

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Hazmat Conference Video - Lithium ion Batteries
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 3:15:02 PM

From: Satya Orion [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>
Subject: Hazmat Conference Video - Lithium ion Batteries

******CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

A very informative video that is shocking and most important given the harm caused by the Moss Landing fire and the proposed battery storage for Santa Cruz County.

Many other forms of lithium ion batteries are also discussed, which leave me greatly concerned on so many levels. This technology is not safe and has the potential to cause great harm. As has been shared by these firefighters - every fire involves lithium ion batteries from cell phones & smart meters - also electric bikes, electric cars, cell phone towers, wind and solar installations - and the worst case scenarios of these battery storage facilities.

Please watch this video and learn the risk being created for our community.

thank you,
Satya Orion
Soquel

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: HALT ALL BESS PLANS!!!!!! Or we will audit your finances!!!
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 2:28:34 PM

From: Monica Hernandez [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:08 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: HALT ALL BESS PLANS!!!!!! Or we will audit your finances!!!

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All plans to to build more battery storage facilities need to be halted and no more should be built at all in this county. People are having their blood tested for heavy metals and lithium among other metals are showing up in the blood. Could be in your blood too!

You work for us! Your decisions do not support this as "the agenda" always seems to go forward. However, corruption in government is being exposed on a daily basis and people are being aware that it is just as bad IN OUR COUNTY! If ANY battery storage plan goes forward, we will know that you have been bought out and you can expect an audit of YOUR (and your family) finances. The country is loving all this political corruption being exposed. Will you be next???

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: February 25th meeting Agenda -Moss Landing BESS Fires South County
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 11:32:57 AM

From: Amy Wong [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 4:02 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: February 25th meeting Agenda -Moss Landing BESS Fires South County

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Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to request that the Moss Landing Battery fire be added to the agenda. With the plant catching fire again on February 18th and the ongoing cleanup efforts, there is a real possibility of another fire occurring at any moment. The county needs to inform the public about the measures being taken, what information can be shared, and where residents can find resources.

The proximity of this plant to south Santa Cruz County affects the local residents significantly. Many people are anxious about future Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects and are eager to know what is being done to ensure their safety. The recent fires at Moss Landing have highlighted the potential dangers associated with these designs that have been implemented in recent years.

Thank you for considering this important matter.

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Moss Landing STILL on Fire. SHUT IT DOWN. NO NEW ONES!!!
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2025 8:47:40 AM

From: Bulldog Mama [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2025 8:02 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Moss Landing STILL on Fire. SHUT IT DOWN. NO NEW ONES!!!

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If it is not obvious yet, these battery storage sites are not dangerous and not clean. Our land, food and people have been POISONED for years to come! The battery storage site most likely has been burning CONTINUOUSLY for over a month but the public has been kept in the dark. The public health authorities have FAILED to do their jobs to protect the public and say everything is safe and not contaminated. The Moss Landing plant needs to be SHUT DOWN and no new ones opened in this country.

Bella

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICIALS ARE SILENT ABOUT THE BATTERY FIRE HEALTH CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY.
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 3:08:57 PM
Attachments: [SMPQ08wrKak8RKWq.png](#)

From: Keith McHenry <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Good Times Santa Cruz <enouncements@goodtimes.sc>
Cc: Lisa Hernandez <Lisa.Hernandez@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Andrew Strader <Andrew.Strader@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICIALS ARE SILENT ABOUT THE BATTERY FIRE HEALTH CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICIALS ARE SILENT ABOUT THE BATTERY FIRE HEALTH CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

The second lithium-ion battery fire this year at Vistra's Moss Landing Battery Storage Facility blew toxic metals across Santa Cruz County on February 18th and 19th, making many people in our community ill. Santa Cruz County has not announced a health emergency or coordinated plan to respond to one of the largest health crises in our community's history.

Please call Santa Cruz Health Officer Dr Lisa Hernandez at (831) 454-4818 - Lisa.Hernandez@santacruzcountyca.gov

Ask for there to be testing and treatment guidelines issued to all healthcare staff in the county. Also ask that the County initiate a county wide reporting system for those of us effected.

And please call Director of Environmental Health Andrew Strader at (831)-454-2022 - andrew.strader@santacruzcounty.us

Ask that they start county wide soil, water and air testing for cobalt, manganese, copper, nickel and lithium. Also initiate a county wide reporting system for those of us made ill by the fire.

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Santa Cruz County: No elevated health risk from Moss Landing battery plant fire. If so why are hundreds of us ill from the fire?!
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 4:37:41 PM

From: Keith McHenry [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2025 1:27 PM
To: Zoe.Hunt@hearst.com
Cc: [REDACTED]cortez@hearst.com; Brooke.Kinebrew@hearst.com; josh.copitch@hearst.com; Lisa Hernandez <Lisa.Hernandez@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>; Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com
Subject: Santa Cruz County: No elevated health risk from Moss Landing battery plant fire. If so why are hundreds of us ill from the fire?!

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If there is no elevated health risk why are so many of us ill, tasting metal, have bloody noses, burning eyes, tongues and skin and having breathing issues.

Our family lives 17 miles by car from Moss Landing and we are really suffering from the second fire even more than from the January 16th fire. I can feel metal when I exhale coming from my lungs. My eyes burn and my tongue is on fire. The dry Vista cough fills my mouth with the taste of metal. I have a weird feeling almost like a headache but not like a headache. Family members started getting sores and burns on their faces and necks during the past couple of days adding to the skin damage of the first fire.

We are worried about the long term effects of breathing in heavy metals if it is already impacting us so much just days after the worlds largest lithium-ion battery fire blew poison across our community.

If dozens and dozens of people on Nextdoor.com, Facebook and those attending community meetings are also reporting nose bleeds, burned skin and eyes and a strong metal taste in their mouth how can anyone believe this report that we shouldn't be alarmed.

We can NOT trust the local governments at all.

Santa Cruz County: No elevated health risk from Moss Landing battery plant fire.

https://youtu.be/XoNdTbecE5A?si=SnFUd_geOJG-aFU

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Santa Cruz County: No elevated health risk from Moss Landing battery plant fire. If so why are hundreds of us ill from the fire?
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 6:10:22 PM

From: Keith McHenry [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 12:36 PM
To: Zoe.Hunt@hearst.com
Cc: fcortez@hearst.com; Brooke.Kinebrew@hearst.com; josh.copitch@hearst.com; Lisa Hernandez <Lisa.Hernandez@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>; Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com
Subject: Re: Santa Cruz County: No elevated health risk from Moss Landing battery plant fire. If so why are hundreds of us ill from the fire?

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Moss Landing Burns Again—More Fires Expected

<https://youtu.be/w36wovazwmA?si=XK6greckfUL0Nxxw>

On 2/22/25 1:26 PM, Keith McHenry wrote:

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We are worried about the long term effects of breathing in heavy metals if it is already impacting us so much just days after the worlds largest lithium-ion battery fire blew poison across our community.

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Santa Cruz County: No elevated health risk from Moss Landing battery plant fire.

https://youtu.be/XoNdTbecE5A?si=SnFUd_geOJG-aFU_

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: SANTA CRUZ HEALTH EMERGENCY IGNORED
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 6:13:05 PM

From: Alma Chacon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2025 9:56 AM
To: Keith McHenry <keith@foodnotbombs.net>
Cc: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Andrew Strader <Andrew.Strader@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: RE: SANTA CRUZ HEALTH EMERGENCY IGNORED

Good morning Mr. McHenry,

Santa Cruz County continues to collaborate with Monterey County and state agencies to monitor environmental conditions. If you are concerned about health effects related to the Moss Landing fire please complete this regional survey:

English: www.mtyhd.org/MLFireSurvey

Help for completing this survey is available for those who cannot complete it online or need language assistance: <https://bit.ly/3XbU7U2>

Regards,

Alma Chacon

-----Original Message-----

From: Keith McHenry [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 8:56 AM
To: Lisa Hernandez <Lisa.Hernandez@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Cc: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Andrew Strader <Andrew.Strader@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: SANTA CRUZ HEALTH EMERGENCY IGNORED

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I have really been suffering from the second Vistra Lithium-ion Battery Fire at Moss Landing. I am exhaling a thick metal taste, my tongue burns just as bad or worse than after the first fire and I have a weird almost headache like feeling. My eyes are burning even when I am inside.

Everyone in my family is suffering.

I hadn't even recovered from the January 16th fire when our neighborhood was poisoned again. This time it is much worse.

We are being poisoned and the county, state and federal governments are claiming we don't need to worry, all is well.

This crisis is introducing tens of thousands of people living in Santa Cruz that our local officials don't really care about our health and safety. If I was a government official I would be very worried about the damage that has been done to your credibility. We are ill and yet officials keep saying every thing is fine.

Keith McHenry

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Vistra Fire in Moss Landing
Date: Monday, February 24, 2025 3:13:58 PM
Attachments: [Glenn Church Update .docx](#)

-----Original Message-----

From: Ringler [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, February 21, 2025 9:37 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Vistra Fire in Moss Landing

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Dear Supervisors, Don't forget south county. Since the Vistra Moss Landing thermal runaway has reignited a few days ago and may reignite again, we need our government and health officials monitoring the situation like Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church is doing. He is a model of a responsible supervisor.

At this point it has been mostly a south county issue but you never know which way the wind blows. Sarah Ringler

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: When is our town hall meeting on the Moss Landing?
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 2:38:24 PM

From: MikeJones7176 [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:19 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: When is our town hall meeting on the Moss Landing?

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Each district needs to have a town all meeting and QUICK! Who do you think you work for? You actions and decisions will show us. We are watching.

Mike

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: I just got off the phone with Live Oak Clinic and was told she is not authorized to request blood and hair tests for cobalt, manganese, copper, nickel and lithium.
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 6:09:50 PM

From: Keith McHenry [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 1:59 PM
To: Zoe.Hunt@hearst.com
Cc: fcortez@hearst.com; Brooke.Kinebrew@hearst.com; josh.copitch@hearst.com; Lisa Hernandez <Lisa.Hernandez@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>; Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>; editorial@santacruzsentinel.com; Dennis Bernstein <dennisjbernstein@gmail.com>; Ringler <sring@cruzio.com>; Sam Hussein <samhusseini@gmail.com>; Mischa Paullin <contact@jimmydorecomedy.com>; Stef Zamorano <stef@jimmydorecomedy.com>; max@lookoutlocal.com; onair@ksqd.org; Marisa Kendall <marisa@calmatters.org>; Kara Meyberg Guzman <kara@santacruzlocal.org>
Subject: I just got off the phone with Live Oak Clinic and was told she is not authorized to request blood and hair tests for cobalt, manganese, copper, nickel and lithium.

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I just got off the phone with Live Oak Clinic and was told she is not authorized to request blood and hair tests for cobalt, manganese, copper, nickel and lithium. Another person who was poisoned by the Vistra Moss Landing Fire went to the Women's Clinic and they also told her they were not authorized to request blood tests for cobalt, manganese, copper, nickel and lithium. The very wonderful person at the Live Oak Clinic did say they are getting lots of clients who are requesting the cobalt, manganese, copper, nickel and lithium blood tests. She read the Public Health Notice issued by Lisa Hernandez who said that this heavy metal test is not authorized by the county medical officer.

It is frightening and suggests that Vistra or others connected to the Moss Landing Lithium-ion Batters Storage Facility such as Carlos Palacios who is also on the board of Central Coast Community Energy maybe seeking to suppress the massive poisoning of our county. Or are the local AI companies who need a large increase in electricity to power their AI farms pressuring local officials?

California Senator John Laird US Congressperson Jimmy Panetta are not coming to the aid of the thousands in their district who are suffering. Is there a cover up protecting big money or are our leaders and media just not up to the job of responding to things like the world's largest lithium-ion battery fire.

This crisis is one of the largest health emergencies in Santa Cruz County's history yet there is no countywide emergency response. Efforts to rush through the Watsonville BESS site with

claims that the New Leaf Lithium Batteries are safer can be show that this is not the case by reviewing their safety proposal. They say that they can not have staff on site to watch the facility in case there is a fire because the normal off gassing of the batteries could cause cancer. Hundreds of people live near that proposed facility and there is no plans to move them.

There is a real possibility that a third fire could start and our officials are not even taking the first two seriously. My family is still ill. My symptoms outlined below are getting worse and now I have pains in my kidneys and I am still exhaling metal from my lungs.

Not only are thousands of us ill but we are also very worried about eating produce from our area. We know that the Elkhorn Slew as an increase of 100 to 1,000 time the heavy metals yet county officials and the local media claim all is safe. It is difficult to trust our leaders and the media and that should be a huge concern to all of us. We just don't believe that the tests that claim we should not be concerned are fixed in favor of the industry. I was told that the public health officer or her aide would be calling me. That was two weeks ago.

Please announce a coordinated response to this crisis and an ban the placement of lithium-ion battery storage facilities in the county. A town hall meeting on this issue should be announced by the board of supervisors as soon as possible.

Just image a lithium-ion battery fire at the proposed location behind the hospital.

Keith McHenry



Moss Landing Burns Again—More Fires Expected

<https://youtu.be/w36wovazwmA?si=XK6greckfUL0Nxxw>

On 2/26/25 12:36 PM, Keith McHenry wrote:

Moss Landing Burns Again—More Fires Expected

<https://youtu.be/w36wovazwmA?si=XK6greckfUL0Nxxw>

On 2/22/25 1:26 PM, Keith McHenry wrote:

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like a headache but not like a headache. Family members started getting sores and burns on their faces and necks during the past couple of days adding to the skin damage of the first fire.

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We can NOT trust the local governments at all.

Santa Cruz County: No elevated health risk from Moss Landing battery plant fire.

https://youtu.be/XoNdTbecE5A?si=SnFUd_geOJG-aFU_

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Santa Cruz Health Emergency is ongoing
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:37:04 PM
Attachments: [jvh9sgJg00ftqBqD.png](#)
[wNblEQ02iRVEin0l.png](#)
[zfrLi5GchqN5orl.png](#)
[0MIbmmID0sxRRzQf.png](#)

From: Keith McHenry [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 9:00 AM
To: Lisa Hernandez <Lisa.Hernandez@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Cc: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Andrew Strader <Andrew.Strader@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Alma Chacon <Alma.Chacon@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Santa Cruz Health Emergency is ongoing

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March 4, 2025

Our eyes are burning this morning as though someone launched tear gas into our home. We are having difficulty breathing. My tongue is on fire and I now have strange lesions in my mouth. I am still exhaling a strong metal taste. I have a weird headache. Two of the four of us are still nauseous.

It has taken me over a month to get referral to a toxicologist and ear nose and throat specialist through the Live Oak Clinic as they kept telling me not to worry. They report that they called poison control and were told there were no blood tests for heavy metals and that there was nothing they could do. (I love the staff at the clinic so this was disappointing to say the least.) I was finally referred for a chest x-ray. The staff of seven or eight people at the radiologist expressed anger that they have not received any information about the health issues surrounding the fires and urged me to sue the county. They are seeing people who are also suffering from the fires. My dentist reported he is seeing more people who say they are having symptoms from the lithium fire. Will we be ill with cancer from this?

It seems that there should be a well organized and well announced public health plan. Those of us made ill by the last two lithium battery fires are having to seek our own help and information as the county is way too silent.

Why is there not a public emergency plan in place?

Keith McHenry
[REDACTED]

On 2/21/25 8:56 AM, Keith McHenry wrote:

I have really been suffering from the second Vistra Lithium-ion Battery Fire at Moss Landing. I am exhaling a thick metal taste, my tongue burns just as bad or worse than after the first fire and I have a weird almost headache like feeling. My eyes are

burning even when I am inside. Everyone in my family is suffering.

I hadn't even recovered from the January 16th fire when our neighborhood was poisoned again. This time it is much worse.

We are being poisoned and the county, state and federal governments are claiming we don't need to worry, all is well.

This crisis is introducing tens of thousands of people living in Santa Cruz that our local officials don't really care about our health and safety. If I was a government official I would be very worried about the damage that has been done to your credibility. We are ill and yet officials keep saying every thing is fine.

Keith McHenry

This was the first communication on 2/28/25 9:56 AM (ten days after the second fire and over a month from when I first started calling and emailing my health concerns to the health officer.

Hello Mr. McHenry,

I am reaching out on behalf of County Public Health Officer Dr. Lisa Hernandez and the team at Santa Cruz County Public Health. Thanks for summarizing your concerns. It appears that there may have been some miscommunication around our public health guidance. We want to assure you that our goal is to be fully transparent, and we are working to characterize potential health risks to the community. We released a Health Update with guidance for local healthcare providers last week, which included the following recommendation:

- *"Patients presenting with symptoms possibly related to exposure to contaminated air, water, and/or soil should be evaluated with a thorough history and physical. History should include all pertinent details of symptoms onset and evolution. Ingesting, breathing, and/or having skin or mucous membrane contact with heavy metal dusts and other particulate matter from smoke may result in symptoms such as itchy rash, watery eyes, runny nose, metallic taste in mouth, sore throat, and difficulty breathing, as well as exacerbation of underlying medical conditions like asthma and COPD.*
- ***Testing for heavy metals like cobalt, copper, manganese, and lithium is generally not clinically useful. These tests cannot predict whether a person will experience health effects or determine if current health symptoms are related to exposures. However, should a medical provider wish to order such testing, tests for nickel, cobalt, and manganese levels must be ordered individually because they are not usually included in commercial laboratories' standard "heavy metals" panel. Providers can check individual laboratories for more information."***

You can find the full Health Update, publicly available [here](#). The County Health Officer does not

oversee authorization of testing; this decision ultimately depends on the provider's judgment and individual clinic policy. However, we will reach out to local healthcare clinics again to ensure that they understand our recommendations and there is no miscommunication around authorization.

We are working to collect more information about the health effects of this fire through a community survey. We encourage you to fill out this [form](#) and share with others.

Lastly, in response to community concerns, the County of Santa Cruz conducted environmental testing to assess the potential impacts to water, soil, and agricultural resources. The results can be found [here](#).

Regards,



Alma Chacon

Administrative Aide

On behalf of

Lisa B. Hernandez, MD, MPH | Health Officer
Santa Cruz County, Health Services Agency (HSA)
(831) 454-4476
www.santacruzhealth.org

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Town Hall re: BESS
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:36:34 PM

From: Sharon Lucchesi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 2:45 PM
To: Felipe Hernandez <Felipe.Hernandez@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Cc: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Town Hall re: BESS

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Supervisor Hernandez,

Are you planning a town hall to address constituent concerns about the proposed lithium battery using, grid-scale BESS facilities planned for Santa Cruz County, including the Seahawk BESS, already in permitting since December 17, 2024 when Sequoia Energy and New Leaf Energy submitted their application to build on 16 acres at 90 Minto Road?

When & where will the "town hall" be held?

A PUBLIC FORUM STYLE TOWN HALL where everyone participates together to ask questions and hear responses – NOT be an open house type of town hall with people having individual conversations.

Will Supervisor Hernandez host the town hall in his district?

Will the other supervisors also hold town halls in their districts?

Has the CEQA INITIAL STUDY OR EIR been started for the new zoning Ordinance that created a new overlaying Energy Storage Combining District, which will allow BESS installations on 3 sites in Santa Cruz County?

Will the Board of Supervisors hold a FINAL VOTE on this NEW ZONING DISTRICT on APRIL 25, 2025, as they had indicated they would do in their October 29, 2024 meeting?

I propose an Urgency Ordinance for a Moratorium on lithium BESS development while an impartial, technical advisory committee engages with all stakeholders, including the public about safe siting, safety regulations and most importantly alternatives to lithium

battery technology that are actually safe and green.

Respectfully,

Sharon A Lucchesi

Aptos, CA