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Comment Received From: Laila Tehrani
Submitted On: 6/4/2025
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24-OPT-02 and Compass Energy Storage Project NOP Comments

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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Additional submitted attachment is included below.

From: [Laila Tehrani](#)
To: [Energy - Docket Optical System](#)
Subject: 24-OPT-02 and Compass Energy Storage Project NOP Comments
Date: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 7:59:17 PM

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Dear Council member:

I am writing as a deeply concerned resident of Laguna Niguel to respectfully oppose the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility planned in San Juan. While I understand the importance of advancing clean energy initiatives and improving grid reliability, this particular project raises several serious issues that warrant thoughtful reconsideration.

1. Public Safety and Fire Risk

One of the most pressing concerns is the potential for thermal runaway and fire, as evidenced by incidents at similar BESS facilities worldwide. These high-capacity lithium-ion systems are known to pose fire and explosion risks, and unlike traditional fires, BESS fires are difficult to extinguish, may burn for hours or days, and release toxic gases. Our city's emergency infrastructure is not equipped to handle a large-scale chemical fire, especially in a densely populated or high-traffic area.

2. Proximity to Schools, Homes, and Historic Sites

The proposed site is uncomfortably close to residential neighborhoods, schools, and heritage landmarks. The placement of an industrial-grade battery storage facility in or near a community environment contradicts principles of safe urban planning. In the event of an accident, the proximity would leave little time for evacuation and potentially expose children, families, and tourists to life-threatening situations.

3. Environmental and Air Quality Concerns

Beyond the risk of catastrophic failure, BESS facilities can release hazardous compounds, such as hydrofluoric acid, into the air in the event of malfunction or fire. This raises major concerns about long-term exposure, especially given San Juan Capistrano's delicate ecosystem and history of preserving its rural and environmental charm. A facility of this scale may contribute to environmental degradation, noise pollution, and the degradation of local air quality.

4. Inadequate Community Input and Transparency

Many residents, including myself, feel that the project has not been properly communicated to the public. There has been insufficient community engagement, transparency about the long-term operational impacts, and a lack of third-party environmental assessments shared openly. Major infrastructure projects of this kind demand full stakeholder engagement, and at present, the project appears to lack genuine community consensus.

5. Property Values and Community Character

The presence of a BESS facility would almost certainly negatively impact property values in the surrounding area. Furthermore, San Juan Capistrano is widely known for its historic charm and scenic character, which such a facility directly contradicts. Approving this project sets a dangerous precedent for industrialization in an area that has long prioritized heritage preservation and quality of life.

6. Alternative Sites and Technologies

If energy storage is deemed necessary for regional sustainability goals, I strongly urge the City to explore alternative locations—such as remote,

non-residential zones—or to consider newer, less hazardous technologies, including aqueous or solid-state battery systems. It is not a matter of opposing clean energy, but rather demanding responsible and safe implementation.

In conclusion, while I support efforts to modernize California's energy infrastructure, I urge you to halt the approval and development of this BESS project in San Juan Capistrano. The risks to public health, environmental safety, and our city's identity far outweigh the claimed benefits, especially without adequate planning, oversight, and community trust.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration of these urgent concerns.

Sincerely,

Laila Tehrani

Concerned Resident of Laguna Niguel

[REDACTED]

Laguna Niguel, Ca 92677