

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Jim Ivory  
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## **Opposed to the Battery Farm Installation in San Juan Capistrano**

June 2, 2025

To the honorable members of the CEC,

As a concerned resident of Laguna Niguel who lives about 1.5 miles as the crow flies from the Ranch, I strongly oppose the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project, a large-scale 250 MW/1,000 MWh battery energy storage system (BESS) planned for construction in San Juan Capistrano. This facility poses unacceptable risks to public safety, the environment, and the character of our communities.

This opposition is not isolated. Numerous local and regional leaders and jurisdictions have joined residents in voicing serious concerns about this project:

### **Municipal Opposition**

City of San Juan Capistrano has denied the rezoning request required for the project and enacted a moratorium on similar commercial energy storage proposals.

City of Laguna Niguel has formally opposed the project, citing its close proximity to homes and the significant fire and toxic exposure risks associated with lithium battery facilities.

### **Local and Statewide Leaders Opposed**

U.S. Congressman Mike Levin, representing California's 49th Congressional District, has spoken out in opposition to the project.

California State Senator Steven Choi, representing the 37th Senate District, has expressed concerns about the public safety implications of the facility.

California State Assembly Member Laurie Davies, of the 74th Assembly District, is firmly opposed to the development.

Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley, representing the 5th District, has voiced strong objections and supported an emergency county-wide moratorium on new battery storage projects.

### **Public Safety and Environmental Concerns**

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) has warned that lithium-iron phosphate batteries, such as those proposed in this project, can ignite and release toxic gases within seconds if overheated or damaged. The location of the proposed BESS "adjacent to residential neighborhoods and within a high fire-risk area" dramatically

increases the potential for a catastrophic incident, including wildfires and exposure to hazardous fumes.

Additionally, the project threatens nearby Trabuco Creek, an environmentally sensitive waterway that feeds into the Pacific Ocean. A fire or containment breach could lead to toxic runoff, harming both local ecosystems and coastal water quality.

#### Community Opposition

Thousands of residents have submitted public comments in opposition to the California Energy Commission docket. A petition opposing the project has gathered over 3,500 signatures, and local town halls have seen overwhelming public turnout against the development.

#### Conclusion

This project fails the test of public trust, safety, and environmental stewardship. I urge the California Energy Commission to deny certification of the Compass Energy Storage Project and respect the unified voices of residents, elected officials, and safety professionals who stand opposed to this deeply flawed proposal.

Respectfully,

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