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Dale Kraai comment - Docket number 24-OPT-02 regarding Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

I am Dale Kraai, a resident of Laguna Niguel.

I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission deny Compass Energy's application to build and operate a Lithium Battery Storage Facility on property currently owned by Saddleback Church in the city of San Juan Capistrano, California. It is the wrong site.

It is my understanding that (a) we do not currently have the means to suppress or put out a lithium battery fire; and (b) the current strategy is to use water to cool adjacent batteries with a goal of preventing their ignition and a runaway fire in the entire facility. A fire would be left to burn itself out.

As there is no way to suppress a lithium fire, there is also no way to prevent or suppress a toxic plume. The larger the fire, the larger the threat of a toxic plume undermining the health of our residents. Fortunately, the City of San Juan Capistrano has identified alternative sites in the city that are both viable and remote. Not only would a remote alternate site significantly reduce the threat of fire damaging neighborhoods, but it would also reduce the damage a toxic plume could inflict on the residents of the county.

A remote site would require Compass Energy to build infrastructure not needed to connect to the grid at the Saddleback Church site. Please note: To minimize its infrastructure investment and maximize profits, Compass Energy has been unwilling to consider alternative sites. By keeping its investment to a minimum, the company is shifting real costs to the community. The people of south Orange County face greater fire risks and damage from a toxic plume.

Please do not issue Compass Energy a permit to build and operate a Lithium Storage Facility in San Juan Capistrano on the proposed Saddleback Church property.

Respectfully,
Dale L. Kraai