

| DOCKETED | |
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| Docket Number: | 24-OPT-02 |
| Project Title: | Compass Energy Storage Project |
| TN #: | 263702 |
| Document Title: | Evan Burgher Comments - Reject Compass BESS |
| Description: | This comment was presented to the California Energy Commission staff during the May 29, 2025, Compass Energy Storage Project Meeting and is being officially docketed to maintain its inclusion in the public record. |
| Filer: | Christina C. Ubaldo |
| Organization: | Evan Burgher |
| Submitter Role: | Public |
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To whom it may concern,

My name is Evan Burgher, and I'm a resident and business owner here in San Juan Capistrano. I'm here today to voice my strong opposition to the proposed lithium battery energy storage facility being considered in our community.

While I fully support efforts to transition to cleaner energy, this project raises serious concerns - most importantly, its proximity to people, schools, and critical infrastructure. These battery facilities, by their nature, carry significant risk. Lithium-ion batteries can overheat, catch fire, and even explode - events that are incredibly difficult to contain once they start, like we saw at Moss Landing in January of this year, where over 2,000 residents were evacuated - the fourth such fire at the site since 2019. Or the fire at the Gateway Energy Storage Facility in Otay Mesa, which happened in May of 2024, resulting in prolonged evacuations involving multiple agencies in the response efforts.

These incidents underscore the importance of careful consideration when determining proper locations for lithium battery storage facilities, particularly in proximity to residential neighborhoods, schools, and critical infrastructure. The potential risks associated with fires at such facilities necessitate thorough risk assessments and robust safety measures to protect public health and safety.

This is not just a hypothetical concern. Across the country and globally, there have been many documented incidents of fires at similar battery storage sites as the one proposed here in San Juan Capistrano. Even with the best safety measures, the risk of hazardous emissions and devastation is real - and unacceptable when lives could be affected.

San Juan Capistrano is a community built on culture, heritage, and above all, people. We should not be the testing ground for industrial-scale battery infrastructure placed dangerously close to where we live, learn, and work. There are safer locations - farther from population centers - where this type of facility might be more appropriate.

I urge you to prioritize public safety and reject this proposal. Our community deserves thoughtful, responsible planning - not risky shortcuts in the name of progress.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Burgher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Evan Burgher

Founder/GM - Thatch Creative

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