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## **San Juan Capistrano Battery Facility Danger**

The proposed San Juan Capistrano Battery Facility poses significant danger to the local community and must not go forward. The utilization of Lithium-Ion Phosphate batteries, known for their flammability and explosive nature, raises grave concerns, especially given the site's history with wildfires. These types of fires demand specialized extinguishment methods, complicating firefighting efforts. Local fire departments have said they are not equipped to fight these types of fires. Moreover, the facility's proximity to Trabuco Creek, an environmentally sensitive area, heightens the risk of water contamination from fire suppression activities, threatening local ecosystems.

The structural design, relying on galvanized steel containers, may not withstand the corrosive salt air, potentially leading to increased fire risks through structural compromise. Additionally, the facility's location in a flood-prone area near San Juan Creek exacerbates the risk of water damage and environmental contamination.

The close proximity of this facility to residential neighborhoods, including vulnerable communities such as Section 8 housing, senior facilities, and low-income housing, introduces unacceptable risks of toxic smoke exposure, explosions, and complex evacuation challenges. The safety of our community members cannot be compromised.

Concerns extend to the nearby educational institutions, including Saddleback College and several primary and secondary schools. The potential displacement of thousands of students in the event of a disaster is a risk we cannot accept. The facility's location adjacent to major transportation routes, such as the 5 freeway and railroad tracks, further complicates safety, with the potential to disrupt critical infrastructure indefinitely in the event of a fire.

Insurance implications cannot be ignored. The increased fire risk associated with the facility may lead to higher insurance premiums or outright denial of coverage for surrounding properties, exacerbating California's ongoing insurance availability crisis. The facility itself faces the challenge of securing sufficient coverage for potential damages.

The environmental impact extends beyond immediate fire risks. The difficulty in recycling Lithium batteries means that a significant portion of the batteries will become toxic waste within 8-10 years, posing long-term environmental hazards.

Finally, regulatory compliance issues, including adherence to new state laws requiring detailed emergency response plans, remain a concern. The potential for this facility to meet these stringent requirements is yet to be convincingly demonstrated.

This project must not go forward. These are not minor issues. These are not NIMBY issues. These are serious environmental and economic threats to a huge and diverse community. Stop this madness.