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Comment Received From: Becky Steinbruner
Submitted On: 9/9/2026
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90 Minto Road Includes Historic Buildings That Require Evaluation if Altered

Dear CEC Staff,

The 90 Minto Road proposed Seahawk BESS facility site, APN 051-101-77, includes five structures, one of which is nearly 100 years old, built in 1929. Three were built in 1951 and one built in 1978. Santa Cruz County Code, deems any structure more than 50 years old must be considered potentially "historic". The Historic Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 16.42, Volume 2, of the County Code, revised May 1991) governs the treatment of the historical resources.

Santa Cruz County Code 16.42.010 states that "The Board of Supervisors hereby finds that the protection, enhancement, perpetuation and use of structures, districts, lands, and neighborhoods of historic, architectural, and engineering significance, located within the County of Santa Cruz, are of cultural and aesthetic benefit to the community. It is further found that respecting the heritage of the County will enhance the economic, cultural, and aesthetic standing of the County."

The structures are currently inhabited. The Applicant states the structures will not be inhabited during the life of the BESS Project. However, it is not clear whether the structures would be demolished, modified for use related to the Project, or simply abandoned. Therefore, the historic significance of the structures must be evaluated as such, and any impacts of Project construction and operation evaluated, because these structures are important to the historic context of the agricultural area.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner