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Robert AndersonSchoepe - Docket Bo 24-OPT-02-Compass Energy Storage Project

I am the Owner and CEO of Fluidmaster, headquartered right here in San Juan Capistrano. As a long-standing member of this community and a leader of a company that values innovation and safety, I must speak out against the proposed Compass Energy Battery Storage Facility planned for our city.

I understand the importance of transitioning to renewable sources and the role battery storage plays in that future. However, the current decision to place this project at the proposed location lacks common sense and raises concerns about potential governmental inside deals influencing the process. This location is not the right answer.

The proposed site sits dangerously close to residential neighborhoods, Trabuco Creek, and the I-5 freeway. With only one main access point, any emergencyâ€"especially a fireâ€"could quickly escalate into a public safety crisis. We've seen what can happen with similar facilities in Northern California and San Diego County. We cannot afford to take that risk here.

Our city council has already rejected this project, and yet, due to a loophole in state law, the California Energy Commission could override our local decision. This not only seems undemocratic but also suggests that there may be undisclosed influences at play.

At Fluidmaster, we've built our reputation on trust, responsibility, and putting people first. I urge the Commission to do the same. Listen to the residents. Listen to our elected officials. And most importantly, prioritize the safety and well-being of this community. The current decision appears to lack transparency and common sense, which is troubling.

There are better locations for this facilityâ€"places that don't put families, businesses, and critical infrastructure at risk. Let's work together to find a smarter, safer solution that doesn't involve questionable decision-making processes.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert AndersonSchoepe CEO & Chairman of the Board Fluidmaster Inc.