

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	263920
Document Title:	Sarah Eileen Mehta Comments - Information for review
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Sarah Eileen Mehta
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	6/4/2025 5:18:55 PM
Docketed Date:	6/4/2025

*Comment Received From: Sarah Eileen Mehta
Submitted On: 6/4/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

Information for review

Good Afternoon CEC,

Per my presentation made yesterday (May 29th, 2025) at the online Public Hearing, I am attaching Lisa Bartlett's written statements that she was assured the grant provided was in no way in support of the SJC Compass Energy project and that furthermore she vehemently opposes this project due to inappropriateness of location and wants to "ensure the CEC does not approve this project location for the battery storage project." Please see attachment for Lisa's statement that I read excerpts from during yesterday's hearing for public record.

Thank you.

Kindest Regards,
Sarah Eileen Mehta

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Sarah Mehta <sarah.eileen.mehta@gmail.com>

Fwd: Grant From Engie

BLESSIN Info <info@blessinoc.org>
To: sarah.eileen.mehta@gmail.com

Wed, Jun 4, 2025 at 5:07 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa Bartlett** <lbartlett@socccd.edu>
Date: Tue, Jun 3, 2025 at 4:16 PM
Subject: Re: Grant From Engie
To: BLESSIN Info <info@blessinoc.org>

Hi Theresa,

Thanks for your email. Our SOCCCD board agendas come out on Thursday for the next board meeting, which is on the following Monday, so we only have a few days to review the agendas, which I have stated at board meetings that it is not adequate time to review and prepare for the meetings. We were assured by staff that the grant approval was in no way connected to supporting the battery project in SJC. The problem is the application process which is now moving forward. I have never supported the battery storage project in the SJC location because it is a terrible location too close to homes and on or near a large hillside which poses access issues in the event of a fire. As a County Supervisor, before I termed out of office, I worked with OCFA and ordered and paid for 2 Helopods just for south county to help fight fires like the ones we had in Laguna Beach and Laguna Niguel. South County has a lot of hilly areas that are only accessible by water dropping aircraft to fight fires. Helopods hold 4000 gallons of water, are quick filling and portable. We have one in Aliso Viejo and the other off Ortega Hwy. That being said, there should not be any project or structure built near homes or a hillside that could catch fire and endanger residents, homes and the public at large.

Let's continue to stay in touch and see what we can do to ensure the CEC does not approve this project location for the battery storage project.

Regards,

Lisa Bartlett



**South
Orange
County**
Community
College District

Lisa A. Bartlett, MBA | *Trustee Area 3*

Board of Trustees

South Orange County Community College District

Office: 949-582-4840 | Cell: (949) 903-8717 | www.socccd.edu

From: BLESSIN Info <info@blessinoc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 6:48 AM
To: Lisa Bartlett <lbartlett@socccd.edu>
Subject: Re: Grant From Engie

Dear Trustee Bartlett,

Thank you for your response and for acknowledging the concerns raised by the community regarding The Compass Project and its battery storage facility. I appreciate your willingness to continue the conversation on this matter; however, it is now too late for that! The application was deemed complete and is before the California Energy Commission for review and decision.

Given that the Board of Trustees has accepted a grant from Engie, thus finalizing the project under the banner of "community benefits," I want to understand what steps were taken to ensure due diligence before moving forward. Specifically, I am concerned about the level of transparency involved in the process and whether the board fully explored the implications of this project, particularly in terms of fire risk, public safety, and long-term environmental impacts. The community has been quite vocal in the opposition for several months. Many of the elected officials at the city, county, regional and federal level have expressed their opposition on several occasions with documentations submitted to the CEC.

Can you clarify the specific measures you personally, or the board took to evaluate the project beyond Engie's commitments? Were independent assessments conducted, and were concerns about the facility's location thoroughly vetted? I have to believe a conversation or any dialog with Ray Gennawey, Gene Johns, Stephanie Oddo, Troy Bourne, John Campbell, John Taylor, Katrina Foley, Diane Dixon, Laurie Davies, Steven Choi, Mike Levin or others would have clearly demonstrated the opposition to this location and the justification for such.

As this process with the California Energy Commission moves forward, I urge you and the board to reinforce its commitment to the community and reconsider this decision. The consequences of such will be long lasting in many ways. What would your intentions to correct this wrong decision regarding the proposed location be?

I remain hopeful that the board would minimally pause the decision to conduct further due diligence. The community's opposition to this project is completely related to the site selection. It is the wrong location for many reasons, which we are willing to present and discuss. You hit the nail on the head in your response, "Location is the key concern here".

Respectfully,

Theresa Ford

Chief Operating Officer

B.L.E.S.S.I.N.™

[Quoted text hidden]