CALIFORNIANS FOR BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE

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What Experts Are Saying



Battery Energy Storage Strengthens Grid Reliability & Resilience

"Battery energy storage systems and lithium-ion batteries have really become an **integral part of our state's energy reliability strategy.**"[1]
- Chief Daniel Berlant, California Office of the State Fire Marshal

"The electric grid is under increasing strain, with demand only projected to increase in the years ahead. Battery storage is one of the tools that will help **keep the lights on when demand spikes,** keep the electric system stable and keep power flowing to homes, hospitals and businesses."[2]
– Chief Wayne Melton, Orange County Hazardous Materials Response Team

"**Energy storage has become an essential part of modern life.** Whether in our personal devices, our transportation, or keeping the lights on, our lives depend on energy storage. As a water tower for the grid, stationary energy storage systems **provide critical support to our power system** in obvious and not so obvious ways. We are now dependent on energy storage on the grid, and it is not just the mission of ESRG and myself to ensure this technology is as safe as possible, but of the whole industry."
– Nick Warner, Co-Founder and Principal of Energy Safety Response Group

"These **[battery storage] systems are proving every day that a clean energy grid can be both clean and reliable,** and that California's investments are delivering results."[3]
– Chair David Hochschild, California Energy Commission

"Just a few years ago, extreme heat pushed the grid to its limits. **Today, cleaner energy, battery storage, and better planning are helping California maintain reliable power during increasingly severe climate events.**"[4]
– Vice Chair Siva Gunda, California Energy Commission

"[California] is setting the standard for deploying storage resources to complement a grid increasingly powered by renewable energy. It's a **smart way to manage electricity costs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change.**"[5]
– Former President Alice Reynolds, California Public Utilities Commission

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[1] California Office of the State Fire Marshal, "Battery Energy Storage Systems Fire Safety Symposium," YouTube video, [02:08], July 30, 2025.
[2] Times Herald-Record, "Battery storage in NY is safe. This is how we know that | Opinion," Opinion Editorial, July 31, 2026.
[3] California Energy Commission, "California's Battery Storage Fleet Continues Record Growth, Strengthening Grid Reliability," news release, November 13, 2025.
[4] California Energy Commission, "California Energy Leaders Report Progress on Grid Reliability Ahead of Summer 2026," news release, May 4, 2026.
[5] California Energy Commission, "California's Battery Storage Fleet Continues Record Growth, Strengthening Grid Reliability," news release, November 13, 2025.

Battery Energy Storage Creates Community & Economic Benefits

"Today's clean energy projects must do more than just deliver megawatts. They should **create value in the communities where they're built.** This project exemplifies a community-focused approach that advances the state's energy goals while **creating benefits for local workers and residents.**"[6]
– Commissioner Noemí Gallardo, California Energy Commission, in support of the Darden Clean Energy Project, on the approval of the Darden Clean Energy Project

"Projects of this scale **create high-quality jobs, strengthen local communities, and help sustain the pipeline of skilled workers needed** to build California's clean energy future."[7]
– Chris Hannan, President, State Building and Construction Trades Council of California, in support of the Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage Project

Advancing Battery Energy Storage Safety Through Innovation & Oversight

"Battery energy storage projects help communities throughout California receive safe, reliable, clean, and affordable energy while **ensuring modern energy infrastructure adheres to rigorous safety standards.** Public safety officials, environmental protection protocols, and smart infrastructure must all work together to protect and provide safe, reliable power for our communities."
– Ruben Grijalva, former State Fire Marshal and director of CAL FIRE

"We've been really trying to be **proactive in bringing in the latest standards and codes**... As the technology advances, we're keeping up with trends."[8]
– Crystal Sujeski, Chief of Code Development and Analysis, California Office of the State Fire Marshal

"In short, these [battery energy storage projects] are some of the **most tightly regulated infrastructure projects** that can be built today, using the **same technology that powers our phones,** computers, and home devices."[9]
– Tom Von Essen, former Commissioner of the Fire Department of New York and FEMA Regional Administrator

"Modern battery energy storage projects **are safer than ever and continually improving** with ever evolving model fire codes and additional state requirements. This level of safety doesn't just ensure safety, it helps **promote reliable, affordable energy around the clock,** especially during the moments we need it most."
– Nick Petrakis, P.E. FPE, Energy Safety Response Group

"Having open communication between project developers and the fire department is important. When firefighters like myself have an opportunity to **understand the technology and site** before a project is operational, it helps us be **better prepared to make informed decisions and respond safely** if an incident occurs."
– Acting Chief Paul Brown, Ohio Suburban Fire Department

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[6] California Energy Commission, "CEC Approves World's Largest Solar + Battery Storage Project in Fresno County Under Accelerated Program," news release, June 12, 2025.
[7] State Building Trades Council of California, "Support for the Potentia-Viridi Battery Energy Storage System Project – Docket Number 24-OPT-04," May 20, 2026.
[8] California Energy Commission, "Staff Workshop on Battery Energy Storage System Safety," *Zoom recording link, [00:53:48], February 27, 2024.*
[9] Long Island Press, "Op-Ed: I spent my career assessing risk. Long Island's battery energy storage passes the test," Opinion Editorial, July 19, 2026.