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Comment Received From: Karen Mundell

Submitted On: 6/3/2025

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Opposition to Proposed Plan

To: California Energy Commission " Docket 24-OPT-02

Subject: Strong Opposition to the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

Dear Commissioners,

As a homeowner and resident of San Juan Capistrano, I am writing with deep concern and strong opposition to the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project. More than anything, I am writing as a parent " the parent of an 18-month-old son who plays just blocks from the proposed site.

I chose to raise my family in San Juan Capistrano because of its open space, community feel, and safety. The idea of placing a massive 250 MW lithium-iron phosphate battery energy storage facility " essentially an industrial-scale power plant " within our city boundaries and near homes, parks, and schools is deeply unsettling. This project is not compatible with the kind of community we want to build for our children.

The Safety Risk Is Personal

Battery energy storage systems are not risk-free. The potential for fires, explosions, and toxic chemical release " even with lithium-iron phosphate " is real and well-documented. These systems burn at extremely high temperatures, are difficult to extinguish, and require specialized emergency response training and equipment that our city currently lacks. If something were to go wrong, it would be our families, our children, and our first responders placed directly in harm's way.

I think about my son " not just now as a toddler, but in five or ten years. Will it be safe for him to play outside on hot summer days? How will we evacuate in the event of a fire or explosion? Why should we have to live with those fears?

It Doesn't Belong in a Residential Community

Industrial facilities like this belong in remote or properly zoned industrial areas " not adjacent to residential neighborhoods, open space, and wildlife corridors. The project's scale and proximity to homes is completely inappropriate and inconsistent with the character and land use of San Juan Capistrano.

You're Hearing This Because Local Voices Were Overridden

Our city already said no. The San Juan Capistrano City Council rejected a zoning change needed for this project, reflecting overwhelming local opposition. When the developer didn't get the answer it wanted, it sidestepped our community and went straight to the California Energy Commission. That move is a violation of local control and an insult to residents who have invested our lives and families here.

This Is the Wrong Project in the Wrong Place

I support renewable energy and the need for clean power. But this project, in this location, is wrong. The risks are too high. The process has been undemocratic. And the long-term impacts to safety, health, property values, and peace of mind are unacceptable.

Please " for the safety of our children, for the health of our neighborhoods, and for the integrity of our public process " do not approve the Compass Energy Storage Project.

Sincerely,
Karen Mundell
Resident and Parent, San Juan Capistrano