

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Pecho Energy Storage Center
TN #:	242343
Document Title:	Comments from Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District on Pecho Energy Storage Center
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Jackie Crabb
Organization:	Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District
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Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District

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March 14, 2022

Ms. Lisa Worrall, Project Manager
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. **21AFC-01**
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE: Pecho Energy Storage Center project
Application for Certification
2284 Adobe Road
County of San Luis Obispo unincorporated area

The Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District (CSLRCD), a special district of the State of California, is the owner of a 128 acre property locally known as Chorro Flats and is located along Quintana Road and South Bay Boulevard, just east of the City of Morro Bay.

Chorro Flats was purchased with public funds in 1991 for the purpose of wetland restoration, continued agriculture, and storm flow and sediment attenuation. The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) holds two perpetual restrictive wetland easements covering approximately 83 acres of the Chorro Flats site.

The Pecho Energy Storage Center project proposes, among other matters, to construct a high-voltage transmission line parallel to two existing lines crossing the Chorro Flats property. The existing lines are on utility easements that predate the purchase of the property by CSLRCD. Portions of both utility easements cross portions of the wetland easements. Any new line would need to be on a new, separate utility easement. This may require subordination of the existing wetland easements, and would need to demonstrate a compelling public need for that alignment.

We believe that any new transmission lines would be inimical to the purposes for which the property was purchased, and problematic for any future wetland expansion that our District might wish to undertake at the site. For these reasons we strongly urge that an alternative route for the proposed power line be considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information and consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neil Havlik".

Neil Havlik, President, Board of Directors
Coastal San Luis Resource Conservation District