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<b>TN #:</b>	263723
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*Comment Received From: Doug Kari & Jane Zhang*  
*Submitted On: 6/3/2025*  
*Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

## **Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

**From:** [Doug Kari](#)  
**To:** [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT02)  
**Date:** Monday, June 2, 2025 12:50:55 PM

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To the California Energy Commission:

This email is on behalf of myself and my wife, Jane Zhang, to voice our opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system facility ("BESS Facility") to the east of our home in Laguna Niguel, California.

In sum, Jane and I strongly oppose the BESS Facility due to the health risks and fire risks.

### **Fire risks**

The multi-day lithium battery fire that shut down Hwy. 15 near Baker, California, in September 2024, illustrates the extreme fire risks posed by storage and transport of large quantities of lithium batteries.

Unfortunately, this was only one of several recent battery fires. See: <https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-nevada/semi-carrying-31k-pounds-of-lithium-batteries-catches-fire-outside-las-vegas-3171230/>

To me and Jane it seems utterly reckless that the BESS Facility is proposed for a location adjacent to open space that has natural - and highly combustible - vegetation. Even worse, beyond that open space lie the residential neighborhoods of Laguna Niguel - including our Marina Hills neighborhood.

The recent and devastating fires in Pacific Palisades and Altadena underscore the fire risks. In hilly communities close to the ocean and filled with combustible vegetation, even small fires can erupt into a firestorm that rains death and destruction over a vast area.

### **Health hazards**

The health hazards posed by the BESS facility are a related and highly serious concern.

When lithium batteries burn they spew toxic gasses and particles into the

environment. In the case of the recent lithium battery fire discussed above, the health hazards were well documented - and that fire occurred in the open desert.

Imagine what would happen if the BESS Facility suffered a fire and spread toxic gasses and particles over the densely populated regions of south Orange County. The health hazards would be incalculable.

Please note - Jane and I do not take a NIMBY attitude and oppose every planned development. But we are speaking out in this case because the risks are so extreme and the potential consequences are so grave.

We respectfully urge you to make the right decision for Orange County and the State of California by not approving the BESS Facility.

Doug Kari  
Jane Zhang  
Laguna Niguel, California