



County of Santa Cruz

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 400, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

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Special Meeting – Wednesday, Aug 20, 2025

Time: 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Technical Workshop – Battery Energy Storage Systems

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers

701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor

Zoom Link: <https://santacruzcounty-us.zoomgov.com/j/1603665391>

Telephone: (669) 254-5252 Meeting ID 1603665391#

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. **Overview of workshop purpose, future workshop meeting dates/topics and time management for tonight's workshop (Chair Damhorst)**

II. Tonight's Workshop Topics

A. Presentation from Khalida Sarwari – Policy Analyst for Senator John Laird in Santa Cruz

(10 min)

- Presentation on SB 283 – the Clean Energy Safety Act of 2025, focuses on enhancing safety standards for battery energy storage systems (BESS) in California. The bill, authored by Senator John Laird, aims to ensure these facilities are designed, constructed, and operated with increased safety measures and local coordination, including inspections by fire officials.

B. Presentation from Matthew Paiss – Retired Technical Advisor in the Battery Materials & Systems group for Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (45 minutes)

- Battery Technology & Innovations
- BESS Safety Design and Best Practices
- Large Scale Fire Testing

- Commissioner and general public questions – 45 minutes

C. Discuss Formation of Ad Hoc Committee for Creation of Informational Letter to Board of Supervisors

- Complete information letter and present to BOS before September 9th BOS meeting – including the following:
 - o The public process and concerns
 - o Summary of content presented by subject matter experts
 - o What we learned
 - o Engagement with our community

III. PUBLIC INPUT/ORAL COMMUNICATION ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

IV. ADJOURNMENT

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This online meeting is available to anyone with a telephone. If you are a person with a disability and require special assistance in order to participate in the meeting, please contact David Carlson at (831) 454-3173 or TDD number 711 at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting in order to make arrangements. Persons with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent free.