

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Neil Serr
Submitted On: 8/26/2026
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05

Is the wildlife being taken seriously

Neil Serr
5213 Walnut Rd, Vacaville, CA 95687

California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 24-OPT-05
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: Public Comment and Inquiry Regarding the Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project (Docket No. 24-OPT-05) – Wildlife Habitat and Special-Status Species Protection

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to submit a formal public comment regarding the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Project (Docket No. 24-OPT-05) in Solano County. As a concerned stakeholder, I am writing to ask specifically whether the California Energy Commission (CEC) and its staff have fully evaluated the presence and protection of the Swainson’s hawk and the Western burrowing owl within the scope of the project’s environmental reviews and approval conditions.

The proposed 40.3-acre project parcel southwest of Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road consists of productive agricultural land that serves as critical foraging, hunting, and potential nesting habitat for several special-status avian species. In particular, the Swainson’s hawk is listed as State-Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act, and the Western burrowing owl is designated as a California Species of Special Concern. Both species have experienced profound historical habitat loss across the region and are highly vulnerable to the displacement caused by large-scale industrial footprints.

Transforming this open acreage into an industrialized energy storage site—complete with perimeter fencing, metal battery containers, regular maintenance noise, and artificial lighting—threatens to fundamentally eliminate essential hunting grounds and interrupt critical nesting cycles.

To ensure thorough environmental compliance and transparency, I respectfully request that the Commission address the following questions in writing:

1. What specific protocols, field surveys, and nesting studies have been performed on and around the project site to evaluate the active presence of Swainson’s hawks and Western burrowing owls?
2. How will the loss of critical agricultural foraging habitat for these species be fully mitigated if the project is approved?
3. If pre-construction surveys identify active burrows or nests on or adjacent to the site,

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1. What specific protocols, field surveys, and nesting studies have been performed on and around the project site to evaluate the active presence of Swainson's hawks and Western burrowing owls?
2. How will the loss of critical agricultural foraging habitat for these species be fully mitigated if the project is approved?
3. If pre-construction surveys identify active burrows or nests on or adjacent to the site, what enforceable setback buffers or seasonal construction halts will be mandated by the CEC to prevent a violation of state wildlife protection laws?

4. What coordination has taken place between the CEC and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to guarantee that these specific avian populations are not placed in jeopardy?

Thank you for your attention to these pressing environmental issues and for ensuring that the protection of Solano County's special-status wildlife remains a top priority during this regulatory process. I look forward to your detailed response in the forthcoming environmental documents and public record.

Sincerely,

Victoria Serr