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No to Corby BESS project

After much research and a few meetings, the citizens of Vacaville opposed the last lithium ion battery storage project proposed near homes. Lithium ion battery fires have occurred repeatedly, over several different projects. They are difficult to extinguish, they often burn for days, the air becomes toxic, and it appears there is not enough information about the effects the chemicals produced might have on groundwater. Many of the residents closest to this proposed project use well water, making that a worthy concern. Due to these concerns and more, the city of Vacaville and the County of Solano have both placed moratoriums on such projects, while they do more research and collect more data on the dangers of such projects.

During the meetings held on the Vacaville project we were made aware that there are different types of battery storage being developed, which are safer than lithium ion. Those might be tolerable solutions, but that is not what NextEra is proposing to use. They propose a lithium ion BESS. Further, they are applying to the CA Energy Commission in order to render the thoughtful processes conducted by the city and county just described useless. They also apparently already have a contract in place to provide the city of San Francisco with energy, not the city of Vacaville nor the county of Solano, where all the risk would be taking place.

This project is quite close to people's homes, many of them own livestock, which will also suffer harm in the event of a fire. There is also a hospital located nearby. Given that the residents and the local governing bodies here have expended considerable time and energy in researching these projects, and have put in place moratoriums to allow for even further research prior to making firm decisions, I believe those decisions should be honored, and NextEra should not be allowed to ignore those decisions.