

DOCKETED	
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Comment Received From: Melissa Keating
Submitted On: 9/11/2026
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**McKinney's Exotic Birds History planned McKinney Keating Exotic
Birds conservation program pending 2026 decision**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

September 11, 2026

California Energy Commission

Docket Unit – Docket No. 24-OPT-05

715 P Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Comments on Staff Assessment Sections 7 (Public Benefits) and 10.4 (Net Positive Economic Benefit) – Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project (24-OPT-05)

Dear California Energy Commission:

I own and live on a 12-acre property immediately adjacent to the proposed Corby Battery Energy Storage System site (APN 0141-030-090) southwest of Kilkenny Road and Byrnes Road in Solano County. My family has lived and worked on this land continuously since 1988. I have built my entire life here and am now raising my own family on this property. I strongly oppose certification of this project.

The claimed economic and public benefits in Sections 7 and 10.4 of the Staff Assessment do not outweigh the permanent, site-specific harms this facility would inflict on our multi-generational home and our family's long-standing hobby conservation program for exotic parrots.

Multi-generational family use and McKinney's Exotic Birds / planned McKinney/Keating's Exotic Birds program

My parents began McKinney's Exotic Birds on this property in 1988 as a private hobby conservation effort. For decades they dedicated themselves to the careful husbandry and conservation breeding of exotic parrots. In its heyday between 1988 and 2010, our family hobby conservation program housed 250 pairs of birds—500 parrots on our property alone—making it one of the largest private conservation breeding programs of its kind in the state. My mother specialized in breeding umbrella cockatoos in captivity and hand-feeding large numbers of baby birds—a skill that is difficult to master and that relatively few people have successfully sustained over the long term. After her death in 2021, I became the only member of our family line to carry this work forward.

Certain of the species we have worked with are endangered or at risk in the wild. Captive breeding programs like ours are vital because successful reproduction of these birds in captivity is uncommon and requires quiet, stable, low-stress conditions. Our program has included African greys, Amazon parrots, and macaw varieties of all kinds, but most importantly cockatoos, especially umbrella cockatoos. We currently maintain a small number of exotic parrots. We have concrete plans to re-launch the program as McKinney/Keating's Exotic Birds, a private hobby conservation effort, but that expansion and re-launch has been placed on hold pending the 2026 decision on this project—precisely because of the risk of locating a large industrial battery facility just two doors down from our property.

A large-scale battery energy storage facility of this size, placed immediately next door, would make continuation and re-launch of that program impossible. Exotic parrots in active breeding programs are highly sensitive to chronic and intermittent noise and vibration. Elevated sound levels cause stress, disrupt breeding cycles, interfere with vocal communication essential to pair bonding and parenting, and can lead to reduced reproductive success, behavioral disorders, and long-term health impacts. The continuous operational noise from inverters, cooling systems, transformers, and associated equipment, together with intermittent construction and maintenance noise, would create an environment incompatible with successful captive breeding of these birds—particularly the more noise-sensitive cockatoo species my mother specialized in and that I am now working to continue.

The family's plan to re-launch and expand this multi-generational hobby conservation program would be permanently undermined. The noise and industrial character of the proposed facility would destroy the quiet, low-stress conditions that have allowed this program to exist on this land for nearly four decades. My mother's specialized knowledge and conservation legacy, which I am the only one left to carry on, would effectively end.

Personal and family impacts

I have lived on this property my entire adult life. I have invested decades of labor and resources into building a home and a future here. I am now raising my own family on this land. The conversion of the neighboring agricultural parcel into a large industrial battery facility would permanently alter the rural, quiet character that has defined this place for our family since 1988. The combination of noise, visual intrusion, fire risk, and industrial activity immediately adjacent to our home and bird facilities would make continued residence and the planned re-launch of our family's hobby conservation work untenable.

Economic benefits do not offset these losses

Staff cites roughly \$18.2 million in construction-period sales and use tax revenue and approximately \$70.5 million in lifetime property tax revenue, along with limited construction employment and a \$500,000 community benefits agreement. These are gross figures. They do not account for the permanent loss of a multi-generational family hobby conservation program focused on at-risk and hard-to-breed species, the destruction of the quiet conditions required for exotic parrot breeding, the impact on our ability to raise our family in the home we have built, or the broader public costs of elevated fire and emergency response demands.

A limited number of temporary construction jobs and remote operational staffing cannot replace the long-term personal and cultural value of a multi-decade family conservation effort that once housed 500 birds and was among the largest of its kind in California. A one-time or phased community benefits payment cannot compensate our family for the loss of my mother's lifelong passion and specialized breeding expertise, or the inability to pass that legacy forward through the planned McKinney/Keating's Exotic Birds re-launch.

Location-specific harms versus generic benefits

Battery storage can provide grid reliability and renewable integration benefits. Those system-level benefits do not require the conversion of agricultural land immediately adjacent to a long-established rural residential property and private conservation program. Feasible alternative locations exist that could deliver comparable system benefits without extinguishing a multi-generational family conservation effort or subjecting sensitive exotic birds—particularly noise-sensitive cockatoos—and a residential family to chronic industrial noise and associated risks.

Requested action

I respectfully request that the Commission:

- Recognize the permanent incompatibility of this facility with the existing multi-generational residential and hobby conservation use of our adjacent property.
- Find that the claimed public and economic benefits in Sections 7 and 10.4 do not outweigh the irreversible harm to our family's home, quality of life, and conservation legacy.
- Give substantial weight to the noise sensitivity of exotic parrots (especially umbrella cockatoos and other species we have worked with) in a breeding program, the rarity of successful captive breeding, and the resulting loss of a viable multi-generational hobby conservation effort that I alone remain to continue after my mother's death—and that we are prepared to re-launch as McKinney/Keating's Exotic Birds pending a decision that protects this land.
- Deny certification of the project as proposed at this location.

Thank you for considering the direct, personal, and irreversible impacts this project would have on a family that has lived, worked, and practiced conservation on this land since 1988.

Sincerely,

Melissa Keating

6957 Byrnes Road

Vacaville, CA 95687

Property owner adjacent to APN 0141-030-090

Multi-generational resident since 1988

Hobby conservationist – continuing McKinney's Exotic Birds (est. 1988)

Plans to re-launch as McKinney/Keating's Exotic Birds pending 2026 decision