

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-05
Project Title:	Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project
TN #:	272759
Document Title:	Gaul Culley Comments - Opposition to Corby
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Gaul Culley
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/14/2026 4:55:08 PM
Docketed Date:	9/14/2026

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

Opposition to Corby

Dear California Energy Commission:

My name is Gaul Culley. I am a Real Estate and Land Specialist, a Solano County property owner, and I have worked extensively with agricultural, rural residential and land properties throughout this county. I am writing in opposition to the proposed location of the Corby Battery Energy Storage System.

I am not opposed to responsible energy storage. I am opposed to placing industrial-scale infrastructure on agricultural land when appropriately zoned industrial areas should be considered. As a land professional, I believe good planning begins with a fundamental principle: put the right use on the right land. A 300-megawatt battery energy storage facility is an industrial use, and industrial infrastructure belongs in an appropriately planned industrial area.

The actions of our local governments reinforce my concern. Both Solano County and the City of Vacaville imposed moratoriums on commercial or grid-scale battery energy storage development while they studied land-use, health and safety standards. These actions demonstrate that our local governments recognized the significant questions surrounding the siting and regulation of these facilities.

I am also concerned about the proposed use of lithium-ion battery technology. Lithium-ion systems carry recognized thermal-runaway and fire-management concerns. Other grid-scale storage technologies exist, including flow, sodium-based and iron-based battery systems, with different safety and fire-risk characteristics. I believe the Commission should require meaningful evaluation of these alternatives rather than assuming lithium-ion is the appropriate technology for a facility proposed within a significant agricultural county that feed people locally, across the state of California, nationally and worldwide.

As a real estate and land professional, I am deeply concerned about the precedent created by converting agricultural land to industrial energy use. Agricultural land is not simply vacant acreage. It is an economic resource, part of our food system and an essential part of Solano County's identity. Once industrial uses begin moving into agricultural areas, the effects can extend beyond a single parcel, changing surrounding land-use expectations, rural character, future development pressure and the marketability of neighboring properties.

California needs reliable energy infrastructure, but energy development and agricultural preservation do not have to be competing goals. We have choices in both location and technology. Those alternatives deserve serious consideration before agricultural land is

permanently converted.

I respectfully ask the California Energy Commission to deny the Corby BESS at this proposed location and direct industrial-scale battery storage toward appropriately zoned industrial areas.

Battery energy storage may be necessary. This location and this technology should not be accepted without serious consideration of safer and more appropriately sited alternatives.

Respectfully,

Gaul Culley
Real Estate & Land Specialist
Solano County Property Owner
Real Estate & Land Specialist
Solano County Property Owner