

RUTH BROCK'S FIRST EMAIL CONTACT WITH LACoFD  
(via the LACoFD Portal)

I represent the community of Acton in unincorporated LA County.

We are in great opposition to the SCE/Hecate "HUMIDOR" project, a large-capacity LITHIUM-ION Battery Energy Storage System (BE.S.S.) that's in preliminary development and seeking approval to be built in the east Acton area in very close proximity to local residents, the 14 Fwy, and in a designated VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD AREA.

With known risks for overheating and thermal runaway which produces highly flammable, superheated toxic gases resulting in potential explosions, we ask that LA County Fire NOT APPROVE this BESS or ANY BESS project for location in or in proximity to our community.

There are TWO MORE projects proposed by the same developer in our area: "Flea Flicker" and "MAATHAI." Another developer, Avantus, seeks to build a FOURTH project in Acton called "ANGELENO" which, if built, will be the LARGEST BESS IN THE WORLD with a mammoth capacity of 1,150 MEGAWATTS/4,600 MEGAWATT hours.

A documented incident at a BESS in Surprise, AZ, injured 8 firefighters and the explosion occurred 3 hours AFTER their internal fire suppression system deployed!

Please, PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THESE PROJECTS FOR THIS LOCATION! Our residents are already facing extreme fire insurance premium increases in the past 3 years, as well as refusal by some carriers to even insure them! LACo has deemed this area to be A VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD. THESE DANGEROUS BESS FACILITIES HAVE NO PLACE IN ACTON!

I am a 31-year resident of Acton and the proud wife of a retired 29-year LACoFD Firefighter Specialist, HAZMAT, who served at HazMat Station 129-Battalion 11, and HazMat Station 76-Battalion 6.

Ruthie Brock  
Acton Takes Action Community Task Force

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RUTH BROCK'S SECOND EMAIL TO LACoFD

*(via the LACoFD Portal – immediately followed the initial email)*

LACoFire,

This is a follow-up to my prior contact email urging LACoFD NOT to approve the HECATE HUMIDOR BESS facility project in Acton.

Please take a moment to read this information regarding a 2019 BESS thermal runaway incident at the McMicken BESS in Surprise, AZ.

If this doesn't make you have second thoughts about sending your firefighters in to potential incidents such as this, then I don't know what will.

My husband retired in 2012, as a 29-year firefighter specialist from HazMat 129 Battalion 11, and also served at Sta. 76 in Battalion 6. What happened here makes me terrified for my son who also serves on Visalia City Fire as a fire captain.

Please read this and know the threat to our Acton residents is as real as it is to your firefighters.

Ruthie Brock

Acton Takes Action Community task Force

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/dispute-erupts-over-what-sparked-an-explosive-liion-energy-storage-accident>

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LETTER TO CHIEF MARIO TRESIERRAS, HEALTH/HAZMAT  
(Third email addressed directly to Chief Mario Tresieras, LACoFD)

Atten: Chief Mario Tresieras, Health/HAZMAT

Chief Tresieras,

I represent the residents of Acton, CA in unincorporated LA County. We are in strong opposition to 7 BESS projects proposed for development in east Acton and bordering Acton. We are in a VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD area, yet these BESS projects are being considered. One, the "Angeleno" by Avantus, will be the largest BESS in the WORLD with a capacity of 1,150 MW if approved.

We strongly urge you not to approve of these dangerous BESS being located near our community and our residents who have limited ingress and egress. The risk of thermal runaway is tremendous and developers have not yet found effective means to prevent or suppress thermal runaway events.

In our efforts to educate ourselves about this common catastrophic event in large capacity BESS lithium-ion battery applications, we have come across an excellent U.K. study done by 2 professors of physics and a Fellow from the Institute of Physics. The information here dissects the thermal runaway phenomenon and proves the ineffectiveness of the internal fire suppression clean agent deployment. After the 2019 McMicken BESS incident in Surprise, AZ that gravely injured 2 firefighters and sent several others to the hospital, LACo Fire surely would not want to have a similar event risking your firefighters.

As a proud wife of a retired 29 year LACoFD firefighter specialist HAZMAT who served Batt. 6 Sta. 76 and Batt. 11 Sta. 129, I ask that you please read this report and DO NOT SUPPORT ANY BESS PROJECTS IN PROXIMITY OF RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES!

Thank you,

Ruthie Brock  
Acton, CA

[https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Wade-Allison/publication/352158070\\_Safety\\_of\\_Grid\\_Scale\\_Lithium-ion\\_Battery\\_Energy\\_Storage\\_Systems/links/60bbaa59299bf10dff9c66f9/Safety-of-Grid-Scale-Lithium-ion-Battery-Energy-Storage-Systems.pdf](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Wade-Allison/publication/352158070_Safety_of_Grid_Scale_Lithium-ion_Battery_Energy_Storage_Systems/links/60bbaa59299bf10dff9c66f9/Safety-of-Grid-Scale-Lithium-ion-Battery-Energy-Storage-Systems.pdf)

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LACOFD CHIEF YANAGISAWA'S RESPONSE TO RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL TO CHIEF TRESIERRAS

*On Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 7:14 AM Albert Yanagisawa responded and wrote:*

Dear Ruthie Brock,

Thank you for reaching out and expressing your concerns regarding the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects in Acton, CA. We appreciate your dedication to the safety and well-being of your community.

We understand that you and the residents of Acton are strongly opposed to the development of these BESS projects due to the high fire hazard in the area. The potential risks associated with thermal runaway events and the current limitations in preventing or suppressing such incidents are indeed valid concerns.

You mentioned a study conducted by two professors of physics and a Fellow from the Institute of Physics in the UK, which highlights the ineffectiveness of internal fire suppression clean agents in large capacity BESS lithium-ion battery applications. We recognize the importance of considering such research and ensuring the safety of both the community and our firefighters.

The incident at the McMicken BESS facility in Surprise, AZ, in 2019, resulting in injuries to firefighters, serves as a stark reminder of the potential dangers associated with these projects. The Los Angeles County Fire Department shares your commitment to firefighter safety and takes such incidents seriously.

Given the concerns raised by the residents of Acton and the potential risks involved, we assure you that your letter has been duly noted. As responsible authorities, it is our responsibility to carefully evaluate all aspects, including safety considerations, before making any decisions regarding the approval of these projects.

We will take into account the information you have shared, including the study you mentioned, in our assessment of the proposed BESS projects. Our priority is to ensure the safety of the community and to make informed decisions that minimize potential risks.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to our attention and for your dedication to the well-being of Acton and its residents. We will carefully consider your input and work towards a solution that prioritizes the safety of the community and aligns with the best interests of all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Albert T. Yanagisawa  
Assistant Chief, Fire Marshal, Los Angeles County Fire Department  
Albert.Yanagisawa@fire.lacounty.gov | fire.lacounty.gov  
(562) 537-8035, (323) 890-4144  
5823 Rickenbacker Rd., Commerce, CA 90040

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## RUTH BROCK'S FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE TO CHIEF YANAGISAWA, FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

*On Tuesday, June 6, 2023, 9:07 AM Ruth Brock responded and wrote:*

Chief Yanagisawa,

Thank you very much for your response to my urgent email contact to LA County Fire.

I just briefly want to say that I have sent the UK study file to Chief Mario Tresieras, Health/HazMat Division.

This study absolutely disproves the claims of the energy industry that their internal fire suppression systems that deploy aerosolized clean agents are effective in preventing or stopping thermal runaway incidents. We've all heard of the reignitions of even simple car battery fires, and how many thousands of gallons of water, which California does not have to spare, it requires to actually bring these fires under control.

Up at the Willow Springs Raceway they have just recently allowed Tesla cars to participate in their racing events due to the fire risk. The condition under which these cars have been allowed is that a pond had to be constructed on the grounds of the raceway so that in the event of a Tesla lithium-ion battery fire, the cars would be driven into the pond.

Lithium-ion high capacity battery "pods" in a BESS are similar to huge shipping containers, and inside there are racks on racks of lithium-ion batteries that have a tendency to overheat, swell, and leak electrolyte. As you know, once the overheating begins it easily cascades from one battery to the next, resulting in thermal runaway. An attempt to suppress these fires using copious amounts of water would also risk contamination of our ground water. These projects are located over the Acton and Antelope Valley water basins and most of the residents in that area are on well water.

I'm thankful my husband is no longer on active fire service with LACoFD HazMat because of these types of fires. And as the mother of a fire captain in Visalia City, I pray that their suburban area is never targeted by one of these BESS developers.

Thank you for your time and for your lengthy response. I feel that ACTON is trailblazing this opposition as I can find no precedent for a small town, such as ours going up against the Green Energy industry. A small rural town in Victoria, Australia was able to deter a considerably sized BESS (the Picton Bess) being developed in their town, citing all the same concerns we have, and also adding the testimony of Sandra Kennedy from the Arizona Corporation Commission. Ms. Kennedy testified to the horrible incident at the McMicken BESS in Surprise, AZ, in 2019. In this case in Australia, their city council was given the authority to approve or disapprove the project. Unfortunately, that's not the case here in our situation. Otherwise, these projects would've been turned away a long time ago.

We in Acton pray that our LA County Board of Supervisors will recognize the danger to placing these types of projects near residents and in very high fire hazard areas. We also pray that the state doesn't come in and assume authority over the regulation of these types of energy projects, without regard for the people and their property who live in proximity to them.

Thank you,

Ruthie Brock

Acton Takes Action Community Task Force | [actontakesaction@att.net](mailto:actontakesaction@att.net)