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Comment Received From: Heather Rosenblatt
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Lithium battery storage facility, San Juan

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed lithium battery storage facility near our community. While I understand the need for advancements in energy storage and sustainability, the proposed location raises significant concerns about the safety and well-being of our residents and environment.

Lithium batteries, while efficient and powerful, come with a number of hazardous risks that should not be overlooked. One of the primary concerns is the potential for fires. Lithium battery fires can be extremely difficult to control and extinguish, often requiring specialized equipment and training. Such fires release toxic fumes and can pose a serious threat to nearby homes and businesses, endangering lives and property.

Additionally, there is a substantial risk of chemical leaks and contamination. Lithium batteries contain hazardous materials that, if leaked, can infiltrate our water sources, including groundwater and nearby rivers or lakes. This contamination could have long-lasting detrimental effects on our local ecosystem, wildlife, and the health of our community members who rely on these water sources for their daily needs.

Moreover, the presence of a lithium battery storage facility could lead to increased traffic and noise pollution in our area, further diminishing the quality of life for residents. The increased transportation of hazardous materials through our community also elevates the risk of accidents and spills, adding another layer of danger to our streets.

The potential economic impacts should also be considered. Property values in our community could be negatively affected by the proximity of such a high-risk facility, and the costs associated with emergency response and environmental cleanup could place a significant financial burden on our local government.

In light of these serious concerns, I urge you to reconsider the proposed location for the lithium battery storage facility. I strongly advocate for exploring alternative locations that are at a safer distance from residential areas, thus minimizing the potential hazards and ensuring the safety and well-being of our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns. I look forward to your response and hope that you will take the necessary steps to protect our Westridge Estates community from these significant risks.