

Statement from the Chair of the Board of Directors Palomar Health.

I applaud Palomar Health Administration for making the decision not to grant an easement for the Seguro Energy Project.

Palomar Health, California's largest public health system, has denied easement rights for the proposed Seguro energy storage project on its property. The project, proposed by AES Corp., is one of the largest of its kind and would utilize a 22-acre former horse ranch to store energy in dozens of battery containers. While acknowledging the importance of green energy, Palomar Health expressed concerns about the potential safety risks associated with the project.

Safety Concerns Drive Decision

Palomar Health's decision stems from anxieties regarding the potential impact of a hazardous materials incident at the facility. With limited options for response in such a scenario (shelter-in-place or evacuation), a fire similar to the recent incident at the Otay Mesa battery storage facility could force a hospital shutdown for weeks, severely impacting patient care. Palomar Health Board of Directors' current Chair, Jeff Griffith, voiced these concerns, highlighting his background in fire service and emphasizing the importance of both community safety and patient well-being.

California's Balancing Act

California faces a growing need for energy storage solutions to accommodate surging demand. Residents are divided on these projects, with some prioritizing the environmental benefits of green energy and others concerned about potential safety risks. The Seguro project highlights this challenge as the state strives to balance its clean energy goals with public safety.