

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	263711
<b>Document Title:</b>	Melissa Waters Comments - Need to Consider Safety & Alternative Locations - Deny Compass BESS
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Melissa Waters
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	6/3/2025 7:07:48 AM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/2/2025

*Comment Received From: Melissa Waters*  
*Submitted On: 6/3/2025*  
*Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

**Need to Consider Safety & Alternative Locations - Deny Compass  
BESS**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

**From:** [Melissa Waters](#)  
**To:** [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)  
**Subject:** Docket No. 24-OPT-02 - Compass Energy Storage Project  
**Date:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 12:48:17 PM

---

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello. My name is Melissa Waters. I'm a resident of Laguna Niguel. We do need more battery energy storage systems and we definitely need to transition to using cleaner energy as fast as safely possible.

Safely being the key necessity. The California Energy Commission must consider first: safety of the storage facility and location where it will operate. I believe the San Juan Capistrano location being discussed today fails on both counts. Lithium batteries (of various compositions) are an important tool in our clean energy future.

However, as a storage solution, safe containment of potential fires has not been adequately addressed yet. Furthermore, the site in San Juan Capistrano is already in a High Fire Severity Zone (and just 1 mile from a Very High Fire Severity Zone over the ridge in the Chapparosa area of Laguna Niguel). Too many homes and businesses are located nearby.

Being able to rapidly contain a battery fire, such as quickly being able to shut off all oxygen from fueling the fire, is something I would to have proven possible in sites like this. Keep in mind, this is along a wind corridor from the ocean that could exacerbate any fire, whether from the batteries or from a wildfire approaching the storage system. That's not an acceptable risk.

After previous fires containing lithium batteries (even cars burnt in the Palisades and Eaton fires), many heavy metals and other toxins are left behind. These would then spill downhill into the Oso and Trabuco Creeks and out into the ocean by a heavily used beach and harbor, not even five miles away. The risk to our already stressed ecosystem is just too high.

I'm hoping the California Energy Commission will investigate these dangers very carefully and deny this particular site approval. I would very much appreciate if the Commission could consider other locations for lithium based BESS as well as viable alternative battery storage

options such as gravity feed, or sodium-ion. I applaud the Commission's efforts to hasten our transition to 24/7 renewable energy, keeping all of us safer going into the future.

Thank you.