

JANUARY 9, 2024 AT 4.31 PM PT

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RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE WITH LA COUNTY FIRE CHIEF MARRONE WISHING TO GAIN CLARIFICATION ON A STATEMENT HE MADE REGARDING THE METHOD OF FIRE SUPPRESSION FOR THE HUMIDOR BESS WHICH WAS MADE AT THE APPEAL HEARING

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SUBJECT: Questions Regarding Humidor BESS Project

Dear Chief Marrone,

As you observed and heard on December 19th, the residents of Acton are extremely concerned over the Hecate Humidor BESS being developed in our community. We responded in a significant number to attend the hearing for our appeal to the NOE to CEQA issued to the Humidor project.

I wish to gain clarification on a statement you made regarding the method of fire suppression for the Humidor BESS which was made at the appeal hearing.

You stated that water would NOT be used to suppress a fire incident?

If not water to suppress a fire or thermal runaway, then what method of suppression would be utilized by County HazMat personnel during an incident? It's already been shown that non-conductive, aerosolized clean agents are not effective, and in fact actually increased the probability for the deflagration incident at the McMicken BESS in April of 2019. The clean agent was successful in suppressing any active flame but allowed super-heated, highly flammable toxic gases to accumulate down near the container floor, which when the side door of the container was opened, were able to find an ignition source resulting in a tragic deflagration which severely injured responding fire personnel.

Also, the detailed study by the Oxford University Physics Professors in the UK (which I provided to Chief Yanagisawa in an earlier correspondence) clearly provides proof of how ineffective a clean agent suppression system is in stopping or preventing thermal runaway.

So, if LACounty Fire will not be utilizing water in a response to a BESS fire and since clean agents have been proven to be ineffective, what suppression method would be protocol for an incident at this BESS?

Hecate has not been forthcoming with information when I have requested which specific suppression system would be utilized at the Humidor. Their reply is that they will utilize "state-of-the-art technology as required under the fire code"... which does not answer my question.

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In all of my research on lithium-ion batteries and the fire suppression methods used, I can find no other recommended methods being utilized besides water misting, continuous water application or allowing them to burn themselves out, which still requires water to protect from the spread to surrounding structures and areas.

Hecate will now be required by Senate Bill SB38, signed by Governor Newsom on Oct. 7, 2023, to provide an emergency response and action plan that is prepared in coordination with LACounty Fire, and this response and plan must be provided to LACounty as well as the Acton Town Council. As a task force leader in our community I am requesting this information from them also. I am assuming this will now be in lieu of a Hazard Mitigation Analysis that County Fire had the authority to require?

Or did you indeed require the Humidor developers to provide an HMA?

Chief Marrone, will your HazMat personnel be truly adequately trained for a major event at his BESS? There is no single "tried and true" industry accepted and approved method of mitigation for lithium-ion battery fires. I am thankful my husband served his 30 years on your fine department, ten years in HazMat, and he will no longer be put in harms way with the toxic gases that an incident at this BESS will produce.

Chief, you also stated during the hearing that there have only been 3 Fire incidents at BESS facilities internationally. I believe you know this statement is completely untrue and was very misleading. For instance, a new BESS commissioned in March 2022 in Valley Center, CA (which was also highly contested by the residents) has already had TWO incidents, both requiring a 1/4 mile radius evacuation and 1/2 mile radius shelter in place order. Then there's Vistra and Tesla in Moss Landing, McMicken in Surprise AZ, Dorman in Chandler AZ, the Melba, Idaho substation, the Cove Hollow Road Substation in East Hampton NY, the Tesla Victorian Big Battery in Australia, multiple in South Korea, China, Taiwan.....I will just stop here as I believe my point has been made.

Chief I have spent 8 months educating myself on behalf of our community as to the dangers of lithium-ion battery fires, especially in a grid scale application. There are other more safe technologies that are appropriate in this type of application such as "iron flow" and "iron air". Hecate was not open to even discussing these other technologies with our community.

The LA County Fire Department is regarded as a premiere fire department in the world. Are you willing to let this hasty push for green energy put your citizens in harms way that you were sworn to protect? This is LACoFire's opportunity to set a precedent to not only make sure this project meets fire code but that projects such as these are not irresponsibly sited near residents merely for the financial gain and convenience of the developer. These BESS projects all have identified alternative sites and they must be made to seek development there if away from residential areas, water basins and rivers, significant ecological areas, major highways and railways.

In closing, this is the worldwide data base for BESS incidents around the world. And EVERY incident

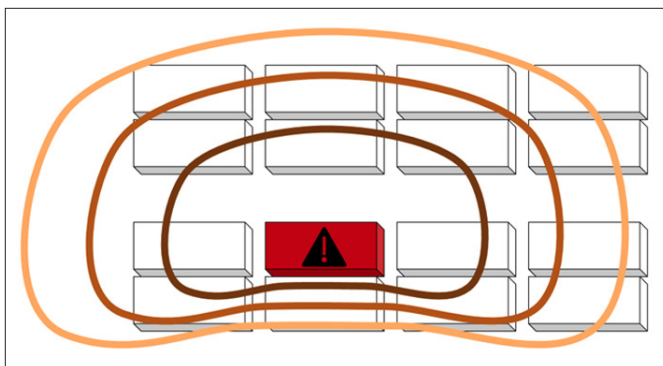
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that involves fire is relevant, whether in America, Australia, South Korea or anywhere else!

Thank you Chief and I will look forward to your reply to my questions regarding the preferred fire suppression method for the LACOFD HazMat future response at the Humidor BESS.

Ruthie Brock

Action Takes Action



### **BESS Failure Event Database - EPRI Storage Wiki**

[https://storagewiki.epri.com/index.php/BESS\\_Failure\\_Event\\_Database](https://storagewiki.epri.com/index.php/BESS_Failure_Event_Database)

### **INFORMATION CROSS LINKS**

1. December 19, 2023 BOS Meeting. Watch the BOS meeting segment regarding the BESS Appeal Hearing to hear Chief Marrone's testimony. Agenda Items 72 & 98-A; Start Time: 3:06:59, End Time 4:11:39.
2. CA Senate Bill SB 38, signed into law Oct. 7, 2023. Emergency Response and Emergency action plan that covers the premises of the battery energy storage facility, consistent with Sections 142.3 and 6401 of the Labor Code and any related regulations, including the regulatory requirements applicable to emergency action plans pursuant to Section 3220 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations. Read the full text of the new law.
3. January 6, 2024. ATA letter to Hecate Grid regarding their compliance to CA SB 38: Emergency Response and Emergency Action Plan that covers the premises of a battery energy storage facility.
4. January 9, 2024. Important Action Takes Action Anti-BESS activity community update. Read the full update!