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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 adversely affect the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed and contaminate the San Juan Creek watershed. In January 2025 research scientists at San Jos  State University said they detected "unusually high concentrations" 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 "dramatic" 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.