

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	264028
Document Title:	Francis Wong Comments - Ban Lithium Energy Storage Systems in Neighborhoods
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Francis Wong
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	6/5/2025 8:56:17 AM
Docketed Date:	6/5/2025

Comment Received From: Francis Wong
Submitted On: 6/5/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Ban Lithium Energy Storage Systems in Neighborhoods

I am objecting (disapproval) the project of lithium energy storage system (LESS) proposed by Compress Energy Company in city of San Juan Capistrano. The distance is approximately 8 miles from my house to the LESS site. After extensive research, the LESS facilities face significant fire and explosion hazards, primarily due to thermal runaway, which involves uncontrolled heat buildup leading to fires and explosions. These fires can release toxic gases and are difficult to extinguish with conventional methods, requiring specialized fire suppression systems. Additionally, manufacturing defects and improper storage can contribute to these risks. Ignition can result from a number of factors, such as overheating, overcharging, external damage, inadequate ventilation, and electrical faults such as a short circuit or voltage imbalance. And the close proximity of the batteries in a LESS can contribute to the rapid expansion of a fire.

When thermal runaway occurs, toxic chemicals are released including Hydrogen Fluoride and Carbon Monoxide. Release of these chemicals can pose severe risk to emergency response teams and nearby communities, as exposure can lead to organ damage and could ultimately be fatal.

Recent examples of LESS fires in California:

1. A lithium-ion battery fire occurred on September 5, 2024, at an SDG&E battery storage facility in Escondido, prompting evacuations and school closures. The fire started in one of the 24 battery storage containers at the facility. Firefighters let the fire burn itself out, cooling nearby structures to prevent it from spreading. The fire led to evacuations of businesses and homes in the area. Several schools were closed as a precaution.
2. A major fire broke out at Vistra Energy's Moss Landing lithium-ion battery storage facility in California on January 16, 2025. The fire, which began at one of the world's largest battery storage plants, led to evacuations of approximately 1,200 residents and triggered a state of emergency in Monterey County. The fire consumed a significant portion of the facility, causing concerns about air and water quality, and sparking a wider discussion about safety regulations for energy storage systems.

In conclusion: The proposed site is located at the heart of city of San Juan Capistrano, and it is too closed to nearby cities. The potential negative impacts to beaches, residential, business, I-5 freeway, railroad, hospital, fire stations, schools, and universities.

Thank you,
Francis Wong
Resident of Laguna Niguel