

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Joseph Konstantarakis

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Health risks of the proposed Battery Storage Facility in San Juan Capistrano

Dear Members of the CEC and the Local Public at Large,

As a physician and local resident, I am DEEPLY CONCERNED for the health and safety of my family and of all those who live near this ill-advised project and inevitable local disaster... women, children, the elderly, the disabled who cannot mobilize quickly, those with chronic respiratory illnesses, those who are bedridden and will not be able to evacuate in a timely manner in the event of a fire emitting toxic smoke into the air. Please strongly consider the population density of this area, and please recognize that a mass evacuation process will undoubtedly result in many exposed to toxic smoke due to their limited mobility.

In the acute setting, people will go to the hospital for life threatening asthma and COPD exacerbations. People will be flooding local emergency rooms and urgent care centers for skin and eye irritation and burns. People will be hospitalized for systemic poisoning as a result of exposure to dangerous gasses such as hydrogen fluoride and heavy metals such as lithium, nickel, and cobalt, which are found in battery components.

In the chronic setting, people with preexisting respiratory conditions will suffer a further deterioration of their respiratory status. New cases of lung disease will emerge in previously healthy individuals. Permanent neurological disorders from carbon monoxide and heavy metal exposure will not be a surprising outcome.

Will there be a risk for deaths? No honest physician will answer no to this questions.

The hillside at this proposed site is an inherent fire risk. There have been several fires there. It's also unstable land, not to mention that earthquakes can happen anytime and anywhere in California. We've been told that the new battery chemistry is safer than prior generations of Lithium battery chemistries. But no matter how safe the chemists and engineers make these batteries, there will always be a risk for battery ignition if a wildfire or land movement which damages such battery facilities occurs.

The most effective health and safety risk mitigating strategy is distance. The CEC comprises of very smart individuals... you all know this fact! Such potential for harm should only be considered within industrial areas, wide open spaces (state or federal land), and most certainly far far far away from residential communities. The fact that this is being proposed immediately adjacent to a residential neighborhood is outrageous and totally unacceptable from a health and safety standpoint. Please DO NOT give the green light to this dangerous project!

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration!