



May 27, 2025

Alice Busching Reynolds, President  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Subject: Request for Update on an Independent Investigation and Action in regards to the January 2025 Moss Landing Battery Energy Storage System Fire**

Dear President Busching Reynolds,

We, as the undersigned members representing the Monterey-Santa Cruz region, are asking for an update to the investigation conducted by the CPUC and the actions taken to guarantee future safety at Moss Landing. Previously, we called for an independent investigation and immediate action in regards to the January 2025 fire that lasted six days, and reignited weeks later, at the Vistra Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at the Moss Landing Power Plant in Monterey County. In our previous letter on January 22, 2025, we asked for a fully transparent and independent investigation, updated safety enforcement, prevention enhancements, and for the Vistra BESS to remain offline until safety is guaranteed.

On January 16, 2025, a fire erupted at the Moss Landing Battery Energy Storage Facility, leading to the closure of Highway 1 and a declaration of emergency by county officials. The January 2025 fire is the fourth BESS safety incident at Moss Landing since 2021, and the second time Highway 1 has been closed due to a Moss Landing BESS fire.

As we have expressed, we are deeply concerned for the health and welfare of local residents, businesses, visitors, first responders, wildlife, and environmentally sensitive habitat that surround the Moss Landing Power Plant. That is why we have called on local, state, and federal partners to work together to ensure that another incident like this never happens again.

We commend the CPUC for its swift action and response to this issue. In March, the CPUC took action to enhance the safety of battery energy storage facilities, and their related emergency response plans, by implementing [Senate Bill \(SB\) 1383](#) to establish new standards for the maintenance and operation of battery energy storage facilities. The CPUC "also made explicit that battery storage facility owners must develop emergency response and emergency action plans as required by SB 38."

Nevertheless, ongoing work must be done before this facility can return to operation. After the initial fire, San Jose State University's Moss Landing Marine Laboratories' (MLML) detected high concentrations of heavy metal nanoparticles at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve. Just weeks after the fire in January, a smaller fire reignited at Moss Landing in late February. As of now, the health and environmental effects of the lithium fire and subsequent smoke remain unknown. This is why we are alarmed by PG&E's announcement earlier this month to bring their facility back online.

We therefore agree with Monterey County who has asked the Commission to "act expeditiously and review additional regulatory paths that would strengthen safety protocols and local oversight and coordination for BESS facilities." We also have urged PG&E to delay the reactivation of the Elkhorn Battery Energy Storage Facility scheduled for June 1, 2025 until at least three things have happened:

1. An adequate emergency action plan (EAP) is in compliance with SB 38, that I co-authored, is finalized with the County of Monterey;
2. Results of PGE's own inspections and clean-up from the 2025 fire at Moss Landing are made public;
3. Full results of the independent investigation of the 2025 battery energy storage fire at Moss Landing are finalized and made public.

The Moss Landing facility has represented a pivotal piece of our state's energy future, however this disastrous fire has undermined the public's trust in utility scale lithium-ion battery energy storage systems. If we are to ensure California moves its climate and energy goals forward, we must demonstrate a steadfast commitment to safety, environmental stewardship, transparency, accountability, and emergency prevention.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Dawn Addis

Assemblymember, District 30



Gail Pellerin

Assemblymember, District 28