer energy project rather than a dangerous one opposed by the local governments? Do the right thing, please.

Cynthia Goldberg
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