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Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project “ Docket No 24-OPT-05 Comments on Staff AssessmentDraft Environmental Impact Repor

California Energy Commission Commissioners and Staff:

I am writing to formally oppose approval of the Corby Battery Energy Storage System at its proposed location near Kilkenny and Byrnes Roads.

After reviewing information contained in the July 15, 2026 Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Report, I remain deeply concerned that the proposed location places the convenience of connecting to the Vaca-Dixon Substation above responsible land-use planning, protection of agricultural land, public safety, and the concerns of the surrounding community.

The Corby project is not a small facility. It proposes a 300-megawatt, 1,200-megawatt-hour battery energy storage system, along with a 230-kV transmission connection to the Vaca-Dixon Substation.

This is industrial-scale infrastructure.

Yet the proposed project is being placed in an agricultural and rural area rather than an established industrial area.

That distinction matters.

The CEC should give greater weight to location.

The question before the Commission should not simply be whether battery storage is needed or whether impacts can technically be mitigated.

The question should also be:

Is this the appropriate place to build a project of this size and nature when a more appropriate industrial alternative exists?

The Staff Assessment considers alternatives, including the discussion surrounding the Lambie Industrial Park area. That alternative deserves much greater consideration.

Lambie is an industrial location. Moving an industrial-scale energy facility to industrially planned land makes more sense than placing it on agricultural land simply because the proposed site provides a convenient route to the substation.

A longer or more complicated transmission connection should not outweigh decades of land-use planning or the long-term safety and quality-of-life concerns of the people who already live here.

Fire and emergency response concerns should not be minimized.

The Staff Assessment discusses fire protection, hazardous materials, worker safety, public health, and the possibility of battery failures and thermal incidents.

Those protections and mitigation measures are important, but mitigation is not the same as eliminating risk.

The proposed facility would also be largely unstaffed during normal operation and remotely monitored, with personnel performing periodic inspections and maintenance.

For a facility storing this much energy, I believe the CEC should take a very conservative approach when deciding where that risk should be located.

The safest incident is the one that occurs away from homes, agricultural operations, heavily traveled transportation corridors, and other sensitive uses.

Please consider the cumulative impact.

Corby also cannot be viewed in isolation.

Additional utility-scale battery storage is being proposed in the vicinity of the Vaca-Dixon Substation. Approving projects one at a time without fully considering the concentration of BESS facilities in this area risks creating an energy-storage corridor that was never contemplated by local land-use planning.

The existence of a major electrical substation should not automatically make every surrounding acre appropriate for battery storage.

If several developers identify the same substation as desirable for interconnection, the CEC must consider what that concentration means for the surrounding community.

Local planning decisions should matter.

Vacaville and Solano County have spent considerable time considering how and where BESS facilities should be located.

Local government and residents are not saying that energy storage can never exist.

We are saying that industrial-scale energy infrastructure belongs in appropriately planned industrial locations.

State energy goals should not require communities to abandon sound land-use planning when reasonable alternatives exist.

My request to the Commission

I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission not approve the Corby BESS at the proposed Kilkenny/Byrnes Road location.

I ask the Commission to:

Give substantially greater weight to an industrial alternative such as the Lambie Industrial Park area.

Fully evaluate the cumulative impacts of Corby together with other BESS projects proposed around the Vaca-Dixon Substation.

Give meaningful weight to Vacaville and Solano County land-use policies and the extensive concerns raised by local residents.

Apply a precautionary approach to fire, hazardous-material, emergency-response, agricultural, and public-health impacts when deciding where a 1,200 MWh lithium-ion facility should be located.

Require the applicant to demonstrate why an industrial location cannot reasonably accomplish the project's objectives before allowing agricultural land to be converted to this industrial use.

I support California's need for a reliable electrical grid and responsible energy storage.

I do not support putting the right technology in the wrong location.

The fact that the Vaca-Dixon Substation is nearby may make Kilkenny Road convenient for the applicant. It does not make it the best location for Vacaville, Solano County, or the people who will live with this decision long after construction is complete.

Please require this project to be located where industrial infrastructure belongs.

Right project. Right technology. Right location.

Kilkenny Road is the wrong location.

Thank you for considering my comments.