



July 28, 2020

Chair Roberts and Commissioners  
Monterey County Planning Commission  
1441 Schilling Place  
Salinas, California 93901

**RE: SUPPORT -- Dynegy Moss Landing LLC (Vistra Energy Project)**

Dear Chair Roberts and Members of the Planning Commission,

Sierra Club members and supporters have long opposed this damaging gas plant, and **we strongly urge approval of the BESS so that we can finally retire Moss Landing in a timely manner, and replace it with clean, safe clean energy resources.**

Currently, Moss Landing operates as a reliability-must-run (“RMR”) facility: a designation by the State grid operator for energy facilities that are needed to keep the lights on, but would otherwise retire since they are no longer economic. The high costs of keeping this facility operating is currently being borne by ratepayers.

Moss Landing’s replacement with a BESS will reduce ratepayer costs by replacing it with clean energy resources that can provide the same, and more cost-effective, reliability services. Specifically, the BESS would be charged when California has more solar than we can use during the day, and use that electricity in peak times when electricity is most expensive. Along with eliminating the once-through-cooling (“OTC”) practice at Moss Landing, using clean energy from batteries during peak times will reduce local air pollution, further integrate clean energy onto our grid, and decrease our reliance on expensive gas being fired up at peak times instead.

The BESS will also create good-paying union jobs through a project labor agreement, which will ensure these batteries are installed safely and appropriately by qualified workers. At a time when our communities and the clean energy workforce are being heavily impacted by COVID-19, these career opportunities will put people back to work and provide the strong local economic benefits we need right now.

**This project is a win for ratepayers, workers, and the environment, and we urge its approval without delay.** Any delay could put the project at risk, require the State to extend the life of Moss Landing for years, and dampen the momentum we need to build the clean energy we need to meet the State’s climate and air quality mandates.

Thank you for your work on moving this important project forward.

Sincerely,

Luis Amezcua  
Senior Campaign Representative

Rita Dalessio, Ventana Chapter  
Conservation Chair