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Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

Opposition Letter - Docket Number 24-OPT-02

Please refer to our attached letter in opposition of this project.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

California Energy Commission

Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

RE: Strong Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project

Dear Commissioners,

We are writing to strongly oppose the Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02). Placing a 250-megawatt lithium battery facility less than 1,500 feet from residential neighborhoods, open space, and multi-use equestrian trails in a wildfire-prone area is irresponsible and dangerous.

This site—surrounded by brushy hillside terrain, native vegetation, and heavily used equestrian trails—is the worst possible location for a battery facility. There have been **23 wildfires within five miles** of this site in the past decade. Introducing a massive lithium-ion storage project here adds unacceptable fire risk to an already vulnerable area.

Lithium battery fires are uniquely hazardous: they burn hotter, release toxic gases within seconds, and can reignite days or even weeks later. Containing such a fire would be a major challenge given the terrain. If it escapes containment, **nearby homes, families, and animals would be in immediate danger**—evacuation would be chaotic at best and potentially catastrophic.

Beyond fire risk, this project brings serious environmental and public health concerns. Toxic gases and contaminated runoff from a battery fire would pollute air, soil, and water—including the nearby San Juan Creek Watershed, which leads to the Pacific Ocean.

The bottom line is simple: **this is the wrong project in the wrong place**. Public safety, health, and environmental integrity must come first. We urge the Commission to reject this project and protect the people, wildlife, and land of San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel.

Sincerely,

Anne & J.C. MacRae

Horse Owners (4) all boarded in San Juan Capistrano stables
Residents of Laguna Beach, CA