

- III. The Board of Supervisors has received the following items of correspondence which require no official action by the Board at this time:

**LATINO AFFAIRS COMMISSION 2024 ATTENDANCE REPORT**

District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Feb 2024	April 2024	June 2024	Aug 2024	Oct 2024	Dec 2024
1st District Supervisor Manu Koenig	Yadira Flores-Martinez	P	<b>MEETING CANCELED FOR LACK OF QUORUM</b>	P	P	P	P
2 <sup>nd</sup> District Supervisor Zach Friend	Oscar Sanchez	P		P	E	P	P
3 <sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Justin Cummings	Kassandra Flores	-		-	-	E	P
4 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Felipe Hernandez	Cesar De Santos	P		P	P	P	P
5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Leo Gomez	P		P	P	P	A
City of Santa Cruz	Rebecca Hernandez	P		P	P	P	E
	Seat Vacant	-		-	-	-	-
City of Watsonville	Kristal Salcido	A		A	-	-	-
	Micela Lopez	A		E	P	P	P
<b>Attendance:</b>		<b>P=Present</b>		<b>A=Absent</b>	<b>E=Excused</b>	<b>( - ) = Not Seated</b>	

Submitted:



Kaite McGrew  
Commissions Manager

12/31/2024

Date

**MOBILE AND MANUFACTURED HOME COMMISSION**

**2024 ATTENDANCE REPORT**

<b>District/Supervisor</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Jan 2024</b>	<b>Mar 2024</b>	<b>May 2024</b>	<b>July 2024</b>	<b>Sept 2024</b>	<b>Nov 2024</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> District</b> Supervisor Manu Koenig	Jean Brocklebank Chair	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Zach Friend	Henry Cleveland	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Justin Cummings	Candi Walker	P	P	P	P	P	E
<b>4<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Felipe Hernandez	Richard Valdez	P	P	P	P	P	E
<b>5<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Rick Halterman	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>Golden State Manufactured Homeowners League</b>	Carol A. Lerno	A	P	A	A	P	A
<b>Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association</b>	Charlene Solyman Vice Chair	P	E	P	P	P	P
<b>Attendance:</b>	<b>P=Present</b>	<b>A=Absent</b>	<b>E=Excused</b>	<b>( - ) = Not Seated</b>			

Submitted:



Kaite McGrew

Commissions Manager

12/31/2024

Date

## SENIORS COMMISSION 2024 ATTENDANCE REPORT

District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Feb 2024	April 2024	June 2024	Aug 2024	Oct 2024	Dec 2024
<b>1<sup>st</sup> District</b> Supervisor Manu Koenig	Dena Taylor	P	A	P	P	E	P
	Suzanne Doty <b>Chair</b>	P	P	P	P	P	P
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Zach Friend	Mark Johannessen	P	P	E	P	P	P
	Antonio Rivas	P	P	A	E	P	P
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Justin Cummings	Lois Sones	P	E	P	P	E	P
	Alicia Rodriguez	-	P	P	P	E	P
<b>4<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Felipe Hernandez	Patricia Heath Fohrman	P	P	E	P	P	E
	Katie Limas <b>Vice Chair</b>	P	P	P	P	P	E
<b>5<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Carol Childers	P	P	P	P	P	P
	Lynn McKibbin	P	-	-	-	-	-
Ex Officio Non-Voting Member California Senior Legislature	Antonio Rivas	P	P	A	E	P	P
<b>Attendance:</b> <b>P</b> =Present <b>A</b> =Absent <b>E</b> =Excused <b>( - )</b> = Not Seated							

Submitted by:



Kaite McGrew  
Commissions Manager

December 31, 2024

Date

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION**

**2024 ATTENDANCE REPORT**

District/ Supervisor	Commissioner	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Mar 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug 2024	Sept 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024								
<b>1<sup>st</sup> District</b> Supervisor Manu Koenig	Amanda Crowder	<b>MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM</b>	P	P	<b>MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM</b>	<b>MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM</b>	<b>MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM</b>	<b>NO MEETING SCHEDULED</b>	<b>MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM</b>	<b>MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM</b>	P	<b>MEETING CANCELED - LACK OF QUORUM</b>	<b>NO MEETING SCHEDULED</b>								
	Jennifer Martin		E	P							-										
	Paige Gordon		-	-							-										
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Zach Friend	Heather Lenhardt		P	P							-			P	-	-	-	-	-	P	-
	Brenda Rogers		-	P							-			-	-	-	-	-	P	-	
	Claire Protti		-	-							-			-	-	-	-	-	P	-	
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> District</b> Supervisor Justin Cummings	Jennifer Smith		P	E							-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Suzanne Doty		-	-							-			-	-	-	-	-	P	-	
	Amanda Safi		-	-							-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>4<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Felipe Hernandez	Karina Moreno		P	P							P			P	-	-	-	-	P	-	
	Alicia Danna		P	P							-			-	-	-	-	-	P	-	
<b>5<sup>th</sup> District</b> Supervisor Bruce McPherson	Sheila De Lany		P	P							-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	Seat Vacant		-	-							-			-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
<b>Attendance:</b>		<b>P=Present</b>	<b>A=Absent</b>	<b>E=Excused</b>	<b>( - ) = Not Seated</b>																

Submitted by:



Kaite McGrew  
Commissions Manager

December 31, 2024

Date

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
**Proclamation**

HONORING CAROL VANAUSDAL  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS

WHEREAS, Carol VanAusdal has dedicated 25 years of service as a licensed Realtor and has demonstrated unwavering commitment to her profession by becoming a licensed broker in 2012, currently serving as the Designated Broker for Coastal Dream Realty in Santa Cruz; and

WHEREAS, Carol embodies the spirit of lifelong learning and professional growth, exemplified by her selection in 2024 as a member of the inaugural group of the California Association of Realtors (C.A.R.) Leadership Academy; and

WHEREAS, Carol has contributed to the betterment of her field by collaborating with the California Department of Real Estate to update the state's real estate exam, ensuring its relevance and alignment with contemporary industry standards; and

WHEREAS, Carol has consistently demonstrated leadership and dedication to the real estate community through her active involvement with the Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors (SCCAR), serving on numerous committees, including, NHORA, and culminating her service as the 2024 SCCAR Association President; and

WHEREAS, Carol has prioritized communication, collaboration, and education within the real estate community, while fostering a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion as integral components of her leadership.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Felipe Hernandez, Santa Cruz County Fourth District Supervisor, do hereby recognize and commend Carol VanAusdal for her exemplary contributions to the real estate profession, her leadership within the Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors, and her dedication to promoting a more equitable, informed, and collaborative community.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Member, Board of Supervisors*

January 14, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*



**CITY OF SANTA CRUZ  
Notice of Availability of Draft Subsequent EIR**

**Project Title:** Downtown Plan Expansion

**Project Location/Address:** Downtown Santa Cruz, generally bounded by Laurel Street on the north, the San Lorenzo River on the east, Beach Hill on the south, and Center Street, Cedar Street and neighborhoods west of Pacific Avenue on the west.

**Project Description:** The project consists of a series of amendments to the City's Downtown Plan by extending the boundary of the existing Downtown Plan to incorporate the South of Laurel Area into the Downtown Plan boundary, to incorporate development standards and design guidelines for the project area and add other policies and standards to the City's Downtown Plan that will facilitate future redevelopment of the project area. The project also includes amendments to the City's General Plan 2030, the Local Coastal Program, the Beach and South of Laurel Comprehensive Area Plan, and the Municipal Code to provide updates consistent with the currently proposed amendments to the Downtown Plan, including land use designation amendments for some parcels and zone district amendments for all parcels in the project area. Implementation of the project would facilitate additional development as a result of various circulation, land use and infrastructure revisions.

**Public Review Period:** January 8, 2025 through February 21, 2025.

Comments on the Draft Subsequent EIR should be submitted in writing or emailed to Sarah Neuse at the address below by 5:00 PM on February 21, 2025.

**Lead Agency:** City of Santa Cruz  
**Department/Division:** Planning and Community Development Department  
**Address:** 809 Center Street, Rm. 101  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Contact Person:** Sarah Neuse, Senior Planner  
Phone: (831) 420-5092  
Email: [SNeuse@santacruzca.gov](mailto:SNeuse@santacruzca.gov)

**Address Where Copy of Draft EIR is Available:** A printed copy of the Draft EIR may be reviewed at the Planning and Community Development Department located at 809 Center Street, Room 101 from 7:30 to 11:30 AM, Monday through Thursday.

The Draft Subsequent EIR is available for review on the City's website at:  
<https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/ceqa>.

The Draft Subsequent EIR also is available for review at the Santa Cruz Public Library, Downtown Library Branch, at 224 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

**For additional information, contact Sarah Neuse at the Planning and Community Development Department at (831) 420-5092 or at [SNeuse@santacruzca.gov](mailto:SNeuse@santacruzca.gov).**

## COMPLAINT against General Services Department

To Grand Jury  
To Board of Supervisors  
To Administrative Office  
To General Services

General Services has allowed parking at 701 to become a total SCREW UP for the employees and something MUST be done about it.

Employees who park at 701 are supposed to pay for a parking permit and park in the reserved employee spaces. If they don't pay for a parking permit they are supposed to park in the employee parking lot on Water Street. The public parking spaces at 701 are supposed to be restricted to members of the public who have business to conduct at 701. This is regulated in the county code 9.36.070. General Services is GROSSLY violating the county code by allowing tons of random EMPLOYEES who are not paying for a parking pass to park in the PUBLIC spaces. This leads members of the public who are supposed to park in the PUBLIC spaces but can't because they are all taken up by random employees, to park in the reserved EMPLOYEE spaces for paying employees. This causes the reserved spaces to be taken up by the public AND LEAVING NO PARKING FOR THE EMPLOYEES WHO PAY FOR PARKING PASSES!!

Also the members of the public are supposed to pay for parking at 701 but they are not because the payment machines have not worked for TWO YEARS! How is it right to let the public park FOR FREE at 701, to let employees pay in the public spaces FOR FREE, to let the public park in the reserved spaces FOR FREE.....BUT to COLLECT MONEY from the employees who have parking passes AND ALLOW THEM TO END UP WITHOUT ANY PARKING AT ALL BECAUSE THE RESERVED SPACES ARE OCCUPIED BY THE PUBLIC WHO SHOULD BE PARKING IN THE PUBLIC SPACES????

Why have the parking payment machines for the public not worked for TWO YEARS?? How much revenue has the county LOST because of this?? Why is EVERYONE allowed to park for free at 701 EXCEPT for the employees who have parking passes??

I send this anonymously because I work at 701 Ocean and fear retaliation

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: alternative emergency alerts?  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:14:43 PM

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**From:** AstroQuake [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 11:45 AM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** alternative emergency alerts?

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

Hello and Good Morning,

Would like to know, do we (Santa Cruz County) have an alternative emergency warning system?

We were down at the beach, and after a nice long walk, we were getting hungry. We decided to order pizza, and when I went to call on the cellphone, there was no signal..

Having no signal is not really a biggie, We are at the beach with no signal all the time, We are in the hills with no signal all the time..

But..

Then she looks at me and says, "good thing there isnt a Tsunami coming.. "

Umm..

There very well could have been a Tsunami coming, and we would not have had any idea.. not only was there no signal, but we were also on a road that pretty much only has one way in and only one way out.. and, we were at the turn around at the very far opposite end..

I have a newer phone, on a well known name brand carrier, and my phone struggles to find a signal, my mother and sister have a different name brand carrier, and they have no service in the hills here at all.

San Francisco has sirens that test every tuesday at noon.. I know they were being replaced with a new modern version during covid, which was the perfect time, since there werent crowds at the beach, or anywhere.

Hawaii also has them.. they work fantastic!.. even when the cell phones dont.. the beach.. the mountains.. You know when something is about to happen..

Santa Cruz County is a fantastic place, with a few pesky negatives.. Tsunami, Wildfires, Earthquakes, and now, Tornadoes.. But, all these can easily be negated, with preparedness and a planned response.. This can only happen when people are informed, and have a plan, and are able to make informed decisions. Which doesnt work when all of the alert message eggs are in the one cellphone basket.

If you can let me what we have as an alternative warning signal or alert, other than solely and completely

depending on completely unreliable cellphones, and hit or miss cell service all throughout the county, I would appreciate it..

Our family already has emergency plans in place, but after seeing just how fast the Fire went through Pacific Palisdes, and the mountains above, in January, (which January is not even considered fire season). We are updating our plans..

If you can let me know about Santa Cruz alternative Emergency Alert Notification system? other than unreliable cellphones, (perhaps Sirens?) I would appreciate it..

If we dont already have an alternative Emergency Notification system, other than unreliable cellphones, In the interest of keeping people safe, can we request an alternative emergency alert system, or warning system be added? perhaps sirens?

Thanks

Love

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please Schedule Town Hall Meetings for Public Review of Santa Cruz County's Draft Evacuation Plan Appendix  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:14:12 PM

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**From:** Becky Steinbruner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 11, 2025 11:06 PM  
**To:** David Reid <David.Reid@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Cc:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Elissa Benson <Elissa.Benson@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Amanda Gullings <Amanda.Gullings@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Deputy Michael Flores - CDFA <michael.flores@cdfa.ca.gov>; Francesconi <mike.francesconi@cdfa.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Please Schedule Town Hall Meetings for Public Review of Santa Cruz County's Draft Evacuation Plan Appendix

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

Hi, David,  
Thank you for your thoughtful response. I would appreciate any updates on the Draft Evacuation Planning process, and also a link to the County's *Operational Area (OA) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Base Plan*.

What is the status of the grant-funded address signs for County residents? With the devastating fires in Los Angeles, residents here are very aware and interested in improving response to our rural areas with visible address signage.

I am glad OR3 is working with the 14th DAA to review the MOU for disaster planning and shelter at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. I hope that you have already contacted CDFA Deputy Michael Flores and Mr. Michael Francesconi regarding what the County needs for successful and reliable emergency use of the Fairgrounds.

I have copied them on this message and hope that you will contact them if you have not already done so.

Finally, because the Watsonville Airport is truly a lifeline for the entire County in disasters, I feel it should be financially supported by the entire County. Could we meet to discuss this?

Thank you very much for your work.

Sincerely,  
Becky

On Friday, December 27, 2024 at 03:48:08 PM PST, David Reid <[david.reid@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:david.reid@santacruzcountyca.gov)> wrote:

Dear Becky,

Thank you for reaching out and for your dedication to keeping our community safe. I truly appreciate the time and effort you've put into reviewing the Draft Evacuation Planning Appendix. Your input is invaluable.

To address your initial concern, the link to the document was closed following the public review period. However, I want to emphasize that this is just the beginning of an ongoing process. The plan you've reviewed is not a finalized product but a *living framework*—as are all our Emergency Operations Plan annexes and appendices. Regular reviews, updates, and the ability to adapt based on lessons learned as quickly as possible is the goal with our functional and hazard specific annexes.

As you know Santa Cruz County faces a wide range of increasing threats—nearly all of which are no- or little-notice—from wildfires to tsunamis and flooding, as well as human-caused threats. The complexity of our geography and the diverse risks make community-driven input, planning and action essential. This document was developed with the understanding that no single plan can cover every detail or scenario. Therefore, this appendix serves as a **planning tool**—a foundation to guide collaboration, training, and readiness efforts.

It was also designed to be as concise as possible while outlining key considerations that give responders, emergency managers, and communities food for thought and steps to take to build a more resilient Santa Cruz. Plans that are hundreds of pages long, cross-referenced to other hundred+ page plans, are not functional or practical anymore. While we cannot mitigate every risk or foresee every scenario—especially in this beautiful place we choose to live—by preparing together, we can strengthen our collective ability to respond.

Regarding your observations about Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, ARES, and the Watsonville Airport:

- **Fairgrounds:** The Fairgrounds is a frequently referenced site for evacuations, but there is no guarantee it is safe or available in all emergencies. We are working with them and other locations to secure updated Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs). The need for additional work for this site and others, was underscored during the back-to-back atmospheric river events in winter 2023— the needs of the site were vastly different in comparison to summer/fall wildfires – representing

agreement refinement opportunities.

- **ARES Reference:** Based on feedback from you and others, ARES is listed in the planning appendix.
- **Watsonville Airport:** While the airport plays a role in overall emergency response, it falls under city jurisdiction. Cities also have, or are working towards, their own evacuation plans. Further, since it is a general aviation airport it would not be suitable for mass evacuations, or supply operations – but it may be able to play a supporting role if it is not impacted. We will look to see where we can mention it. The airport is mentioned as well as part of the broader emergency response framework, and it is included in the SCC Operational Area (OA) Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) Base Plan. *Note: If you do not have a copy, please let us know and I will provide you a link.*

I also want to highlight **CruzAware** as our primary emergency alert system (EAS). However, our county's communication and power challenges remain major concerns. We know that some (many) residents will not receive alerts in every situation. This is why neighbor-to-neighbor networks and grassroots communication are vital. Any help spreading awareness about CruzAware—and encouraging local planning and connections—will greatly enhance overall readiness.

Evacuation routes, Temporary Evacuation Points (TEPs), and other tools in the appendix serve as *planning guides*. They are not guarantees or real-time directives. The conditions at the time of an emergency will ultimately shape the decisions and directions provided. Based on feedback, we are adding stronger language and visual indicators to make it clear that TEPs and other sites listed are not exhaustive and are for **planning purposes only**. Real-time evacuation sites and routes will be communicated from the appropriate authorities during incidents. This is absolutely essential for safety.

We can explore town hall meetings or other outreach tools to promote preparedness and gather input to strengthen the plan. Continuous improvement and real-time integration of lessons learned are key now and in the future. Firewise groups like Southbay provide invaluable insight, and your leadership can help refine and expand awareness. Your input, along with others from Firewise and communities facing non-fire threats, will be critical in finding the best ways to spread the word and drive readiness efforts.

This is truly a whole community effort, and your outreach has already helped strengthen our collective response. I appreciate your engagement, and look forward to continuing this dialogue to further evolve and enhance our planning and readiness efforts.

Thank you again for your commitment, and I look forward to working together to make our community more resilient.

Take care,

Dave

Dave Reid | Director (he/him)



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY OFFICE OF  
RESPONSE, RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

[David.Reid@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:David.Reid@santacruzcountyca.gov)

831.454.3407 (O)

[Website](#)

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**From:** Becky Steinbruner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2024 9:16 AM  
**To:** David Reid <[David.Reid@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:David.Reid@santacruzcountyca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)>; Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>  
**Subject:** Please Schedule Town Hall Meetings for Public Review of Santa Cruz County's Draft Evacuation Plan Appendix

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

Dear Mr. Reid,

I recently became aware of the Draft Santa Cruz County Emergency Operational Plan Evacuation Appendix via the Southbay FireWise group. The document was not available at the link provided with the request by the County Emergency Management Council to have FireWise Community leaders review it, but I was able to obtain a copy directly from Mozaik Consultants.

In my opinion, there are significant gaps in local knowledge that have caused deficiencies in the Draft Evacuation Appendix that could be remedied by holding multiple well-noticed public town hall meetings in each Supervisorial District.

I am concerned that none of the Temporary Evacuation Area plans include mention of the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. Does the County still have a valid MOU with the 14th DAA for emergency human and livestock shelter in disasters?

I also did not see the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) included in any areas to help with evacuation communications. Is ARES included in other portions of the Draft Plan?

Finally, I did not see the Watsonville Airport included in the planning. Is it included in another section of the document?

What is the timeline for public review of this document before adoption?

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: ANOTHER BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY IN WATSONVILLE ?  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:24:36 PM

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**From:** Casey Carlson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2025 11:07 AM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: ANOTHER BATTERY STORAGE FACILITY IN WATSONVILLE ?

\*\*\*\***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 Supervisors,

In light of the fire in the Moss Landing Battery Storage facility right now, I am opposed to opening another one in Watsonville, so close to population centers and our Monterey Bay.

<https://lookout.co/planned-200-million-battery-storage-project-near-watsonville-aims-to-reduce-power-outages-expand-renewable-energy/>

I support alternative energy sources, but wish we were investing in sodium batteries instead of lithium batteries. And plants like this proposed plant should be far from population centers if they are going to be built.

My understanding is this is coming to the Board of Supervisors this year for a permit.

Please publicise these hearings so that the community can attend

and participate in the process.

Thank you,

Casey Carlson



*Casey E. Carlson*



**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Ordinance to Prohibit Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers  
**Date:** Thursday, January 9, 2025 4:49:43 PM

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**From:** Chris Moran [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 6:26 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Ordinance to Prohibit Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers

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

On July 25, 2024 the Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance *in Concept* that would prohibit the use of gas-powered leaf blowers in unincorporated areas of the county. The ordinance was returned to the Board for a second reading and final adoption the following August.

The Board voted in August NOT to adopt the ordinance, pending further staff work to identify funding opportunities to help mitigate costs to users of switching out equipment. So, there is currently no ordinance.

There are other ordinances that do not help mitigate costs to users, so why would this ordinance be the same? This is an environmental issue as well as a peace of mind issue.

Businesses and individual users can afford leaf blowers. Ace Hardware sells seven different electric leaf blowers ranging from \$59 to \$499. This is not cost prohibitive and our environment is worth it.

And of course there are brooms that require only elbow grease.

<https://www.acehardware.com/departments/lawn-and-garden/outdoor-power-equipment/leaf-blowers/electric-powered-leaf-blowers>

Let's start off 2025 with a recommitment to the environment by eliminating one gas powered leaf blower at a time. Please revisit this ordinance, the City has passed their ordinance, it is the right thing to do.

Sincerely,

Chris Moran  
Ben Lomond, CA



**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: My final note for the day  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:20:58 PM

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**From:** Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 3:58 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>  
**Subject:** My final note for the day

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Dear Supervisors,

I just want to emphasize how disappointed I am with Santa Cruz Social Services and their social workers. I grew up visiting Santa Cruz, both of my grandparents lived there and one grandmother still owns a home in Santa Cruz. I have many, many friends who live there and visit often.

My one brother teaches at UC Santa Cruz and my other brother (who has the schizo-affective disorder and anosognosia) lives in Felton with my step-dad.

I am mentioning all of this so you will know that I have many Santa Cruz tax payers and voters in my immediate circle.

It was so disturbing when I called to try and get my mentally ill brother help to be treated like an annoyance by the social workers and to have absolutely no recommendations of how to move forward and no compassion or understanding, but rather impatience and no help.

I hope you will do something to improve mental health concerns in Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,

Heather Vuchinich

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Care Act Email from County Website does not work  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:17:58 PM

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**From:** Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 3:45 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Care Act Email from County Website does not work

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

I tried to get more info on the Care Act via the email listed at the County Website  
<https://www.santacruz.courts.ca.gov/general-information/care-act>

[CareAct@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto:CareAct@santacruzcountyca.gov)

And got the attached error message-I tried to call the county number **Call us at 831-454-2000**

**and could not get through.**

**It would be helpful to have this program made more accessible to those who need it.**

**Sincerely,  
Heather**

Flowers, stars and more

Sign up for my Wisestars Newsletter for New Moon Musings and Flower Magic

**[HERE](#)**

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Care Court Info  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:17:31 PM

---

**From:** Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 3:34 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>  
**Subject:** Care Court Info

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

I understand that Care Court begin in Santa Cruz on 12/2/24. I wonder why my brother can't be enrolled in Care Court? The people at BHS never even mentioned this as an option. Note that the LEAP program is being utilized as an assist to Care Court in Southern California-yet BHS social workers had never even heard about it.

Please read this article <https://calmatters.org/housing/2023/08/care-court-california-start/>

and note this passage:

"

Kelley's department is training its workers and peer supporters — people who also have mental illness or have recovered who can help guide a respondent through CARE Court — in a well-regarded communication method [called LEAP](#) to persuade respondents to accept care. It will offer services to those in CARE Court under a "whatever it takes" approach, whether it's a ride to the doctor's office, help enrolling in food stamps, addiction treatment or temporary housing.

The task will take time.

At the community meetings, Kelley and her colleagues repeatedly described a pilot program she ran as behavioral health director in San Bernardino County. The program took referrals from family, police or other community members who wanted to prod those who were resistant into mental health treatment.

The time it took for county workers using the LEAP method to persuade respondents to enter treatment varied, Kelley said. But on average, she said it took 20 visits if a respondent was housed — and 40 visits if they were unhoused. Visit times varied, from a few minutes to a whole day, so the whole process could take weeks or months, Kelley said."

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Mental Health in Santa Cruz County  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:15:14 PM

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**From:** Wisestars Apothecary [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 1:15 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Mental Health in Santa Cruz County

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

Dear Supervisors,

I spent a long time on the phone today with social workers from the Santa Cruz County Access Team, first Max and then a woman whose name I did not get.

I was trying to help my 37 year old brother who has schizo-affective disorder and also Anisognosia. Because he lives at home with my stepfather and receives food and shelter and has not been hospitalized since his initial psychotic break 17 years ago, it was determined that the Access Team could not help him.

I was very disappointed to hear this, because recently, a friend who works in Social Services in San Bernardino county described a program that county runs where they have outreach teams who will go into the home and build trust to try and convince clients to try medication.

I don't know if it is a funding or policy issue-but I hope at some point Santa Cruz County will consider a training like the ones they do in San Bernardino

County <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/dbh/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/LEAP-Training.pdf>

I hear that they are having great results with it and the outreach team.

In the meantime my brother is slowly wasting away in his room, refusing to talk to anyone or leave the house. I fear for what will happen to him when my stepfather dies and he has gone this long without medication or treatment.

I'm sorry that Santa Cruz County doesn't have resources for mental health patients like him and that it has to be a violent or crisis situation before he can get help.

Sincerely,

Heather

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Please prioritize rural road paving and resurfacing in the budget.  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:21:43 PM

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**From:** Kris Hubby [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 13, 2025 4:18 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>  
**Subject:** Please prioritize rural road paving and resurfacing in the budget.

\*\*\***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 County Board of Supervisors:

Can we please prioritize road resurfacing in the budget this year? Last year the majority of supervisors voted against proposals to improve road budgets.

The county roads have long been neglected in the budget set by the Supervisors. The status quo has been to patch endless potholes, and deal with catastrophic failures after they happen, but not do any sealing or repaving. For this year can we please resume resurfacing efforts? Austerity to non-road programs is an acceptable trade off. Roads promised paving have had plans cancelled due to budget reprioritization.

While sealing and paving roads is more expensive, it will reduce the needs and costs for pothole repair and catastrophic road failures. Roads will only get more expensive the longer this work is neglected. Water penetrating cracked and failed road surfaces promotes catastrophic failures which are far more costly and disruptive to the taxpayers.

Santa Cruz County should acquire it's own chip sealing machines to enable affordable resurfacing from traditional paving like adjacent counties do for rural roads.

Better roads advances social goals for the environment and equity. Better roads will encourage more bicycle riding, and improve transportation for lower income persons and emergency response access.

Sincerely,  
Kris Hubby



**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Back Yard Burning  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:22:16 PM

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**From:** John Benito [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 9:49 AM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Back Yard Burning

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

Dear Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors,

Why is the county of Santa Cruz still allowing open burning in the unincorporated communities? A permit can be obtained for burning during the winter with the only parameter being the air quality. Does that really make sense any more, with the current rate of climate change? Add that to the fact that there is absolutely no enforcement of the burn regulations or even if a permit was issued. Isn't time to stop this dangerous practice?

Regards,

- jb -  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Trump's HUD Secretary and Our Reverse Robin Hood Housing System  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:22:50 PM

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**From:** Priscilla Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 6:26 PM  
**To:** citycouncil@cityofsantacruz.com; Board Of Supervisors  
<boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Trump's HUD Secretary and Our Reverse Robin Hood Housing System

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

"This reverse Robin Hood approach to U.S. housing began in the 1970's, when the Nixon administration and Congress began switching our affordable housing investment away from public housing to subsidizing for-profit landlords."

[Opinion | Trump's HUD Secretary and Our Reverse Robin Hood Housing System | Common Dreams](#)

Respectfully submitted,  
Priscilla R Williams  
Aptos, CA

**From:** [Board Of Supervisors](#)  
**To:** [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Input on 11/19/24 Decision to Terminate Contract with Optimal Solutions Consulting  
**Date:** Friday, January 17, 2025 5:12:43 PM

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**From:** Robyn McKeen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 5:05 PM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov](mailto:boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountycalifornia.gov)>  
**Subject:** Input on 11/19/24 Decision to Terminate Contract with Optimal Solutions Consulting

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

Dear County Supervisors,

I'm writing to express my disappointment and concerns regarding the actions taken on November 19, 2024 to unexpectedly terminate the contract with Optimal Solutions Consulting. The CORE Initiative is both a critical funding source and a community effort to improve alignment for results and outcomes for our residents. Nicole Young and Nicole Lezin's support of the ambitious effort, under the County's direction, has been transparent, comprehensive, underpinned with integrity, and highly beneficial to the community. Based on what I've observed, I think the situation could have been handled with far greater respect and intentionality in regards to both the community initiative and the consultants.

In my community work, I have experienced both sides of program funding—serving as staff at agencies that received funding as well as those that provided it. When our community launched the CORE Initiative, I celebrated the intention and effort to align funding to community outcomes. Having applied for and received CORE funding in the early years for the Smart Path Coordinated Entry project at Housing Matters, I have firsthand experience of both the application process and the extensive technical assistance and alignment-building workshops offered by Optimal Solutions. In addition, having worked closely with nearly all of the CORE applicants over the years, I've heard and understand the frustrations that some nonprofit staff have about the CORE process, including the length and complexity of the application, and genuine concerns about shifts in funding allocations and priorities.

A collective community effort like CORE is going to have imperfections, and I see it as the responsibility of county leaders to work collaboratively with community partners to identify and improve those gaps, rather than reacting to criticism by essentially scrapping the initiative. I respect that as County Supervisors you have the unthanked task of weighing many perspectives and realities and making the best informed decisions you can. Given that, if a decision like this must be made in the future, I

hope you will do so with a thoughtful plan for the project, as well as communicating ahead of time to the parties involved out of respect for their professionalism and investment in the project.

Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,  
Robyn McKeen

**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

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

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

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

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-----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

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

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@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Enron and Vistra Energy

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

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

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

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

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.

--

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.

--

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.

--

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

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

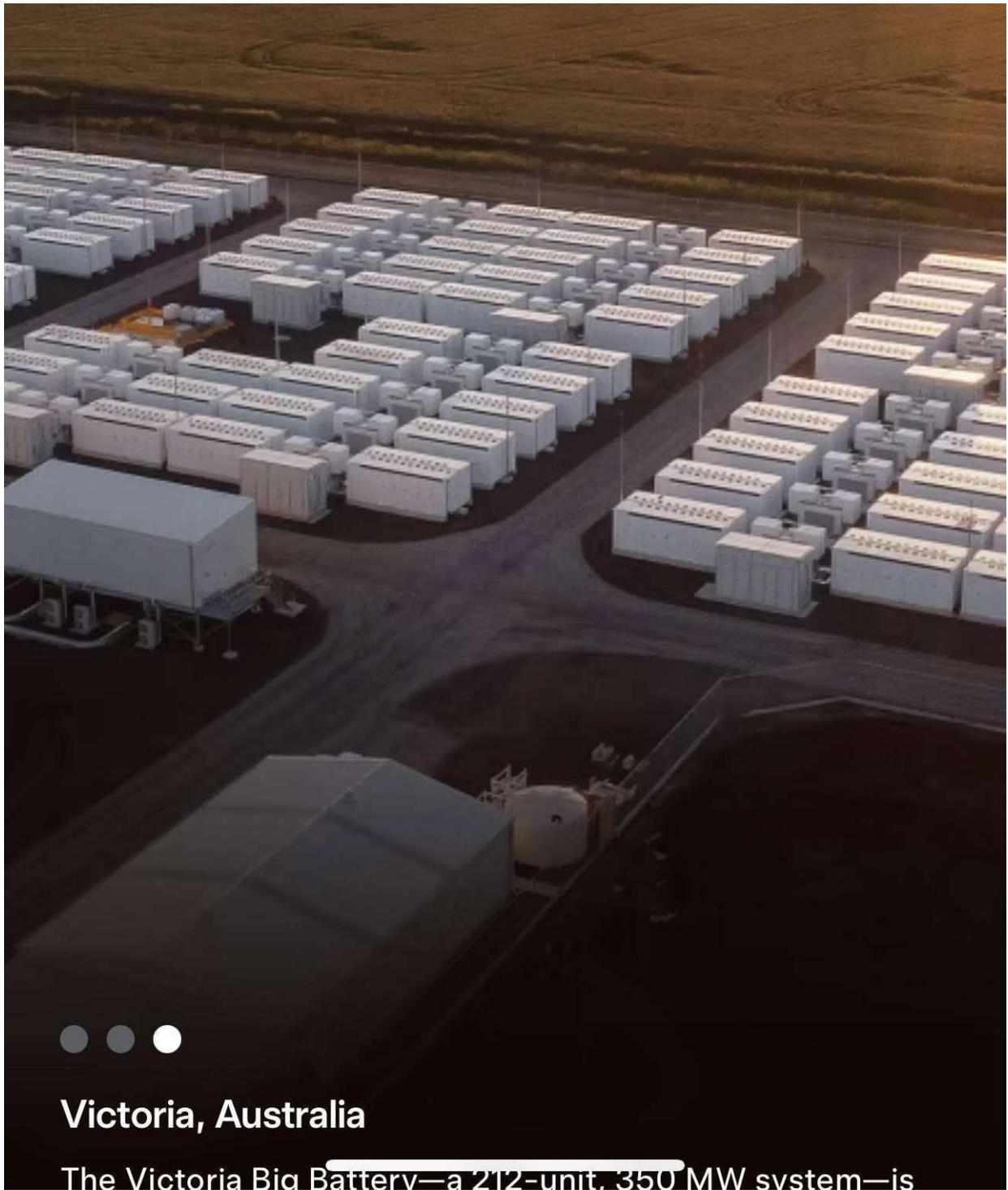
\*\*\*\*CAUTION:This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.\*\*\*\*

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.



## Victoria, Australia

The Victoria Big Battery—a 212-unit, 350 MW system—is

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

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

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

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 16<sup>th</sup>.

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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 Flouride "burned itself up," however Hydrogen Flouride is not combustable, and when it meets with water it turns into hydroflouric 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

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

From: Yonat Michaelov [REDACTED]  
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2025 9:53 PM  
To: Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto: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

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

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

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

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

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**From:** Evan Benevento [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 20, 2025 8:45 AM  
**To:** Board Of Supervisors <[boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov](mailto: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

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**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

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

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You fine folks and the Monterey 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

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**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