



CLOSING STATEMENTS

Special BOS Meeting: Vistra fire at Battery Energy Storage Facility in Moss Landing

Jan. 21, 2025

"Both of them. But as I understand it. They both can turn themselves on at any time depending upon that company's choice and there is no approval needed from any regulatory agency in the state to do that." -Supervisor Glenn Church, District 2.

Supervisor Glenn Church Closing Remarks

[ALEJO] 12:19:43

All right, I'm going to go ahead and close public comment and bring it back to the board. I'm going to start with Supervisor Church to my left.

[CHURCH] 12:19:52

Thank you. Sure.

[CHURCH] 12:19:58

I have quite a few comments here to make and I know we have a proclamation of a local emergency to address. And once we're done with that, I'll have a couple of A couple of motions I would like to make.

[CHURCH] 12:20:12

But I'll make a few comments here first. First up is, you know, I understand Battery storage is essential for the future and that's the direction we're going.



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[CHURCH] 12:20:25

But as I said last night and have tried to emphasize, we just can't put that above safety. That's got to be the priority at this point.

[CHURCH] 12:20:37

Unfortunately, it has become really clear for us here, and I think at other sites where there have been accidents.

[CHURCH] 12:20:44

This technology is ahead of government's ability to regulate it and industry's ability to control it.

[CHURCH] 12:20:54

And this process that we are now in, which is learn as we go.

[CHURCH] 12:21:00

It just doesn't work. It jeopardizes communities like ours here.

[CHURCH] 12:21:06

It jeopardizes other communities elsewhere where there have been multiple fires At this point, I am in the position to believe that we got to step back.



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[CHURCH] 12:21:19

Look at this skeptically. This technology, text skeptically. Impose some new safety regulations on there and just really pause the advancement for a bit of time While we try to understand where we're going. We just can't proceed with the way we are going.

[CHURCH] 12:21:40

A lot of concerns have been raised about the air quality and what happened with the smoke.

[CHURCH] 12:21:47

And I think what a lot of people have a concern with also is not so much the quality right now.

[CHURCH] 12:21:55

Because there really isn't any smoke coming out of there. But... what has already landed, what has fallen. I know last... I think it was early on Friday or Saturday.

[CHURCH] 12:22:08

I had an email from somebody who... had a question and they saw they had an oily film on a horse trough, a water trough and I brought it up with Vistra.

[CHURCH] 12:22:23

I didn't really quite have an answer and that's understandable. We haven't haven't had a fire to this extent, I understand.



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[CHURCH] 12:22:30

I had somebody last night email me that they had had some sweaters outside for a few days and they brought them in and there's definitely an odor to it.

[CHURCH] 12:22:38

I noticed as As many of you know, I have a small farm that I turned on yesterday, a pickup that I have for that. I hadn't probably been running in a week i had to clean the windshield and it seemed like there was a little bit of an oily substance there. So I think this is something that

[CHURCH] 12:22:57

People want to have us take a look at. And I don't think is probably being addressed at this point.

[CHURCH] 12:23:08

As I understand it right now. Both the facilities with Vistra And the one run by PG&E with Tesla are offline. That's my understanding. They're hooked to a grid, but they're offline.

[BOS ZOOM] 12:23:22

Both of them. But as I understand it. They both can turn themselves on at any time depending upon that company's choice and there is no approval needed from any regulatory agency in the state to do that.



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[CHURCH] 12:23:43

I'm glad the caller earlier brought up SB 38 because that's extremely important. It was a bill put forth by Senator Laird and Assemblymember Don Addis.

[CHURCH] 12:23:58

I think Bill was fairly accurately described in the comments that were given.

[CHURCH] 12:24:07

What has disturbed me as I've looked into this is From what I understand.

[CHURCH] 12:24:15

Since SB 38 was implemented last year. There has not been an emergency response plan presented since that time. I understand Vistra did have an emergency response plan that they had already prepared prior And felt that plant was adequate.

[CHURCH] 12:24:34

We do not have any emergency response plan. From the PG&E facility.

[CHURCH] 12:24:41

None whatsoever.



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[CHURCH] 12:24:47

And these... The emergency response plans really need to look at what is really a worst case scenario. The VISTRA plan initially looked at just one battery module on fire. We obviously had I don't know if it's hundreds or how many burned.

[CHURCH] 12:25:10

The gentleman made a comment earlier about Vistra having a permit out He did yell that out at the meeting last night, which isn't usually the way you get an answer. I could not find him because he had said he had already left.

[CHURCH] 12:25:23

So I couldn't have a chance to talk to him. But there is a VISTRA permit that's out there. It has not scheduled for hearing. It hasn't gone to CEQA yet.

[CHURCH] 12:25:33

I understand. So it's some time away from anything happening on that.



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[CHURCH] 12:25:38

I do want to point out, as I understand it, there is still one other building with these batteries that are stacked on site.

[CHURCH] 12:25:56

And I think at that point, I don't have any other comments. I'll wait till we go through the resolution and come back.