DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	26-OPT-02
Project Title:	Seahawk Battery Energy Storage System
TN #:	273165
Document Title:	Mailed group of Public comments (7) - Seahawk BESS comments
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Anthony Monaco
Organization:	The Public
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	10/21/2026 7:34:43 AM
Docketed Date:	10/19/2026

Date/Fecha: Oct. 10, 2024

Re: CEC Docket: 26-OPT-02

My home is in the impact area for the Seahawk BESS planned by New Leaf Energy at 90 Minto Road on the outskirts of Watsonville, California. This project will affect myself and my family. My concern is that these batteries are flammable and dangerous and if/when they catch fire, as has happened around the country, myself, my family and my neighbors will be in danger of toxic gases and be poisoned by the smoke. We will need to be evacuated and there is no good plan for how this would be done and where we would go. Our community already is dealing with many toxic threats, and this would just be one more insult and one more grave risk to our lives.

Please, do not permit this project in our area. We will be interested in updates and invitations to your community meetings.

Mi hogar está dentro de la zona de impacto del proyecto Seahawk BESS que New Leaf Energy planea construir en el 90 de Minto Road, en las afueras de Watsonville, California. Este proyecto nos afectará a mí y a mi familia. Me preocupa que estas baterías sean inflamables y peligrosas, y que si llegan a incendiarse —como ha ocurrido en otras partes del país— mi familia, mis vecinos y yo quedemos expuestos a gases tóxicos y al humo venenoso. Tendríamos que ser evacuados, y no existe un buen plan sobre cómo se haría ni adónde iríamos. Nuestra comunidad ya enfrenta muchas amenazas tóxicas, y esto sería una más: un riesgo grave para nuestras vidas.

Por favor, no permitan este proyecto en nuestra zona. Nos interesa recibir información actualizada e invitaciones a sus reuniones comunitarias.

Sincerely,

Name/Nombre: Barbara Sawyer

Address/Dirección: [redacted]

[redacted]

Mail to/Enviar a: California Energy Commission, 26-OPT-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date/Fecha: 10/15/26

Re: CEC Docket: 26-OPT-02

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Sincerely,

Name/Nombre: Judy Lee

Address/Dirección: [redacted]

Mail to/Enviar a: California Energy Commission, 26-OPT-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date/Fecha: 10-10-26

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Sincerely,

Name/Nombre: Alfred H. Haindl (Alfred H. Haindl)

Address/Dirección: [redacted]

Mail to/Enviar a: California Energy Commission, 26-OPT-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date/Fecha: Oct 10, 2026

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Sincerely,

Name/Nombre: Neil Bass

Address/Dirección: [redacted]

Mail to/Enviar a: California Energy Commission, 26-OPT-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Date/Fecha:_____

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Sincerely,

Name/Nombre:_____

Address/Dirección:_____

_____

Mail to/Enviar a: California Energy Commission, 26-OPT-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
701 Ocean Street, room 501
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Date: 10/10/26

Dear Supervisors Cummings, Martinez, Koenig, De Serpa, and Hernandez,

I am writing to oppose New Leaf Energy's proposed lithium BESS siting at 90 MInto Road, and I oppose lithium battery chemistry being allowed in our County at all.

There are safer, non-flammable alternatives to lithium, such as sodium or vanadium, which are already in use globally and in our nation elsewhere.

Watsonville residents and wildlife deserve protection. We have many natural lakes, agricultural land, and populations of birds, fish and other natural resources not found anywhere else in the County.

Our largely Latino, hardworking community does not deserve to be asked to live with the highly risky New Leaf BESS project. According to ArcGIS mapping using SC County open data, within 2 miles of 90 Minto Road are:

2,948 monolingual Spanish speakers who have been nearly entirely left out of any public notice or meeting (since there has been only one with New Leaf in December 2024) about their homes and futures.

There are 3,010 people living with disabilities, 4,221 people on food stamps / SNAP;

6,985 children and youth aged 0 - 14 years old and 4,680 people over the age of 65;

12 schools (PVUSD and private elementary, junior high and high schools);

28,450 Latino residents just in the 2 miles around Minto Road;

College Lake is home to threatened and endangered species, has Ohlone and prehistoric cultural evidence, is a flood zone and earthquake zone. Traffic at Minto Road and Green Valley are already at peak burden; evacuation routes are not secure, and the obstructions to neighbors for building out, much less evacuating, make for an impossible situation.

EMFs are already higher than healthy levels at the Minto substation, and a BESS would expose people to health hazards, increase likelihood of cancer. Chronic noise from inverters and cooling systems also aggravate health conditions, cause sleep issues, disturb pollinators vital for our main industry, agriculture.

There are dozens of serious reasons why this project is not appropriate, but it is also SOCIALLY UNJUST and exhibits racism and socioeconomic predatory siting by our County and New Leaf Energy.

Please do the right thing and do not allow New Leaf Energy's application, if it should come your way. Take the lead to make a BESS Ordinance that does not allow flammable lithium chemistry for any future BESS in our area. Thank you for your profound consideration and conscience towards the people of unincorporated Watsonville.

Signed,

Tim Cagan

Date/Fecha: 10.9.26

Re: CEC Docket: 26-OPT-02

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Por favor, no permitan este proyecto en nuestra zona. Nos interesa recibir información actualizada e invitaciones a sus reuniones comunitarias.

Sincerely,

Name/Nombre: Jodi Louderback

Address/Dirección: [redacted]

Mail to/Enviar a: California Energy Commission, 26-OPT-02
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814