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Comment Received From: Julianna Kacsir
Submitted On: 6/4/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

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California Energy Commission
Re: Docket #: 24-OPT-02
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in San Juan Capistrano [Docket #: 24-OPT-02], developed by Compass Energy Storage LLC. There is bipartisan local opposition to this proposed facility. While renewable energy is vital for California's future, I urge the Commission to consider alternative energy storage technologies that would reduce the risks and impact on our community.

I also request that the Commission require an extensive, transparent, and independent environmental and safety review process for this project, allowing ample opportunity for public input.

Environmental Concerns: The proposed site for the BESS facility may pose risks to local ecosystems, including potential hazards from accidental leaks, fires, or toxic chemical releases. The January 2025 Moss Landing battery fire was at least the third fire at the facility in four years; there is nothing clean about a lithium fire. Sodium-iron batteries or other alternatives should be considered.

Safety Concerns: Battery energy storage systems have inherent risks, including thermal runaway and fire hazards. Given the proximity of this facility to residential areas, schools, and businesses, the safety measures in place may not adequately mitigate potential threats to the community. San Juan Capistrano has a very small fire department. Lithium batteries are infamous for combusting unpredictably. It would be irresponsible to install a large scale array of this type of battery in a populated (and fire-prone) area.

San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel residents deserve a say in projects that could drastically affect our environment, safety, and way of life. I respectfully ask the California Energy Commission to deny approval of this project as currently proposed and explore safer, more suitable alternatives for renewable energy storage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of our community as you consider this project.

Sincerely,

Julianna Kacsir