

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	272746
Document Title:	Chris Whitaker Comments - Corby - opposition - economic net disadvantage at Vacaville location
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Chris Whitaker
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/14/2026 11:49:20 AM
Docketed Date:	9/14/2026

Comment Received From: Chris Whitaker
Submitted On: 9/14/2026
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05

Corby - opposition - economic net disadvantage at Vacaville location

Dear Commissioners,

In regard to cumulative impacts and economic net benefit (or disadvantage), it is important to consider opportunity cost of losing ag land at the proposed location on Kilkenny and Byrnes road. Opportunity cost is the value of what you give up when making a choice. Every time you spend time, money, or resources on one thing, you miss out on the benefits of the other things you could have continued doing instead.

From an agricultural perspective, the opportunity cost of losing farmland and important rural lands to development is the value of what that land could have continued producing or supporting, compared to what it will produce in its new use:

1. Lost production value - the crops, livestock, or other farm outputs that could have been produced on that land year after year are gone. This includes not only current market value but also the future income stream farmers and rural economies would have earned.
2. Lost ecosystem services - farmland often provides benefits beyond food, such as groundwater recharge, carbon sequestration, flood control, and pollinator habitat. Once paved, these services are diminished or lost entirely.
3. Lost generational use - productive farmland is a non-renewable resource in practical terms. Development often removes it permanently from agricultural use, meaning future farmers will have fewer options.
4. Economic trade-offs - while development may bring short-term tax revenue, the opportunity cost is the foregone long-term agricultural output and the industries tied to it (food processing, transportation, farm equipment sales, etc.)

In short, the opportunity cost of farmland is the cumulative, often permanent loss of food production, environmental services, and rural economic potential that the land could have generated, traded for the gains from its new, non-agricultural use.

Monetary impacts

1. Lost annual crop and livestock value
2. Lost multiplier effect on the local economy
3. Reduced agricultural tax base
4. Loss of future market value

Non-monetary impacts

1. Loss of food security
2. Loss of ecosystem services
3. Loss of rural culture and heritage

4. Loss of strategic flexibility

The opportunity cost isn't just the crops we lose this year, but rather the permanent loss of a renewable production system, the economic ripple effects, and the environmental benefits that farmland provides for generations.

None of this opportunity cost of farmland would be a factor if the Corby project utilized the alternative Lambie Industrial Park and using newer and safer battery types. However, and for the purposes of the staff assessment, potentially losing existing infinite economic benefits (with agriculture), how was the cumulative opportunity cost of losing irreplaceable prime ag land calculated? Also, how was the cumulative impact of precedent measured, with a magnified opportunity cost of losing additional prime ag land and greater edge effects?

Please do not approve this application as-is, and if needed, move this to the better alternative that is Lambie Industrial Park.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chris Whitaker
Vacaville and Solano County resident