

This petition is submitted in great opposition to the SCE/Hecate “HUMIDOR” and the Avantis “Angeleno” large capacity Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects currently proposed as well as any future proposed BESS facilities submitted for development within and bordering the Acton area.

It is known that BESS Lithium-ion facilities are at risk for “THERMAL RUNAWAY”.

This can result in fires, swelling, leakage of electrolyte, venting, smoking, explosions and potential release of toxic gases. Whether the fire starts from this common thermal runaway or from another, even external source, the BESS facilities would pose great risk to residents in our community. There is also a known risk of Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) exposure, since even the small batteries of electric vehicles can expose firefighters during a rescue following a collision or vehicle fire.

With risk of fire, explosion, leakage, smoke, EMF exposure and release of toxic gases in mind, we oppose any and all proposed BESS sites located in or bordering Acton due to them being:

- a. Located within the designated VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD area of Acton where many residents have either received fire insurance cancellations or dramatic premium increases in the past year.
- b. Located within Los Angeles County’s designated Significant Ecological Area (SEA)
- c. Located over the Antelope Valley/Acton groundwater basin that is the water source for many residents on wells, with potential to contaminate the water source.
- d. Located within the Upper Santa Clara River Watershed
- e. Located in close proximity to many homes and ranches who would be potentially exposed to health and safety risks, including cancer-causing EMF, have a potentially unsafe water source, suffer substantial financial losses due to lowered property values and property selling hardship, and suffer visual blight of these industrial developments in what should be rural landscape.

In addition, these BESS facilities are prone to MECHANICAL INDUCED HAZARDS such as vibration, shock and seismic activity.

Even transportation of the components has been shown to be a source of vibration significant enough to cause defects. These mechanical hazards can cause internal construction defects resulting in short circuiting and high temperatures which in turn can cause catastrophic thermal runaway.

With these vibration, shock and seismic vulnerabilities in mind, we oppose any proposed BESS Facilities within Acton or bordering Acton for the following reasons:

- a. Located near the planned, preferred underground SR-14A route for the Burbank to Palmdale section of the California High Speed Rail, a potential source of significant vibration.
- b. In extreme proximity to the San Andreas fault, an active and constant source of seismic activity.

The lithium-ion large capacity batteries used in BESS facilities are also vulnerable to THERMAL HAZARD.

High and low temperatures can lead to different unsafe conditions such as decomposition of the electrolyte and solid electrolyte interface layer, destabilization of the cathode and anode that eventually lead to a violent venting, fire, and thermal runaway.

In reference to THERMAL HAZARDS, we are opposed to BESS Facilities within or bordering Acton due to:

a. Acton being located in the high desert region, known to have more extreme climate, with it being normal to dip well below freezing during the winter months and soar above 100 degrees during the summer, therefore a BESS would be at risk for a THERMAL hazard.

The Avantus “Angeleno” project with a proposed 1,150 MEGAWATT/4,600 MWhours capacity is mammoth in size, with nearly 3 times more capacity than the Vistra Energy facility in Moss Landing, CA, currently the largest BESS in the world. Even with an expansion Vistra has planned with PG&E for an additional 350MW/1,400MWhours, the “Angeleno” will still be 30% larger in capacity! And to validate our concerns of thermal runaway and the dangers associated with it, the Vistra facility shut down between September 2021 and July 2022 due to “overheating problems”, aka thermal runaway. Acton is a quiet rural town and lies within a designated Rural Preservation Area. Projects of this type and scope do not comply with our AV Area Plan nor the County General Plan. The approval of projects such as this would require amendment to the General Plan and would be in complete contradiction to the existing protections put in place for Acton.

Therefore the residents of Acton, along with residents of neighboring rural community Agua Dulce, strongly reject the approval of any and all BESS facilities for all the above stated reasons. We urge you to NOT APPROVE AMENDMENTS to the County General Plan that would enable the approval of any currently proposed projects in Acton such as the HUMIDOR and the ANGELENO, as well as any that may be proposed in the future.

**Thank you,
Acton Takes Action, Community Task Force in representation of the residents of Acton and Agua Dulce, CA, whose signatures appear on the accompanying petitions.**

We, the below signed residents of Acton and Agua Dulce are united in extreme opposition to the HUMIDOR and ANGELENO Projects, two currently proposed, as well as any future proposed large capacity Lithium- Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities within and bordering the community of Acton for reasons stated in the submitted attached document.

NAME

SIGNATURE

ADDRESS