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Comment Received From: Jeffrey J Jaeckel
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Opposition to Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

To the Honorable Siting Commissioners:

I am writing to submit formal public comments regarding the Staff Assessment (SA) for the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project (Docket 24-OPT-05). As a nearby home owner, my property value, and safety will be directly and permanently altered by this industrial installation.

While the project claims to serve statewide clean energy goals, the local impacts have not been adequately mitigated. Specifically, the proposed Compliance Conditions and Compliance Monitoring Plan (Section 9) are fundamentally flawed, vague and completely fail to protect adjacent residents and agricultural operations. I request that the California Energy Commission (CEC) deny certification based on the following critical vulnerabilities in the Staff Assessment.

1. Unmitigated Fire Safety Risks and Toxic Outgassing Near Sensitive Receptors.

The Staff Assessment notes that the potential for fire and thermal runaway remains an acute area of known controversy for this specific location (Section 1.8). While the applicant highlights the safety features of the newer LG JF2 DC Link platform, battery safety is highly volatile, and the risk of toxic gas release during a failure is a direct threat to nearby people and businesses. The current mitigation plan to provide toxic gas detectors and a drone to the Dixon Fire Department relies entirely on an after-the-fact emergency response. It fails to mandate preventative, real-time boundary safeguards for neighboring properties.

2. Permanent Degradation and Financial Risk to Surrounding Agricultural Operations.

The Staff Assessment explicitly acknowledges that the conversion of important Farmland and direct conflict with local agricultural zoning are significant impacts. Merely purchasing an offsite agricultural easement (ad proposed under land use COC's) does absolutely **nothing** to protect or restore the active farming operations immediately surrounding this project site. Furthermore, Section 5.7 mandates a soil and water quality sampling plan only after a BESS container fire occurs. This is reactive and dangerous. A single thermal runaway incident could permanently contaminate the local irrigation water system and nearby soils with heavy metals and toxic fire-suppression runoff destroying adjacent crop values, organic certifications and livestock safety.

3. Unenforceable Mitigation for a "Significant and Unavoidable" Visual impact.

The Staff Assessment explicitly states that the project will cause a "Significant and Unavoidable Impact" to visual resources, permanently degrading our rural, agricultural landscape character with geometric, industrial forms. Despite this, the compliance framework relies heavily on a soft "vegetative landscape screening plan" (Conditions VIS-1 through VIS-3). For adjacent neighbors, vegetative screening is highly unreliable-plants can die, suffer from disease, or take a decade to mature. The current monitoring plan lacks explicit enforcement metrics for screening failure.

4. Fragmented Enforcement and Jurisdictional Blind Spots

The Project splits oversight between two state agencies: the CEC maintains authority over the 40.3-acre BESS yard, while the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) retains exclusive jurisdiction over the 1.1-mile transmission gen-tie line crossing Interstate 80. This fragmented framework creates a severe regulatory blind spot to nearby residents. If noise, stray voltage, or safety violation occurs along the gen-tie corridor, neighbors are left in a bureaucratic limbo regarding which agency is responsible for immediate enforcement.

5. Inadequate Noise Monitoring Framework

The SA relies on a singular operational noise survey to verify that the limits are met. A single point-in-time survey is entirely inadequate. Inverters, transformers, and liquid-cooling HVAC systems degrade and grow louder over time, particularly during peak summer heat waves when the facility will charge and discharge at maximum capacity.

6. Complete Disregard for Local Community Standards and Zoning.

The Staff Assessment notes that this project explicitly violates Solano County Ordinance No. ZT-25-02, which strictly prohibits front-of-the-meter BESS projects within an Agriculture Zone. While the CEC intends to use its state statutory authority to supersede local laws, doing so fundamentally breaks community trust. If local zoning is being bypassed, the state's compliance monitoring framework must be held to a vastly superior standard than standard projects.

This project belongs in a heavily industrialized zone far away from active family farms, homes, and local businesses. The **Lambie Industrial Park** meets these standards. Because the current compliance terms fail to adequately protect the immediate community, I strongly urge the Commission to reject the current Staff Assessment.

Thank you for your time and serious consideration of these local impacts.

Sincerely,

Jeff Jaeckel

Vacaville, California