

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	272632
Document Title:	Cara Valentino Comments - Corby BESS Inquiry Letter
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Cara Valentino
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/13/2026 3:07:29 PM
Docketed Date:	9/14/2026

*Comment Received From: Cara Valentino
Submitted On: 9/13/2026
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

Corby BESS Inquiry Letter

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Cara Valentino. My husband and I live at 5516 Weber Rd Vacaville .06 miles from the proposed BESS project on Kilkenny and Byrnes Rd in Vacaville. I have attended many of the hearing and still have concerns about this project at this location. I would like to share how this project impacts my family personally.

Water Supply:

Our home is in a rural zone of Vacaville, Solano County, we are assessed Solano Irrigation District fees as part of our property taxes. Because of the high cost of metering and running pipes we do not have access to the SID water source for agricultural.

Access to City water is not available in our area. We rely 100% on our well for our personal water needs like showers, flushing of toilets, laundry, cleaning, washing our solar panels, drinking... along with keeping our trees, vegetation and vegetable garden viable.

We also raise chickens for meat and eggs. We also have ducks, 5 cats and a dog- all require water for their daily maintenance.

I'm very concerned about our ground water/well and want to know how disruption and or contamination of our water supply will be mitigated?

How will we be compensated if a problem arises?

Is BESS liable or will we the homeowners be left to deal with this expense and problem?

Where will BESS get its water supply during construction and when in full operation?

Will city water be made available at the BESS site?

If they are applying for a well permit, how will their water demand impact our groundwater /well supply?

Without a viable water source our property will not only be drastically devalued and make living at our home much more complicated, stressful and expensive.

Traffic:

Weber Rd., Kilkenny Rd. Byrnes Rd. and Willow Rd. are restricted to vehicles over 7 tons.

Qualifying fire truck/tenders would be limited to loads of less than 2000 gallons of water before exceeding the 2026 Solano Supervisor weight limit.

How will this be mitigated?

According to the Dixon fire department web site, Dixon only has one fire tender.

In your report it states Dixon will be the responding fire department for the BESS facility.

Are there other departments involved?

One Tesla car battery fire typically requires 3,000 to 50,000 gallons of water to manage the flame, variables such as car type, battery size, wind, temperature are why these numbers vary so broadly.

How many fire truck/ tenders will be available to respond to a BESS emergency?

Where will they park on the site?

How will they mitigate traffic?

Will they be blocking the roads of vehicles trying to evacuate?

During construction, what route will trucks and the equipment take to gain access to the BESS project?

What happens if the equipment is over the weight restrictions?

Who will oversee the weight restrictions?

Will BESS assume liability for damages caused to our roads and personal driveways?

Or will tax payers and home owners be left paying the bill?

If there is an evacuation order, what is the planned escape route?

The LNU fire proved to be a good indicator that what happens when interstate 80 comes to a halt. Drivers divert traffic to the side/ frontage roads near the freeway exits. Kilkenny, Willow, Byrnes and Weber are some of those roads.

Where will the evacuation plans direct traffic to go?

Will these county back roads qualify for traffic lights at the street corners?

Will they be widened for turn out spots for cars to pull over for emergency vehicles?

When the Vacaville LNU fire and the Midway Fire happened in 2020, the 3 and 4 way stops in this area made traffic worse as people blocked the intersections and brought traffic to a complete stop.

Also, these streets are all 2 lanes, culverts on both side and barely wide enough for two cars particularly on Kilkenny Rd. heading south west from Byrnes Rd.

How will first responders and emergency vehicles get thru this traffic to respond to the BESS location when there is nowhere for vehicles to pull over?

What is the proposed plan for evacuation orders?

How will we be notified?

Dust:

All construction is a dusty process.

What are the plans to mitigate the dust issues?

Will the EPA be involved in testing the level of dust for possible agricultural toxins and or industrial exposures released in the dust?

If not the EPA, which agency will oversee these types of exposure risks?

What type of application will be practiced to minimize respiratory issues for humans and animals?

How will we be compensated?

Noise pollution:

We bought our home in the country for the peace and quiet rural life brings.

Living with construction noise for a defined time is understandable but constant buzz of air conditioners/ cooling system is a concern for our mental well-being.

Fire:

The data presented by BESS and the CEC report indicates a fire risk.

Will BESS be providing the local residents with an umbrella policy to bridge the fire liability/ damages to our homes, wells and personal property?

We have a mortgage on our home for 23 more years.

If our fire insurance is cancelled, or we are forced to pay higher premiums because of the BESS project location, this will be a financial burden to the surrounding homeowners.

Selling our home will be very difficult especially if one can't get insurance because of the proximity to the BESS location.

Our home would be devalued and make moving a financial disaster for us.

Who would want to buy a home .06 miles from a battery plant that you can't get insurance? No lender will loan.

Soil contamination:

We grow food on our property to subsidize our dietary needs and costs.

Having our soil exposed to possible contamination puts a huge stress on our family and health.

If our soil is contaminated, by fire or smoke, how will we be compensated for the loss of our farm animals and future production?

What about decontamination of our vehicles and other assets on our property?

Will BESS be liable for the occurrence of a smoke/ plume toxic exposure?

Our homeowner's insurance policy excludes toxic spills, well damage, septic damage, hazardous waste material caused by such projects as BESS.

When these exposures/ damages happen, how will we be compensated for our physical and financial loss?

Or are we homeowners who unfortunately happened to invest in a home in this area be left holding the bill?

Financial Liability:

We bought our home in the country for a place to live, operate our construction company and to help us reach our retirement/ financial goals.

We have plans to break ground with building an ADU on our property where we would live when my husband retires.

Building the ADU provides us with the financial means to be able to afford to stay in California upon retirement by renting out our main house and living on our property.

Three of our 4 children live and work in California which is our reason to stay.

The BESS project at this location could be the financial ruin for us.

Owning property where you have to worry about a threat of fire, contaminated water, emergency evacuations, future health risks, possible relocation and insurance nightmares- is not what we envisioned for our retirement years or country living.

While the CEC risk assessment sees the visual impact of the physical space as the only negative of this project, I beg to differ.

Having the constant worry that one day an alarm will go off and our lives will be forever changed- could quite possibly become our reality.

I run the scenarios thru my head and feel frustrated with the power of the State of California.

We played by the government's rules, invested in solar, bought energy saving appliances, LED light bulbs, fuel efficient cars, energy efficient appliances, double panes windows, insulated our roof, bought water saving toilets and faucets, pour our time and money into creating a life where we would never need to depend on anyone but ourselves. We planned for the future and never believed the government owed us anything. Living as self-reliant as possible has been our goal with living out in the country. We growing our food, can meat and vegetables, make jam, keep chickens for eggs and meat.

Experiencing the LNU fire, we saw the possibility we might need a temporary place to evacuate and bought an old travel trailer so we would have temporary housing if we ever had to evacuate.

Now I look at the trailer and wonder if we will have enough time to hook up our truck to the trailer and gather our animals?

Will our evacuation exit be blocked with traffic?

Will my husband be at work when an evacuation is ordered?

Will I be home alone to manage this?

Will we have our grandkids spending the night when the alarm sounds?

We are thinking about all these things and hoping for the best but planning for the worst.

The EIR portrays the best-case scenario.

We might in fact be living out the worst-case scenario.

The reality could be somewhere in between.

I don't like to gamble- high risk low reward.

I feel like those of us in the close proximity of the BESS project are taking all the risk for the community benefit. Terrible odds for us.

Unlike gambling, you know the wager and the pay off when you pony up your money. The government is trying to take that away from us. We are told to take all the risk for the community benefit of \$70 million dollars in tax revenue because of our unfortunate house address. How is that fair?

Fatal exposure risk:

The CEC report graph illustrates the level 1-3 risks of exposure.

Is there a document, study, guesstimate, calculation, theory, hypothesis, pie chart, graph... that shows these areas of risks in possible measures of distance such as feet, yards, acres, miles, cities, counties, states, countries.

Having some knowledge of "are we in the "fatal" range or the "mild skin irritation" range according to weather/wind factors might be a valuable piece of information to know and share. Especially because of our close proximity.

Does such a report or study show this?

If so, where was it located in the 1400+ page document?

Or are we just supposed to believe the block wall is all we need to worry about?

Not the minor details of the fatal area?

I believe the BESS project should not be built at this location for the many reasons stated in my response.

The Lambie industrial site in Fairfield poses far fewer risk to residents, yet still helps meet California energy goals and mandates.

Thank you,

Cara Valentino
5516 Weber Rd
Vacaville – Solano County