

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	263970
<b>Document Title:</b>	Leigh Hale Comments - Docket No 24-OPT-02-Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Leigh Hale
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	6/4/2025 9:05:50 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/4/2025

*Comment Received From: Leigh Hale*  
*Submitted On: 6/4/2025*  
*Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

**Docket No 24-OPT-02-Compass Energy Storage Project**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

**From:** [leigh hale](#)  
**To:** [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)  
**Subject:** Docket No. 24-OPT-02-Compass Energy Storage Project"  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 4, 2025 11:15:41 AM

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I live in Escondido California where a lithium battery storage fire occurred September of 2024. This fire resulted in evacuation orders and warnings to local residents and the industrial area where it occurred, despite the current fire being in an industrial area, hundreds of businesses were evacuated and many more were told to shelter-in-place. Schools located downwind were closed. This is despite the fact that just one of the site's 24 cells caught fire. Just one isolated cell fire caused this much disruption and risk to the surrounding communities.


What we have learned from this fire is that Lithium battery storage facilities should never be built in neighborhoods or near large populations. We were fortunate that the fire was isolated to only one of the storage cells and supporters of lithium battery storage sites would like to use that as a point of support claiming that the sites are safe; however the concerned citizens of Escondido do not see it that way. What would have happened if the other volatile lithium storage cells caught fire? How Many more would be evacuated, for how long and what would be the health and environmental effects? The recent Moss Landing Lithium fire accident answers those questions, this accident was compared to a nuclear meltdown, causing freeway closures, larger scale evacuations and contamination of the local land and animals. Tests conducted of the soil miles from the Moss Landing Fire showed increased levels of toxic carcinogenic heavy metals in the soil, these toxins contribute to cancer and are harmful to wildlife.

I am now receiving news that Compass Energy is attempting to gain approval from the State to build another dangerous lithium battery storage facility in nearby South Orange County in San Juan Capistrano. This is a location my family visits frequently as I have family that live very close, a few miles from the proposed site. This is gravely concerning, considering what occurred at the recent California Lithium Battery Storage fires. The proposed site is absurdly proposed to be built adjacent to neighborhoods putting thousands in danger. We also visit this part of Orange County frequently because of the beauty of the beaches and nature in this area. A lithium fire in this area could wreak havoc on the surrounding natural resources as it did in the Moss Landing fire, which by the way was claimed to be a safe site. Prior to its build it was claimed that it would be very safe and posed no risk to the surrounding areas, we see now that was false.

Lithium fires are becoming more frequent and I ask you to deny the application of the Compass Lithium battery storage site in San Juan Capistrano as well as commit to keeping these lithium battery storage sites away from populated areas and neighborhoods where they put people in danger. Many attempts to store what is claimed to be green energy lithium have turned into environmental catastrophes polluting the surrounding land and that is not green, it is not clean energy.

Thank you for considering my strong opposition to the Compass San Juan Capistrano Lithium Battery Storage Site.

Kindest Regards,  
Leigh Jarrett M.A. BCBA



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