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Corby Project rebuttle to claim of NET BENEFIT for local community

To: California Energy Commission RE: Corby Project

This is a rebuttal to the "claim of a net benefit."

The Staff's™ Preliminary Report on the Corby Project reported a net benefit for the community. SERIOUSLY?

The project lists the following benefits:

The 1st ten items on the list are "feel good" benefits for the Governor's™ Clean Green Energy Goals—not Solano residents

1. Assists California load serving entities in meeting obligations under California's™ Renewable Portfolio goals Program and Senate Bills 100 and 1020, which require renewable energy sources and zero-carbon resources to supply 90 percent of all retail electricity sales by 2035, 95 percent of all retail electricity sales by 2040, and 100 percent of all retail electricity sales by 2045. Those goals are Unrealistic and outrageously expensive for citizens of California. No direct benefit to Solano County residents.
2. Assists California load serving entities in meeting obligations under the California Public Utilities Commission's™ Mid-Term Reliability Procurement requirements. This Does nothing to benefit Solano County!
3. Provides a new source of energy storage that assists the state in achieving its energy storage mandates. Solano gets all the risks and no benefits
4. Complements renewable generation by storing electricity during periods of low demand or high renewable generation and discharging it during peak hours when the system is most stressed. Does nothing for Solano County!
5. Contributes to the state's™ electrical grid reliability by providing renewable electricity during increased load demand. Does nothing for the reliability of Solano's™ grid—Provides No benefit.
6. Enhances system reliability both within the California Independent System Operator controlled grid and the broader western interconnection and provides frequency response.
No specific benefit to Solano County

Corby Project: “Presumption of benefit” A real stretch!

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2. Assists California load serving entities in meeting obligations under the California Public Utilities Commission’s Mid-Term Reliability Procurement requirements. **This Does nothing to benefit Solano County!**

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6. Enhances system reliability both within the California Independent System Operator controlled grid and the broader western interconnection and provides frequency response. **No specific benefit to Solano County**

7. Interconnects in a critical location on the backbone of California’s transmission network and is situated just outside a significant northern California load center and will support delivery of preferred resources to load. **No benefit for Solano County**

8. Provides 300 megawatts of capacity with minimal upgrades to existing infrastructure. The grid at Vaca-Dixon is already built to handle high power flows (voltage level, transformer capacity, and transmission headroom), so the project can plug in with minimal additional infrastructure. **Great for Next Era but does NOTHING to benefit Solano County.**

9. Minimizes the length of transmission lines by being located near an existing substation reducing environmental disturbance and energy line loss. **That's a NextEra Inc. Benefit-NO benefit for Solano County.**

10. Utilizes the PG&E Vaca-Dixon Substation which is the only high-voltage transmission substation within 50 miles and crucial for power delivery and reliability for the region. Connecting the project to Vaca-Dixon puts a large, flexible battery project exactly where the grid needs it, boosting power flow, reliability, congestion relief, and operational flexibility at a key transmission node. **Benefits San Francisco not Solano County.**

11. Benefits the community through a legally binding and enforceable agreement with the Solano Community Foundation, a grantmaking organization that awards grants and scholarships to improve the lives of Solano County residents. A **\$500,000.00 donation is minimal compared to the risks incurred by the Vacaville-Dixon Community.**

12. Supports the Solano County economy by investing in the local community, creating local construction jobs, and increasing tax and fee revenue to the County, including the following:

a. Project construction is estimated to directly generate an average of 80 construction jobs over the 14- to 15-month construction schedule, with an estimated peak of approximately 131 workers on-site during the peak construction month. **Short term temporary**

b. On an as-needed basis, over the 30-year expected lifetime of the project, 6 operational employees would be needed. Up to 20 personnel would be needed for one major maintenance inspection that would take place annually, for one week. In addition, approximately every 2 to 3 years, the facility would require battery augmentation to maintain project capacity; requiring a crew of approximately 20 additional workers for approximately 3 months to install and connect additional batteries. **Minimal**

c. Local capital expenditures during 14- to 15-month construction are estimated to be approximately \$1.1 million. Based on the Solano County sales and use tax rate of 7.375 percent, these expenditures would generate approximately \$81,100 in sales tax revenues, with approximately \$66,000 paid to the State and the remaining \$15,100 paid to the County. Overall, project construction would generate approximately \$18.2 million in sales and use tax revenues, with \$3.4 million accruing to the County.

d. Over the lifetime of the project, operational total tax revenue from property taxes would be approximately \$70.5 million (TT 2024c).

13. **No feasible Alternatives!!!** There are no feasible alternatives to the Corby BESS Project that would avoid or substantially lessen the significant impacts to visual resources and achieve most of the benefits and objectives of the project. **YES, there are feasible alternatives. They are more expensive for NextEra, but provide a safer alternative site for the local community. (Move it to an Approved location across Solano County or to San Francisco Candlestick Park. They are the ones who benefit the most!)**

Instead of a net benefit, the Corby Project would in fact COST SOLANO:

Municipal and Taxpayer-Funded Costs Include:

Emergency Response Strain & Public Safety Spending: Sustained thermal runaway events require massive amounts of water, specialized hazardous material (HazMat) response teams, and multi-day monitoring. Funding specialized equipment, continuous responder training, and potential overtime for local fire and police departments often falls on taxpayers.

Displacement of Prime Agricultural Revenue: Permanently converting productive agricultural land to heavy industrial use removes acreage that continuously supports local jobs, agricultural commerce, and long-term economic activity in the county.

Uncertain Equipment Sales Tax Revenue: Major battery components (such as lithium-ion cells) are frequently manufactured overseas. Unless specific local point-of-sale structures are enforced, the bulk of equipment sales tax revenue bypasses Solano County, leaving the area with the risks while missing out on local tax capture.

Post-Incident Remediation Burden: If a catastrophic release occurs and the project operator—often structured as an isolated Special Purpose Entity (SPE)—defaults or declares bankruptcy, environmental remediation, soil testing, and groundwater cleanup costs fall on public agencies and water authorities.

Direct Financial Costs to Residents:

Property Value Losses: Proximity to a high-hazard industrial facility, along with perceived safety risks and visual impacts, can depress property values for nearby homeowners.

Elevated Insurance Premiums: Homeowners and agricultural operators near the facility may face increased hazard or fire insurance premiums due to elevated regional risk assessments by insurance carriers.

Evacuation & Out-of-Pocket Expenses: In the event of a thermal runaway fire producing toxic chemical vapors, residents under mandatory evacuation orders face unreimbursed costs for emergency lodging, travel, temporary relocation, and lost work wages.

Medical Monitoring & Long-Term Health Care: Off-site chemical exposures or smoke inhalation can lead to long-term health complications, resulting in out-of-pocket medical bills, ongoing treatment, or specialty health monitoring.

Disruption to Nearby Businesses: Road closures (including potential impacts on critical routes like I-80) during an incident cause business interruption, reduced foot traffic, and lost revenue for local commercial operators.

Colleen Britton
Vacaville