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Comment Received From: Dennis Jans
Submitted On: 5/28/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Objection to the Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

California Energy Commission
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02
Project Title: Compass Energy Storage Project

RE: Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

As a long time, concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails which I enjoy using. Because of this close proximity to residential neighborhoods, it a great risk to our community.

The proposed location of Compass Energy Storage's project site poses significant and immediate wildfire risks. The BESS facility would be composed of lithium-iron phosphate batteries, which can be incredibly dangerous if they overheat, causing the battery to catch fire. Lithium battery fires burn hotter and faster than other fires and cannot be easily extinguished. Lithium batteries can reignite twenty-one (21) days after extinguishing the fire, presenting a long-lasting and persistent threat. Should the lithium batteries overheat and catch fire, the proposed project site's natural vegetation, steep terrain and surrounding landscape pose a significant and immediate fire threat.

In the past ten years, there have been twenty-three (23) wildfires within a five-mile radius of the proposed project site. In addition to the heightened risk of wildfires, the proposed BESS project site presents significant environmental and public health risks. Lithium batteries emit toxic gases within seconds of igniting, leading to air pollution and public health risks for the firefighters and the surrounding residents.

The project's close proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed further exacerbates potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Pacific Ocean just miles away. The project is located very close to a freeway which is the only major route between Orange County and San Diego County. It is also located very close to the train line which is used by both Metrolink and Amtrak. A fire at this proposed facility would result in commuters being unable to travel between these two

counties. Since fires at these facilities can sometimes burn for weeks, this would be a major disaster for our area.

I strongly urge the California Energy Commission to carefully and fully consider these adverse fire, economic, environmental, and public safety risks as they evaluate Compass Energy Storage's proposed project. The health and safety of California residents should always take precedence over any potential benefits proposed by this project. I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission reject this project application and unequivocally prioritize public safety and community quality of life.

With all these risks, you need to find some vacant land far away from populated residential areas.

Sincerely,
Dennis Jans