Monterey County Board of Supervisors Referral Submittal Form

Referral No. 2025.15 Assignment Date: 10/28/25 (Completed by CAO's Office)

SUBMITTAL - Completed by referring Board office and returned to CAO no later than 10:00AM on Wednesday prior to Board meeting:

Date: 10/22/2025 Submitted By: Super	District #: 2					
Date: 10/22/2025Submitted By: Supervisor Glenn ChurchDistrict #: 2Referral Title: Urgency ordinance adopting a moratorium on Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facilities in						
unincorporated Monterey County while regulations for BESS operations are developed.						
Referral Purpose: To adopt an urgency ordinance placing a moratorium on BESS facilities in unincorporated						
Monterey County and develop a countywide policy and oversight framework to govern the operations of all						
BESS facilities in Monterey County for the health and safety of residents and the environment.						
Brief Referral Description (attach additional sheet as required): Monterey County has become a state and national						
focal point for the location of large-scale Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), particularly within the Moss						
Landing energy hub. The January 16, 2025, Moss Landing BESS fire threatened the health of residents,						
environmentally sensitive habitats and economic well-being of nearby communities. The August 30 fire in						
Parkfield further heightened the volatile nat						
The lack of effective regulations to protect of				•		
expansion of BESS facilities at Moss Landi						
a moratorium on BESS facilities while the C						
residents. While BESS facilities are essential for energy grid reliability and renewable energy integration, they						
also raise serious safety, environmental, operational and jurisdictional challenges. Although the State sets policy						
and regulates utilities, the County and other local jurisdictions retain many primary oversight powers including land use authority, fire and safety codes, environmental health and hazardous materials management and						
emergency management policies necessary to protect the well-being of residents. Although AB 205 allows the						
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streamlining of BESS projects by the California Energy Commission while bypassing local jurisdictions, this only applies to BESS facilities that store over 200 MW. Even under these conditions, local jurisdictions retain						
significant local authority including post-construction operations, cleanup and decommissioning. This referral is to direct county staff to develop dual regulations that will take into consideration the constraints that AB 205						
places on the County for BESS facilities over 200 MW while also addressing the need for more engaged County						
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ANALYSIS - Completed by Department and copied to Board Offices and CAO:						
Department analysis of resources required/impact on existing department priorities to complete referral:						
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Analysis Completed By:		Department's Recommended Response Timeline				
		☐ By requested date				
		□ 2 weeks	\Box 1 month \Box 6 weeks \Box 6 months			
Date:		□ 1 year	☐ Other/Specific Date:			
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REFERRAL RESPONSE/COMPLETION - Provided by Department to Board Offices and CAO:						
Referral Response Date:	Board Item	No.:	Referrals List Deletion:			

Note: Please cc Claudia Escalante and Karina Bokanovich on all CAO correspondence relating to referrals.