

From: [Corrinne Russell](#)
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: I support the City Council's opposition to Measure J. Our local farming is vital to our community.
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024 10:59:20 AM

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I support the City Council's opposition to Measure J. Our local farming is vital to our community.

Corrinne Russell



From: [Don Russell](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: I support the City Council's opposition to Measure J. Our local farming is vital to our community.
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024 11:02:00 AM

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I support the City Council's opposition to Measure J. Our local farming is vital to our community.

-Don Russell

Bryant Moynihan

Petaluma CA

July 31, 2024

Petaluma City Council
15 English St.
Petaluma CA 94953

RE: 2024.08.05 Agenda Bill 12: Retroactively Changing Last Year's Budget.

Dear City Council:

The City of Petaluma is not great at budgeting. But the City could improve if you tried.

While the City has a history of distorting the budget variances that appears in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), its time for the City to be open and honest with the Citizens of Petaluma.

Vote NO on this agenda bill and serve the community.



Bryant Moynihan

Bryant Moynihan

Petaluma CA

July 31, 2024

Petaluma City Council
15 English St.
Petaluma CA 94953

RE: 2024.08.05 Agenda Bill 11: Making 1 position into 2 positions and paying them too much!

Dear City Council:

It is a violation of the State Constitution to misappropriate ratepayer monies to spend on General Fund Expenditures such as Storm Drain Maintenance. I successfully sued the City and proved this. Why is the City Administration trying to do this again?

Having lost in court, City Manager John Brown decided to merge Public Works, Water Resources and Parks and Rec so that the city could comingle ratepayer monies with general fund monies in compensating public employees. Now that the City is being compelled to separate these departments back out, they are again grouping Storm Drain Maintenance under utilities.

The City of Petaluma can go through a separate process to charge the community for storm drain maintenance after allowing for a protest vote. But the City has been too lazy to do it properly.

And lastly, after conducting a "Bait and Switch" on the Petaluma voters in the form of Measure U, the City Council is being asked by the Administration to spend more money on salaries and benefits instead of capital improvement projects. All vacant positions should be filled at 80% compensation. Without controlling public employee compensation, the City of Petaluma will need to swindle the voters again.



Bryant Moynihan



DATE: August 5, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Jessie Gooch, Finance Director
Corey Garberolio, Assistant Director of Finance

SUBJECT: Adoption (Second Reading) of Ordinances Amending Ordinances 2881, 2885, 2886 N.C.S. to Change Certain Appropriations for the Operations of the City of Petaluma from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 and Finding that this Action is Not a Project Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(B)(5).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the City Appropriations Ordinances to amend appropriations from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

BACKGROUND

The Ordinances were introduced and unanimously approved (7-0) for first reading at the July 15, 2024 City Council Meeting. The proposed Year-end Budget Adjustments are to the Adopted Budget for FY 2023-2024, previously approved on June 5, 2023. The FY 23/24 budget can be viewed on the website at <https://cityofpetaluma.org/documents/fiscal-year-2024-adopted-budget/>. The adjustments would modify appropriations approved by Ordinances 2881, 2885, 2886 N.C.S. Section 60 of the City Charter requires an affirmative vote of 4 Council Members to approve appropriation ordinance amendments.

DISCUSSION

The proposed budget adjustments are for the General Fund, Measure U Fund, Special Revenue and Trust Funds, and Capital Projects for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This agenda item appeared on the City's tentative agenda document on July 15, 2024 which was a publicly-noticed meeting.

COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

N/A

CLIMATE ACTION/SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

There is no climate action or sustainability impacts associated with this item.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Environmental analysis for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was already completed with each adjustment, transfer, and encumbrance. Additionally, the proposed action is exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378, in that adopting Ordinances amending the Appropriations Ordinances for the Operations of the City of Petaluma from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," because the action does not have the potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and because the action constitutes organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The net financial impacts to the various fund categories associated with the recommended budget adjustments are as follows:

General Fund and Measure U Fund balance has no net impact
Special Revenue Funds decrease in fund balance of \$4,626,975
Capital Projects Funds increase in fund balance of \$1,283,336

ALTERNATIVES

n/a

ATTACHMENTS

1. Appropriations Ordinance Amendment, General Fund and Measure U Fund
 - a. Exhibit A – Detailed FY 2023/24 Year-end Budget Adjustments
2. Appropriations Ordinance Amendment, Special Revenue and Trust Funds
 - a. Exhibit A – Detailed FY 2023/24 Year-end Budget Adjustments
3. Appropriations Ordinance Amendment, Capital Projects Funds
 - a. Exhibit A – Detailed FY 2023/24 Year-end Budget Adjustments



DATE: August 5, 2024

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council through City Manager

FROM: Linda Le, Director of Human Resources
Aman Kaur, Senior Human Resources Analyst

SUBJECT: Resolution Amending the Classification and Compensation Plan and Authorizing and Eliminating Position Allocations Associated with the Reorganization of the Department of Public Works and Utilities by 1) Establishing the Classifications and Pay Ranges of Director of Public Works and Director of Water Resources and Utilities; 2) Authorizing the Position Allocations of One Director of Public Works and One Director of Water Resources and Utilities; and 3) Eliminating the Classification and Position Allocation of Director of Public Works and Utilities

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached Resolution Amending the Classification and Compensation Plan and Authorizing and Eliminating Position Allocations Associated with the Reorganization of the Department of Public Works and Utilities by:

1. Establishing the Classifications and Pay Ranges of Director of Public Works and Director of Water Resources and Utilities;
2. Authorizing the Position Allocations of One Director of Public Works and One Director of Water Resources and Utilities; and
3. Eliminating the Classification and Position Allocation of Director of Public Works and Utilities.

BACKGROUND

As a result of budget reduction strategies in 2011, the City's public works and water and utilities operations were consolidated under one department managed by a single department head, Director of Public Works and Utilities (PW&U Director). This position is responsible for overseeing the activities and operations of the Public Works and Utilities Department, including engineering, water systems and conservation, utilities administration, wastewater treatment and recycling, streets, fleet, storm drain, Right-of-Way landscape maintenance and

operations, capital improvement program planning and implementation, traffic, floodplain administration, local transit, marina, and airport operations. The PW&U Director provides oversight over a department of approximately 128 allocated positions and reports directly to the City Manager.

The PW&U Director position was recently vacated in March 2024, creating a void in an essential department for City operations. Prior to commencing recruitment to fill the vacancy, the City has been working to evaluate the existing department organizational structure to ensure it is apt to meet the existing and future goals of the department and City. Public works in general is the combination of physical assets, management practices of policies, and human capital management necessary to provide and sustain infrastructure and essential services in support of the quality of life of the community. Due to the complexity of the functions within the Public Works and Utilities Department as well as the scope of programs and divisions, staff recommends creating two distinct departments to increase effectiveness and efficiency; subsequently, establishing a Department of Public Works (DPW) and a Department of Water Resources and Utilities under the direction of two separate department directors.

DISCUSSION

The existing department organizational structure and related work areas encompass the majority of our City divisions and programs, City Council priorities, and community expectations. Dividing the existing structure into two departments under the leadership of two distinct directors allows the City to align fiscal and people resources to complete essential projects citywide. This distinctive new organizational structure will also support the City in recruiting executives in roles who have expertise in the areas they will lead resulting in greater strategic alignment. DPW is focused on a recently approved \$57 million dollar capital improvement plan, including repair and maintenance of our roads, while Water Resources and Utilities is dedicated to the protection and support of utilities and water in the city and the \$82 million dollar utility fund.

The Director of Public Works will direct manage, oversee, and integrate the activities and operations of the Public Works Department, including engineering, development engineering, streets operations, fleet, streetlights, Right-of-Way landscape maintenance and operations, capital improvement program planning and implementation, traffic engineering and planning, floodplain administration, local transit, marina, and airport operations [Exhibit A]. While the Director of Water Resources and Utilities will focus on directing, managing, overseeing, and integrating the activities and operations of the Water Resources and Utilities Department, including programs related to municipal water supply, storage, distribution, groundwater, water conservation, metering, and customer service programs; wastewater collection, treatment, industrial pretreatment, water recycling; utilities administration and engineering; storm drain maintenance and operations; and the regulatory stormwater program [Exhibit B].

On July 15, 2024, the Council revised the pay ranges of Unit 8 positions, including an adjustment of the PW&U Director's salary. A market analysis¹ of our comparable agencies with a similar organizational structure as recommended here (i.e., two distinct departments), shows that both directors are typically paid the same. Therefore, the recommendation is to internally align the salaries of the two department heads and set them to match the recently updated pay range of the PW&U Director:

Current Classification Title	PAY CYCLE	Monthly Salary Ranges		
		Minimum		Maximum
Director of Public Works	MONTHLY	15,603.09		20,247.28
Director of Water Resources and Utilities	MONTHLY	15,603.09		20,247.28

NOTE: Salaries are approximate and may vary slightly due to rounding

PUBLIC OUTREACH

This agenda item was noticed in compliance with the California Brown Act.

COUNCIL GOAL ALIGNMENT

The ratification of this action aligns with the City Council Goal of "A City That Works For Everyone." This objective includes recruiting, hiring, retaining, and advancing a workforce that is diverse, representative, skilled, talented, and prepared to meet the demands of a full-service City.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), in that, approving this action does not meet CEQA's definition of a "project," because the action does not have the potential for resulting either a direct physical change in the environment or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, and because this is a personnel-related action that constitutes organizational or administrative activities of governments that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The recommended action results in an additional position allocation of a department director and the total financial impact, including salary and benefits, ranges from approximately \$172k-\$311k annually, with \$56k-\$126k allocated to the General Fund and \$116k-\$185k to Non-General Funds. The current FY 2024-25 adopted budget can absorb these costs through salary savings on other vacant positions and potential use of appropriated operating budget.

ATTACHMENTS

¹ Market analysis is a common exercise in which the City of Petaluma is analyzed in relation to recognized comparable agencies, typically local agencies within roughly 50 miles, with a comparable size, operation, and staffing needs to provide an idea of how similarly situated positions compare to those in Petaluma.

1. Resolution

- Exhibit A - Director of Public Works Class Specification
- Exhibit B - Director of Water Resources and Utilities Class Specification

From: [Gino Ficco](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Save our local Farms
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2024 6:50:06 AM

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---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

I support the City Councils opposition to Measure J. Our local farming is vital to our community.

Thanks,
Gino Ficco

From: [David Donnenfield](#)
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Will You Step Up?
Date: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 9:54:27 PM

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear City Clerk,

Please submit the email (letter) below to the Public Record. It is an important piece of communication to our elected representatives.

Thank you,

David Donnenfield



"We need a planet where human life and natural life is the default. We do not jeopardize other living species' ability to be on the planet.

— Ken Holmen, International Director, Norwegian Polar Institute

----- Forwarded message -----

From: David Donnenfield [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, Jul 30, 2024 at 9:50 PM
Subject: Re: Will You Step Up?
To: Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>

Kevin,

Thanks so much for your considered response to my email on behalf of our citizens group. I know you're a busy guy, so the time you took to read my message and take seriously our concerns is appreciated. And thanks for going into more detail on the implications of Measure J. They are significant and important. That said, and you knew that I would caveat the preceding, they are both significant issues threatening local impacts which require the city council's consideration and decisioning. Your email response is the first indication that the CC is indeed following the matter. of these two proposed energy installations. That is encouraging news. But I will tell you that there is an underlying deficiency in the way the EIR is likely to be conducted and what decisions may ultimately be reached, and it is this:

The state of CA has not established safe siting standards and attendant regulations governing the proper placement of these energy-intensive installations.

Against what safety standards will the EIR be evaluated, or for that matter will our city council base its recommendations? Is the organization chosen to conduct the EIR going to undertake a comprehensive study on the past history of accidents and their actual impacts? Are they going to game out all possible scenarios for an accident to occur given the diversity of locales, conditions and factors that may be involved. For example, our Rogers Creek Fault is but 2-2.5 miles away from both of these projects. Our airport lies in close proximity to them. They are both within a high fire zone. The state, with its vast resources, has neglected to study such diverse factors and provide a comprehensive set of rules and regulations that citizens and

local officials can take some assurance in and feel that safety protocols have been sufficiently exercised.

As we have previously brought to your attention, we are not the only community to express our serious concerns. Please read the account below that outlines how and why San Diego County Supervisors have invoked a MORATORIUM on permitting the construction of any more BESS facilities until proper safety standards have been developed. This, after multiple fires at two of three BESS units operating in the county. What this shows is that a county of over 3 million residents has recognized the absence of essential state standards while the state is in a rush to build these things all over CA. A CA county has determined that it has to do the state's own work, spending well over a \$1M and months of study time, to determine what safety standards must be CREATED to protect citizens, structures, and the environment. An EIR might be useful in helping to establish such safety standards if it is folded into a more comprehensive study backed by resources and credible experts to conduct it. That is why San Diego County has introduced a moratorium. Anything less is putting the cart before the horse. We cannot escape the sense that the state is making guinea pigs out of us, with other governing bodies wittingly or unwittingly being complicit.

Kevin, please think on these things we are bringing to your attention. Yes, we are pointing them out to the county supervisors, but we look to our city council members as our first line of defense in protecting us.

Our faith in government is conditioned on performance, as any reasonable, thinking person would have it. Your email is an encouraging sign, but we're in the early innings.

Sincerely,

David Donnenfield

Joe Petrillo

Citizens for Battery Transparency

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors meeting, held on 17 July 2024. Image: San Diego County BOS via YouTube.

The Board of Supervisors at California's San Diego County have voted unanimously to establish standards for the siting of battery storage facilities at a regular meeting held 17 July 2024, following two recent fires at separate battery energy storage system (BESS) facilities in California's second-most populous county.

The [agenda item](#) was brought to the meeting by San Diego County's representative for its fifth Supervisorial district, Jim Desmond, who told the board that the new standards would ensure BESS facilities were "designed and located in the safest way possible".

Fires at two of three approved BESS facilities in San Diego County

Jim Desmond's concerns surrounding battery storage technology stem from recent high-profile fires at two of three BESS facilities green-lit for construction by San Diego County officials.

[As reported in Energy-Storage.News](#), a battery unit at Terra-Gen's 140MW/560MWh

Valley Center BESS caught fire on 18 September 2023, causing a quarter-mile evacuation area that lasted until later in the evening, when the fire had been contained.

This incident was then followed by a much more significant fire at Rev Renewable's Gateway Energy Storage facility that first ignited on 15 May 2024. An evacuation order was deployed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) for San Diego that lasted until 28 May, while it worked to contain the fire.

In [daily statements posted on X \(formerly Twitter\)](#), CalFire reported several instances of thermal runaway at the Gateway site, deploying up to 40 fire personnel during the height of activity. The causes of both fires are currently unknown amidst ongoing investigations.

The third BESS facility approved by San Diego County officials is San Diego Gas & Electric's (SDG&E's) Fallbrook energy storage facility that was brought online in 2022. Ownership of the 40MW BESS was transferred from AES Corporation to the California public investor-owned utility (IOU) upon completion of the project under a build-own-transfer agreement.

Dozen active BESS applications in San Diego County

During the meeting, Desmond stated that there were currently 12 active BESS applications with San Diego's Planning and Development Services department at various stages of the approval process, including another development from AES known as the Seguro energy storage project.

[It was recently reported](#) by local news outlet Coast News that the Palomar Health Administration had denied an easement which would have allowed the 320MW/1,280MWh BESS to connect to SDG&E's Escondido substation via land owned by the Palomar Medical Center.

[According to an AES website](#), the project was initially envisioned as having 400MW/1,600MWh of storage capacity but had been "reduced due to stakeholder and community feedback".

San Diego BESS standards could incentivise use of industrial zones

During the meeting, Desmond explained that the development standards should stop developers locating BESS facilities in residential areas but also incentivise developers to locate facilities within industrial zones.

He also requested that at the next meeting, the board institute a temporary 45-day moratorium (with up to two 1-year extensions) on the approval of any new BESS facilities until the new standards had been adopted.

The development of BESS standards is expected to cost San Diego County up to US\$1.25 million.

‘Really big problem’

The Vice Chair of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors Terra Lawson-Remer expressed concerns surrounding a potential two-year moratorium on the installation of new BESS facilities.

Lawson-Remer, also on the Board of Directors for California Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) energy supplier San Diego Community Power (SDCP), said that although she wanted to “move expeditiously” to create the new standards, it was her understanding that it could take up to two years or more for them to be developed, and that the county would have a “really big problem with local energy needs” if no new sites could be built during this period.

Instead of instating a blanket moratorium, the board passed a motion agreeing to adopt new standards but also decided that at the next meeting it would discuss several potential stopgap measures to incentivise BESS safety whilst the standards were being developed.

The board agreed that the discussion points should include a temporary moratorium on new BESS applications, mandatory board review of all new BESS projects and interim standards within six months.

Watch the 17 July 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting below, discussion of Item #8 on establishing development standards for siting of BESS begins at 1 hour 20 minutes.

12-month moratorium for New York town

Elsewhere in the US, the Town of Wilson in Niagara County, New York recently enacted a 12-month moratorium on the processing of any new permits for projects with BESS facilities, whilst town officials drafted new local laws for battery siting.

At the Wednesday 17 July 2024 meeting, town supervisor Tony Evans said that the town would “take their time” drafting the new laws and would extend the moratorium if required.

Like California, there have been several high-profile fires at BESS facilities within the state of New York, including incidents at three separate facilities which occurred last year during May and July.

This led to the formation of the New York State Inter-Agency Fire Safety Working Group, which released its first set of recommended changes to the New York fire code during the first quarter of this year, [as reported by Energy-Storage.News](#).

David Donnenfield

"We need a planet where human life and natural life is the default. We do not jeopardize other living species' ability to be on the planet.

— Ken Holmen, International Director, Norwegian Polar Institute

On Mon, Jul 29, 2024 at 6:00 AM Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org> wrote:

Congrats. The County is doing exactly as you asked. They are demanding the applicant have a complete EIR.

This should restore your faith in the governmental process. I say this tongue in cheek because we both know that sometimes proper process is not always the case. However, with a project of this magnitude an EIR is appropriate. Further, an EIR precludes a challenge on the basis of CEQA level. An experienced developer would prefer an EIR in a contentious project.

I appreciate your suggestion of a River Road BESS location. I had heard that site has been proposed but the County does not believe that site appropriate.

There is a tremendous difference between the Measure J participation by Council and the BESS as I'm sure that you understand. You state Council feels Measure J would have a "deleterious effect on agriculture." Council's involvement was based on so much more. True ag would be hurt. However, the impact on our local grown food sources would be impacted; our desire to eat local and shop local; our Climate concerns; our local support business concerns. Both BESS and Measure J are public issue but they are different in impact, status and proper process.

I am still following this issue.

Thanks for writing

Kevin McDonnell
Mayor, City of Petaluma

From: David Donnenfield [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, July 24, 2024 12:47 PM

To: Kevin McDonnell <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>; Janice Cader-Thompson <jcaderthompson@cityofpetaluma.org>; Mike Healy <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>; Barnacle, Brian <bbarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org>; Karen Nau <knau@cityofpetaluma.org>; Dennis Pocekay <dpocekay@cityofpetaluma.org>; John Shribbs <jshribbs@cityofpetaluma.org>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Will You Step Up?

---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

Dear City Council Members,

We see that the Petaluma City Council by a vote of 7-0 has come out in opposition to Measure J, thereby taking a stand on a county-wide proposal that you all feel would have a deleterious effect on agriculture in our area. Similarly, our citizens group, Citizens for Battery Transparency, requested that you support our demand of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) be performed on the two battery energy storage systems (BESS) proposed for sites close to our neighborhoods and in proximity to the historic Vallejo Adobe and to Adobe Creek.

That seemed like a reasonable request given that, in addition to our safety, Petaluma city services and water sources will be directly affected. We assumed that public protection and stewarding city resources is an important obligation of our city council. Surprisingly and sadly, we got that wrong. And, in the end, so did all of you, because the county planning department decided that an EIR was exactly what these projects required. There's no other way to put it but you lost our trust. That said, you will have the opportunity to fulfill your responsibilities when it's time to comment during development stages of the EIR — specifically, scoping and public comment periods.

We continue to provide you with information on the dangers and impact BESS facilities represent. Utility scale lithium-ion BESS fires have been reported in New York, Arizona, California, South Korea, China, France and Australia. The latest BESS fire occurred in San Diego just this past May. This is the *third BESS fire in San Diego County in the last year*. The Otay Mesa BESS facility caught fire on May 15, 2024 and kept re-igniting for days. Local news sources reported, "evacuation orders and warnings are in effect in the immediate vicinity of the facility." Here are several news links about the Otay Mesa fire:

<https://timesofsandiego.com/crime/2024/05/26/energy-storage-facility-fire-in-otay-mesa-still-not-fully-contained/>

[Reigniting San Diego BESS Fire Highlights Thermal Runaway Risks \(batterytechonline.com\)](https://batterytechonline.com)

[Battery fire at storage facility in Otay Mesa keeps reigniting - The San Diego Union-](#)

[Tribune \(sandiegouniontribune.com\)](http://sandiegouniontribune.com)

The fire at Otay Mesa required over 40 firefighters and took more than two weeks to extinguish. The fire has been attributed to “thermal runaway,” a phenomenon that leads to a chain reaction when lithium-ion batteries generate heat faster than it can be dissipated. As firefighters worked to keep the conflagration under control, officials were at a loss to predict when the batteries would stop reigniting.

Communities and neighborhoods like ours up and down the state are deeply concerned about the placement of these powerful energy facilities where people, structures, and habitat are vulnerable. The Vacaville City Council has voted 6 to 0 against a BESS facility on city owned land. The Solano County Board of Supervisors recently voted unanimously to impose a moratorium on BESS facilities. Fairfield, Morro Bay, Novato, Acton, Escondido, and Bel Marin Keys, among others, have citizen movements opposing the endangerment of their residents by these huge energy storage facilities. Why?

Because the state of California has yet to enact safe siting standards. Until the responsible agencies do, we are left to our own devices to discover and disseminate the facts regarding the dangers these things represent. We rely on our elected representatives— all of you — to take our safety concerns seriously. You should have forwarded a letter to the County Board of Supervisors requesting that EIRs be performed out of concern for our safety and the potential impact on city services and our environment. To us, that seemed like a low bar, and we remain puzzled why you didn't support our very reasonable demand to the county. Opposing Measure J is much more of a political stand, and you didn't hesitate to take that stand.

The simplest way to protect public health and safety is to site these facilities away from population centers and sensitive ecological and cultural areas. If you want an example of a possible alternative site within the county, look at the PG&E substation just west of Hwy. 101 at the River Road offramp near Santa Rosa. There are lots of agricultural fields and vineyards west of the substation where a BESS could be sited that wouldn't endanger whole neighborhoods, schools, Kaiser, businesses and offices. Better yet, they should be co-located and integrated with renewable energy facilities such as solar arrays and/or wind turbines. This would then make a BESS facility a truly renewable resource. Finally, BESS projects can be sited on federal land. Here are two examples where integrated BESS and solar facilities have been sited and are now operational on federal land in California:

<https://www.energy-storage.news/edwards-sanborn-california-solar-storage-project-world-largest-bess-battery-system-fully-online/>

<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-advances-battery-storage-renewable-energy-california-desert>

How much work would it take for the county to perform a county-wide search for alternate sites for these facilities? Nobody is arguing that battery energy storage isn't important in our transition to sustainable energy, but we take exception to anyone arguing that we residents of Petaluma should solely bear the burden of the risks to our lives, our health, our properties, and our environment. It is unacceptable and we expect our city council to get deeply involved in this matter instead of ducking the issue or paying it little heed.

Sincerely,
David Donnenfield
Joe Petrillo

Citizens for Battery Transparency

David Donnenfield

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of David Donnenfield.

"We need a planet where human life and natural life is the default. We do not jeopardize other living species' ability to be on the planet.

— Ken Holmen, International Director, Norwegian Polar Institute

From: [David Donnenfield](#)
To: -- City Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Will You Step Up?
Date: Monday, July 29, 2024 7:32:24 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

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[REDACTED]

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From: David Donnenfield [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jul 24, 2024 at 12:47 PM
Subject: Will You Step Up?
To: McDonnell, Kevin <kmcdonnell@cityofpetaluma.org>, <jcaderthompson@cityofpetaluma.org>, Healy, Mike <mhealy@cityofpetaluma.org>, Barnacle, Brian <bbarnacle@cityofpetaluma.org>, Karen Nau <knau@cityofpetaluma.org>, Pocekay, Dennis <dpocekay@cityofpetaluma.org>, Shribbs, John <jshribbs@cityofpetaluma.org>
Cc: [REDACTED] >

Dear City Council Members,

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services and water sources will be directly affected. We assumed that public protection and stewarding city resources is an important obligation of our city council. Surprisingly and sadly, we got that wrong. And, in the end, so did all of you, because the county planning department decided that an EIR was exactly what these projects required. There's no other way to put it but you lost our trust. That said, you will have the opportunity to fulfill your responsibilities when it's time to comment during development stages of the EIR — specifically, scoping and public comment periods.

We continue to provide you with information on the dangers and impact BESS facilities represent. Utility scale lithium-ion BESS fires have been reported in New York, Arizona, California, South Korea, China, France and Australia. The latest BESS fire occurred in San Diego just this past May. This is the *third BESS fire in San Diego County in the last year*. The Otay Mesa BESS facility caught fire on May 15, 2024 and kept re-igniting for days. Local news sources reported, "evacuation orders and warnings are in effect in the immediate vicinity of the facility." Here are several news links about the Otay Mesa fire:

<https://timesofsandiego.com/crime/2024/05/26/energy-storage-facility-fire-in-otay-mesa-still-not-fully-contained/>

[Reigniting San Diego BESS Fire Highlights Thermal Runaway Risks \(batteryteconline.com\)](https://batteryteconline.com/Reigniting-San-Diego-BESS-Fire-Highlights-Thermal-Runaway-Risks/)

[Battery fire at storage facility in Otay Mesa keeps reigniting - The San Diego Union-Tribune \(sandiegouniontribune.com\)](https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2024/05/26/Battery-fire-at-storage-facility-in-Otay-Mesa-keeps-reigniting/)

The fire at Otay Mesa required over 40 firefighters and took more than two weeks to extinguish. The fire has been attributed to "thermal runaway," a phenomenon that leads to a chain reaction when lithium-ion batteries generate heat faster than it can be dissipated. As firefighters worked to keep the conflagration under control, officials were at a loss to predict when the batteries would stop reigniting.

Communities and neighborhoods like ours up and down the state are deeply concerned about the placement of these powerful energy facilities where people, structures, and habitat are vulnerable. The Vacaville City Council has voted 6 to 0 against a BESS facility on city owned land. The Solano County Board of Supervisors recently voted unanimously to impose a moratorium on BESS facilities. Fairfield, Morro Bay, Novato, Acton, Escondido, and Bel Marin Keys, among others, have citizen movements opposing the endangerment of their residents by these huge energy storage facilities. Why?

Because the state of California has yet to enact safe siting standards. Until the responsible agencies do, we are left to our own devices to discover and disseminate the facts regarding the dangers these things represent. We rely on our elected

representatives— all of you — to take our safety concerns seriously. You should have forwarded a letter to the County Board of Supervisors requesting that EIRs be performed out of concern for our safety and the potential impact on city services and our environment. To us, that seemed like a low bar, and we remain puzzled why you didn't support our very reasonable demand to the county. Opposing Measure J is much more of a political stand, and you didn't hesitate to take that stand.

The simplest way to protect public health and safety is to site these facilities away from population centers and sensitive ecological and cultural areas. If you want an example of a possible alternative site within the county, look at the PG&E substation just west of Hwy. 101 at the River Road offramp near Santa Rosa. There are lots of agricultural fields and vineyards west of the substation where a BESS could be sited that wouldn't endanger whole neighborhoods, schools, Kaiser, businesses and offices. Better yet, they should be co-located and integrated with renewable energy facilities such as solar arrays and/or wind turbines. This would then make a BESS facility a truly renewable resource. Finally, BESS projects can be sited on federal land. Here are two examples where integrated BESS and solar facilities have been sited and are now operational on federal land in California:

<https://www.energy-storage.news/edwards-sanborn-california-solar-storage-project-world-largest-bess-battery-system-fully-online/>

<https://www.blm.gov/press-release/blm-advances-battery-storage-renewable-energy-california-desert>

How much work would it take for the county to perform a county-wide search for alternate sites for these facilities? Nobody is arguing that battery energy storage isn't important in our transition to sustainable energy, but we take exception to anyone arguing that we residents of Petaluma should solely bear the burden of the risks to our lives, our health, our properties, and our environment. It is unacceptable and we expect our city council to get deeply involved in this matter instead of ducking the issue or paying it little heed.

Sincerely,
David Donnenfield
Joe Petrillo

Citizens for Battery Transparency

David Donnenfield



"We need a planet where human life and natural life is the default. We do not jeopardize other living species' ability to be on the planet.

— Ken Holmen, International Director, Norwegian Polar Institute

From: [JULIA NORTON](#)
To: [Kevin McDonnell](#); [John Shribbs](#); [Barnacle, Brian](#); [Mike Healy](#); [Karen Nau](#); [Dennis Pocekay](#); [Janice Cader-Thompson](#); [Caitlin Corley](#)
Cc: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Request for feedback_petition Dover Lane
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 6:09:39 PM

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Hello City Council members.

I spoke at the General Public Comment period during the June 3 City Council Meeting. I presented a petition from the neighbors & residents of Dover Lane requesting the new bus shelters at Kenilworth Junior High be painted.

Are there any follow-up questions or status update that you could share that I can share with the petition signers?

Thanks very much

I am cc Caitlin here as she mentioned she could recirculate the petition or information for you as needed.

Julia Norton

From: [Peter Tscherneff](#)
To: [REDACTED]

Subject: WOLF & CROW #3
Date: Friday, July 26, 2024 2:01:17 PM

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WOLF & CROW Goddess Call to ACTION3

Willie Brown & Jerry Brown be Major drug Dealers in this Town I am here to Warn Ya... every single town in California

Pat & Jerry Brown been Heroin Kingpins all along the West Coast... While Willie's boy provided guns and cocaine and speed to fuel Social Unrest and he certainly passed the test planting the poison seed

Care to research just google your noodle to the Cabazon Case... plenty of drugs and murders covered up w a smile on their face

Meanwhile 12 year cocaine addict Governor Gavie being addicted also to affairs though not very savvy

Both he & Kamala received Willie's Dilly up the arse Truth be stranger than Fiction this hardly be a farce

The US Constitution from the Matriarchel Iroquois a Living Document designed thru Time to be fair to EVERY girl & boy

W the Magna Carta enhancing w the Wolf be we dancing... States Powerfully you know... that WE have the RIGHT a corrupt government to Overthrow

Like the Bill of Rights written by those escaping European & Englands Oppression... which led to a Constitutional Session... so Gavin, Kamala, Willie & Jerry be all corrupt Lawyers of the BAR... it's anachronym being the British Attorney Registry..so be ye clear to See

As I am Speaking to You.... We've long been overthrown by the BAR Association COUP... as only lying lawyers will oppose the US Constitution which CLEARLY states that "No One w a Title of Nobility may hold Public Office in America" ... BAR lawyers be "ESQUIRES" a Nobility Title... Who have gotten wealthy urinating upon the Constitution while undermining American Unions... BAR lawyers Do NOT belong in political positions, as judges or even City Councils. The Heroin Trade has ALWAYS been associated w

the Trafficking of Women and children ALWAYS... an agonizingly Ruthless Enterprise... ARE You willingly on your knees to usurist bankers and their BAR lawyerly Minions ???? see this author being "Peter Tscherneff.... King of Masterpiece Theatre

From: [Peter Tscherneff](#)
To: -- City Clerk; Daibel Fernandez-Bolt; Suzanne Terry; Jennifer Pritchard; tbarrett@cityofpetaluma.org
Subject: WOLF & CROW #2 PLEASE post on PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 4:53:12 PM

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WOLF & CROW (#2) Goddess Calling to ACTION

Warrior Women ACTIVATION Children are crying

Matters not our politics but MORE importantly that the Patriarchel Politics for the last 100 years of BOTH sides has allowed and participated in the ongoing Trafficking of Women, children, Heroin and now Fentanyl. THIS be WHY NOW WOMEN WARRIORS Congregate, Power-Up into an ever increasing Goddess Powered Warrior STATUS in Service to the Feminine... All Time is NOW and NOW is the Time...

ALL CHILDREN MATTER All Creator's Life Matters

SOUND of FREEDOM Tim Ballard has stated that this Docudrama is but an INTRO into a much deeper unseen realm thousands of years ongoing deliberately obscured from the public as surely as ADRENACHROME been a "Energy Enhancing" "Life Prolonging" cocktail routinely used by the ELITES....

Martin Luther King "One man wrongfully incarcerated , so are we all" Leonard Peltier, Mumia Abu Jamal & Green Beret Dr Jeffrey MacDonald still in cages..... see the youtubes between Tulsi Gabbard & Kamala Harris.....

Women Soldiers in the Marine Corp worldwide endure 24 RAPES per week as 12 of those are gang

RAPES by male Marines..... no repercussions as this is routine...

How many ways have we been taught to employ Willful Blindness to the Pain so Insane endured by children, girls and Women... How many examples ???

95% of all animals slaughterhouse murdered after being factory farmed are females.....

See “Jesus diet Essenes quotes” then grant yourself time to read “The Essenes Gospel of Peace” whereas Jesus speaks MORE than any other Gospel.... Hidden by Patriarchel religions

I am Peter Alexander Tscherneff the author & admittedly a major Spiritual, Organic Manure disturbing Poet, Investigative Journalist & Gardener. Also Patriot minded w great appreciation of our US Constitution which of course came to us via the Matriarchel Iroquois which includes CLEARLY that “No one w a Title of Nobility may hold Public Office in America” (BAR lawyers are “ESQUIRES” a Nobility Title) meaning they are NOT to be permitted as Judges, Presidents, Governors, Congress or Senate Representatives.

Reproductive Rights.... Is it clear that what’s still occurring is One side vs the other than a simple solution UNITING WOMEN WARRIORS.... Introduce the Indigenous Methodologies to simply and easily avoid pregnancy to begin with my friends been doen before and worked well till the Women Medicine Shamans were terminated in the past for the increase of slaves and servants.... This is the 1st of this series, Please share utilizing the Power of 10... send to 10 then do it again.... The Power of Love OVERCOMES the LOVE of Power Rosebud ROSEBUD Rosebud Flower AHO

From: [Revelle Mast](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Re: Public Comment - Gaza [continued]
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 7:54:15 PM

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Of course, this is a main stream media report.

It offers only glimpses of the truth.

We only know but a glimpse of the horror these thousands of bombs have caused.

Jovanka Beckles puts it quite well in the video below.

The death toll has been frozen. Yet we keep shipping them more bombs that are dropped on Gaza. This should scare us all.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C8iXGA5yLGp/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

On Mon, Jul 22, 2024, 7:01 PM Revelle Mast <revelle.mast@gmail.com> wrote:

To the city of Petaluma,

Here it is, even mainstream news admitting the carnage of children our bombs cause.

Listen to the american doctors who went there. I beg of you.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C9uoinWxJvU/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C9r_ZmruMef/?igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

When is enough, enough?

End the genocide now.

Beg the Palestinian community come back to the table and treat them with respect, or maybe it's better to just do the work of passing a resolution yourselves, whichever.

This is your responsibility to figure out.

Right the harms you caused.

Your unapologetically blunt neighbor,

Revelle

From: [Revelle Mast](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Gaza
Date: Monday, July 22, 2024 7:02:01 PM

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---Warning: Use caution before clicking any attachments. THIS EMAIL IS FROM OUTSIDE OUR EMAIL SYSTEM.---

To the city of Petaluma,

Here it is, even mainstream news admitting the carnage of children our bombs cause.

Listen to the american doctors who went there. I beg of you.

<https://www.instagram.com/p/C9uoinWxJvU/?igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==>

https://www.instagram.com/reel/C9r_ZmruMef/?igsh=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==

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Right the harms you caused.

Your unapologetically blunt neighbor,

Revelle

From: [Marie Russell](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Re: Measure J
Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024 9:29:54 PM

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I support the the City Council's opposition to Measure J. Our Local Farming is vital to our community.

Marie Russell