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Please do not put a highly flammable battery plant in an area that is high risk for fires

On behalf of all San Juan families, we are pleading with the city to please stop this for many reasons. Battery plants can be harmful to the land for several reasons:

Mining for Raw Materials: Many batteries, especially lithium-ion ones, require raw materials like lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite. Mining these minerals can lead to deforestation, soil erosion, and water contamination. For example, mining for lithium can deplete water resources and harm local ecosystems.

Chemical Pollution: The production process of batteries involves the use of toxic chemicals, such as heavy metals and solvents. Improper disposal or leakage of these chemicals can contaminate the land, groundwater, and surrounding ecosystems.

Waste Management Issues: Once batteries are used and discarded, they can release harmful substances like lead, mercury, or cadmium into the soil if not properly recycled. If battery plants don't have proper waste disposal and recycling mechanisms, this can result in long-term contamination.

Carbon Footprint: The manufacturing process for batteries often involves energy-intensive operations, which can lead to greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change. This can have indirect impacts on land health through altered weather patterns, reduced agricultural productivity, or increased desertification.

Land Use and Habitat Destruction: Large-scale battery production and mining operations can require vast amounts of land. This often leads to the destruction of natural habitats, threatening local biodiversity and reducing the land's ability to support a healthy ecosystem.

In summary, while batteries are crucial for energy storage in a renewable future, the environmental costs of their production and disposal—especially when it comes to land use and pollution—can be significant if not properly managed.