

Riley Rhodes

From: Donovan Arteaga
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 5:55 AM
To: Riley Rhodes
Subject: FW: Public comment for Planning commission meeting 02/11/2026 Re: BESS

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Received this public comment for today’s PC. I don’t believe it is about an item on the agenda? So it should be entered as the last item (written communications). Please be sure to post online and print for the commissioners (if you have time also email them).

Best,



Donovan Arteaga

Planner I
Community Development & Infrastructure
Phone: 831-454-2801
701 Ocean Street, Room 400

From: LINDA SANTOS <lmsanto@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:04 PM
To: Donovan Arteaga <Donovan.Arteaga@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Public comment for Planning commission meeting 02/11/2026 Re: BESS

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Planning Commission:

Regarding the BESS ordinance , you need to have an AG viability analysis report performed by a third party and not by the developer or their consultant . This report is very biased and I believe contains multiple false or exaggerated information. Not to mention the very select and distorted photos provided which are very deceiving There is no soil report to back up the soil classifications and it makes no sense that there is an invisible line down a small portion of the property separating level 1 soil and level 5. The trees look the same on either side if you go take a look for yourselves . It’s a very convenient report for the developer to have a small strip of level 5 soil next to the road. There needs to be a thorough independent report made with actual real on site soil data results. You can not use the current AG viability

report provided by Swift, the developers paid consultant, for decisions in abandoning prime AG land. It is beyond a conflict of interest. Further, measure J clearly states to PRESERVE AG land, full stop. Regardless of what financial statements say. I saw no mention if these were even audited statements or who actually created them. This orchard clearly grows apples in the exact location proposed to sit the BESS. This will become a liability in the future for the County without doing the proper due diligence. AG land is precious and not to be tossed aside without a fight. Please stand up for our AG land! Please insist on requiring accurate, third part detailed analysis. Also it's unbelievable the Commission on the Environment has been taken out of the process and further restricting the public from participating in public comments. This is an extremely environmentally sensitive project and should remain a part of the process. What is their purpose if not for this exact type of project??? The need to have input on the approval of this ordinance. The ordinance is not protecting our environment and in fact is detrimental now and in the future.

thank you,
Linda Santos