



AGENDA NO: C-1

MEETING DATE: May 7, 2024

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED BY THE PLANNING
COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

Carole Truesdale

Mobile: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Morro Bay, CA 93442-1313

City of Morro Bay
Attention: Kim Fowler, Interim Planning Manager
955 Shasta Avenue
Morro Bay, CA 93442

Email: BESScomments@morrobayca.gov

RE: Public comment to draft EIR for battery storage proposal

Dear Ms. Fowler,

I have been, and still am a resident of Morro Bay since 1995 and a homeowner. I am opposed to the BESS project by Vistra Energy for Morro Bay, CA.

The EIR did not adequately address the thermal runaway battery fires as a potential impact and did not address the risk created from having the project site in a flood and tsunami zone.

After doing some research, **Lithium-ion batteries cause a significant number of fires each year**¹²³⁴. In the United States, it is estimated that about 9,000 residential fires are caused by batteries annually². The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported an average of one battery fire every two days in 2020³. Over a five-year period, there were more than 25,000 issues involving fires or overheating related to lithium-ion batteries⁴.

In fact, A **Tesla Megapack lithium battery power unit** caught fire at the massive Moss Landing energy storage facility in **Moss Landing, California**. The incident occurred on **September 20, 2022**. As a result of the fire, nearby **Highway 1** was shut down, and residents in the area were ordered to **shelter in place**.

Fortunately, there were no reported injuries¹. The Moss Landing facility, which consists of **256 Tesla megapacks**, serves as a large battery for the state grid and is PG&E's largest storage facility, providing **182.5 megawatts** of power¹. Additionally, Moss Landing is home to another lithium-ion battery energy storage system run by **Vistra Corp Energy Company** using **LG batteries**². In a separate incident, the Moss Landing energy storage facility was knocked offline due to overheating batteries in **December 2020**³

Lithium batteries release toxic fumes that can be harmful to humans and the environment¹²³. The gas emitted is lethal and can cause various harmful effects when inhaled, such as coughing, difficulty breathing, sore throat, and shortness of breath⁴. In electric vehicles, Li-ion batteries release toxic gases during fire primarily from combustion of the electrolyte, which contains lithium hexafluorophosphate (LiPF₆) and can also include other fluorine containing compounds which provide the potential for emission of HF during heating and combustion².

Page-2- Ms. Fowlers
City of Morro Bay

Morro Bay is unique, especially with The **Morro Bay estuary** which is noted as a coastal wetland located midway between San Francisco and Los Angeles in California. It covers approximately 10 miles of shoreline and is formed by the meeting of freshwater from Chorro and Los Osos Creeks with saltwater from the Pacific Ocean. The estuary is largely protected from the ocean by a lengthy, naturally-occurring sandspit, creating calm, warm waters that allow a wide variety of plants and wildlife to thrive. This area is a thriving home to sea otters, sea lions, and other amphibians that grace our bay.

Our rolling hills are filled with grazing cattle nurtured by the green foliage that spreads across our area foothills and migrant birds that nest in the various trees that grow on our land.

It is important that we remain stewards of this land to protect from predators that want to destroy the Environmental Sensitive Habitats (ESHAs) of Morro Bay, especially the property that the proposed battery storage plant is currently being addressed as a site for BESS.

Our Community Vision represents a summary of the future aspirations underlying the General Plan, which was adopted and reads as follows:

In 2040, Morro Bay remains a small oceanfront town and thriving year-round destination, known for its natural beauty creative people, outdoor recreation working waterfront, and welcoming community spirit. It is a friendly safe, resilient, and healthy place where people of all ages and economic levels live, work, play and visit.

The natural environment and wildlife are cherished and conserved and are essential elements that integrate with and define our urban landscape. Our healthy wetland, iconic Morro Rock, and bustling harbor are complemented by expansive parks, connected bicycle lanes, safe streets, and pathways that are accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

We have a deep appreciation for nature and honor our native, cultural, and maritime heritage. We maintain and support our working waterfront and carefully preserve our estuary, watershed, natural shoreline, and surrounding open space. We adapt to change in the climate, economy and culture without compromising our small-town character.

Our vibrant economy is strengthened by sustainable resource practices, a responsive City government, and leading-edge technology that empowers local business owners and attracts new businesses and investors. We are a diverse multigenerational community where head-of-household jobs, sustainable living wages, and affordable housing options serve as a foundation that allows people of all ages and income levels to thrive.

Modern, well-maintained public amenities and supportive community service nurture our residents, community organization, and neighborhood groups. We actively participate in government decisions and take pride in volunteerism. We welcome personal expression and creativity, as reflected in our varied visitor attractions bustling dining scene, vibrant art culture, community events, public art, and outdoor activities. Our diverse housing, safe and eclectic neighborhoods, and reliable transit system are enhanced through suitable urban infill and mixed-use development that accommodates modest residential and commercial growth.

Carole Truesdale

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Morro Bay, CA 93442-1313

Page -3- Ms. Fowler

Mindful of our rich heritage, we take great pride in our community and work together towards a bright future.

Nowhere in this vision do we want to attract any business opportunity that has the capability of destroying all we have worked so hard to preserve due to fires/toxicity to environment, humanity, and wildlife.

In reading this EIR I found numerous issues not addressed properly... it is time that restoration verses mitigation be the important factor of any development. In my opinion, the BESS plant is not a coastal-dependent industry, it is unsafe for people and wildlife, and is contrary to the Coastal Act priorities. The project location is a tourist area and is the wrong location for battery storage.

Thank you for your time in reading this document.

Sincerely,

Carole A. Truesdale

Carole A. Truesdale

Cc: City of Morro Bay
Attn: Mayor and City Council
595 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442
council@morrobayca.gov

Morro Bay Planning Commission
Attn: Chairman and Commissioners
955 Shasta Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442
planningcommission@morrobayca.gov

California Coastal Commission
Attn: Sarah MacGregor, Coastal Planner
725 Front Street, Suite #300
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
sarah.macgregor@coastal.ca.gov

Information about legal requirements for Utility-Scale Battery Storage Systems

Douglas W. Hall [REDACTED] >

Mon 5/6/2024 12:08 PM

To: Planning Commission <planningcommission@morrobayca.gov>

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An understanding of the requirements and testing standards that are legally mandated by the California State Fire Code would be helpful for community members.

A good and recent review, "UL 9540 and 9540A Explained," was written by Lucas Miller of Mayfield Renewables. While the standards are technical and involved, this article is accessible to the general public. It is found on the internet at

<https://www.mayfield.energy/technical-articles/ul-9540-and-9540a-explained/#:~:text=System%2Dlevel%20listing%20standards%20like,installation%20requirements%20for%20ESS%20units>

Doug Hall

Dr. Douglas W. Hall
[REDACTED]

Morrow Bay battery energy storage system

Tim Gilman [REDACTED] >

Mon 5/6/2024 1:30 PM

To: Planning Commission <planningcommission@morrobayca.gov>

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Dear Planning Commission,

Regarding the 600 MW battery energy storage system (BESS) slated for Morrow Bay and that is being opposed by numerous residents because of fears about fire and toxicity, I wanted to bring attention to the fact that there are BESSs that do not have thermal runaway or toxicity risks. I understand that the city has released a draft environmental impact report, which will be reviewed by the Commission tomorrow on May 7.

Eos Energy batteries, for example, are completely non-flammable and non-toxic, using abundantly sources material like zinc. It has a much longer life than lithium-ion, and unlike lithium-ion, will not require an expensive decommissioning bond to deal with any toxic material at end of life. It can provide the same performance as a typical 4-hour duration lithium-ion system, but is flexible enough to provide energy for longer duration applications up to 15 hours, which will become more important in the future with deeper penetration of renewables in the grid. Eos Energy has been extensively vetted by both the California Energy Commission and the Department of Energy. Mike Gravely (Mike.Gravely@energy.ca.gov) at the CEC and Jigar Shah (jigarshahdc@gmail.com and jigar.shah@energy.gov) at the DOE both have very high opinions of Eos Energy and can speak to you about its merits. They have both funded Eos significantly over the years to achieve technology readiness and scalability.

I am not affiliated with Eos but have studied various BESS options extensively and am just giving this as one example as an excellent alternative to lithium-ion. I personally believe Eos is far ahead of the pack in terms of a viable alternative to lithium-ion, but there are some other up and comers like ESS Energy and EnerVenue that have promise once they become more technically vetted and achieve a credible path to scaling to meet the needs of projects like this size.

The Inflation Reduction Act has generous subsidies for batteries like this, up to 50% of Capex for applications on retired coal sites and using batteries with domestically sourced materials like Eos.

I understand the people's hesitation in accepting a massive lithium-ion system into the community because of potential risks. But I think it is important to you all and the residents know that there are safe alternatives. The choice should not be between having a risky BESS vs not having one at all. But rather a safe vs. non-safe BESS.

Thank you for reading. I hope this helps, and that with some awareness that safer technical options exist, you can incorporate some of this type of thinking into your questioning.

Regards,
Tim Gilman



Powering our nation with positively ingenious clean energy storage.

Eos system's superior operational flexibility is optimized for 3- to 12-hour discharge to better match variable supply with dynamic demand.

American made

Designed in Edison, NJ, birthplace of the light bulb. Built in a revitalized plant in Mon Valley, PA.

Eos is tapping into our nation's diverse and skilled workforce, contributing to the development of a "green collar" generation in America's proud innovation and manufacturing legacy.

Diverse workforce

400+
people



Certified safe

Proven to fit safely and soundly into the places we live, work, and play.

Eos Z3™ battery technology's water-based electrolyte and flame-retardant housing make it inherently safe, with no risk of corrosion or thermal runaway.

Certified to

UL1973

Batteries in Stationary Applications standard



Locally sourced

A supply chain supported by a network red, white, and blue American businesses

Eos Z3™ zinc-powered technology relies on five low-cost, widely-used, ethically-extracted commodities, majority sourced from American suppliers located within a day's drive of our Turtle Creek, PA manufacturing facilities.

Made of over

90%
domestic content*

Aids in qualifying for tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act.



Functionally silent

Able to noiselessly power a dense Detroit neighborhood or a secluded San Diego suburb.

Eos systems are as quiet as an everyday conversation, thanks to our exterior venting design that ensures sufficient airflow to dissipate waste heat—compared to HVAC systems used by other technologies, that are as loud as wailing police siren.

Operates at approximately

50-65

decibels



Military-grade secure

Shielded against unwelcome supply chain disruptions and harmful cyber intrusions.

Eos technology is free from any foreign components or software, rendering it not only safe and secure for sensitive military use, but fast and easy to scale to meet our nation's growing demand.

NDA COMPLIANT



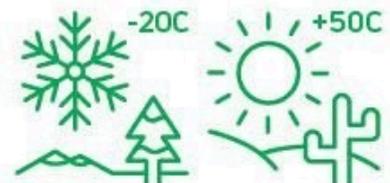
Climate proof

Ready for the bone-chilling cold of a Maine winter or the blazing heat of a Texas summer.

Eos systems are fortified with proprietary chemistry that can effortlessly adapt to the diverse operational demands and fluctuating temperature ranges communities are experiencing nationwide—without compromising their lifespan.

Expected lifespan of

20+
years



*Based on independent review by Baker Tilly US.