

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Battery storage plants in Santa Cruz County
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:03:17 PM

From: Jeanne Chaikin [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 10:29 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>
Subject: Battery storage plants in Santa Cruz County

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This was the fourth fire at the Moss Landing battery storage plant.

These instances are stark reminders of what has been hauntingly equated to the aftermath of the "3 Mile Island" disaster. The potential fallout to the health of human life, our delicate ecosystems, and the incomparable beauty of our county is immeasurable. Yet, it seems our concerns fall on deaf ears, as more battery supply areas are being proposed in Watsonville, Aptos, and Santa Cruz.

The logic is simple: where there is smoke, there is fire. We need no more evidence than the smoke billowing from the Moss Landing facility to understand that this is a significant problem that requires immediate resolution. What's more, our county's status as a global produce supplier adds another layer of concern. The potential contamination of our produce could have far-reaching implications on global food chains.

Therefore, we demand immediate action. We call upon our local representatives and governmental bodies to halt the establishment of additional battery storage facilities in the county. This is about preserving Santa Cruz County, the health of its residents, the integrity of our produce, and the future of our world-renowned ecosystem.

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Do not want a battery plant in our backyard
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:00:31 PM

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

From: Marilyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 8:57 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Do not want a battery plant in our backyard

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I hope you reconsider this after what happened in Moss Landing. I have lived here all my life and feel this can be put somewhere far from a populated neighborhood, hospital and schools. This is absolutely crazy. Are you serious that you want to live by this? Please please reconsider this.

Marilyn

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Enron and Vistra Energy
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:44:33 PM

From: skitumbleweed [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>
Subject: Enron and Vistra Energy

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True to form. Another junky Texas energy company putting the screws to their employees and a local region like California that they are serving.

I am not impressed. When food, water, and livestock are at stake you have a plan A, B, C, and D to defend that. And in California you pay top dollar to do a top job to defend awesome food and water resources. This company, Vistra, apparently has a work culture of fear and lack of proper training that employees don't like.

So this mess they created in Moss Landing in my view is worse than Enron. Enron and their clown buddies in energy companies worked to rip off California. And Davis was too quick in signing the deal. He should have just let the California economy collapse to play a supply and demand angle with those jackals. Had he done so he would not have lost \$60 billion. Bush would have had more respect for him too because he needed a strong California once Bin Laden pulled his wicked stunt. I can handle any money game. But a food and water source calamity is a very different game indeed.

That said, I do not appreciate a company which also contributes to over charging on my PG&E bill that also junks the food and water angle that is so precious to me in Santa Cruz. So I may pivot out of this Monterrey Community power concept back to PG&E because I wonder if I am being ripped off with my solar arrangement and I am irritated over this toxic cloud that is hanging over my home as I write this.

What comes around goes around. Southern MAGA guys live shorter lives. That is a result of contaminated food and water. At least CA provides a worldwide alternative clean food source. Now with this accident perhaps they'll have nothing but contaminated food. It's

all around stupid.

Payback happens when a MAGA guy has to visit a urologist at an early age that in turn explains to him that colon cancer or prostate cancer is after all some of the most painful experiences that any man can endure. That's called an attitude adjustment. All men fear the urologist. All!!!

To sum it up, tell President Trump to take his toxic ideas for California and to shove it!! And slap Vistra with a multi billion dollar lawsuit over poisoning our food and water and air. And while you do this, remind them that for any man the visit to a urologist or colonoscopy specialist is unfun. Donald and his supporters will get the message.

And again, no Jake Paul or Mike Tyson is going to surf a triple overhead beach break with me or ski Jackson Hole's Corbet's couloir with me. It'll never happen folks. And one more thing, MAGA guys, please stop the suck up to Trump. Real leaders don't like a suckup. They enjoy being challenged once in a while.

Sincerely, The real man,

Tim Delaney

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: LR News: New York Times article.
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:47:38 PM

From: lrmailinglist@localparty.org <lrmailinglist@localparty.org> **On Behalf Of** local-revolutions@localparty.org
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2025 2:09 PM
To: [lrmailinglist](mailto:lrmailinglist@localparty.org) <lrmailinglist@localparty.org>
Subject: LR News: New York Times article.

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Friends,

Did you see the New York Times article by Jesse Wegman, member of the NYT editorial Board, and Lee Drutman, political scientist?

They are breaking a lance for proportional voting in the United States.

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/01/14/opinion/fix-congress-proportional-representation.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share&referringSource=articleShare>

If only we could have this discussion on a daily basis, with folks unafraid of digging into the many details of voting systems, then the United States could become a better democracy.

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The article points out what is wrong with politics in our country today, yet the proffered solution is ever too quick.

Proportional voting by itself will not be good for the nation, and actually will lead to its downfall. That is, if Congress and the States would agree already on changing the US Constitution per Wegman and Drutman's liking, which is not likely to happen anytime soon.

In the article, definitively worth reading, both authors do show why a four-to-six party nation would be so much better than the current restricted political reality. Yet few words are spent on describing how we can get to just four to six parties. If we were to implement proportional voting, the chance of getting twenty parties, or more, is far greater than getting just four parties.

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No surprise, Local Revolutions offers a better route, one that is already mentioned in the US Constitution.

- Implement proportional voting at all levels, except for the Federal level.

Political diversity would increase at local and state levels. This political diversity would trickle up as well to the Federal level, but not toward our ending up with twenty little parties.

The Ninth Amendment already mentions that the People are the essence of this nation, because the rights listed in the Constitution are not the full rights of the People. With this, one can see that all words about governmental organization are the lesser, and that the People are the greater concern.

The Tenth Amendment shows that the People hold powers except for those given to the Federal level or specifically reserved to the States and not to the People.

The Fourteenth Amendment declares that the States, in modern words, cannot bully US Citizens. In the original words it says that individual States cannot abridge the privileges or immunities of US citizens.

As such, cities, counties and states must already provide voters their proportional voting system. If not, then these governmental officials are actively undermining the privileges of US citizens. The taking today is tremendous.

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Obviously, voters competing with voters for the win is not a system that leaves a privilege intact. Voting in districts and not amending the failures of that system leaves our privileges in tatters.

We are entitled to full representation of our own choices, and we should not be limited to accepting the single representative that the collective picked at city, county or state level -- says the US Constitution.

Individual freedom must be optimized. Implementing proportional voting at all levels *except for the Federal level* gives us our freedom and will leave the nation strong as well.

Fred-Rick Schermer
Local Revolutions

A grassroots organization working toward more accurate representation in politics.

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jeseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Make sure grid-scale battery storage sites have battery units OUTDOORS not INDOORS
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:43:30 PM

From: Eric Krook [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 10:05 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>
Subject: Make sure grid-scale battery storage sites have battery units OUTDOORS not INDOORS

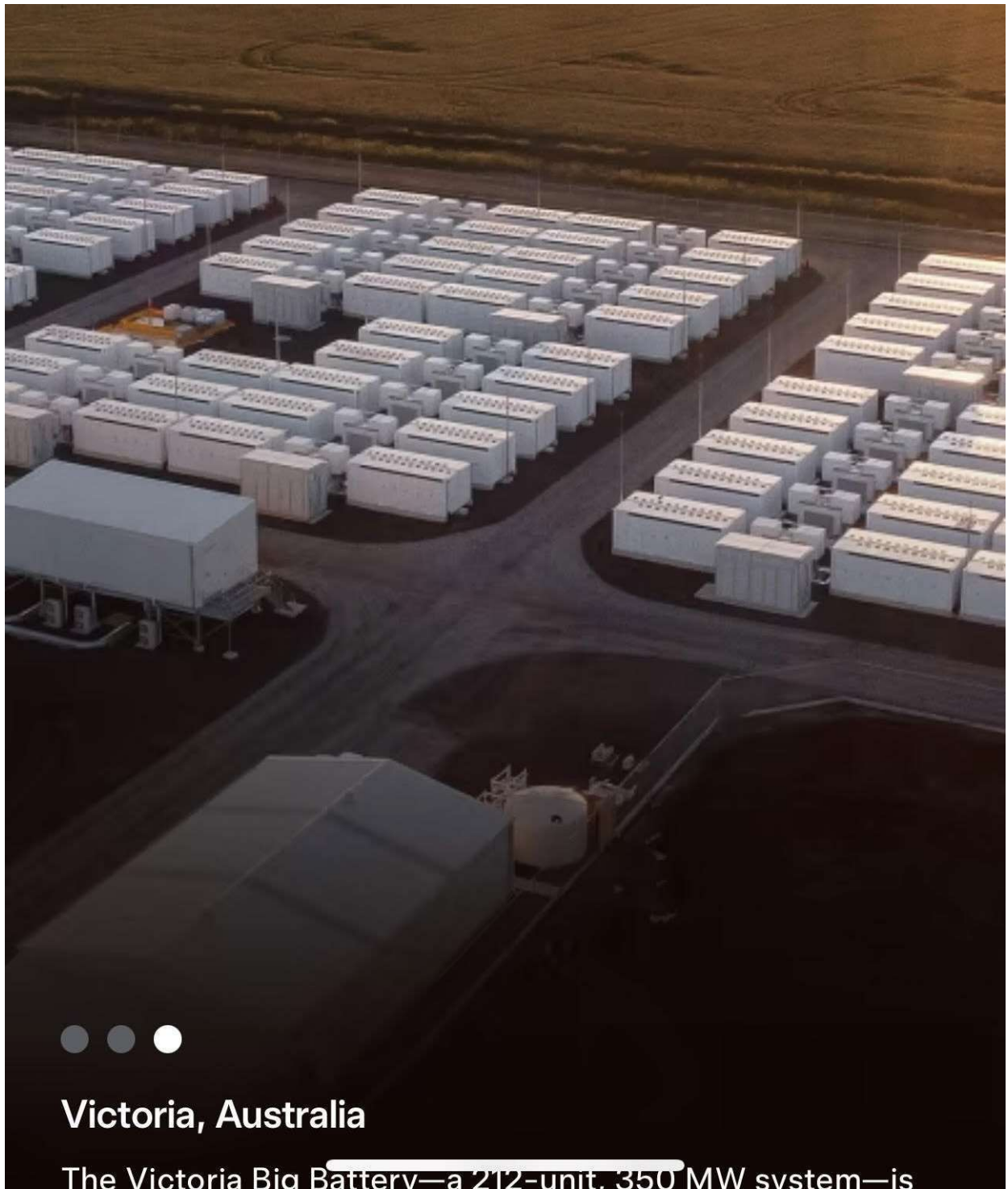
****CAUTION:This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Dear Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors -

Please ensure that any lithium ion-based grid-scale battery storage systems use battery subunits that are outdoors and will vent superheated gases skyward in the event of a fire. The Moss Landing disaster, in which an entire turbine hall full of container-size batteries burned up, was a readily-foreseeable outcome of the flawed installation design. Placing the containers within a reinforced concrete building ensured that when any single unit caught fire, the structure would concentrate superheated gases, causing overheating and thermal runaway of adjacent units and the loss of the entire building.

Literally everyone who reads the news knows that lithium batteries are subject to ignition and thermal runaway if they overheat, that they can randomly overheat due to manufacturing defects that can't always be detected up front, and that often once these fires ignite they often must be allowed to burn themselves out as it's often impossible to extinguish them. Therefore, if you're going to build one of the world's largest grid-scale energy storage systems, you need to ASSUME that a battery WILL overheat and experience thermal runaway and design the system in such a way that the ignition of one battery won't cause any of the others to ignite. You could straightforwardly satisfy that design requirement through some combination of spatial separation of the subunits, physical separation of the subunits by earth, reinforced concrete, or similar, and venting of each subunit to the sky so hot gases will dissipate upward instead of being contained with the other batteries increasing the risk of chain-reaction overheating and thermal runaway.

Here is a photo of a Tesla grid-scale storage implementation. It appears that's exactly the strategy they use: numerous subunits in the open air separated by gaps so a burning unit will mostly heat the sky not the adjacent units.



Yet the below system from Vistra using LG container-size battery subunits was designed in the exact opposite fashion: all the subunits were contained within a closed concrete building so hot gases would be concentrated not vented, maximizing the risk of the any fire spreading to consume the adjacent containers and then the entire building.

Moss Landing: World's biggest battery storage project is now 3GWh capacity

By Andy Colthorpe

August 2, 2023

US & Canada, Americas Grid Scale

Business, Market Analysis, Technology



Owner Vistra Energy has announced the completion of work to expand its Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility in California, the world's largest lithium battery energy storage system (BESS) asset.

It requires no expertise in grid-scale battery systems design to foresee this scenario. I have no such expertise at all. If you've watched one YouTube video of a laptop battery or an EV igniting and one YouTube video of how hot gases behave during a fire inside a structure, you can foresee this scenario.

This appears to have been a failure at every step of the way:

- The solution architects at Vistra Energy who proposed enclosing a grid-scale lithium ion battery storage system within a reinforced-concrete building
- Anyone at LG who reviewed Vistra's integrated solution design from a safety standpoint
- Every county planner and government body that approved this implementation

I strongly support implementation of grid-scale power storage to smooth out power supply-and-demand gaps, reduce the number of power plants needed, and reduce the need for natural gas-based "peaker" plants. But the companies who design, build, and operate these systems will also need to use at least minimal intelligence in their safety design to prevent readily foreseeable disasters like this from occurring, giving the entire industry a bad name, and creating public resistance to future battery system construction. And local permitting authorities will need to have staff who read the news and ask "What if?" instead of just assuming the service provider's design is good and rubber-stamping it.

Please make sure we learn from this needless error by Vistra Energy and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and don't ever repeat it. Lithium ion-based grid storage batteries must be placed outdoors, not indoors.

Sincerely,

Eric Krock

[Redacted signature]

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Moss Landing Fire and Community Safety
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:58:44 PM

From: Aurore Sibley [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 8:42 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov>
Subject: Moss Landing Fire and Community Safety

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January 19, 2024

Dear Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and Elected Officials,

I am writing with deep concern for the lack of response and information that residents of Santa Cruz County have experienced and received since the eruption of the Moss Landing power plant fire on the afternoon of Thursday, January 16th.

At 8:45 PM, almost six hours after the fire erupted, county residents were first notified to remain indoors and close all windows. At that time, I went upstairs in my Capitola apartment (fifteen miles away) to close the bedroom windows that were open at the time, only to be met with an acrid smell that burned my mouth, throat, and eyes. The following day, residents were informed that there was no imminent threat and schools would remain in session. Still, my children reported smelling the smoke and fumes in the air all day at New Brighton Middle School and Soquel High School.

Despite the amount and types of gases being emitted by the continual burning and re-eruption of the fire on Friday, January 17th, residents were told to follow the AQI (Air Quality Index) to determine safety levels, regardless of the fact that the AQI does not measure for some of the toxic gases that were, and continue to be, emitted by the fire. We were also told that the Hydrogen Fluoride "burned itself up," however Hydrogen Fluoride is not combustible, and when it meets with water it turns into hydrofluoric acid.

Since the eruption of the fire, hundreds of Santa Cruz County residents have reported experiencing spontaneous bloody noses, skin and mouth lesions, shortness of breath, burning and swollen eyes, headaches, coughs developing, and pets vomiting. Some living closer to the fire have reported finding a sheen on the surface of water outside their homes. Yesterday when I wiped away condensation on my daughter's bedroom window and the towel grazed my arm I broke out into stinging welts. We are clearly being exposed to hazardous and highly toxic substances while the fire continues to actively smolder.

Santa Cruz County residents want to know what is being monitored independently, how it will be communicated, what ongoing precautions regarding people's health are being

discussed, what will be done to address the prevention of future such scenarios and situations, and what follow-up testing of soil and water will be implemented in order to determine the level of toxicity in our immediate environment. To date, there has been very little information shared with the public, and the reassurances that it is safe to go outside do not coincide with hundreds of people developing palpable symptoms when exposed to the air outdoors. Adjacent counties have been somewhat more responsive to residents' concerns.

We know that you are as concerned as we are with the safety and health of this community and ecosystem. Please keep us as up to date as possible.

Sincerely,

Aurore Sibley

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Moss Landing Fire
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:46:16 PM

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

From: Yonat Michaelov [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 9:53 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Moss Landing Fire

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

In the light of the Moss Landing Vista Fire , I would like to express my deep concern about the proposed lithium batteries storage near Pinto lake, and anywhere in our community. I hope you'll put the health of our people before any monetary gain and refuse that scary polluter.
the last 3 days have been a nightmare scenario.
Thank you for all the work that you do.
Yonat Michaelov
Santa Cruz

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Moss landing fires
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:43:55 PM

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

From: Jane Parks-McKay <janerparksmckay@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 11:02 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Moss landing fires

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We will join the growing chorus that what happened this past week at the Moss Landing battery plant was unexcusable.

While we know this plant is in Monterey county, all communities around it should have had something to say about it. We never had that opportunity.

Too, we just found out in a Santa Cruz Lookout article about a similar plant planned for south county.

We would like to request that all Supervisors and the Public Information Officer include constituents in a wider area on plans that would affect us.

As our own Supervisor Koenig wisely stated in a recent media interview, and I paraphrase, looking at the benefits and risks are important.

Last, should a battery or any other plant come to fruition, can we make certain they are equipped with all the correct supplies at the get go? It appears to us that the Moss Landing plant did not seem to be prepared nor those entrusted with its care.

Thanks.

Jane Parks-McKay and Tim McKay, homeowners on [REDACTED], Santa Cruz

[REDACTED]
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Opposition to the planned battery storage facility on Minto Road
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:57:25 PM

From: Evan Benevento [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 8:45 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Opposition to the planned battery storage facility on Minto Road

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Board of Supervisors,

I live and vote in District 4, 1.6 miles from the planned battery storage center on Minto Road with my wife and two young children. I am extremely concerned about this battery storage facility. The Moss Landing facility has had four fires in the last five years. This planned storage project is close to residential neighborhoods, agricultural lands and at least three schools. The risk of toxic fumes contaminating our community is too great.

Quoting Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church "With this being the fourth fire incident in a little over five years in Moss Landing, it is obvious that this technology is ahead of both government's ability to regulate it and private industry's ability to control it."

I implore you, please stop New Leaf Energy from building this battery storage facility near our homes.

Respectfully,

Evan Benevento

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Perhaps start with environmental lawsuits against Vistra
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 4:45:37 PM

From: skitumbleweed [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 6:19 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Perhaps start with environmental lawsuits against Vistra

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Gotta wonder.

ICE agents may start harassing our agriculture community responsible for much of the food in the nation.

And we have this toxic battery cloud poisoning our land, air, and water. Plus you have our livestock threatened. And we have the total combination of a toxic environment and an agriculture/livestock community that will be under pressure and threatened.

Let alone toxic particles floating into my pool and over my home.

Swift lawsuits against So Cal Edison and Vistra are in order. And perhaps hurl it at the Federal Government the moment the new administration walks in the door. After all their energy buddies pulling the strings junk our air, land, water, our livestock, and killed California citizens with their negligence.

With the forecasted wind and low humidity in LA it seems to me that shutting the power was beyond obvious. And what's up with the goofy battery explosion at Moss Landing? What's up with that junk?

I don't see patriotism in any of this. I am wondering if these events are all intentional to harm California citizens and the entire nation. It's too much all at once and too much to do with energy.

We do not need this nonsense in California. And as I pointed out I don't see how the rest

of the nation can gain from any of this. Food prices will no doubt take a hit combined with bird flu.

How can food prices not rise significantly with an ICE roundup around the nation and toxified land in California from fire and batteries all while bird flu killed so many chickens and cattle? That's awful.

So that's quite a situation for President Donald Trump. And I'm not so sure he can blame Newsom for that while the energy companies screwed up and we all know that.

Food and water matter to me a whole bunch. So my vote is to send the legal warning shots right now. Get em talking about it and do it by pointing out that "what comes around goes around" when a southern guy has prostate cancer. That's how you shut the bravado down while this toxic cloud sits over Santa Cruz.

If Texans are going to poison our land then maybe we should not be giving them energy contracts. That's what you tell them. And you tell them the quality of our food and livestock matters to them a whole bunch. So wrecking California land is a losing battle for a Texan. This is beyond stupid.

Tim Delaney

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Vistra stock price went up today---Moss Landing battery fire
Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:01:56 PM

From: skitumbleweed [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 11:30 AM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Vistra stock price went up today---Moss Landing battery fire

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You fine folks and the Monterrey Board of Supervisors should take a look at Vistra energy stock.

So. They make a bundle. Investors pour money into this company. Yet you see that awesome battery fire at Moss Landing that spewed all that toxic air over our land and water to the detriment of humans and wild animals. So I wonder how that impacts my food resources. And, I surf as well. So I don't take kindly to these kinds of accidents on our coast.

So what is it? Negligence, sabotage, or both?

And will the top management get a pay raise after this junk hurled at a low education farming community of legal and illegal immigrants to everyone's detriment. Those folks would not even know to appeal the plant or to question the safety practices near their homes before the board of supervisors in Monterey county. How is that fair to them or any of us.

Honestly, I don't see how investors would invest in that.

Someone should be looking at the legal angle on this one.

Tim Delaney

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: Metrics for Safety from Moss Landing Fire
Date: Friday, January 17, 2025 5:24:08 PM

From: Jasmeen Miah [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 10:48 AM
To: Recovery Permit Center <RecoveryPermitCenter@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Cc: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Justin Cummings <Justin.Cummings@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Metrics for Safety from Moss Landing Fire

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Hello,

The most recent message about the Moss Landing fire said there was “no imminent significant threat exists and people may resume normal activities. Sensitive groups including those with respiratory difficulties should continue monitoring local air conditions.”

I would really like to know *how* it was deemed “no imminent threat.” How are you monitoring the toxic gases or metals in the air? If you aren’t, then you can’t know it’s safe. If you are, please share with us how we can do so, especially for us vulnerable populations!

Thank you,
Jasmeen Miah
Resident of District 3