



September 24th, 2024

The Honorable Rebecca Jones
Mayor, City of San Marcos
San Marcos City Hall
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA, 92069

RE: Proposed Resolution Opposing Battery Energy Storage System Projects In and Adjacent to the City of San Marcos

Dear Mayor Jones and Honorable Councilmembers,

Climate Action Campaign (CAC) is a non-profit organization with a simple mission: create a clean air and climate safe future through effective and equitable policy action. In order to improve quality of life and reduce pollution in our communities, we need clean, reliable, and safe energy that must include the use of battery storage in order to keep the lights on.

State officials credit battery storage for keeping the lights on in California and strengthening grid reliability during this summer of historic heat waves. Local power helps build our local reliability, which the Clean Energy Alliance relies on as they work to provide affordable clean energy to the San Marcos community. Opposing Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects risks these developments moving to other areas and the City losing opportunities for local job creation, economic benefits, and clean energy investments.

We do not support the proposed resolution and encourage the City to pursue opportunities that balance the need for BESS projects and safety concerns. Opportunities available include requiring Community Benefits Agreements to be created as BESS projects are developed to ensure project benefits reach local and adjacent communities first and the adoption of additional fire safety regulations. We urge Council to utilize thoughtful policymaking as the significant ramifications of restricting BESS projects are considered.

Keeping the lights on saves lives and keeps our economy stable. Battery storage systems ensure everyone has access to reliable power - a basic human essential need. These projects help us phase out the use of dangerous, fossil fuels and are a critical piece of the zero pollution future that our communities need and deserve in order to live healthy, resilient lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serena Pelka". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Serena Pelka
Policy Advocate
Climate Action Campaign