

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
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*Comment Received From: Marie K. Block*

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## **BESS project near Laguna Niguel, CA**

My husband and I bought our first home in Laguna Niguel in 1987. We continue to live in this home and have worked and raised our kids in this home for the past 38 years. To live in South Orange County is a privilege and we don't take it for granted.

The proposed Compass Lithium Battery Farm in northern San Juan Capistrano is a MISTAKE for so many reasons. If we learned anything from the battery farms placed in neighborhoods in Moss Landing (Monterey, Northern California) or Escondido (San Diego County), we see that both of them caught fire and caused massive pollution, and damage to the surrounding areas. If we look at the cities in South OC, within a 10 mile radius of the proposed Battery Farm in San Juan Capistrano, the following would need to happen when the Battery Farm catches on fire. Notice I said "when" not "if" the Battery Farm catches on fire. This Battery Farm would be like a ticking time bomb. The following would need to occur when there is a fire at the Compass Battery Farm:

- There are 11 cities, within a 10 mile radius of the proposed Battery Farm and they would need to be evacuated. Think of the thousands of people that would be affected.
- 29 schools (elementary; middle schools; high schools; private schools; and charter schools) are within a 10 mile radius of the Battery Farm, and the students, teachers, administrators, and staff would need to be evacuated.
- Thousands of people drive North and South on the 5 fwy. every single day. Traffic would be stopped for miles, hours, days, which would trap people on the fwy. if/when a fire was to occur at the Battery Farm.
- The same would be true for those people that take the Amtrak train. The train service would be stopped and could potentially trap people, possibly far from home.
- A Battery Farm would also affect the surrounding neighborhoods above and around it, if/when a fire were to occur.
- The beautiful SJC hills, waterways, air quality, noise level would be greatly affected by the installation of the Battery Farm.
- First responders in South Orange County would also be put in harm's way and the toxins produced by a Battery Farm fire could affect them forever (think what happened to the first responders during 9/11).

When we look at something being considered for our community we are looking at the pros vs. cons or benefits vs. risks of adding this new service/item to our area. The proposed Battery Farm in SJC is a huge risk to the people and environment in south Orange County. Battery Farms should not be placed anywhere near neighborhoods, people, waterways, or environments that would be greatly affected/harmed by them.

Open deserts away from neighborhoods, people, businesses, green plants, busy highways, and water supplies (streams, lakes, rivers, ocean) should be considered as better options for Battery Farms.

The CEC should STOP this proposed Battery Farm from being built in Northern SJC.  
Enough is enough!!!!

The Good of the Many outweighs the GREED of the Few!!!!

Sincerely,  
Loren and Marie Block