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Comment Received From: Jessie Cherkezian
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Deny Compass Energy Battery Facility

I vehemently oppose the CEC approving a lithium battery storage facility in San Juan Capistrano!

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear CEC,

I am vehemently opposed to the fabrication of a lithium-ion battery storage facility and respectfully request that the proposal be denied. First and foremost, why this location in San Juan Capistrano? I am a resident of Laguna Niguel and live less than 0.1 mile from this proposed facility. It is not a matter of if but when a fire or other disaster would take place in this facility, endangering the lives and dwellings of thousands of residents. A fire can take place at this unmanned facility, and it would be almost impossible to put it out. My house would definitely burn if a fire were to occur. Already, it is very difficult to obtain home insurance, and it is becoming cost-prohibitive when available. Is Compass Energy going to pay for my insurance? Are they going to be viable financially when our houses have disappeared to the ground and there are thousands of lawsuits against them? I am also afraid of potential terrorist attacks on a facility that could affect the lives of thousands of people. How is Compass going to protect us against something that could so easily take place?

Should a fire occur, how are we going to escape this scenario with only so few exits out of our neighborhoods, assuming we make it out alive, being so close to this facility? We live in a country that values security and safety so much, and because of that, we have so many rules and regulations. It just does not make sense to have this facility right next to homes, thousands of them. Why would the commission even contemplate having a facility such as this right next to us? Why? I understand we need clean energy. There are so many other sites this can be built on. We are not allowed to shoot fireworks on the Fourth of July, so why would a facility be allowed to be built that has the potential to be caught on fire and not be able to be put out? What a bad decision it would be? Does the CEC have any morals? Would you want a facility like this to be put in your backyard??

I am also very concerned about the potential toxic contamination, noise pollution, and possible health concerns to wildlife, the Swallows of Capistrano, and humans. There is also known land instability in this area. My house is right next to an empty lot, which is several hundred yards from the Compass proposed site. A developer who owns the lot wanted to build many new homes in this empty lot, and my neighbors protested and stopped the building of this lot because the land was deemed highly unstable by CEQA.

I listened to over five hours of public comment via Zoom, and I only heard two people comment that they were in favor of the Compass site. Anyone who has principles, morals, and integrity would see that having a lithium facility is not the right thing to do for this San Juan Capistrano site. You need to vote with the will of the people. We are a country where the majority rules. In this case, 99.9% of the people are opposed to this facility. Please deny this battery storage facility and tell Compass to find another site!

Respectfully,

Jessie Cherkezian

24-Year Resident of Laguna Niguel

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