

Public Comments Received after September 22, 2023,
through September 25, 2023

Proposed Notice of Public Hearing – Receive and
File Planning Division Renewable Energy
Assessment Case No. PL23-0075

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The following attached public comments were received via email from September 22, 2023, until noon September 25, 2023.

1	Kira Krukowski	24	Ken Gorski
2	Sabrina Venskus	25	David Harris
3	Dana Smith	26	Michael Gollub MD
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20	Richard Brand		
21	Deby Quandt		
22	Shirley McLaughlin		
23	Rick Barron		

From: [Kira Krukowski](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:06:58 PM

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I vehemently oppose the use of farmland for Batter Storage. This issue should be open to a vote under SOAR. These facilities are required to have a SOAR vote. Do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Kira Krukowski

From: [Sabrina Venskus](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:10:54 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

Please require a SOAR vote on battery storage projects. While I fully support battery storage projects and facilities, there are PLENTY of already paved-over areas where these projects can be placed. We have relatively little open space and agricultural land, and the state legislature's increasingly draconian land use bills seeking to take away local control over land use decisions is adding insult to injury. Ventura County has a great quality of life attracting people and business precisely because of SOAR; SOAR has ensured that this county has a healthy balance of open space, agricultural land, housing and commercial/industry. Please respect the People of Ventura County by respecting the SOAR initiative, and ensure that these battery storage projects taking the place of our open space and agricultural land are subject to a SOAR vote.

Thank you,

Sabrina Venskus
Attorney at Law

 **2015-2023**

Venskus & Associates, A.P.C.
www.lawsy.com and www.housingrightslaw.com

603 West Ojai Avenue, Suite F
Ojai, CA 93023
phone - 805.272.8628

1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1996
Los Angeles, CA 90017
phone - 213.482.4200

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From: [Dana](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:11:35 PM

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To the Supervisors

Please let the voters make the decisions on the placement of these battery storage facilities.

Thank you,

Dana Smith

2222 Palomar Ave

Ventura

From: [Marianne](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:13:51 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

I understand that there will be a vote on Tuesday on how to process requests by developers to build battery storage facilities, including whether to honor SOAR's vote of the people. I believe that these facilities are required to have a SOAR vote, and voters should have a say. Thank you for your consideration.

Marianne Slaughter
Dee Press
1656 Riente St, Camarillo, CA 93010

From: [Kevin Cannon](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:15:06 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear Supervisors,

We believe voters should decide development projects that propose paving over farmland and open space. Voters locked in that right when they voted SOAR into law. In the case of large-scale battery storage facilities, including one of the world's largest proposed on farmland outside of Moorpark, County of Ventura staff also agree a SOAR vote is required. We urge the Board of Supervisors to not bypass our right to vote.

Please honor SOAR's vote of the people.

Battery storage facilities (also known as Battery Energy Storage Systems – BESS) should require a SOAR vote, and voters should have a say!

Sincerely,
Kevin & Linda Cannon
11621 Presilla Rd
Santa Rosa Valley

From: [Laurie Rutledge](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:22:37 PM

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Hello Ventura County Supervisors,

I urge you to honor SOAR and mandate a vote to the citizens of Ventura before you allow battery storage outside of Moorpark. Once paved over or taken out of agriculture, we will never again have this land for production. This is why the citizens of Ventura Co passed SOAR to begin with!

Laurie Rutledge

[805-340-4854](tel:805-340-4854)

Ventura

Laurie4homes@aol.com

LaurieRutledge.com

From: [nancy tamarin](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:24:32 PM

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I am writing to object to the prospect o BESS facilities in Ventura County. I worked on the campaign to make Soar law and it IS law. We need farmlands. The environmental damages that are happening are destroying our agriculture and we need not make it worse. I urge you to reject this proposal.

Nancy Tamarin
Thousand Oaks, CA

Sent from my iPad

From: [thayerfam](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:25:40 PM

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I support SOAR's position on this item. Please honor the rights of your constituents to decide these kind of decisions!

Greg Thayer

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S21 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

From: [gina.cole](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:45:35 PM

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I believe this item Number votes should be within the constants of Soar and it should not be by-passed
Sean

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kate Faulkner](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75: SOAR Vote on proposed Battery storage facility on zoned-Agriculture land
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 4:51:09 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear County Board of Supervisors,

I am one of the majority of Ventura County voters who supported the SOAR land use initiative.

I have seen the positive results of this rational land use policy that has protected open space between our cities and reduced housing sprawl.

Ventura County voters clearly want to vote for any change of zoning for Ag or open-space land. The SOAR initiatives removed the power of rezoning from the Board of Supervisors.

I request that the Board honor the clear will of Ventura County residents. Allow a public discussion and vote on the proposed site of the battery storage facility.

Sincerely,
Kate Faulkner
159 Coronado Street
Ventura, CA 93001
kerfaulkner@gmail.com

From: [Wm Kidd](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:16:37 PM

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I urge you to vote no on the battery building to be built, no matter where in Ventura County. I do not want our beautiful county looking like the N. E. San Fernando Valley.

Signed,

William A Kidd

2743 Redondo Avenue

Santa Rosa Valley.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Millie Seidman](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:27:35 PM

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To our Supervisors,
Please acknowledge that Soar voters have the right to reject the battery storage facility. That is not what farmland is for.
Thank you.
Mildred Seidman
20210 Village 20
Camarillo, Ca.
93012

From: montana467@roadrunner.com
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:29:35 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear Ventura County Board members:

The proposed battery storage facility (BESS) to be built on farmland outside of Moorpark requires a vote of the public under SOAR legislation. Let voters decide.

Judith Gustafson
410 Church Road Unit 40
Ojai CA 93023
805-646-3692

From: [Michael M](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:29:44 PM

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Do not build anything. Do not have the water and you made a promise to the citizens of TO not to turn out community into the SFV....failing lately. We used to be the safest city in America....but no more. Fight for us or you will hear my voice on election day

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Chris Reinhart](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:36:08 PM

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We have the right to vote on any large project effecting Ventura County, especially protected farmland.

Chris and Suzy Reinhart
Ventura City Residents, since 1989

From: [Regina Barnes](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 5:37:10 PM

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TO: the Board of Supervisors

I understand that the Board of Supervisors will be voting on how to proceed with battery storage facilities (i.e. BESS) including whether to honor SOAR's vote of the people at your meeting this Tuesday, September 26, 2023. These facilities are required to have a SOAR vote. When SOAR was unanimously approved by the voters the understanding was that the voters would have the right to decide proposals that would pave over farmland or open space.

The citizens of Ventura County will be best served if the Board of Supervisors follow the County's land use process. You should review and certify an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), vote on the project and if you approve the EIR, submit it to the voters for their approval. This makes for a more transparent process.

Thank you.

Regina Barnes
Ventura resident

From: [karen tamang](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 6:09:47 PM

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To the Board of Supervisors,

I've lived in Ventura for 30 years, and have watched in dismay as farmland is being plowed under and turned into closely-packed housing developments. I've watched farmland being converted into large warehouses and polluting industrial parks. I've watched more traffic, more pavement and more non-natural things happen to my beloved Ventura County.

SOAR was a way for those of us residents who love Ventura County, with all it encompasses, to protect Ventura County. Controlling growth and where it happens is the primary goal of SOAR. Please don't bypass what the residents and voters of Ventura County worked so hard to put into place. Once that wild land or farmland is gone, it can never, ever come back. Upcoming projects that may impact SOAR land requires a SOAR vote. Honor those who vote.

Thank you –

Karen Tamang

105 N Katherine Dr.

Ventura CA 93003

805-320-3743

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Louise Roberts](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 6:09:50 PM

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The battery storage facilities request that you will be voting on this Tuesday requires a vote of the people (a SOAR vote). The voters of Ventura County have made their choice to give the power to decide development on farmland and open spaces to a vote of the people, by overwhelmingly passing SOAR initiatives throughout the County and then renewing them until 2050. Please honor their hard work and commitment.

Thank you,
Louise and Mike Roberts
2441 Blanchard Pl
Santa Rosa Valley, CA

From: [elizabeth.vaccaro](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 7:25:01 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear Supervisors,

A SOAR vote is mandatory prior to building BESS. Open space is critical in our county!

You are obligated to obey the law and honor the SOAR vote. Shame on you for acting against the public's interest!!!

Elizabeth Vaccaro
1028 Deseo Avenue
Camarillo Ca 93010
805-490-9162

From: [Richard Brand](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Saturday, September 23, 2023 9:48:59 PM

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I am concerned about taking more land for development in areas covered by SOAR and want a vote

From: [DebyQuandt](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 8:25:08 AM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Please respect our votes and keep open space OPEN. We vote for SOAR and continue to support it. Do NOT use open space for Battery Storage or other building.

Blessings from my iPhone
Deby Quandt

From: [Shirley McLaughlin](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 8:33:15 AM

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Dear Board of Supervisors

I support a SOAR vote regarding battery storage facilities. The people have the right to vote on such matters. It is our democratic right. Thank you for reading my opinion. Best regards.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rick Barron](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 9:32:58 AM

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I am sure you know that a public vote is needed to build on Ventura County farmland. Shame on you if the supervisors try to circumvent the process ! Voters will remember how you decide to proceed.

Long time resident and voter- Ricardo Barron (rpbarron@gmail.com)

From: [Ken Gorski](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 10:05:14 AM

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The voters approved SOAR so that we have a say in the future of our community. In a Democracy the populace is supposed to have a voice. We have spoken and strongly urge you to consider our opposition to the proposed battery storage facility.

--

Sincerely
Ken Gorski
805 290 0676

From: [David Harris](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 10:33:52 AM

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Dear Clerk of the Board,

I believe that voters should have a say, according to guidelines required by SOAR, in the proposed development of the BESS facility.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Harris
Ventura

From: [Michael Gollub](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 10:54:34 AM

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To the Ventura County Board of Supervisors:

Please respect the SOAR law that mandates that Ventura County voters determine by vote the acceptability of changing the zoning of our agricultural lands.

We should decide whether anything, including Battery Storage Facilities, may be built on land currently zoned open space or agricultural.

I especially call on my former Ventura County First Five Commission fellow and sister Commissioners to encourage the rest of the Board to follow the Soar regulations.

Sincerely,

Michael Gollub MD

From: [Joanne Kaplan](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 11:06:55 AM

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We, the public, the voters of Ventura County, voted for SOAR. We have the right to vote for or against the sale of our precious farmland to developers for a huge battery storage facility. Please honor our right to vote on this proposal.

Thank you...Joanne Kaplan, Ventura

From: [Diana Troik](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 11:35:52 AM

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There should be a SOAR vote on the building of large scale battery storage facilities. Voters need to have a say on this issue.

Diana Troik

Diana Troik, Camarillo, CA 93010
805-388-0959

From: [chris williamson](#)
To: [Nielsen, Donald](#); [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: BOS meeting of Sept 26, Item 75, will be sending comment letter by Noon Monday
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 11:44:41 AM

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Hello..

Just a note that Wellhead Electric will be sending a comment letter by the Noon Monday deadline for the Tuesday BOS hearing Item 75, time certain at 2:30.
2 pages, maybe 3.

Might be right before Noon - trying to get President to review and sign !!

--

Dr Chris Williamson, AICP
213-509-1213 all the time cell

From: [John Holroyd](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 2:43:09 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

The "Rule of Law" should come first. Development on agricultural land in Ventura County Requires an election. Back up and do this thing right. If you want to develop a battery storage facility on agricultural land, schedule a vote as required by law.

John Holroyd, Thousand Oaks

From: [Jim Ford](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 5:54:30 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear Board Members:

Because SOAR was voted into law, proposed projects such as the Battery Storage Systems (BESS) on farmland outside of Moorpark, require a vote of the people.

Sincerely,
James Ford
3464 Brokenhill St.
Newbury Park, CA 91320-5501
jfoaviator@gmail.com
805-551-2930

From: [Jeannette Welling](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 7:52:07 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

To: Board of Supervisors

A SOAR vote must be required for the proposed Battery Energy Storage System.

Voters must have a say in this decision

Thank you.

Jeannette Welling
2450 Pleasant Way Unit G
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

From: [William Girvetz](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Sunday, September 24, 2023 10:27:09 PM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

To the Supervisors:

I am alarmed at the apparent effort to fast-track the proposal for a quite massive battery storage facility in Ventura County, in particular the attempt to bypass the SOAR requirement for voter approval. Certainly the need to provide for non-warming energy has to be given some priority but not at the expense of creating more problems than are solved. Those problems include not only compromising voted on and now well-established open-space and urban-sprawl standards but also the potential for leakage of toxic gases into the atmosphere, which in fact has occurred elsewhere from a project similar to the one proposed.

There is good reason therefore not to neglect an Environmental Impact Report or to deny full opportunity for the voters to ratify any subsequent approval given as required by SOAR.

William Girvetz
Ventura

From: [Nilufer Torun](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [Nilufer Torun](#)
Subject: Agenda Item Number 75
Date: Monday, September 25, 2023 1:24:43 AM

WARNING: If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to Email.Security@ventura.org.

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

The development of large-scale battery storage facilities are required to have a SOAR vote. Voters should have a say on how open space is developed as we voted SOAR into law!

I urge you each to do the right thing and respect the voters rights under the law.

Respectfully,

Nilufer Torun
P.O. Box 744
Ojai, CA 93024-0744

We believe you should decide development projects that propose paving over farmland and open space. Voters locked in that right when they voted SOAR into law. In the case of large-scale battery storage facilities, including one of the world's largest proposed on farmland outside of Moorpark, County of Ventura staff also agree a SOAR vote is required. Yet, the Board of Supervisors could bypass your right.

On Tuesday the Board of Supervisors will vote on how to process requests by developers to build battery storage facilities (also known as Battery Energy Storage Systems – BESS), including whether to honor SOAR's vote of the people.

We urge you to contact the Board and let them know these facilities are required to have a SOAR vote, and voters should have a say!



Wellhead Electric Company, Inc.
650 Bercut Drive Suite C
Sacramento, CA 95811

September 25, 2023

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

RE: Item No. 75: Public Comment

**Planning Division Assessment to Identify Suitable Lands and Priority Areas
for the Development of Renewable Energy Generation and Storage Projects
(PL23-0075)**

Honorable Ventura County Supervisors:

Wellhead Electric Company, Inc. (Wellhead) is a privately held 40-year-old California-based developer and operator of innovative power generation and energy storage facilities with over 500 MW of power generation and energy storage locations throughout the State.

Wellhead supports the County's efforts to identify suitable locations for renewable and energy storage facilities with continued support for agricultural and retention of open space. Suitable locations are those with good access to the electric transmission which have available capacity and are not just suitable but also viable.

The County's "GIS overlay" approach does not include information about which transmission and distribution lines have available capacity. In general, but not universally, the electric transmission and distribution lines have very limited capacity and the County's assessment represents an inaccurate statement of the viable Megawatts (MW's) and locations. A good example of a transmission line with significant available capacity would be the SCE 230 kV transmission lines crossing the Bailard Landfill as discussed more below.

In general, Wellhead supports the assessment approach and findings and offers the following comments and suggestions for your consideration.

Comment 1: The SCE 230kV transmission lines between the SCE Santa Clara substation in Ventura city and the decommissioned Mandalay Generation Station in Oxnard are de-energized with capacity for substantial interconnection without the need for new tie-in transmission lines if storage is located under or adjacent to these specific, existing transmission lines. The assessment methodology does not recognize

this unique opportunity and, instead, uses a "0-6 miles" (Assessment Appendix 'A' page 20) to assign '1' point. Storage opportunities along this unique transmission corridor are undervalued by the assessment scoring.

Suggestion 1: Adjust the energy storage GIS evaluation scoring methodology to add an additional '2' points to the geographic areas immediately under and along the Santa Clara Substation to Mandalay SCE transmission lines.

Comment 2: In general, the assessment treats solar, wind, and storage projects as a primary use replacing current land uses instead of recognizing co-location opportunities such that solar, wind, and storage projects could be accessory uses under certain development standards and conditions. Wind farms and solar 'trees' may be developed within orchards and row crops and feasible utility-scale battery storage units can be placed within orchards and farms on as few as 10 acres leaving most AG and OS parcels unchanged. The added revenue to AG operators would help maintain the industry, serve as readily available on-site back-up energy, and lead to the use of electric-powered farm equipment and vehicles that are charged from the accessory energy uses. And, as accessory uses to the continuing AG and OS uses, the portion of a zoning code amendment would not require SOAR voter approval.

Suggestion 2: Direct staff to include the three uses as Accessory Uses in OS and AG zoning with appropriate development standards (size, location, fire control, visual, etc.) and move an Accessory Use zoning code amendment forward in advance of the proposed code amendments that require a SOAR vote.

Comment 3: The staff report discussion of CUPA sites (page 24) does not specifically list "closed landfill." Wellhead is working with the Ventura Regional Sanitation District (VRSD) to assess the feasibility of an energy storage project within the SCE 220-foot wide 230 kV and 66 kV transmission and distribution lines ROW that crosses the closed Bailard Landfill located west of Victoria Avenue and south of the Santa Clara River. This site clearly has additional regulatory issues with the RMA's Environmental Health Division and CalRecycle at the State level. This location could be a "win-win" that provides revenue to the VRSD and brings substantial energy storage on-line as early as 2025 that directly benefits public safety in the west county area.

Suggestion 3: Direct County Executive Officer Savet Johnson to notice County staff in various departments to prioritize working with the VRSD and Wellhead as we jointly explore project feasibility that involves with Fire Department, RMA, Public Works Watershed Management, and other offices in the coming months.

Wellhead looks forward to working with County staff and the VRSD to develop an energy storage facility that will greatly enhance public safety by providing energy storage in close proximity to public safety facilities such as water pumps, fire stations, and hospitals.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Harold E. Dittmer

E5F237AC88EC4DC...

Harold Dittmer

President

Wellhead Electric Company, Inc

Sacramento, CA

DS
PC

DS
BFF