

DOCKETED

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CESA and ACP-CA Support Letter for Corby Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



September 14, 2026

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

**RE: Corby Battery Energy Storage System CEC Staff Assessment Public Meeting
(Docket Number 24-OPT-05)**

On behalf of the California Energy Storage Alliance (CESA) and American Clean Power – California (ACP-CA), we write to express our strong support for the Corby Energy Storage Project (Corby), a 300-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) proposed by NextEra Energy Resources in Solano County. Together, our organizations represent companies that develop, own, and operate BESS facilities. Projects like Corby are essential to maintain electric reliability, integrate renewable energy, reduce customer costs, and achieve California’s clean energy goals.

Energy storage improves grid reliability.

BESS is a crucial piece of the energy mix for California and local jurisdictions to meet their electric reliability and decarbonization goals. The thousands of megawatts (MW) of energy storage deployed since 2020 have played a critical role in preventing grid emergencies. The grid operator has not called a single Flex Alert since 2022, despite 2024 being the hottest summer and this August being the hottest August ever recorded in California history.¹ However, much more energy storage is needed. Thousands of additional MW of BESS will be necessary in the next few years to meet rising demand from electrification and new large loads while the state must also retire three large gas-fired power plants at the end of 2026 due to environmental regulations.

Energy storage plays a key role in meeting state and local environmental goals.

BESS plays a critical role in helping to meet local and statewide climate and clean energy goals. The California Energy Commission estimates the state will need 52,000 MW of energy storage by 2045 to accomplish our greenhouse gas mitigation goals, but only 21,000 MW are currently operational.² Attaining these goals, which will help mitigate the negative impact of fires, droughts, and floods due to climate change, depends on the aggressive deployment of BESS to store renewable energy for use when customers need it.

Safety is a key feature of BESS.

In contrast to some older BESS facilities, current BESS technologies are less susceptible to thermal runaway, and projects are now designed using modular containers rather than stacking batteries in large, warehouse-type structures. The containerized design inherently limits the

¹ Harter, Clara. “The surprising reason California survived record summer heat without blackouts.” Los Angeles Times. September 11, 2026. <https://www.eenews.net/articles/what-heat-wave-batteries-keep-the-lights-on-in-california-2/>

² California Energy Commission. California Energy Storage System Survey. <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/energy-almanac/california-electricity-data/california-energy-storage-system-survey>, updated August 15, 2026.

potential severity of BESS incidents, supported by modern National Fire Protection Association standards, which are incorporated into the California Fire Code, specifically designed to safely deploy and operate today's battery storage systems.

In addition, several recent bills have updated the safety standards that BESS developers must meet and have increased regulatory oversight of their operations. Senate Bill 38 (Laird, Chapter 377, 2023) requires BESS owners and operators to work with local jurisdictions to develop comprehensive safety plans. In 2025, the California Public Utilities Commission adopted rules for a BESS auditing and inspection program pursuant to Senate Bill 1383 (Hueso, Chapter 725, 2022). Most recently, Senate Bill 283 (Laird, Chapter 407, 2025) requires BESS developers to consult with local fire authorities before construction and undergo inspections prior to the operation of a BESS facility. Together, these requirements ensure that BESS facilities adhere to the highest safety standards and that adequate safety protocols are in place.

Energy storage provides local benefits.

In addition to its statewide reliability and clean energy benefits, the Corby project will provide meaningful economic benefits to Solano County through construction jobs, local property tax revenues supporting schools and public services, and the project's proposed community benefits package.

We also participated actively in Solano County's BESS Working Group and worked with County staff and stakeholders as the County developed a permitting ordinance for future BESS projects. Based on our review, the Corby project is generally consistent with key elements of the County's proposed approach, including setbacks and other safety requirements.

The Corby project will provide needed grid reliability, support California's clean energy transition, and deliver substantial benefits to Solano County. We respectfully urge the Commission to support the project's timely advancement through the CEC permitting process.

Thank you for your consideration and continued leadership in advancing California's clean energy future.

Sincerely,

Scott Murtishaw

Executive Director

California Energy Storage Alliance

Alex Jackson

Executive Director

American Clean Power – California