



CITY OF MORRO BAY

CITY HALL

595 Harbor Street
Morro Bay, CA 93442

February 5, 2025

The Honorable Dawn Addis
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 4120
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 303 (Addis): Battery energy storage facilities.
City of Morro Bay – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Addis,

On behalf of the City of Morro Bay, I am pleased to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 303, which would establish critical safeguards regarding the siting of large-scale battery energy storage facilities. We appreciate your leadership in introducing this legislation to address the potential environmental and local risks associated with such projects.

The City of Morro Bay shares the state's commitment to help shape strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the local impacts of climate change. However, battery energy storage system projects have the potential to harm nearby communities, as demonstrated by the fire at the Vistra battery energy plant fire in Moss Landing. This incident, along with previous thermal runaway events at similar facilities, underscores the urgent need for stronger regulations to ensure the safety of communities near these projects. While battery storage plays a crucial role in California's clean energy future, we must balance progress with responsible siting and risk mitigation strategies. The City greatly appreciates your commitment to climate solutions that benefit, not harm, communities and our natural environment.

As a coastal community committed to sustainable energy practices and environmental stewardship, the City of Morro Bay supports AB 303's provisions prohibiting battery energy storage projects within 3,200 feet of sensitive receptors, such as homes, schools, and hospitals, as well as restrictions on facilities in environmentally sensitive areas. Given our location and vulnerability to coastal environmental changes, it is essential that these projects be carefully planned and appropriately sited with input from local governments.

We urge the Legislature to pass AB 303 to uphold responsible energy development while protecting California's communities and natural resources. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to addressing this important issue.

Sincerely,

Carla Wixom

Carla Wixom (Feb 5, 2025 18:13 PST)

Carla Wixom
Mayor
City of Morro Bay