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Comment Received From: Salman Ziaei
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No Battery Storage

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally express my strong opposition to the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (CEC Docket No. 23-AFC-01), which is under review by the California Energy Commission.

As a resident of Laguna Niguel, I purchased my home in 2023 with the expectation of living in a safe, environmentally stable community. I was not informed of any plans to build a large-scale lithium battery energy storage system nearby. Had I been aware of this proposal, I would have seriously reconsidered purchasing a home in this area.

The proposed 250-megawatt lithium battery storage facility poses significant concerns:

- Fire Risk: Large lithium-ion battery installations have well-documented risks of thermal runaway and fire, which could threaten nearby residential neighborhoods including parts of Laguna Niguel that lie just over 1,500 feet from the proposed site.
- Environmental Impact: This project could negatively impact air quality, groundwater safety, and the surrounding natural habitat. Locating such a facility so close to residential zones and open space is deeply troubling.
- Property Values and Community Trust: The facility would likely reduce nearby property values and create long-term anxiety for homeowners who were never given the opportunity to voice concerns through their local municipality, as the project is now bypassing the city's planning process through SB 529.

San Juan Capistrano city officials have already denied the necessary zoning changes for this project. The decision to circumvent local review by escalating the project to the CEC through state legislation undermines community trust and local governance.

I respectfully urge the Commission to deny the application for the Compass Energy Storage Project. Please prioritize the health, safety, and voice of the community over rushed development.

Thank you for your time and consideration.