

**CLERK OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
EXHIBIT/DOCUMENT LOG**

MEETING DATE & AGENDA NO. 12/10/2024 #30

STAFF DOCUMENTS (Numerical)

No.	Presented by:	Description:
1	Staff	10-Page PowerPoint

2

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PUBLIC DOCUMENTS (Alphabetical)

No.	Presented by:	Description:
A	N/A	

B

C

D

E

F

New Requirements for Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Projects in Unincorporated Areas and CEQA Findings

December 10, 2024

ITEM #30

ANDREW STRONG
DEPUTY CHIEF
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER,
PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP

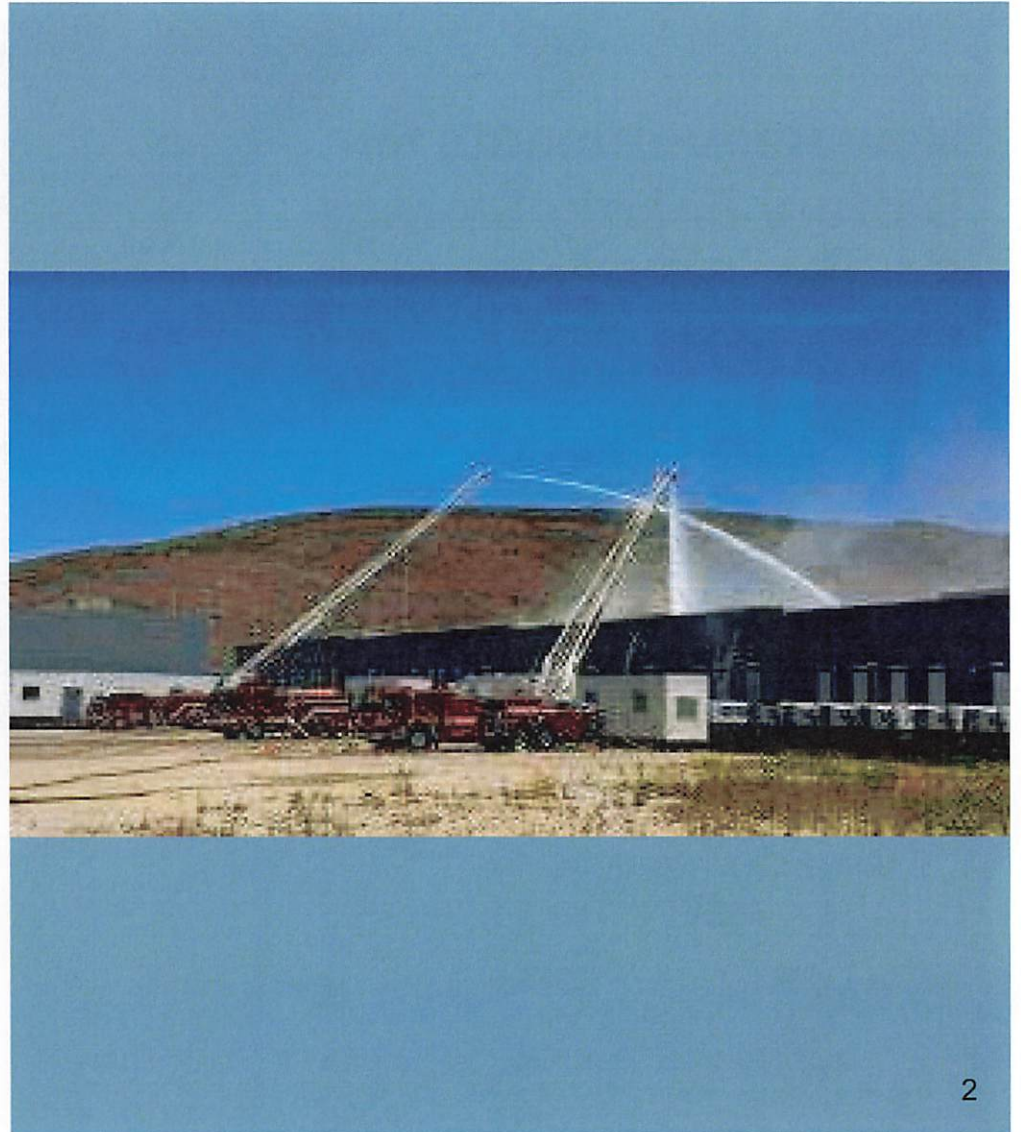
TONY MECHAM
CAL FIRE/COUNTY FIRE,
CHIEF



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

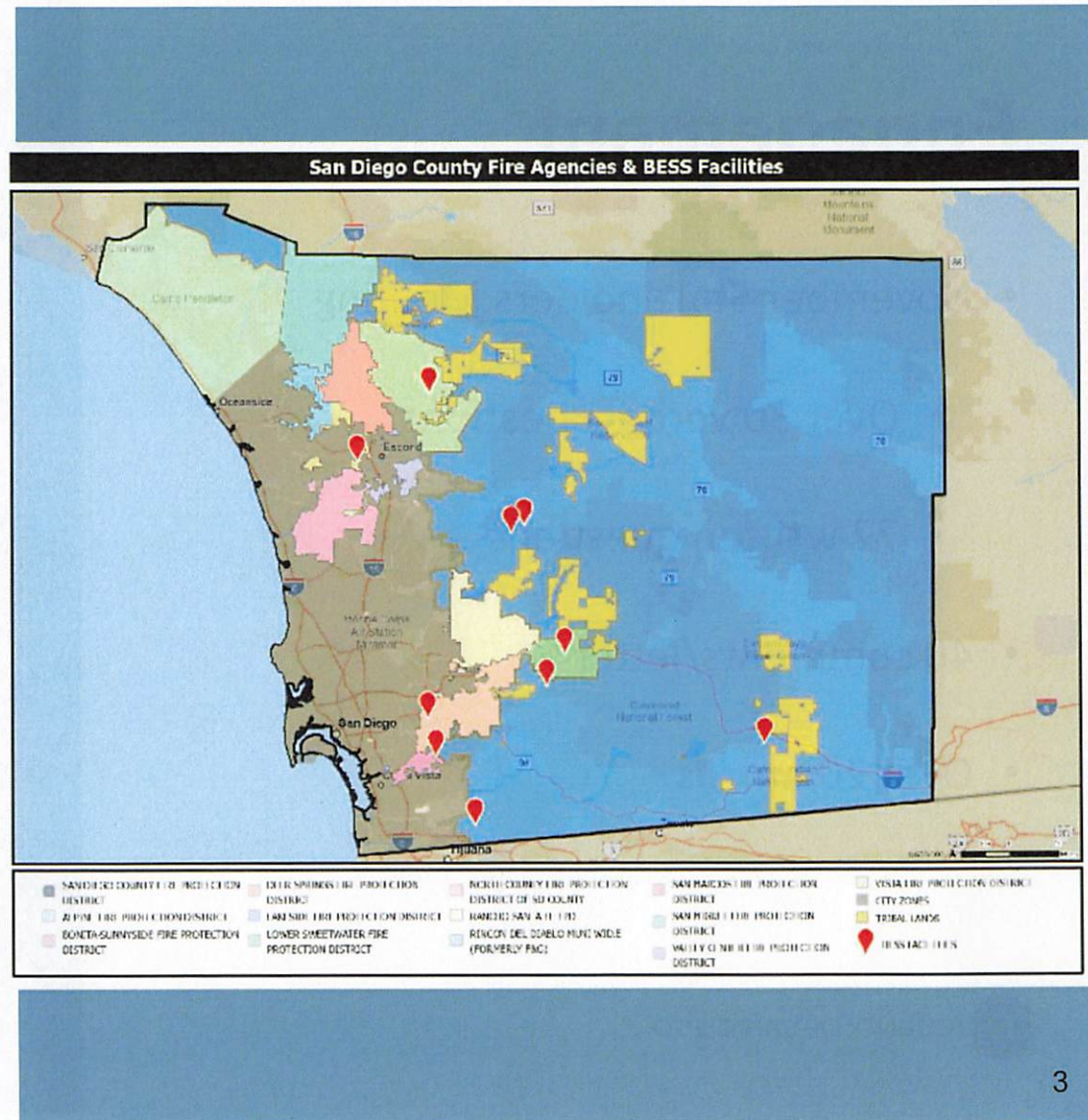
Background

- Gateway Fire – May 2024
- Technical Studies Required - July 2024
- Best Practices Study Completed November 2024



Authority

- 12 Independent Fire Districts and one Water District
- 5 Proposed Projects within SDCFPD
- 5 Proposed Projects in other Districts

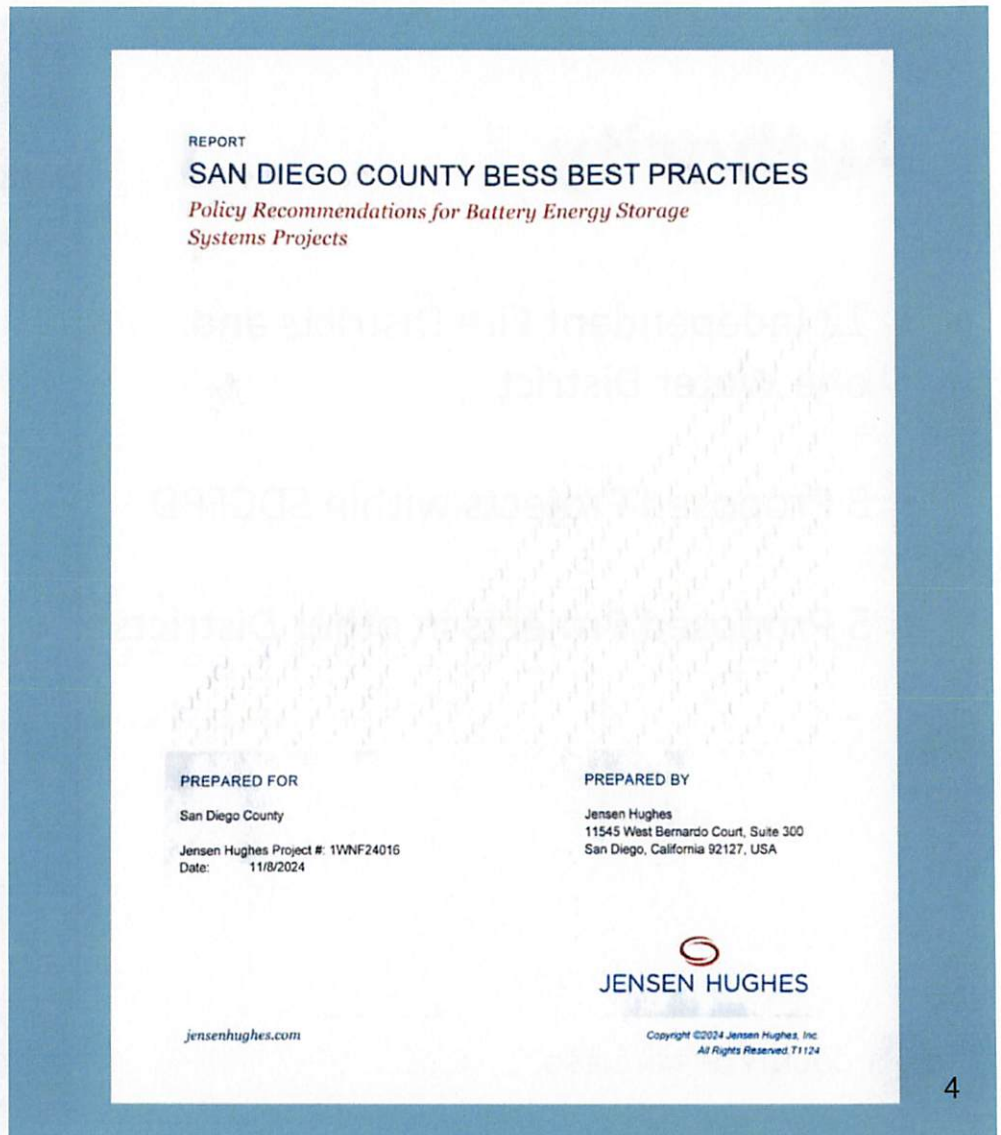


Engagement

- November Stakeholders Meeting
 - Over 30 verbal questions
 - 72 written questions
- 40 comments/letter
- Over 20 emails



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

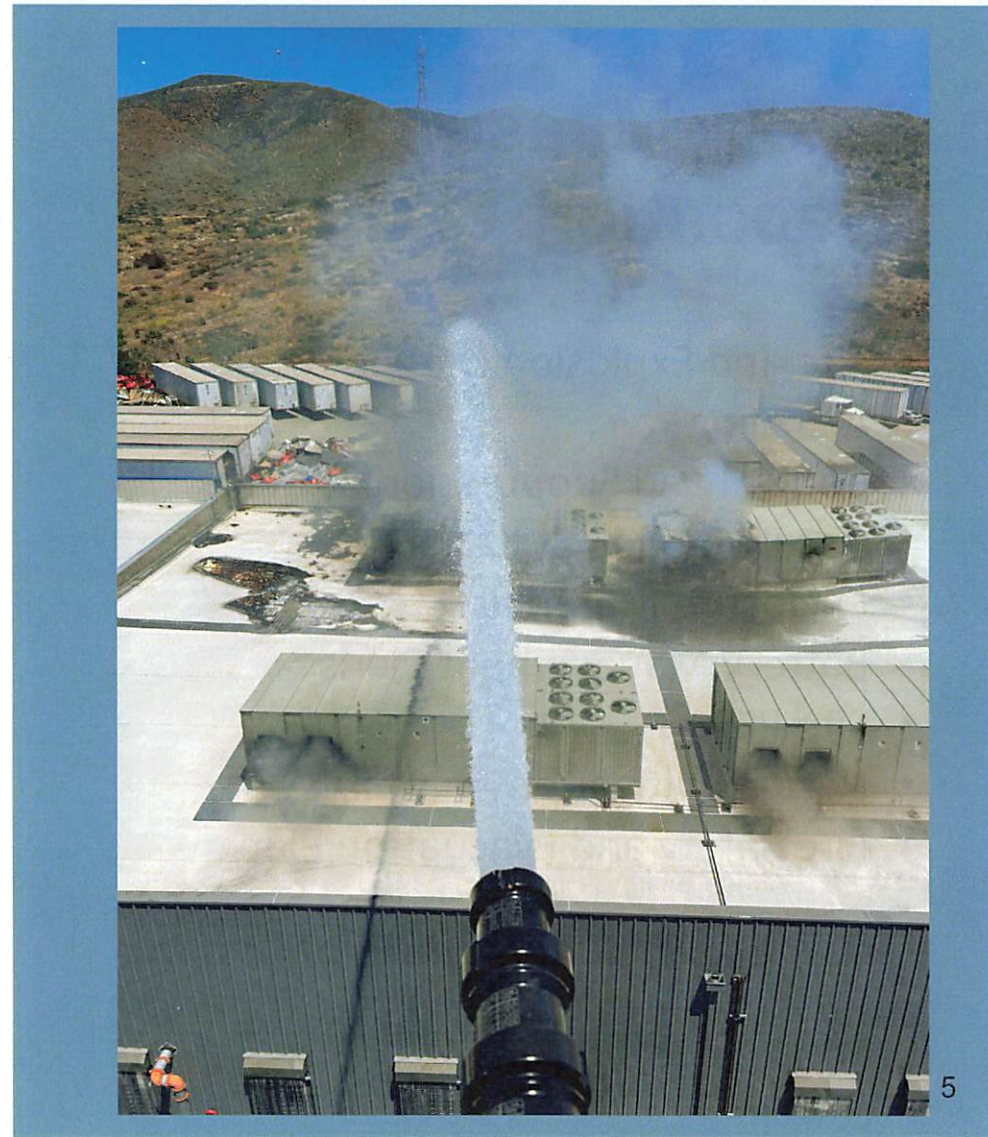


County Fire Plan

- Continue to require technical studies for individual projects
- Impose new fire code requirements recommended in the Best Practices Study
- Enforce a new 100-foot setback and plume modeling.
- Work on the safety of the existing BESS Facilities
- Bring forth an Ordinance in 2025 to codify these new requirements in our Consolidated Fire Code



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

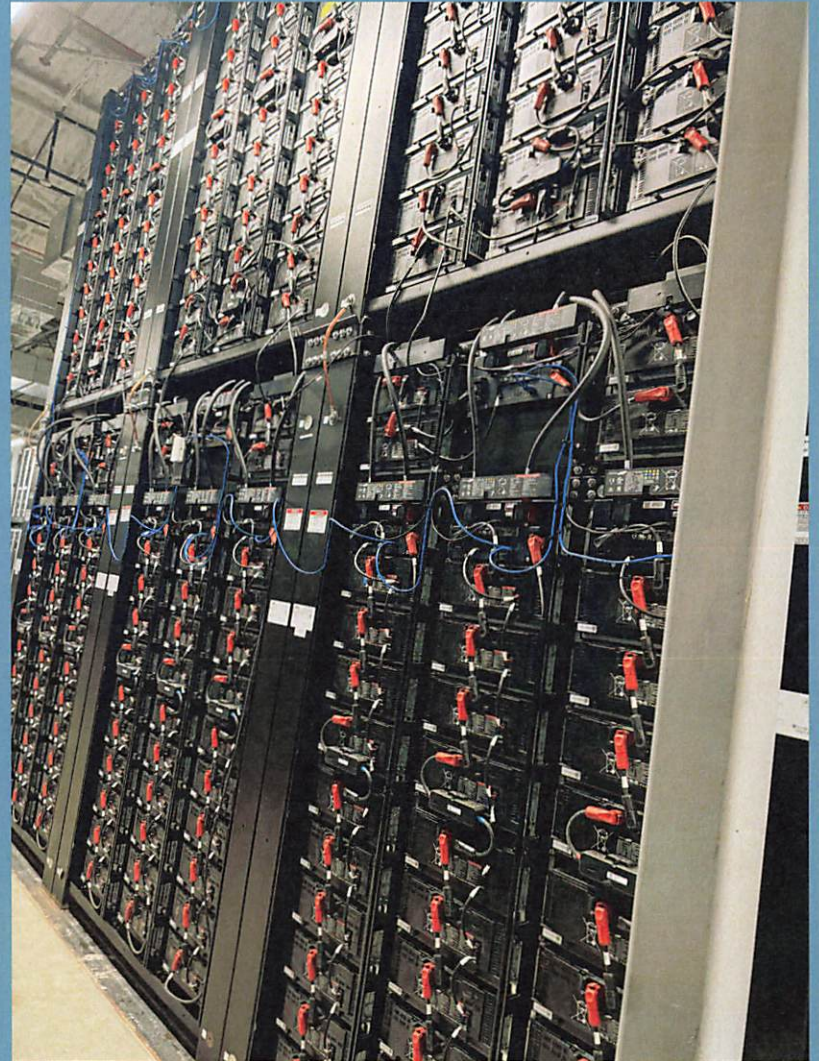


Safety Measures and Evacuation

- Fire and Explosion Detection
- Alarming
- Control and Suppression Systems
- Gas Detection Systems
- Enclosure Materials
- Battery Management Plans
- Site Plans
- Hazard Mitigation Analysis
- Fire Safety and Evacuation Plan



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



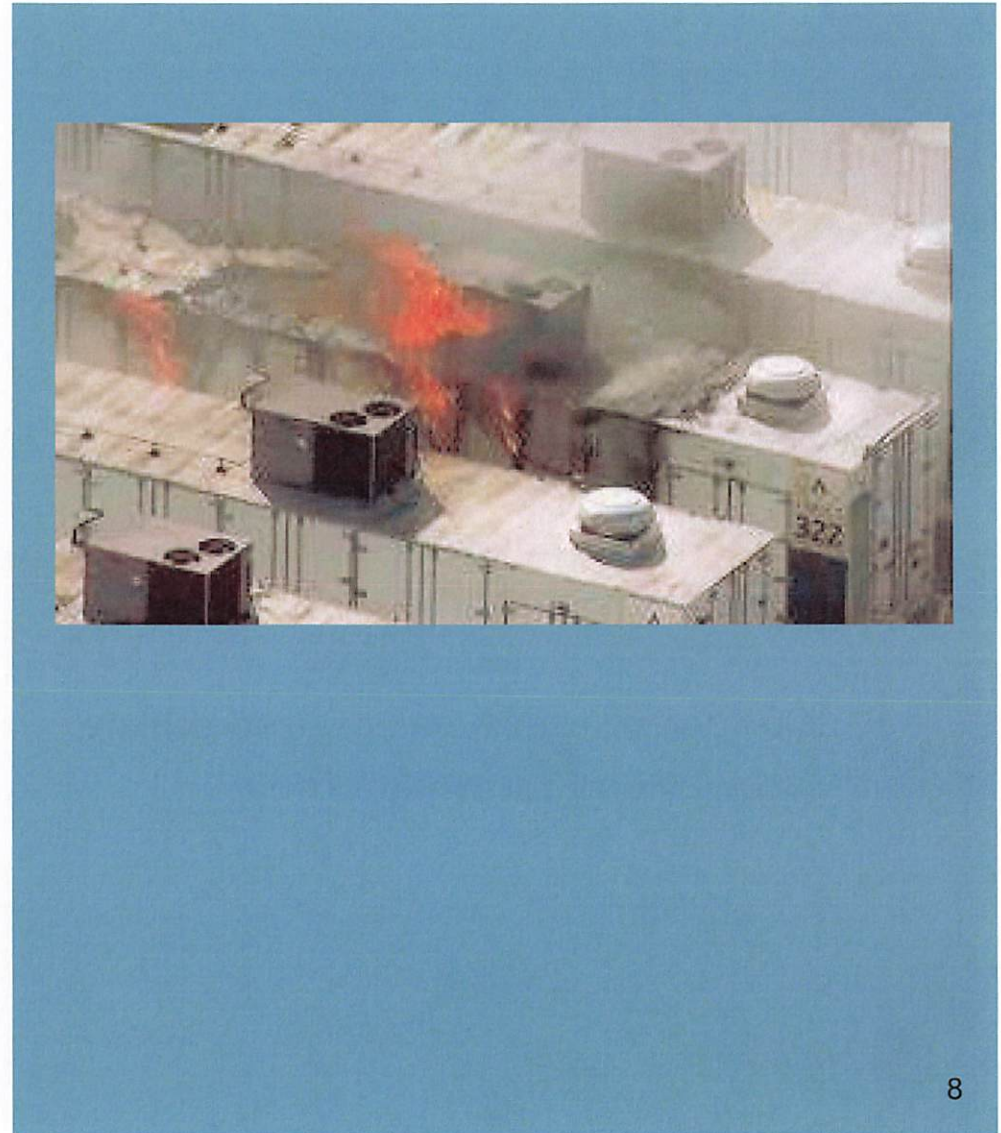
Setbacks

- Current Code requires 10 – 50 feet depending on venting
- 100-foot distance from property line for tactical firefighting operations and firefighter safety
- 100-foot distance was utilized during Gateway and Escondido fires



Plume Modeling

- Best Practices Study provided a background on plume modeling
- Each project is unique in scale, location, and weather pattern
- County Fire identified modeling standards and tools
- Plume modeling may result in an increased setback



Recommendations

- Find that the proposed actions are exempt from CEQA
- Receive the Best Practices Report
- Implement the Interim Guidelines for BESS
- Come back to the Board with an Ordinance



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