

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	263967
Document Title:	Mike Root Comments - 24-OPT-02 and Compass Energy Storage Project NOP Comments
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Mike Root
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	6/4/2025 9:11:18 PM
Docketed Date:	6/4/2025

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

24-OPT-02 and Compass Energy Storage Project NOP Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: [acmeroot](#)
To: [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)
Subject: 24-OPT-02 and Compass Energy Storage Project NOP Comments
Date: Wednesday, June 4, 2025 8:28:15 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

June 4, 2025

Re: Opposition to Compass Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Proposal

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed installation of the lithium-based Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) by Compass. With over 30 years of experience as an engineer in power production for Southern California Edison (SCE), I am deeply concerned about the safety, practicality, and motivations behind this project.

Orange County should not be forced to bear the consequences of California's poor energy planning and short-sighted policies. I respectfully offer the following key concerns:

- **Public Safety:** Even a child could see that placing a high-capacity lithium battery facility near neighborhoods and schools is reckless. This project poses serious fire risks and could have devastating consequences for public safety. Local firefighters and energy experts have echoed these concerns, noting the dangers inherent to lithium battery systems. The risks far outweigh any purported benefits.
- **Economic Burden:** Battery storage is not cost-effective. These facilities have a limited lifespan—typically around ten years—and require ongoing maintenance and monitoring. Meanwhile, ratepayers are footing the bill for these expensive installations made from rare and environmentally problematic materials. Instead, California should be prioritizing nuclear energy, which offers stable, reliable power without the need for massive battery banks.
- **Lack of Transparency and Community Support:** The project has faced broad local opposition from both residents and local authorities. Despite this, Compass circumvented local input by appealing directly to state regulators. This approach disregards the will and well-being of the community.
- **Unsuitable Site Selection:** It was revealed by the Mayor of San Juan Capistrano that the proposed site is so geologically and environmentally unstable that residential construction was previously prohibited. This crucial detail was conspicuously absent from the original application, raising serious questions about transparency and ethics.
- **Profit Over Public Good:** Saddleback Church has other options for the land in question but chose this use due to the high financial return. Unfortunately, this reflects a prioritization of profit over public safety.
- **Flawed State Energy Policy:** California's energy crisis is largely self-inflicted. The

state's aggressive promotion of solar has created the infamous "duck curve"—a mismatch between peak solar production and energy demand. The resulting instability has forced utilities to purchase expensive energy from out of state at night. At the same time, viable generation sources like San Onofre were prematurely shut down (I served as an engineer at SONGS), while others were threatened, such as Diablo Canyon. Now we're left relying on battery storage as a temporary and inadequate fix.

- **Lack of Accountability:** Should a catastrophic event occur, it's likely that Compass and associated stakeholders will be protected by LLC structures, leaving taxpayers and homeowners to bear the cost.

Frankly, I do not trust the state's current energy strategy. This project is emblematic of a larger problem: decisions made behind closed doors, with little regard for transparency, public input, or long-term viability.

I strongly urge decision-makers to reconsider this misguided proposal.

Sincerely,

Mike Root

Laguna Niguel, CA

