

July 27, 2024 AT 1:04 PM PDT

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ACTON TAKES ACTION CHAIR, RUTH BROCK'S EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE LETTER TO LA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF ANTHONY MARRONE AND FIRE CHIEF ALBERT YANAGISAWA REGARDING THE JULY 26, 2024, I-15 FREEWAY HARD CLOSURE AFTER A TRUCK HAULING A LITHIUM ESS UNIT CRASHES AND BURNS; DEMONSTRATES FUTURE CONCERNS FOR ACTON

FROM: Ruth Brock <actontakesaction@att.net>
TO: Chief Anthony Marrone <Anthony.Marrone@fire.lacounty.gov>, Albert Yanagisawa <albert.yanagisawa@fire.lacounty.gov>
CC: Kathryn Barger <kathryn@bos.lacounty.gov>, Congressman Mike Garcia <ca27mgima@mail.house.gov>, Chase Hite <chase.hite@mail.house.gov>, Katherine Lample <klample@planning.lacounty.gov>, Mark Herwick <mherwick@planning.lacounty.gov>, Amy Bodek <abodek@planning.lacounty.gov>, Ricardo Ortega <ortegaricardo219@gmail.com>

SUBJECT: I-15 hard closure, future concerns for Acton

July 27, 2024

Dear Chief Marrone, Deputy Chief Yanagisawa,

I'm sure you are both aware of the San Bernardino County Fire HazMat response and hard closure of I-15 between Barstow and Baker on Friday morning July 26th due to a semi truck crash. This truck was hauling an ESS — just one ESS unit.

[Freeway connecting California to Las Vegas shut down after truck hauling batteries crashes \(Link\)](#)



Per the Victorville Daily Press reporting: “The crash was first reported about 6 a.m. Friday on the northbound 15 Freeway between Barstow and Baker, officials said.”

The Humidor BESS will likely have 400 ESS containers (if they are a standard 1MW capacity each).

As of my writing this at noon on Saturday, July 27th, the I-15 northbound is still closed causing a nightmare for interstate travelers in 100+ degree temperatures.

Is this what we have to look forward to if the Humidor BESS has a fire? The State Route 14 corridor and all alternative routes connecting the AV to the SCV will be closed? Metro Rail will be closed?

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Even our Congressman Mike Garcia, a proponent of battery storage, thinks this location for the Humidor BESS is insane.

[Rep. Mike Garcia Floor Speech for Battery Electric Storage Systems, July 23, 2024 \(Link\)](#)



I would like to request that if the Humidor BESS is allowed to proceed, that in addition to the Emergency Response and Action Plan (required by SB 38) that there also be a Community Risk Analysis and plan developed by LACoFD for our Acton residents as well.

I ask that this plan be distributed to residents in proximity of the Humidor BESS and also be made available online before commissioning of the project so residents feel prepared should an incident occur. We know that LACoFD will be prepared — but our residents at risk need to be also.

In many cases these residents will have multiple animals including livestock and equine to consider in this emergency plan. Without a “plan” there could be absolute panic and chaos which could put many residents and their animals in harms way.

“Knowledge is power.”

But in this case “knowledge” could mean “survival.”

Thank you for your time,

Ruthie Brock
Acton Takes Action Community Task Force