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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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January 17, 2025

Morro Bay, CA – The City Council and Administration are actively monitoring the developing fire at Vistra’s Moss Landing Power Plant in Monterey County. Since Vistra also owns the former power plant property in Morro Bay and has proposed a similar Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in our city, this situation is particularly relevant to us. We want to assure our community that city leadership is staying abreast of the situation in Moss Landing.

Since the onset of this fire, the Mayor and City Council have been closely monitoring it. The City has reached out to Assemblymember Addis’ Office and Senator Laird’s Office to stay informed about this fire. The City Manager also contacted Vistra’s representatives asking for information.

As of this morning, Fire Chief Dan McCrain has provided the following preliminary information:

- The Fire was reported around 3pm on Thursday January 16, 2025.
- Monterey County OES coordinated evacuation orders for approximately 1200 residents. Monterey Public health is monitoring air quality and drones are being utilized to monitor the incident.
- No Fire suppression activities are being taken, and the fire is being allowed to burn itself out. The fire is reported in a 300mw section of the Vistra Moss Landing BESS Facility, referred to as Phase One, which is a concrete building from the original power plant that houses batteries. The fire is reported to be contained inside the walls of the structure and is not anticipated to spread beyond the building at this point.
- Additional information can be obtained from the [Monterey County Office of Emergency Services](#) and [KSBW news](#). Here is a link for a recent article from KSBW: <https://www.ksbw.com/article/fire-moss-landing-battery-evacuations-california/63456595>

Fire Chief McCrain reached out to Fire Chief Mendoza, who is in charge of the Moss Landing region, to provide support and obtain more information regarding air monitoring results and details about the response. Additional updates will be provided at the next city council meeting on January 28.

Furthermore, as previously directed by the City Council, at the January 28 Council meeting, the City will consider the adoption of an Urgency Ordinance prohibiting the application, approval, commencement, establishment, operation, relocation or expansion of grid-scale BESS facilities in the city limits. Once adopted, the urgency ordinance will be initially effective for a period of 45 days and may be extended for a maximum of 2 years, during which time the City may consider a permanent ordinance to prohibit or regulate new BESS facilities in the City limits.

Mayor Wixom and Council Members welcome your comments which can be submitted in advance of January 28th meeting to council@morrobayca.gov. We wish safety for all those affected by this fire.

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