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Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	264010
Document Title:	Joel Geldin Comments - Re Docket # 24-OPT-02
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Joel Geldin
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	6/4/2025 11:33:07 PM
Docketed Date:	6/5/2025

Comment Received From: Joel Geldin
Submitted On: 6/4/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Re Docket # 24-OPT-02

June 4, 2025

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in San Juan Capistrano [Docket #: 24-OPT-02], developed by Compass Energy Storage LLC and my agreement with the positions of all those commenting in opposition.

My specific opposition is reinforced by the article appearing in today's Wall Street Journal describing a lithium battery fire at sea on a ship with thousands of electric cars and batteries. The article describes other battery fires that occurred at sea. Fires on vessels involving lithium-ion batteries (whether in EVs or as standalone cargo) are an increasing risk for the shipping industry affecting both shipping rates and insurance costs. The article can be seen at this link: https://www.wsj.com/business/logistics/ship-carrying-vehicles-fire-pacific-ocean-038eee51?st=aVWsFi&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

The Cargo Incident Notification System which collects data from major container shipping lines, reported 65 fires on board container vessels in 2022. This was more than double the 31 incidents reported in both 2020 and 2021. Reports suggest that lithium-ion batteries are a major source of these fires on container ships.

This real world data about the actual fire risks of lithium based batteries supports all of the testimony in opposition to placing these battery storage farms in any densely populated communities. And, specifically the site being considered in San Juan Capistrano.

I reiterate my opposition to this project.