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*Comment Received From: Miki Csintalan*

*Submitted On: 5/28/2025*

*Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

## **Opposition to Compass Energy Storage LLC's proposal for BESS near residential areas in OC**

Dear CEC staff,

My name is Miki Csintalan, a resident of Orange County, and older sister of two siblings, both of whom live in homes located in Laguna Heights, near the proposed lithium ion battery energy storage site just off Camino Capistrano and the I-5 Corridor. I'm here to express our strong opposition to Compass Energy Storage LLC's proposal to construct and operate this 250-megawatt lithium-ion battery energy storage facility on this 13-acre site.

While we fully support California's clean energy goals, we ask the Commission to prioritize safety, community health, and responsible siting. This project, as proposed, puts too many residents and animals at unnecessary risk.

This is a massive lithium-ion facility, and lithium battery systems are not inherently safe at this scale—particularly near homes, schools, and public roads.

Across California and the U.S., lithium battery systems have overheated, caught fire, and released toxic gases.

The Moss Landing Energy Storage Facility—California's largest—has experienced multiple thermal incidents since 2021, despite advanced systems and oversight.

On September 5, 2024, a fire erupted at San Diego Gas & Electric's SDG&E 30MW/120MWh BESS facility in Escondido, CA

A significant fire at a BESS in Otay Mesa, San Diego, began on May 15, 2024, and burned for approximately 17 days before finally being extinguished.

These fires are intense, unpredictable, and require complex firefighting responses involving hazmat protocols and widespread evacuations.

Locating this facility near a densely populated corridor, major interstate, and residential areas compounds that risk significantly. The I-5 is a vital emergency and commuter route—how will traffic and evacuation be impacted during a BESS fire?

The proposed site is close to homes, parks, and schools within the Capistrano Unified School District. These facilities serve children, families, and elderly populations—the very people who are least able to respond in a crisis.

Has Compass provided a clear evacuation plan? Have they coordinated with local emergency services and fire departments trained specifically in lithium fires?

The area is surrounded by sensitive coastal ecosystems, potential wildlife corridors, and relies on shared stormwater and groundwater systems. A chemical release, fire suppression runoff, or explosion could affect not only air quality—but water quality and soil health as well.

This is not an industrial wasteland—this is our community.

This kind of high-risk infrastructure belongs in industrial zones, not community-facing corridors. If Compass truly values safety and community partnership, they should find a

more suitable siteâ€”away from schools, homes, and public highways. Commissioners, the decisions you make here today will define whether this community becomes a testing ground for large-scale battery storageâ€”or a model for safe, responsible renewable infrastructure. Letâ€™s advance clean energyâ€”but letâ€™s do it with integrity, transparency, and safety first. Thank you.