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

Lithium Battery Storage has significant Fire risk with high toxicity. Moss Landing BESS Fire lasted for six days and reignited again a month later. Moss Landing fire had a evacuation area of 8 square miles (approx 1.6 mile radius). Over 1500 people were evacuated in a sparsely populated area.

Moss Landing was a facility similar in size to this proposed facility.

Project site is located within 1500 feet of several residential neighborhoods to the west and within 1500 feet of interstate 5 to the east.

Site has been in escrow many times but all fell out because site was deemed undevelopable due to geological instability, severe creek erosion and located in a high fire zone.

Four schools (Niguel Middle School, Capistrano Valley High, Fairmount and J Serra are about 1 mile from site). A fire similar to Moss Landing would cause thousands of people to be evacuated and Interstate 5 to be shut down.

Fire fighting chemicals could adversly affect the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed and contaminate the San Juan Creek watershed. In January 2025 research scientists at San José State University said they detected "unusually high concentrationsâ€● of heavy-metal nanoparticles in marsh soils at Elkhorn Slough Reserve following the fire. The field surveys, conducted within a radius of approximately two miles from the power plant, measured a "dramaticâ€● increase in marsh soil surface concentration (hundreds- to thousand-fold) of the three heavy metals nickel, manganese and cobalt.

Summary: Californians recognize that Clean Energy Storage is vital but due to the inherent risks associated with Lithium Battery Storage, this is the wrong site. Too close to schools, neighborhoods on a site that is in a high fire zone with unstable land.