

From: [shirley](#)
To: [First District](#); [Board Of Supervisors](#); [Second District](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Felipe Hernandez](#); [Fifth District](#)
Subject: battery plants
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025 1:38:43 AM

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

To the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors,

I am not able to attend this morning's meeting to review the circumstances about the battery plants.

1. I do not want them to be build in Santa Cruz County under any circumstance.
2. I do not want any assembly bill to address preventative measures that will not help if fires from the plant are impacted by the great wind storms we have experienced in Santa Cruz county over the past few years.
3. We just saw the damage that took place with fire and wind in Los Angeles and realized how fortunate we are that when Moss Landing plants were burning, there was no great wind or we would have experienced a fate like southern California.
4. In Santa crud county tourism and agriculture are mainstay economies and the toxic chemical released from a battery fire will cause a negative effect on the local economy, public health, animal poisoning, and a terrible impact on the ocean and its sea life.
5. I do not want these plants to be built in Santa Cruz County and I am terrifically upset that they have been planned near a hospital, school and agricultural land!

Is this why property owners here pay \$19,000 a year property tax!

thank you,

Shirley Flores Munoz

836 balboa avenue, capitola, 95010

From: [Nancy Chavez-Bucio](#)
To: [Felipe Hernandez](#)
Cc: [Ramon Gomez](#); [Maria Orozco](#); [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Concerns regarding proposed battery storage facility at Minto Road
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 10:20:18 PM
Attachments: [Battery.Facility.concerns.pdf](#)

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

Dear Felipe Hernandez and members of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors:

I am a resident in the 4th county district, living 8 streets over or 1.2 miles from the proposed 90 Minto Road battery storage facility. I am writing to express my deep concerns regarding this proposed project.

Reasons for Concern:

- **Potential Impact on homeowners' insurance:**

With the increased risk of wildfires and homeowners' insurance companies leaving the state, we have increasingly seen individuals, including in our county, be dropped by their insurance carriers. How can we guarantee that homeowners in the Interlaken area will not lose their insurance coverage?

If we don't lose coverage, how can we be sure premiums will not skyrocket? Insurance companies look at various factors to determine coverage, they will surely look at the Moss Landing facility fire to determine risk and probability factors when we renew our insurance.

- **Lack of infrastructure for an emergency evacuation:**

In case of an emergency there are limited roads for residents to leave. We all depend on the use of Green Valley Road (one lane road), or poorly maintained roads such as Paulson Road, that typically flood or require repairs. I don't foresee a safe, quick and efficient way for people to evacuate if needed.

- **Toxins in our environment:**

A recently published article, effective 1/27/2025, is already reporting heavy metal spikes in the soil 1 mile from the Moss Landing battery facility from their fire on January 16th. Let's not forget this was the 4th fire at the facility. Considering the number of homes next to the facility, the parks, Amesti Elementary school and agriculture fields, some right on Green Valley Road (lakeside organics, dirty girl produce, Vallejo Street Dahlias, local nurseries, my own garden) this is extremely concerning.

- **Potential Financial Burden on the county:**

Flooding, landslides, fires, and more climate disasters (inevitable) have and will hit our county. The county is already strapped for money and have ended fiscal years with deficits due to the costs of disaster repairs. Do we have the resources for emergency planning and responding for a battery facility fire? What would the financial impact for the County be? Moss Landing facility didn't even have a complete emergency response action plan! A clearly outlined plan reviewed and approved by all stakeholders needs to be in place. Who will foot the bill in these situations? What resources are needed in place?

I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors investigate the issue further, although the facility being proposed would be smaller in comparison to the Moss Landing facility, and the batteries would be

half the size, we continue to learn and make mistakes with this novel technology. Error will occur. Don't rush into this project until you've determined the economic impact of a potential disaster, if it's worth the risk and invite the community to voice their concerns and be part of the process. I for one am also looking forward to seeing where California Assemblymember Dawn Addis newly proposed battery storage bill plan goes.

Best,

Nancy Chavez,

4th district constituent

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Best,

Nancy Chavez,

4th district constituent

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Felipe Hernandez](#)
Cc: [David Reid](#); [Ann Lopez](#); [Becky Steinbruner](#)
Subject: High Levels of Metals Detected in Elkhorn Slough Reserve
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 7:13:05 PM

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

Dear Supervisors,

I want to make sure you are aware of the information that became available today by the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories that shows very high levels of metals in soils around the Elkhorn Slough Reserve against records of baseline soil sampling levels.

What is Santa Cruz County doing to test agricultural soils in the Pajaro Valley following the Moss Landing Vistra Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Fire?

Are farmworkers still being expected to work in these areas of unknown contamination?

Please respond.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner

https://www.indybay.org/uploads/2025/01/27/moss_landing_marine_lab_vistra_fire_press_release.jpg

High Concentrations of Heavy Metals Found in Elkhorn Slough Following Vistra Fire

by via Moss Landing Marine Laboratories

Mon, Jan 27, 2025 4:17PM

MOSS LANDING, Calif. — Research scientists at San José State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) have detected unusually high concentrations of heavy-metal nanoparticles in marsh soils at Elkhorn Slough Reserve following the recent fire at the nearby Vistra Power Plant's lithium-ion battery storage facility.



[original image](#) (5184x3456)

As part of a decade-long monitoring program of the Elkhorn Slough estuary, Dr. Ivano Aiello's research team analyzed the marsh soil properties, including the composition of major and trace elements, in the days immediately following the Vistra battery fire that began on Thursday, January 16. The fire burned for several days, causing road closures, evacuation of the area and air quality concerns.

The field surveys, conducted within a radius of approximately two miles from the power plant, measured a dramatic increase in marsh soil surface concentration (hundreds to thousand-fold) of the three heavy metals Nickel, Manganese and Cobalt. This dramatic increase relates to both the shallow subsurface and the baseline measurements conducted in the area before the fire. Samples of the heavy-metal layer were examined at high magnification and reveal that these metals are contained in nanoparticles that range in diameter between about 1 and 20 microns.

These nanoparticles are used in cathode materials for lithium-ion batteries, commonly referred to as "NMC" (Nickel Manganese Cobalt), clearly connecting the occurrence of the heavy metals to airborne cathode material from the Vistra battery fire. These heavy metals will chemically transform as they move through the environments and potentially through the food web, affecting local aquatic

and terrestrial ecosystems.

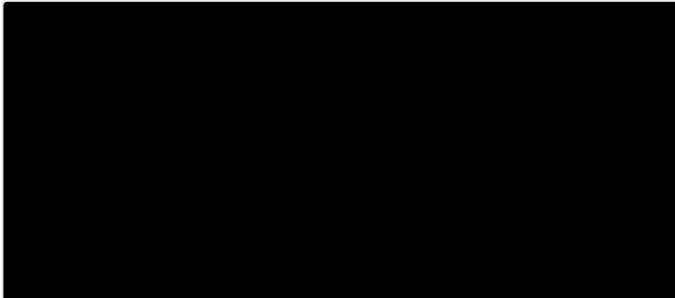
Monterey County officials have been made aware of the team's findings.

"These findings and the research that follows are crucial not only to the impacted community but to the national and international community because of the need to store more power and thus build more and larger battery storage facilities," said Dr. Aiello, marine geology professor and department chair at MLML. "This is a new and fast-growing technology, and we must understand the ecological impacts in the event that accidents like this happen again."

Dr. Aiello's team and colleagues at SJSU and the Elkhorn Slough Reserve will continue monitoring the soils and waterways on a short—and long-term basis.

[Photo: Elkhorn Slough with view of Moss Landing Power Plant in the distance (Photo Taken November 2016). Credit: Susan Gerbic]

[§Press Release](#)



High Concentrations of Heavy Metals Found in Elkhorn Slough Following Vi...

MOSS LANDING, Calif. — Research scientists at San José State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML...

by via Moss Landing Marine Laboratories
Mon, Jan 27, 2025 4:17PM

From: [Deborah Peronto](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Meeting on Fire at Battery Storage Plant
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 9:38:22 PM

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

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

It is my understanding that you're having a meeting regarding the fire at the battery storage plant at the Elkhorn Slough tomorrow. I wanted to take this opportunity to express my concerns and relay a conversation I had at a staff meeting years ago at the Texas Instruments Plant near Natural Bridges.

We were discussing the possibility of a chemical spill from an equipment malfunction or human error. The Plant Manager discussed the critical nature of secondary containment and proper training of all personnel. To highlight the seriousness of the issue, he stated that if one drop of chemical was leaked into the Santa Cruz Bay, he would expect to be personally jailed for the infraction. The picture was vivid to all of us and we took developing, training and following procedures by all personnel as job number one.

This was the first thing that occurred to me when I heard of the battery storage plant fire. I would have expected to hear that night what the procedures were and whether they were followed. A week later we still do not know root cause of the issue and what systems failed. I am relating this story to share how our plant of over 600 employees were able to develop and implement procedures to avoid issues similar to those that occurred last week. If the criteria is set and followed, safety of personnel and the environment is possible. Please be firm in setting expectations for future systems at the battery storage plant.

Deborah Peronto
Retired Semiconductor Manager and Aptos Resident

From: [Diane Dutton](#)
To: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
Subject: Sharing "Burning Batteries" Informative Article
Date: Monday, January 27, 2025 8:59:34 PM

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Hello to all of You,

I want to share this information so we are all aware of the harm from Lithium-ion batteries.

Take care,

Diane Dutton Jones

[Burning Batteries: The Toxic Truth Behind Our Green Energy Illusion](#)

