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**Op-Ed: Stop these dangerous battery storage sites before it's too late | The Coast News Group**

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From Kaye <kaye@coopmead.com>

Date Mon 5/12/2025 10:39 AM

To Dominic J. Sisneros <djsisneros@santafecountynm.gov>; Alexandra Ladd <aladd@santafecountynm.gov>

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Hi Dominic:

This is an excellent May 7, 2025, Op-Ed piece in the California Coast News written by Assemblyman Carl DeMaio from CA State Assembly District 75. He has introduced AB 434, "Safe and Secure Battery Storage Act", legislation which places a two year moratorium on constructing new large-scale battery storage sites extending through January 1, 2028.

He states, **"The placement of these sites is not energy innovation; it's negligence dressed up in green branding. In the name of "clean energy," Sacramento politicians are allowing hazardous infrastructure to be forced into residential neighborhoods while turning a blind eye to the very real environmental dangers these sites pose. The same lawmakers who constantly preach about protecting the planet are nowhere to be found when a battery fire blankets a community in toxic smoke."**

DeMaio ends with **"Public safety is not negotiable. No family should be forced to live in fear because of what gets built next door. It is time we put people before politics and protect our communities before it is too late."**

California has experienced the Moss Landing disaster so they now know first hand that these burning lithium-ion batteries' smoke contains heavy metal contamination from the batteries that blankets the area for miles. Heavy metals are lighter than air so they travel great distances. Metal contamination has been found in Santa Cruz which is 42 miles from the Moss Landing battery facility. That would certainly cover all of Santa Fe so if the people in Santa Fe think they are safe from this facility; they are not.

AES lies when they say the contamination will not escape the container. All BESS containers require deflagration panels on top to release the smoke, filled with these heavy metal contaminants, in order for the container to not explode from the build up of toxic gases. There is no way to stop the toxic smoke as it must be released and in fact, the new NFPA 69 which is coming and will add more active ventilation to containers just means they will release more of the toxic gases from the batteries as they degrade on a regular and ongoing basis for 35 years.

We should not be forced to live in fear as DeMaio recognizes is the case when siting BESS facilities near neighborhoods. This is totally unnecessary when there are 9 million acres of state land available for solar development and 3 million acres from the BLM under their revised Western Solar plan available right now for solar development. This facility needs to be sited away from neighborhoods and the Turquoise Trail School.

Kaye

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