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Not Worth the Risks

I'm writing to express serious concern about the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano. While I recognize the importance of clean energy and battery storage, the location and scale of this project raise a number of red flags for me and many others in the community.

There are several risks that I believe make the location of this project untenable.

Fire Safety: This region is no stranger to wildfires, and a facility like this, of this size comes with significant fire risks, even with modern safety measures. If anything were to go wrong, which is always a possibility given the earthquake, fire, and storm history of the town, not to mention simply the routine chance of malfunction, it could have devastating consequences for nearby neighborhoods and emergency response access.

Health and Environmental Risks: A major failure could release toxic smoke or chemicals into the air and waterways. The site is close to creeks that feed into the ocean—contamination here could impact not just local wildlife, but also our beaches and coastal industries, which are vital to our local economy and quality of life. I run the San Juan Creek trail and swim at Doheny beach multiple times a week and would be devastated for these important aspects of my life and those in our community to be ruined by a preventable disaster.

Traffic and Infrastructure: San Juan Capistrano already struggles with traffic congestion and limited evacuation routes. In the event of an emergency, a facility like this would only make those problems worse—potentially putting residents at risk if access is blocked or delayed.

This project may be well-intentioned, but it doesn't seem like a good fit for this area. The risks—both short and long-term—feel too high for a community like ours. It is difficult to overstate how devastating a fire or environmental disaster in this location would be. I urge you to take these concerns seriously and to explore other locations or alternatives that wouldn't carry the same level of impact.

Thank you for your time and for considering the voices of local residents.