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*Comment Received From: Rachelle DeBaca
Submitted On: 6/1/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)

RE: Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

My name is Rachelle DeBaca, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed lithium battery storage facility in San Juan Capistrano, located near my home in Laguna Niguel.

At the May 29th public meeting, we heard about outdoor battery containers and basic fire precautions. However, serious public safety risks were not adequately addressed.

As Mayor Troy Bourne stated, this site faces ongoing erosion and landslide issues. Until those are resolved, the land cannot be safely developed, regardless of the project type.

Even more troubling, the site has only one access point, through a railroad crossing with a documented history of accidents. According to Mayor Bourne and the Orange County Fire Authority, local firefighters strongly oppose this project due to the danger this creates in an emergency.

If this project is approved without resolving these critical safety issues, it will place both first responders and local residents at risk. This is not just about energy infrastructure – it's about responsible planning and community safety.

I respectfully urge you to reject this project until all environmental and emergency access concerns have been thoroughly addressed.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,
Rachelle DeBaca
Laguna Niguel Resident