

DOCKETED	
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Comment Received From: Mercedes-Benz of Laguna Niguel
Submitted On: 5/28/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



MURGADO
AUTOMOTIVE GROUP

California Energy Commission

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

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project {24-OPT-02}

Dear Commissioners,

As the principal and owner of Mercedes-Benz of Laguna Niguel ("MBLN"), I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed siting of the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano, on land currently owned by Saddleback Church.

I have several serious concerns regarding the impact of this project to the community, including, without limitation:

1. **Proximity to Community Assets:** The proposed facility is dangerously close to residential neighborhoods, schools, senior living facilities, businesses (including abutting next to MBLN), and a medical center. In the event of a fire, explosion, evacuation or toxic fume release, the impact on local residents and emergency services would be catastrophic.

2. **Transportation Risks:** Its location near Interstate 5 and several railway lines poses a significant risk. A disaster, such as the recent fire at Moss landing, could lead to closures of these essential transportation routes, severely disrupting regional mobility and commerce.

3. **Demand on Community Resources:** The facility would also create an unsustainable demand on local resources, including water needed in the event of a fire. Fires have erupted in this valley, spread and threatened neighborhoods but were successfully extinguished by firefighters using water. Lithium fires cannot be extinguished by water and can burn for days. Given what we saw just a few months ago in Los Angeles County, it would be morally questionable (at best) and irresponsible (at worst) to allow the construction of a tinder box in this community.

I urge the Commission to prioritize the safety and well-being of Californians above any financial incentives or cost-saving measures that benefit the developer. The proposed site was likely chosen due to its proximity to the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Trabuco to Capistrano 138-kilovolt transmission line; however, this convenience should not come at the expense of community welfare.

I respectfully ask you to consider the serious risks outlined above and reject this OPT-IN application.

Sincerely,

Mario Murgado
President & CEO

Mercedes-Benz of Laguna Niguel

