

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Mehrdad Haghi
Submitted On: 5/28/2025
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Please block Compass Energy Storage Project 24-OPT-02

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

Compass Energy Storage LLC is proposing a Battery Energy Storage facility in the City of San Juan Capistrano. I am a resident of Laguna Niguel, within a few miles of the proposed site of the facility.

Let me begin by saying that as a professor of Mechanical Engineering at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, I am keenly aware of the need for, and supportive of, the construction of properly designed and located energy storage facilities to help even out the electrical load our power grid. However, locating a giant lithium battery energy storage facility within a heavily populated area would be irresponsible in the extreme.

I have advised teams of students designing and constructing both hybrid electric vehicles and pure electric vehicles for Society of Automotive Engineers racecar events, and have dealt with lithium battery power packs in the process. I have also served as the Safety Officer for the Cal Poly Pomona College of Engineering, and am currently on the University Safety Committee and Co-chair of the University Shop Safety Committee. Lithium battery packs are easy to overheat, and when they overheat, they cause extremely hot and dangerous fires that are nearly impossible to put out. We have in fact had lithium battery fires on our own campus. Furthermore, when they burn, they generate toxic fumes and byproducts. If a battery storage facility of the size Compass Energy is proposing is built right next to heavily populated residential areas, the risk to the population would be multifaceted and extreme.

Battery energy storage facilities are a great idea, but it is madness to place them in population centers. They can be located in sparsely occupied land and still provide all their benefits without any of the potential risk. If you approve this project you will be doing the citizens of California much more harm than good.

I respectfully urge the Commission to reject this proposed project.
Sincerely,
Mehrdad Haghi