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Comment Received From: Audra Orr

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Opposed to Corby Battery Energy Storage System Project in Solano

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Audra Orr 4404 Lady Bug Ln Vacaville, California 95688

December 3, 2024

California Energy Commission 715 P St Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission,

As a resident of the unincorporated area of Solano County, I have great concerns about the BESS facility for which NextEra is requesting you overrule our county moratorium so that they may place it in our county both in close proximity to a large number of residences as well as on and near prime agricultural land.

I wouldn't hesitate to say that most of us are very much in favor of clean energy; however, recent and current events are showing us that way too many of the current BESS facilities have ended up being the exact opposite of clean. The multiple fires that have occurred in these facilities have polluted not only the air but also the ground and realistically the ground water as well. In California, and especially Solano County, we can't afford to lose any of our ground water to toxicity. Not only would the toxic fumes and polluted water create a deadly situation for our families, pets, and livestock, but the polluted water would have a devastating effect on our agriculture industry as well.

While there are no perfect locations for BESS facilities, I know the County is currently investigating to find the best locations for them that would cause the least amount of damage to residents and resources when a fire occurs. This location is not it. With the current BESS technology, the question seems to be "when" not "if" in regards to fires. This also leads to the next issue of wildfires. Even a small fire at a BESS facility combined with the strength of the winds we get in Solano County on a daily basis could cause a multi-acre wildfire, which could potentially threaten the lives and livelihood of our residents. I have had to evacuate my farm and family in the middle of the night during the LNU fire. It was a nightmare that still causes my family stress for months every year.

I am very much in favor of green energy and even use regenerative farming practices on my farm so I don't understand why we aren't using cleaner and safer systems like iron flow batteries, even though their capacity is smaller, until the BESS technology is to the point where it is cleaner, safer, and more environmentally friendly. Companies like NextEra care only about profits and are not community-oriented. They pit nonprofits against county residents with their donations in order to meet bare-bottom requirements. I ask that the members of the California Energy Commission, a group whose purpose is to put the needs of the people of the state of California first, do that by saying no to a profit-driven group and let the Solano County government, who know the Solano County residents, geography, and population makeup, continue their process of identifying the most appropriate locations before changing zoning and approving BESS facility applications.

Sincerely,

Audra Orr

Audra Orr