



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

From: Michael Chiacos <mchiacos@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 1:10 AM
To: sbcob
Subject: CEC support for Agenda Item 1, Battery Energy Storage
Attachments: County of SB Battery Energy Storage Report - CEC support.pdf

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Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please confirm receipt of the attached letter from Community Environmental Council, describing our support for agenda item 1, the County of Santa Barbara Battery Energy Storage Report.

Thank you,

Michael Chiacos
Senior Policy Consultant
Community Environmental Council



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March 10th, 2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Agenda Item 1, Informational Report Regarding Battery Energy Storage Systems

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

The Community Environmental Council appreciates the research that has gone into the staff report and the additional information it provides on Battery Energy Storage Systems, local energy storage developments, and the tragic fire at the Moss Landing facility. As the staff report concludes, and many independent reporting and analyses, [such as this in-depth article in Canary Media find](#), the Moss Landing facility is an older, retrofitted natural gas facility that uses an outdated battery chemistry and was built before various international and national codes and standards had been developed.

The staff report does an excellent job outlining the difference between Moss Landing and energy storage facilities built to modern code, such as:

1. Moss Landing was built in 2020, and was one of the first large energy storage facilities in the world. It was constructed as an indoor facility in a re-purposed 1950s natural gas plant, with a design that would not be approved now.
2. Moss Landing was built before international and national codes and standards were developed.
3. Moss Landing lacks compartmentalization and fire suppression measures common in modern facilities.
4. Moss Landing utilized nickel manganese cobalt batteries, which are more prone to fire and thermal runaway than the new standard Lithium Iron Phosphate batteries.

All the facilities built and planned in Santa Barbara County are newer facilities built after Moss Landing, and per modern code. They use safer battery chemistries that aren't as prone to fires. They are outdoor facilities with many individual compartments that are field tested and designed to not spread from container to container. As Santa Barbara County Fire states in the staff report "testing, requirements and certifications required of current systems significantly mitigate large scale fires at newer facilities such as Goleta BESS". CEC continues to advocate for battery storage as an important means for reaching renewable energy goals, as long as battery storage plants continue to meet these newer, stringent codes.

Sincerely,

Sigrid Wright
CEO/Executive Director

Michael Chiacos
Senior Policy Consultant