

DOCKETED	
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*Comment Received From: Harry Bouzos
Submitted On: 12/4/2024
Docket Number: 24-OPT-05*

We appose the proposed BESS project at Byrnes and Kilkenny

December 4, 2024.

We are opposed to the Corby BESS project proposed for Byrnes Road and Kilkenny Road. We were never informed of their plans. We were lucky enough to find out from our neighbor.

We operate Bouzos Orchards and have 125 Acres of Almonds less than ½ mile from the proposed project. The environmental impact from this project will negatively impact our orchard and the surrounding area.

The City of Vacaville recently denied the applicants application for a different site a few miles away from this site determining that “the potential for development of BESS facilities in Vacaville without adequate land use policies and standards in place presents a current and immediate threat to the public’s safety and welfare, and that the approval of additional entitlements for BESS facilities would result in that threat to public safety and welfare.”

Further, the reasons cannot be more clearly stated than were stated by our neighbor on Willow Road-right around the corner from the proposed site. The letter is referenced below by Kimberly Korff the Retired State of California Fire Marshal.

Finally, we have six domestic wells and 1 agricultural well as well as seven residences that the various members of our family reside in. We enjoy living in the country and in the Vacaville area. We want to continue to do so. This proposed project is threatening to destroy not only our business but also our ability to live on our property. This would certainly destroy our property value.

Please deny the Corby application.
Harry Bouzos

Attached letter from retired Fire Marshal Kimberly Korff:

“December 3, 2024

Reference: Corner of Byrnes Road and Kilkenny Road Solano County, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Dear California Energy Commission Board Members,

This notification is to clearly make you aware We are not in favor and adamantly oppose the location of this Lithium-ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Byrnes Road and Kilkenny Road.

Please do not approve this application without a fair and thorough public review. At

minimum, an extension of review period is necessary.

Our family home is located within ¼ mile, directly across, of the proposed development location. We live within the Vacaville City limits. We were never contacted or notified of this proposed development/use until a neighbor told us yesterday on 12-2-2024. This is not acceptable. We find the deceptive, covert, and calculated methods being used by the developer, Corby Energy Storage/Next ERS with their intent to clearly bypass public comments and deceitfully gain the approval from the California Energy commission Board Members appalling.

This company has been less than forthcoming with the surrounding residents of the City of Vacaville and County of Solano along with the California Energy Commission Board Members. Please do not allow this developer to use you as a pawn to go around standard processes because of an oversight in AB205, which creates a loophole in the law. It was not the intent of the assembly bill.

This company had proposed the development of this facility site in another separate location approximately 1 mile away and was met with extreme opposition and development denial by the County of Solano. The prior location residents will be still be in the drift hazard and evacuation zone pathway from incidents occurring at this facility. Most general population will say they have fires which are not extinguishable. The industry uses the term "Thermal Runaway" to avoid using the word fire. Whatever terminology is used, Thermal Runaway is a large problem and is not avoidable. During thermal runaway, batteries will burn uncontrollably, emit toxic fumes, emit flammable vapors and pose explosion hazards. This will always require evacuation from surrounding area for public safety.

There are many residential homes and small acreage (2 ½ to 5 acre) in this immediate area. They will all be at risk due to the proven hazards these facilities generate. All other Lithium-ion Battery Storage sites are in completely isolated areas to avoid the negative impact to residents.

The new location proposed is prime agricultural land. Agricultural lands defined as Mediterranean. These areas are very limited in the California and United States and are considered top producing for our Country. Depleting our prime agriculture lands to place hazardous operating Lithium-ion battery storage yards should be criminal. Destroying prime agricultural lands is not acceptable, recognizing less than 1% of the world population grows our foods.

These facilities are prone to failure due to their nature. The Batteries will overheat and result in fire "thermal runaway" as their industry calls it. Our extreme seasonal temperatures will not benefit Lithium-Ion batteries and will enhance the chance and cause overheating. Thermal runaway can occur due to exposure to excessive temperatures, external shorts due to faulty wiring, or internal shorts due to cell defects. Thermal runaway events result in the venting of toxic and highly flammable gases and the release of significant energy in the form of heat. Vented gases are hot enough to melt metal. If ignited, these gases can cause enclosed areas to over pressurize, and if unmitigated, this overpressure can result in an explosion and severe damage to the battery and surrounding equipment or people.

Since 2018 there have been over 40 significantly large fires "Thermal Runaways" of lithium-ion battery storage facilities. These fires "Thermal Runaways" are extremely hard to put out and require excessive amounts of water

and sometimes will burn for weeks causing closure and displacement due to evacuation and shutdowns. Our fire personnel have no effective way of stopping these events. In September 2022 a battery storage fire in Moss Landing shut down an eight (8) mile stretch of Hwy 1. THIS LOCATION, IF APPROVED, WILL CLOSE DOWN A COMPARIABLE SECTION OF INTERSTATE 80. This will be a significant impact to the entire state. This proposed location is less than a mile from Interstate 80. It is not if it will happen - because it will. It is when?

Cells generate heat, even under normal operating conditions. It is proven that the heat generated from large lithium-ion battery storage facilities increases the ambient temperatures surrounding the facilities. This is a negative impact to the environment, residents and wildlife within the area.

These facilities generate a nonstop Noise issue. They require their own equipment to charge and cool the batteries, which creates an extremely loud buzzing or humming noise 24/7 that can be heard in neighboring area. This will substantially affect our quality of living and depreciate our properties value. This proposal is within one (1) mile of Kaiser Permanente Hospital and Solano Community College. The continuous noise will also impact the natural wild life found within the area. Hawks, Migratory birds, Egrets, Herons and small animals, livestock and pets. They will provide you a signed document saying they are exempt but in prior experiences the equipment exceeds established dba levels and are not intended 24/7. Noise is a significant issue to quality of life.

The operation of these Lithium-ion battery Storage yards also brings environmental hazards. Runoff from daily use of water for cooling batteries and runoff from cooling exploded burning "Thermal runaway" batteries will contaminate the nearby creeks, canals and pollute groundwater which also may affect nearby City and Residential wells. As required for all other hazardous materials that are subject to spills, no containment and capturing of contaminated water will occur at the facility. It will contaminate soil and ground waters.

This facility does not provide long term jobs or energy benefit for City of Vacaville or Solano County. Once built, these systems are usually remotely monitored. Concerning when an incident occurs and the response is delayed. The energy saved goes directly to PG&E and doesn't guarantee power for the surrounding area during blackouts. Only millions of dollars in profit for the developer.

Most Fire jurisdictions have NO ability to address the incidents occurring at these facilities. They can only take precautions by evacuating surrounding residents, evacuating Hospital, evacuating college campus, shutting down roads/major interstate 80 and notifying surrounding Airports Nut Tree Vacaville and Travis Air Force Base) both who have direct flight paths over this area. This can be for days until they can get control of the Fire "thermal runaway", Flammable and Toxic gases they call "Thermal Runaway. Residents evacuated, Hospital, Airports closed, College Campus closed, Highway 80 closed will create a severe negative impact to the economy. I cannot imagine having to evacuate myself, from my home, for days. This is not an appropriate location for this Lithium-Ion Battery Storage Facility. Please do not approve this application. We are opposed and do not approve of this use so close to residents, hospital, airports and Interstate 80. Your Approval would be an injustice to the people.

Thank you for hearing our concerns,
Kimberly Korff, Retired State of California Fire Marshal
Fred Korff, Retired Small Business Owner