David Pedersen

Goodday. My name is David Pedersen and you speak of the MOSS landing fire par.#3 on the Draft Scoping for Battery Energy Storage PEIS, was described as a minor event from the testing done at that time. The consulting firm that was hired by the county, tested the water and soil measured at deeper levels than the test's done by Scientest's at surface levels. The results from those tests conflict with each other. Please see attachment BESS Scientist's Pre...r The first fire at MOSS landing occured Jan.2025 and a second fire just occured Friday Sept.18th this month. Please see attachment BESS Moss Landing n...s ago. An explosion and fire occured at the Laverne Califonia BESS water treatment faciity just a day apart this month. The first fire and explosion Sept. 22nd 2026 and then the next day the batteries reheated triggering a complicated recooling process to prevent a thermal runaway. Please see attachment BESS LaVerne CA fir...t and BESS LaVerne CA Bes...t Residents had to remain evacuated for a second day. Normally evacuations are done prior to possible catastrophic events and however, is required immediately during BESS thermal runaways. I believe this newer technology is in it's beginning stages, and should be considered high industrial use and not located over residential auafers wetlands and wellheads such as my water supply that have 1,2,3, travel time zones and highly suceptable to contamination. The health risks can cause serious medical issues and even death depending on the failure of the mitigation. My property and home value would drop to the floor and would adversely create a major financial loss to the local public utility, because no one pays for contaminated water, and then comes the law suit that residents would have to use to hopefully reclaim any losses involving the home and property. Please see my attachment that indicates all the fires and failures from just one energy company. They are called TERRA-GEN energy company.! Please see attachment BESS Jillian Fried...May 2026.jpg. In conclusion the Draft Scoping in it's present form does not show accurate or up to date BESS risk assesement, is flawed and misleading as shown by the attachments submitted. In addition a Suffolk County lawsuit has been filed for current water contamination. To read the full article please use this link provided.
https://www.newsday.com/long-island/politics/battery-storage-facility-east-hampton-water-contamina
Thank you for your patience and understanding. Respectfully David Pedersen.

Scientists Present Conflicting Views on Moss Landing Battery Fire Impacts

County to Ask Vistra to Fund Ongoing Independent Monitoring of Pollution

written by Jon Chown
March 30, 2026

MOSS LANDING — Monterey County supervisors were presented with a conflicting picture of the environmental and public health impacts from the 2025 Vistra battery fire in Moss Landing during a public forum held March 17.

County officials, state regulators and independent scientists came to different conclusions on how much contamination the fire created, how that contamination should be measured, whether more testing should be done, and whether the contamination poses a lasting risk.

County environmental health officials emphasized that Monterey County did not conduct its own independent risk assessment, but instead acted as a coordinator in partnership with state agencies such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control.

Following the fire, the county directed Vistra to carry out sampling for contaminants associated with battery debris. Sampling occurred in two phases — soil testing from May to June 2025 across 27 locations, followed by water and sediment sampling in September 2025, with results later compiled and shared with the public and regulators.

The timing of data collection and the method are key to the controversy.

Independent researchers with the EMBER project (Estuary Monitoring of Battery Emissions and Residues) began sampling within days of the January 2025 fire, capturing what they described as a thin but highly concentrated layer of battery-related metals deposited across marsh surfaces. DTSC scientists presented results of soil samples that went several inches down and were taken months after the fire.

State Risk Assessments Find no Significant Threat

State toxicologists presented a reassuring scenario based on the formal sampling data collected

county and state direction.

An ecological risk assessment conducted under the oversight of DTSC concluded that there was no “potentially unacceptable risk” to the environment and that no further ecological risk assessment is needed. That conclusion was determined by comparing detected contaminant levels to established ecological thresholds. Only one measurement, nickel in sediment, exceeded screening levels, and that was attributed to natural conditions.

A state-led human health risk assessment, presented by Jiang Weiyang of DTSC, reached a similar conclusion. Toxicologists evaluated potential exposure through air, soil, and water and found that chronic health risks are not expected based on the sampled data.

‘‘These screening levels are based on a person staying exactly at that location 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” Weiyang said. “And considering those conservative assumptions used to derive those screening levels, we concluded this level is not expected to cause human health risks to residents.”

The assessment considered metals such as nickel and manganese, along with combustion-related compounds like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and dioxins, but concluded that measured concentrations did not pose a health concern under long-term exposure scenarios. Weiyang did note that these results did not dispute any claims by residents who were exposed to contamination during the fire. The study only looked at long-term effects from contamination that remained.

EMBER Raises Concerns About Missed Contamination

EMBER challenged those conclusions, arguing that the official sampling strategy missed most of the contamination. The group’s research identified a “thin, patchy” layer of ash containing elevated levels of nickel, cobalt and manganese that appeared shortly after the fire and dissipated within weeks due to rain and tidal action.

‘‘To detect the ecological impacts of this fire, appropriate sampling is and was essential,” said Kirsten Wasson, adjunct professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. “This includes sampling soil surfaces immediately after the fire to detect the ash layer.”

Because the layer unevenly distributed and was so shallow, sometimes just millimeters thick, Wasson pointed out that the much deeper soil samples taken by Vistra’s researchers diluted the true measure of the

pollution. The delay in sampling also allowed the pollution to dilute even further.

And the pollution was not just a shallow layer. Wasson also showed photos of large chunks of debris she found, some 6 inches or more in width and length.

“We found hundreds of pieces of debris,” she said. “When we held our instrument over them, they are pure cathode battery metals.”

Wasson said they collected samples, placed them in plastic bags and froze them.

Her bigger concern, though, was with microscopic particles of battery materials appearing in marine organisms. She cautioned that bioaccumulation can take years to fully understand and warned against drawing conclusions from limited data collected only months after the event.

Community, County Leaders Express Concern

Several members of the public either showed up in person or called in to share their concerns. Cheryl Davidson, who lives in north Monterey County, said she and others are still suffering health effects from the fire.

“Nose bleeds, skin rashes, respiratory problems, metallic taste … we’re still having this, a lot of us. Some people gave up their homes and moved away,” she said. “I ask you guys to look at this data. Evaluate it.”

Leslie Austin, who lives in Aromas, said she supports the technology, but the fallout is real and the county and state should take some lessons on when to test and how to test after an event like this.

“That knowledge belongs in the rules. The county didn’t ask for this lesson, but it has it. And I’d ask this board to make sure it doesn’t stay here,” she said.

Monterey County supervisors appeared supportive of the community’s concerns.

“There’s a lot that everyone is learning from this process,*and I understand from DTSC that we have some of the top environmental scientists in the state here, and they want to move cautiously. I know we also have some of the top marine scientists in the world over in Moss Landing, and the difference in presentations are

rather stark," said Supervisor Glenn Church of District 2, which includes Moss Landing.

Church questioned the DTSC, asking why the samples taken went so deep. He also asked why the results of soil sampling performed just weeks after the fire were never presented by the department, but only the results of tests done in May. Unfortunately, he could not get a clear answer from the department.

The draft Preliminary Environmental Assessment — which includes both ecological and human health analyses — is now under review by state agencies. While that is happening, the supervisors directed staff to draft a letter to Vistra asking it to fund independent biological monitoring with oversight by a local entity.

‘‘I'd like to see Vistra fund this ongoing effort," said Supervisor Kate Daniels.

https://santacruzlocal.org/2026/09/18/moss-landing-battery-facility-reignites/

Moss Landing battery facility reignites 1.5 years after fire

By Nik Altenberg|September 18, 2026

MOSS LANDING >> Nineteen months after a battery facility at the Moss Landing power plant caught fire and burned for days, the facility once again ignited early Friday morning.

The fire is on the north side of the facility, in "an existing structure that sustained significant damage" in the January 2025 fire, according to a Monterey County Sheriff's Office press release. The batteries burning Friday were previously damaged and fire personnel were first dispatched shortly after 6 a.m.

County officials expect the fire may burn itself out within 24 hours, according to the statement. The facility contains lithium batteries, which react explosively to water. Fire personnel have said they cannot do much to suppress the fire and must let it burn itself out.

Last year, the fire sent massive plumes of smoke into the air and triggered evacuations. Many residents have complained of health effects related to smoke that may contain various hazardous substances but local, state and federal health officials have maintained that the levels released by the fire were not a threat to human health.

The Vistra Corp.-owned facility has been in the process of being cleaned up and decommissioned following the 2025 fire.

"This is related to the cleanup. There has always been a concern that the cleanup could cause ignition of the remaining batteries as they are removed. Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened," Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church wrote in an email Friday morning. Church advised residents to stay indoors and said the smoke has so far been mostly drifting west towards the ocean.

A KSBW Action News 8 camera began live streaming the incident, and as of 10:45 a.m. Friday it showed a continuous stream of smoke rising from the facility, but no live flames. Watch the livestream on YouTube.

Highway 1 remained open as of 10:45 a.m. but motorists were asked to avoid the area. Dolan Road was closed as of 10:45 a.m.

Residents near the plant were advised to shelter in place. To reduce smoke exposure, keep windows closed, run an air filter, and wear a mask when outdoors.

"The County of Monterey Department of Emergency Management is activated and coordinating with multiple local, state, and federal agencies," the county press release stated. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has air monitors operating in the area. Fire personnel are also using drones to assess conditions and gather information."

To receive Monterey County emergency information, visit the Alert Monterey County website.

Claremont Courier: https://claremontcourier.com/latest-news/evacuations-one-injury-in-explosion-fire-at-la-verne-water-facility-90227/

Evacuations, one injury in explosion, fire at La Verne water facility

September 22nd, 2026

by Andrew Alonzo | aalonzo@claremont-courier.com

Parts of La Verne were under evacuation orders Tuesday as firefighters worked to contain a lithium ion battery blaze following an explosion at a Metropolitan Water District of Southern California facility at 3201 Wheeler Ave.

La Verne Fire Department Battalion Chief and Public Information Officer Mark Savage said the agency was called to the fire at 11:42 a.m. Los Angeles County Fire Department and La Verne police also responded.

The Metropolitan Water District uses solar panels to harness energy and stores that energy at an outdoor lithium battery storage facility, Savage said.

"As soon as we arrived, there was an explosion in that storage facility there that blew the doors off the storage compartment," Savage said. " It certainly got all of our attention, did not injury any of our firefighters, and then we went to work."

One person suffered minor injuries but was "assessed, treated and transported to a local facility," Savage said. "My understanding they're in good condition."

The City of La Verne posted this update at 6:15 p.m.: "All affected agencies, the City, MWD, and South Coast Air Quality Management District are currently meeting to coordinate next steps and confirm the most current information related to the incident. More information to follow shortly."

Firefighters worked with LA County Fire and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division to monitor smoke and water runoff.

"We're still cooling," Savage said while speaking to reporters at 3 p.m. "We are now able to put water directly on to that battery storage facility unit … We are gaining the upper hand, however, we still have batteries and trying to get those completely cooled down. They're not off-gassing any product whatsoever. We are not there yet, and that's why we still have some of this still under

evacuation. But I think things are going to continue to progress in the right direction."

Evacuation orders were reduced at 3 p.m. to only areas adjacent to the facility between Foothill Boulevard to the north, Moreno Avenue to the west, Bonita Avenue to the south, and B Street to the east.

"If you are in still in that area, we don't want you in there until we get this completely under control," Savage said.

Nearby Damien and Bonita high schools and the University of La Verne canceled classes for the day. Businesses in old town La Verne also closed.

Savage said the fire did not extend to any other part of the facility and that their water supply was not being impacted.

Evacuation warnings were issued at 2:31 p.m. for much of the area west and south of the facility. Advisories were issued for areas east of B Street, north of Foothill Boulevard, and small area between San Dimas Canyon Road and Damien Avenue.

https://ktla.com/news/local-news/lithium-ion-batteries-heat-up-again-la-verne-fire-evacuations/

Lithium-ion Batteries Heat Up Again at La Verne Water Facility, Prolonging Evacuations

by Lily Dallow
Sept 23, 2026

Lithium-ion batteries damaged in a fire at a Southern California water treatment facility began heating up again Wednesday morning, forcing firefighters to resume cooling efforts as hundreds of residents remained under evacuation orders.
The latest temperature spike occurred at a second battery storage system at the Metropolitan Water District facility in La Verne, where a fire and explosion Tuesday prompted a massive hazardous materials response.
During a Wednesday morning news conference, La Verne Fire Chief Brandon Coney said crews had stopped spraying water on the damaged batteries shortly before 6 a.m. after temperatures appeared to stabilize overnight. However, temperatures subsequently rose from approximately 70 degrees to 90 degrees, triggering renewed cooling efforts.

Firefighters resumed pouring water on the second storage system while using drones and infrared equipment to monitor temperatures. The original battery unit, which caught fire Tuesday, has remained relatively stable.

Although there were no active flames or hazardous smoke plumes Wednesday morning, officials warned that the situation could change if the damaged batteries reignite.
The primary concern is not another large explosion but the potentially hazardous fumes that could be released if the batteries catch fire again, officials said.

Fire officials explained that the second container sustained enough damage that a large explosion similar to Tuesday's is unlikely. However, smaller explosions involving individual battery cells remain possible.
Crews are attempting to prevent the batteries from entering thermal runaway, a process in which rising temperatures trigger a self-sustaining chemical reaction that can spread from one battery cell to another.
The cooling process has been complicated by the metal enclosure surrounding the batteries, which prevents water from penetrating as effectively as firefighters would like.

Evacuation orders remained in effect Wednesday for approximately 200 homes near the facility, including a mobile home community and two residential neighborhoods. Moreno Avenue generally bounds the evacuation zone to the west, Foothill Boulevard to the north, B Street to the east and Paseo Drive, Winterhaven Drive and Kendrick Drive to the south.
Police have established barricades farther south near Wheeler and Bonita avenues to maintain access for emergency vehicles.
Officers from the La Verne Police Department and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department were going door to door Wednesday to determine how many residents had evacuated and how many remained in their homes.

Residents are being asked to leave the evacuation zone, although limited access is being permitted for those who need to retrieve clothing or other belongings.
Officials have not provided a timeline for lifting the evacuation orders, saying the decision will depend on conditions at the facility.
Grace Miller Elementary School remained closed Wednesday because of its proximity to the evacuation zone. Officials said the closure was a precaution in case conditions worsen and a larger evacuation becomes necessary. Other surrounding schools were open.
Residents can view the **latest evacuation map** or visit the city of La Verne's website for updates.

Air and water quality monitoring continues

Los Angeles County hazardous materials officials said air monitoring conducted since the fire began has not detected the hazardous substances they were testing for.
The South Coast Air Quality Management District has also deployed a mobile sampling vehicle to conduct continuous air monitoring throughout the surrounding community.
Officials said water samples collected from runoff generated by firefighting efforts are undergoing laboratory analysis.

Metropolitan Water District officials emphasized that the Weymouth Water Treatment Plant has continued operating and that the incident has not affected the quality of drinking water being produced at the facility.
The runoff being tested is separate from the treated drinking water supply.
The Weymouth facility is the fifth-largest water treatment plant in the United States, according to Metropolitan Water District Assistant General Manager Shane Chapman. Approximately 350 employees typically work at the site, but staffing has been reduced to essential personnel during the emergency.

What caused the fire?

The fire was **first reported** around 11:40 a.m. Tuesday at a battery energy storage system near a solar panel field at the Metropolitan Water District facility on Wheeler Avenue.
Firefighters arrived to find one of two nearby battery storage systems damaged by an explosion and subsequent fire.
One employee suffered minor injuries and was transported to a local hospital.
Crews spent much of Tuesday battling the fire and cooling the damaged equipment. Although the original fire was brought under control, heat exposure damaged the neighboring battery storage system, raising concerns about another fire.

The solar panels and batteries were installed to help power the treatment plant, reduce its reliance on the electrical grid and support clean energy goals, Metropolitan Water District officials said.
The cause of the initial equipment failure remains under investigation.
This is a developing story. Stay with KTLA for updates.

Terra- Gen BESS/Solar Incidents: Information sourced from media reports as well as fire reports obtained through public record requests.

Date	Facility	Event Type	Env / Hazmat	EPRI	Key incident Details
9/18/2023	Valley Center BESS	BESS fire		Yes	Fire involving battery related equipment
2/22/2024	EdSan Hybrid Facility	BESS fire	EPA & EH contacted	No	"it was decided to maintain a distance of approximately 1000 feet from the burning container at the ICP..." "Approximately 2000 gallons remained in the 12,000-gallon-tank.
2/29/2024	EdSan Hybrid Facility	Equipment fire / inverter		n/a	Fire/smoke involving inverter equipment
7/14/2024	EdSan Hybrid Facility	BESS fire		No	"The wind was out of the west pushing the smoke out east where there were no homes for 20 to 30 miles."
9/14/2024	EdSan Hybrid Facility	45B1 Incident – Later Characterized as Fire (9/14/24)		No	Container 45B1 alarm/abnormal BESS event requiring water injection, shutdown, and 24-hour fire watch; later referenced as a prior 'fire' in the 9/18/24 incident report.
9/18/2024	EdSan Hybrid Facility	BESS fire	EH involved	No	"Units were not going close to the unit (45B1) due to the health hazards it presents." "To put out that fire would it would take more water than was available on scene so units watched from a distance." "The unit caught fire as units were leaving." "The facility had a fire on Saturday 9/14/2024 in the same enclosure 45B1."
3/28/2025	EdSan Hybrid Facility	Edison Pole Fire		n/a	"E14 arrived on scene to find a power pole that was energized and had a fire in the middle of that pole."
4/19/2025	EdSan Hybrid Facility	Equipment fire / Panels		n/a	"E14 arrived on scene to find a grass fire that was approximately 4 acres in size. "Two solar panels were broken in the middle of a grass fire."
4/23/2025	EdSan Hybrid Facility	Equipment fire/ inverter		n/a	"E14 was 400 feet away from the inverter due to toxicity of the smoke."
3/16/2026	Valley Center BESS	BESS fire		No	Smoke and fire reported; emergency response dispatched.

Key:

BESS = Battery Energy Storage System

EH = Environmental Health

EPA = Environmental Protection Agency

EPRI = Electric Power Research Institute Incident Database

ICP = Incident Command Post