

**Staff Recommendation to Add Language to the 2025 Legislative Platform On**

**Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facilities**

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The Moss Landing Lithium-Ion Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), the world's largest BESS, is located in Monterey County at the retired Moss Landing gas-fired power plant, which was built by PG&E. The facility began operating in December 2020 and houses large quantities of LG brand and Tesla brand lithium-ion battery packs managed by Vistra Energy and PG&E, respectively. There have been several incidents at the site resulting in emergency response from the local fire protection district, regional HAZMAT team, the Environmental Health Bureau, law enforcement, the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and others. Two of these incidents resulted a shelter-in-place issued to the surrounding residential community due to potentially hazardous air quality. Utility scale battery usage at the residential level, as well as commercial level, will continue to increase as the focus on renewable energy source demands intensifies.

**Key Objectives:**

Support local activities necessary to the implement SB 38 (Laird, 2023). Support policies and funding for local emergency response resulting from BESS hazardous threats to the surrounding community. Support stronger legislation that requires emergency action plans and the owner or operator of the facility to coordinate with local emergency management agencies, unified program agencies, and local first response agencies. Impose stronger restrictions on BESS facility operators that help ensure local community safety is prioritized. Support new environmental health, public health, and safety regulations for BESS as they develop.