



AGENDA NO: PC

MEETING DATE: October 11, 2022

**AGENDA CORRESPONDENCE
RECEIVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
PUBLIC REVIEW PRIOR TO THE MEETING**

Dana Swanson

From: Pamela Dougherty [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2022 4:09 PM
To: Council
Subject: Re: Letter to the City Council regarding Vistra facility

CAUTION: This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

I meant to add please include this in the public records and minutes for the next City Council meeting, without my address and phone number.

Thank you,
Pam

On Tue, Sep 27, 2022 at 11:13 AM Pamela Dougherty [REDACTED] wrote:

Greetings Mayor and Council Members,

I have attached a letter regarding my concerns about the Vistra lithium battery storage facility proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration,

Pam Dougherty

[REDACTED]
Morro Bay, CA, 93442
[REDACTED]

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Pamela Dougherty

September 27, 2022

Greetings Mayor and Council Members,

My name is Pam Dougherty, and I am a resident of Morro Bay. I moved here five years ago, and I'm still stunned by the beauty of this area, and I feel fortunate to call Morro Bay my home.

I am writing today to share my concerns about the Vistra lithium battery storage facility being proposed in Morro Bay. When I first learned of this, I was surprised, as I am aware that Morro Bay is a [Marine Protected Area](#) and part of the [National Estuary Program](#), so I don't understand how this facility can even be allowed to be built here. Dozens of protected species depend on us. As well, tourists flock here on weekends and holidays because it's a beautiful and safe place to enjoy the outdoors and the coast.

I understand the need to sustain California's energy grid, and it's clear there are economic benefits to Morro Bay, such as huge increases in property tax revenue. But the risks seem to outweigh the benefits. By now we are all aware of the Moss Landing facility fire that took place last week. Vistra built that facility as well. As a result of the fire, residents were told to shelter in place for a full day, and the highway was closed for hours. [After the Moss Landing fire, residents are still worried for their safety](#):

"We know that in battery fires, lithium battery fires, there are toxics that are released. Among those are hydrogen fluoride gas and hydrochloric acid, which is also a gas," Richard Stedman, an air pollution control officer for the Monterey Bay Air Resources District, said. These toxic gas emissions can cause nausea, headaches and eye irritation. Limited studies have been done on a battery fire's long-term health consequences.

The Moss Landing fire is not an isolated incident, as explained in an article in the Washington Post this morning, September 27, 2022, [Tesla's Big Batteries aren't the fire problem. Lithium is.](#)

Across the world, grid-scale batteries are combusting because of issues like overheating and manufacturing defects. The common thread is that these are lithium-ion chemistry, now the most prevalent type in energy storage systems. The large-scale use comes with significant risks...

As well, a FEMA Report titled, [Emerging Hazards of Battery Energy Storage System Fires](#) from October, 2020 states:

Unfortunately, these lithium cells can experience thermal runaway which causes them to release very hot flammable, toxic gases. In large storage systems, failure of one lithium cell can cascade to include hundreds of individual cells. The hot flammable gases can result in an explosion, or a very difficult to extinguish fire. As well, there remain many questions about the toxicity of the battery vent gas.

This is not the time, nor place for the world's largest lithium battery storage facility. The risks are already known. Public safety should come first. Let's protect our community, the animals in our marine protected area, and let's not put our firefighters at risk, nor desecrate Chumash sacred sites.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Pam Dougherty

[REDACTED], Morro Bay, CA
[REDACTED]

From: [Tim Hixson](#)
To: [Heather Goodwin](#); [John Headding](#); [Council](#); [Scott Collins](#)
Subject: Agenda Correspondence For Next Regular Meeting
Date: Saturday, October 1, 2022 12:08:33 PM

CAUTION: This is an external email. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

I feel the size of the Bess project is totally wrong, very dangerous & way too big for its proposed location on our waterfront in Morro Bay. Do you really want Morro Bay to have the Largest Battery storage facility in the World as it's claim to fame? Please be clear, that I am not opposed to the idea of a battery storage facility. I am horribly opposed & frightened at the thought of it going in at its proposed location on our waterfront with its proximity to MB high School, all the nearby tourist trade & a huge percentage of Morro Bay's population downwind of that dangerous monster.

Another huge negative factor is this: Are we painting a huge target on our backs for terrorism? It would be a full scale catastrophe.

Another negative for the proposed location is this: If a tsunami threat was a reason to move the Sewer Treatment Plant, how is a tsunami threat not a real issue with all those Lithium Ion batteries that are that close to the bay which is wide open to the ocean? Lithium Ion batteries react horribly when exposed to water!!

Please review the video below that demonstrates the danger of 1 AA lithium ion battery. On the scale of the proposed Bess facility it would be unthinkable.

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/yGDkiUAwxRs>

Please decide against the Bess facility in its proposed location.

Tim & Kim Hixson
Morro Bay, Ca.