

From: [tonya.r](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: BESS "Siting" in the Energy Transition
Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 3:23:52 PM

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Dear Mayor, City Councilors and City Manager,

Just in case you missed it, I'm relaying news recently sent to Permit Sonoma and our county supervisors about a San Diego Bd. of Supervisors' recent decision.

Using common sense, San Diego County Bd. is requiring development of standards for "siting" of BESS (battery energy storage systems). More specifically, the San Diego Bd. "directed staff to avoid locating BESS near: residential areas, sensitive receptors, such as schools, hospitals, day care and senior care centers. Additionally, they want to incentivize projects in commercial/industrial zones and co-locate them with existing infrastructure - unless located in residential areas...." Here's the article in the Times of San Diego: [County Supervisors Advance Proposal to Develop Battery Storage Standards](#)

This comes after the Otay Mesa BESS fire took two weeks to put out. San Diego County has had three fires at BESS facilities in two and a half years.

-Otay Mesa June 15, 2024

-Valley Center September 18, 2023

-Valley Center, April 5, 2022

San Diego's edict is in addition to the Solano County moratorium on BESS projects for inappropriate siting of several large BESS projects, unanimously approved by both the Vacaville City Council and the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

There's no argument against how urgently the energy transition is needed, nor even against currently dominant "lithium-ion" battery storage technology. Instead, the argument is against the specific "siting" on Petaluma's border, too close to residential neighborhoods, schools, Kaiser, Adobe Creek, etc., in a high fire severity zone. After all, it will be our firefighters, residents, school populations and Kaiser, our Adobe Creek, marshlands and bay, and our evacuation routes that could be impacted by a fire and toxic smoke in either of the two BESS.

Lithium-ion batteries in BESS pose undeniable fire, toxic smoke and toxic

water runoff risks, regardless of how many safety regulations are implemented. Exactly how much risk in this immature industry is debatable. There's definitely human error, manufacturing defects, failure of monitoring equipment and unforeseen climate impacts. Here's an investigation of just one of the problems with lithium-ion batteries:

<https://www.rechargenews.com/energy-transition/fire-safety-tech-manufacturing-defects-in-more-than-a-quarter-of-grid-battery-storage-systems-study/2-1-1607937>

It's wishful thinking to assume there won't be in our future a heat dome over either BESS at the base of Sonoma Mountain, igniting a wildfire and/or a thermal runaway incident, that there will be enough water for however many days are needed to keep the lithium batteries cool once ignited, that there will be sufficient containment of toxic water runoff to keep it out of Adobe Creek, the marshlands and the bay, that toxic smoke won't drift to harm local residents, high schoolers and firefighters, that there'll be sufficient evacuation routes for a spreading fire and/or explosion, that an earthquake on the Rodgers Fault will not rattle the sensors, sprinkler system and battery components inside each unit and/or break the water lines needed to cool the system, (assuming no parts are manufactured nor installed already defective), and finally, that not one or more of the above conditions won't occur simultaneously.

As a "Climate Ready City", why settle for the first technology that comes along, simply because it's achieved dominance so far? Why not be inspired by the innovation in the energy transition, and choose something truly groundbreaking, if not at least, a lot safer?

<https://www.rechargenews.com/energy-transition/new-energy-storage-tech-poised-to-outcompete-lithium-ion-batteries-bnef/2-1-1651998>, along with this nbc news spot: <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/climate-in-crisis/startup-bricks-power-source/3511637/>

[Zinc-ion batteries: A less volatile alternative?](#)

copied from "Energy Storage News": "ESS Inc commissions long-duration flow battery in Burbank, California - ESS Inc's iron and saltwater electrolyte flow battery installation for community-owned energy supplier Burbank Water & Power has been officially inaugurated. With more than 6-hour storage duration, the 75kW/500kWh iron flow battery system is paired with a 265kWh onsite solar PV array at Burbank Water & Power's (BWP) EcoCampus, in the Californian city. The project deal was announced in late 2022, shortly after ESS Inc struck a much bigger agreement with another California utility supplier, Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) for up to 200MW/2,000MWh of iron flow batteries."

Finally, longterm energy store (LDES) is on the horizon: <https://www.energy-storage.news/most-ldes-projects-set-to-be->

[8-hour-systems-says-california-energy-commission/](#)

Sincerely,
Tonya Parnak

From: [Kelley Hartford](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: It's Time To Trestle
Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 3:40:31 PM

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

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I support the City of Petaluma committing staff and funds NOW to rehabilitate the Petaluma Riverfront Trestle into a beautiful riverfront promenade. Please share this email of my support with the City Manager, the Mayor and the City Council Members. Thank you. It's Time To Trestle!

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

From: [Peter Tscherneff](#)

To:

; -- City Clerk

Subject: Robert Redford Call to Act (plz POST to Petaluma PUBLIC COMMENT)

Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 2:36:45 PM

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

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Lady Sibylle Redford & Robert Redford to the PUBLIC share The WORD...

In a Cry to save EARTH.... Requiring nothing less than a Spiritual Re-Birth.....

Continuing assaults upon this Planet...only United standing upon Granite.... Do we truly entertain a Solution... by Decree for all to see a Resolution.... A Strong & Clear Direction for a Peace attaining Insurrection...

Loook deep only to find... most remaining Willfully Blind... maintaining inaction so Cursed... very unlike the Tree huggers of EARTHFIRST... Yes be it time to Action as an Almighty Faction... to BURST Forth in a Thrill... kinda like Julia Butterfly Hill....

**Have we been LOST amidst a Hidden Hypocrisy
???? for all of our efforts what still don't we see
???????**

What truly be thee given Goal in regards to the FESTIVAL DEL SOLE.... Something worthy requiring an ACTIVISTS ROCK & ROLL ??? why yes no guess

MLKING states One man wrongfully incarcerated so are we all.... Robert Redford's "Incident at OGLALA" focuses on the innocence of Leonard Peltier... who awaits smack dab in the middle of a Prophetic Riddle

While those paying \$80 for a ticket to see Robert & Lady Redford... continue disregarding the meaning of His Word... as they pay \$ thousands every month to maintaining the

**very system caging Leonard and Our EARTH to assault...
where be thee Freedom Strike where be John Galt ?**

**See author "Peter Tscherneff....King of Masterpiece
Theatre"**

From: [Peter T \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#); [Daibel Fernandez-Bolt](#); [Suzanne Terry](#); [Karen Gonzales](#)
Subject: Robert Redford says : please post this to Petaluma City Council Public Comment
Date: Monday, August 5, 2024 3:34:54 PM

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City Council: Gas Leaf Blowers

Michael Shapiro, wife and I lived in Petaluma for 15 years.

Nearly paradise with one big exception: leaf blowers.

Fumes: Running blower for one hour puts out as much gas emissions as driving a Honda to Denver, acc'd to CARB.

Spill
into Air

James Fallows of the Atlantic, a leaf blower's two-stroke engine "sloshes together a mixture of gasoline and oil in the combustion chamber and then spews out as much as one-third of that fuel as an unburned aerosol." Every blower is an airborne oil spill

Case for banning leafblowers: **Climate Ready Petaluma 2030**. Banning gas leaf blowers could greatly help Petaluma reach climate neutrality by 2030.

Noise: Levels can exceed 100 decibels, as loud as jackhammers yet they do something that's rarely essential.

Noise effects: headaches: Fumes can trigger asthmatic reactions such as wheezing and gasping for breath

Can't dry clothes outside because they end up smelling like gas.

2024 ban on sale but not use: our gardener said gardeners are buying gas machines now because they know they'll soon be banned.

Need to pass ban now for 2027 so people are not incentivized to buy new gas blowers now.

Smoking banned in public places, why not leaf blowers (Carlin).

Blind people: Rely on audio clues, blower noise makes it hard for them to get around

Health: hearing damage and high cancer risk for workers, many of whom are immigrants with few other employment options.

Worker safety: CARB: exposure study found these workers could "potentially **double their current cancer risk** from carcinogens emitted by gas equipment."

Since gas leaf blowers banned in Washington DC, Fallows said change has been dramatic: **"You can hear the silence."**

"The soul experiences mechanical sounds as an assault," said retired psychotherapist **Larry Robinson**, former mayor of Sebastopol. The noise from gas leaf blowers is "especially painful because it is of a frequency that is almost impossible for the human brain to ignore," said Robinson "It overwhelms all other sounds, including music, conversation, the wind through the trees or the songs of birds. Absent these, our human lives are diminished."

Ben on
Sale not
USE

Mayor
Sierra
Zine

Hotter
every
summer

Remote work: When we stay home to work on Zoom, the noise from neighboring leaf blowers can make communication difficult

Given the global emergency, leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (aptly called SOREs) are "**low-hanging fruit** in our collective efforts to dramatically cut climate pollution," says Ellie Cohen of the Santa Rosa-base Climate Center.

So what can we do: **More than 150 US cities have banned gas leaf blowers**, including Palo Alto. We could follow these cities' lead and ban gas blowers.

Wash DC has combo of carrot and stick: buybacks of up to \$75 and fines for repeat violators.

I realize this is a first-world issue but we live in the first world and we can move toward a win-win for the climate and our mental health.

I'd be eager to work with the city Climate Action Commission to help make Petaluma free of these horrifically polluting machines at the earliest possible date.

Thanks for your consideration,
Michael Shapiro, Upham Street, Petaluma

LINKS

Press Democrat Opinion column on banning gas leaf blowers:

<https://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/opinion/close-to-home-time-to-ban-horribly-polluting-gas-leaf-blowers/>

Shapiro's story in Sierra magazine on banning gas leaf blowers:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2022-3-fall/notes-here-there/got-leafblower-blues-youre-not-only-one>

New York Times: "Let's Kill All the Leaf Blowers" by Margaret Renkl

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/25/opinion/leaf-blowers-california-emissions.html>

The Atlantic: "Get Off My Lawn" by James Fallows

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2019/04/james-fallows-leaf-blower-ban/583210/>