

Elkhorn Battery Energy Storage System

Monterey County Board of Supervisors
May 20, 2025



What is the Elkhorn Battery Energy Storage System?

- 182.5-megawatt battery energy storage system comprised of 256 Tesla Megapacks Located at PG&E's **Moss Landing electric substation** in Moss Landing, CA
- **Owned and operated** by PG&E; maintained by Tesla
- **Approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) in November 2018** to support local capacity requirements and reliability; **site construction began in July 2020**, and the system **began operation in April 2022**
- **Designed to** help to stabilize the local and state grid + integrate clean energy



Elkhorn was not associated w/the January Vistra fire

- The fire at the Vistra Moss Landing power plant BESS on January 16, 2025, **was not a PG&E incident** but, as PG&E operates the adjacent Elkhorn battery facility, PG&E personnel immediately engaged with Incident Command personnel (IC), local officials and agencies to assist in the response.
- PG&E's **Elkhorn battery is an outdoor** facility located at PG&E's Moss Landing electric substation and **is walled off and completely separate** from the Vistra facility.
- The Elkhorn battery **automatically disconnected from the grid** when its infra-red fire detection system detected flames from the Vistra BESS fire. The Elkhorn battery **remains de-energized, electrically disconnected from the grid and in an idle state since January.**





Elkhorn Battery Safety Features

- **Air/Plume Modeling.** PG&E commissioned a smoke plume dispersion model summarizing air/smoke dispersion scenarios at the site.
- **Automatic Safe Discharge.** Tesla has enabled continuous real time diagnostics of each battery module, including 24/7 monitoring. These diagnostics can detect an abnormal battery cell in advance of a thermal event and automatically discharge energy to adjacent healthy batteries.
- **Air Monitoring.** An advanced air monitoring system currently deployed after coordination with US EPA.
- **Periodic Drills and Tabletop Exercises.** Working with internal and external stakeholders to schedule refresher training and emergency drills in 2025.
- **Hazard Awareness Warning Center (HAWC).** With the new and enhanced communication process, PG&E's Public Safety Specialist (PSS) team will communicate with local fire and support the incident action plan.
- **Created an Incident Management Team (IMT),** which has been certified by FEMA under the National Incident Management System, to mobilize and respond to large scale incidents and coordinate with first responders.



PG&E Action Since January Vistra Fire and Intent for June 1 Restart

- **PG&E coordinated with Monterey County to publish EAP** and we are working with the County to review. We stand ready to receive, review and incorporate feedback from the county on our EAP
- **Hosted site visits with state and federal agencies.** Held visits with CPUC, FERC, WECC, CAISO – including page turn reviews of EAP and PFP with CPUC/Safety Enforcement Division staff
- **Tesla and PG&E performed extensive inspection and cleanup**
- The modifications and updates since the 2025 Vistra fire and the January 2022 megapack fire have further enhanced site safety and emergency response capabilities.
- We believe it is appropriate to return Elkhorn to service by June 1 to support grid reliability and that it is safe to do so.

Thank You

