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Comment Received From: denis a ketelaars
Submitted On: 6/2/2025
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Battery Facility letter of opposition

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

To Whom it may concern,

June 2, 2025

While I strongly support clean, renewable energy technologies, I also believe that we have to be mindful of its potential drawbacks. In the case of Compass Energy Storage LLC's proposed battery energy storage facility (BESS), I am convinced by the facts that the proposed site location in Laguna Niguel is at once impractical and irresponsible for the following reasons:

The BESS facility utilizes lithium-iron batteries, which pose an inherent fire threat. According to the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), lithium-iron batteries can also cause explosions and emit toxic gasses within seconds if overheated.

Lithium battery fires burn hotter and faster than other fires, and are difficult to extinguish. Worse still, they can reignite.

These dangerous, very real environmental dangers are exacerbated by the fact that Laguna Niguel is considered a High Wildfire Severity Zone, as designated by the State of California in March 2025.

Should the lithium batteries overheat and catch fire, the proposed project site's natural vegetation, steep terrain, and surrounding landscape pose significant and immediate threat of turning into a large conflagration.

As proposed, the BESS facility is also situated less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel. Any and all environmental hazards would also affect 3 (three) nearby elementary schools, and several senior living/rehab facilities. Countless neighbors and businesses would be displaced—temporarily at best, or far worse.

Fires erupt. Explosions occur and toxic fumes escape. If any of those possibilities come to fruition, evacuations would be extremely difficult because our neighborhood roads are not designed to be exit routes. As well, the facility's close proximity to train tracks and Interstate 5 would heighten the potential risks to our Community.

Numerous City and State representatives have voiced their concerns about the dangers posed by this project site. You've already heard strong opposition from local businesses, public and private agencies—even and especially the Orange County Firefighter's Union! .

This cannot, and should not, be viewed as NIMBY pushback. It's about science, coupled with common sense. The worst case scenarios aren't merely hypothetical—while technologies have improved over time, this BESS Project presents very real, very significant risks to our Community. And when considered together, honestly and objectively, we believe these dangers far outstrip any potential benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to give voice to my opinion. After taking the time to review the evidence, I strongly oppose this project as its proposed for our Laguna Niguel site location.

Denis Ketelaars

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