

Meeting Date: January 28, 2025
Agenda Item No. 18
Batch No. 01

From: [Laura Maloney](#)
To: [FGG, Public Comment](#)
Subject: [External] Public Comment on Wildfire Preparedness and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 6:38:13 PM

Thank you, Supervisor Jim Desmond, for highlighting the urgent need for San Diego County to strengthen its wildfire risk reduction efforts. I fully support agenda items 16, 17, and 18, as wildfire preparedness must remain a top priority for our county.

However, I urge you to include an additional critical measure in the plan: prohibiting the construction of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities in California.

The risk these facilities pose is undeniable. Too many BESS facilities have caught fire, endangering public safety and our environment, all for the benefit of corporate profits. The recent fire at the Moss Landing facility is a stark example of the catastrophic consequences that can occur, and we cannot afford to let such disasters happen again.

I strongly oppose the establishment of any BESS facilities, as they have proven to be unsafe. At the very least, they must never be sited in areas designated as having the highest wildfire risk. Despite assurances from companies, the reality is clear: these facilities are prone to fires that release toxic chemicals into our environment, putting our communities and first responders in grave danger.

San Diego County has a responsibility to protect its citizens. Please take further action to *prohibit* BESS facilities as part of your wildfire preparedness strategy and strengthen our defenses against fire risks.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,
Laura Maloney