

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	263651
Document Title:	Bobbie Valentine Comments - Please Stop this Project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Bobbie Valentine
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	6/2/2025 11:07:51 AM
Docketed Date:	6/2/2025

Comment Received From: Bobbie Valentine

Submitted On: 6/2/2025

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Please Stop this Project

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to Compass Battery Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Laguna Niguel, a community that sits on top of the proposed Compass Battery storage facility. I am respectfully urge you to stop this proposed project. While I understand the growing need for renewable energy infrastructure, the chosen location for this project is simply too close to residential neighborhoods and vital infrastructure, creating significant safety and quality-of-life concerns.

The facility's proximity to homes, schools, and the major freeway (I-5) that connects us to the rest of Southern California poses an unacceptable risk in the event of a fire or battery failure. While lithium-ion battery storage systems are often described as "safe," they are only safer than older technologies—not inherently without risk. These systems can still overheat, catch fire, or even explode under extreme conditions, particularly in regions prone to high temperatures and dry seasons.

If an incident were to occur, evacuation routes could be compromised, putting lives in danger and straining emergency services. Moreover, this project threatens to negatively impact our property values and the overall character of our community.

If these battery systems are truly capable of withstanding extreme conditions, it would make far more sense to locate them inland in less densely populated areas such as the desert, where potential damage would be significantly reduced in case of failure.

Please listen to the voices of residents who will be most directly affected by this decision. We urge you to prioritize community safety, environmental responsibility, and common sense by halting the Compass Battery Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano.

Sincerely,
Bobbie Valentine
Laguna Niguel Resident
949-280-6886