LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE FIGHTERS LOCAL 1014

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January 2, 2026

Anthony Marrone, Fire Chief
Los Angeles County Fire Fighters Local 1014
1320 N. Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063

CEASE AND DESIST NOTICE: Consideration or Approval of Energy Storage System (ESS) Facilities Adjacent to Fire Station 43 or Residential Occupancies

Dear Chief Marrone:

This correspondence serves as a formal **CEASE AND DESIST NOTICE** on behalf of the Los Angeles County Firefighters, IAFF Local 1014.

IAFF Local 1014 hereby demands that the Los Angeles County Fire District, Fire Prevention Bureau, Fire Marshal's Office, and any subordinate authority immediately cease and desist from any consideration, review, approval, conditional approval, or facilitation of an Energy Storage System (ESS) facility proposed to be located adjacent to Los Angeles County Fire Station 43, or in proximity to residential occupancies within Los Angeles County.

NOTICE OF UNACCEPTABLE AND FORESEEABLE DANGER

The siting of an ESS facility next to an occupied fire station—where firefighters work and reside twenty-four (24) hours per day—constitutes an unacceptable, unsafe, and indefensible action that directly contradicts established fire protection engineering principles, firefighter safety standards, and the intent of applicable codes. ESS facilities are recognized as high-hazard industrial installations that present uniquely severe risks, including but not limited to:

- Thermal runaway and cascading battery failure
- Deflagration and explosive overpressure events
- Release of highly toxic gases, including hydrogen fluoride (HF)
- Delayed ignition and re-ignition without warning

Fire stations are mixed-use facilities containing residential occupancies under the California Building Code, California Fire Code, and Los Angeles County amendments. Firefighters live, eat, and sleep within these facilities. Placing an ESS facility adjacent to such an occupancy would never be permitted for traditional residential housing and is equally impermissible here.

KNOWN AND DOCUMENTED FIRE SERVICE INJURY HISTORY

Lithium-ion battery incidents, using the same technology deployed in ESS facilities, have already caused serious firefighter injuries and long-term health consequences.

In April 2025, four Sacramento Fire Department firefighters were hospitalized following exposure to toxic off-gassing during a Tesla electric vehicle battery thermal runaway event. No explosion occurred, yet all four suffered significant inhalation injuries from hydrogen fluoride and related byproducts, with reports indicating potential permanent disability and inability to return to duty.

This incident directly prompted the advancement of **SB 283 (Laird) and AB 841 (Patel)**, which formally recognizes the serious occupational hazards posed by lithium-ion battery fires and the need for enhanced firefighter protections against toxic exposure, cancer risk, respiratory disease, and neurological harm.

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Large-scale ESS incidents—including the Moss Landing BESS fire (2025), Gateway Energy Storage fire (San Diego County), and the McMicken ESS explosion—further confirm that these facilities can catastrophically fail without warning and require strictly defensive firefighting tactics, exclusion zones, and evacuation to prevent injury or loss of life.

These realities alone establish that ESS facilities do not belong near occupied fire stations or residential communities.

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SAFETY

IAFF Local 1014's opposition is not limited to fire stations. ESS facilities pose an existential threat to public health and safety when located near residential homes, schools, or neighborhoods. Civilians—including children, seniors, and medically vulnerable populations—have no ability to mitigate or respond to ESS failures involving toxic gas release, explosion, or long-duration fire events.

Local 1014 does not oppose energy storage technology in principle. However, such facilities must be sited only in remote, non-residential areas of Los Angeles County, where failure does not endanger the public or emergency responders.

DEMAND TO CEASE AND DESIST

Accordingly, IAFF Local 1014 hereby demands that you:

1. Immediately cease and desist from any further consideration, review, or approval of an ESS facility adjacent to Fire Station 43.
2. Cease and desist from approving ESS facilities in proximity to residential occupancies within Los Angeles County.
3. Confirm that no permits, conditional approvals, variances, or discretionary actions will be granted for such siting.

NOTICE OF ESCALATION AND LIABILITY

Should Local 1014 become aware that Fire Prevention personnel or the Fire Marshal's Office has approved or intends to approve ESS facilities near fire stations or residential communities, this matter will be immediately escalated to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. California Professional Firefighters (CPF), the state union representing over 30,000 firefighters, is fully aware of this issue and stands in full support of Local 1014.

Any future injury, long-term health impact, or loss of life resulting from an ESS incident approved despite this notice will rest solely with:

- The Los Angeles County Fire District
- The Fire Marshal and Fire Prevention Division
- The County of Los Angeles and all approving authorities

The dangers are known, foreseeable, and preventable.

You are hereby directed to provide a **formal written response within five (5) business days** confirming that this proposal has been rejected and removed from further departmental or County consideration. Failure to do so will be interpreted as a refusal to comply with this notice and will result in immediate escalation.

Vice President Tony Carcioppolo will be handling this issue for Local 1014, please contact him with any questions you may have and with your response.

Respectfully,



DAVID GILLOTTE
President
Los Angeles County Firefighters
IAFF Local 1014