

DOCKETED	
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Comment Received From: Amanda Quintanilla
Submitted On: 6/6/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

DENY-Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

Re: **Deny** Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02).

My name is Amanda Quintanilla and I have lived in Southern Orange County for over 50 years. I am in strong opposition to the Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02).

Due to new information, I am submitting additional information for my public comment.

Geological concerns:

According to the public comment that was submitted by the OCTA Manager Environmental Programs, Dan Phu, there have been geological concerns in the project area for years. It has been documented throughout the years. The OCTA has expressed "concerns about the design and siting of the facility in proximity to Oso Creek drainage course and highlight risks that this facility may pose to the railroad right-of-way.

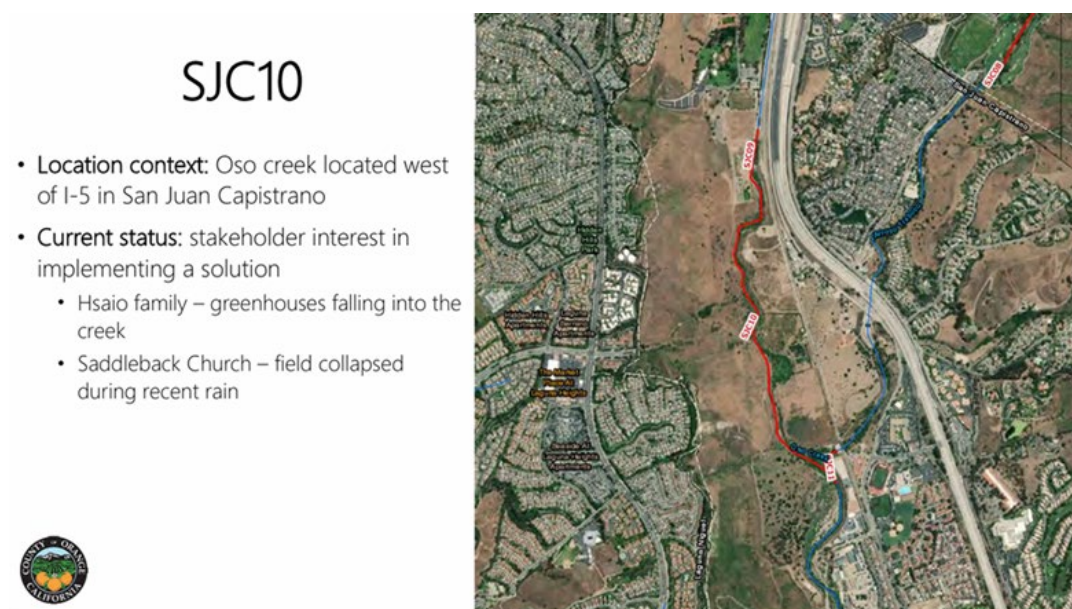
The planned location of this project is immediately adjacent to an unimproved area of Oso Creek that is experiencing high velocity/volume flows. Recently, this has led to severe erosion on the Saddleback Church property, which is located immediately adjacent and to the north of the proposed project site."

The OCTA shared a presentation by Orange County Public Works of 2021, which "which highlights the Oso Creek hydraulic issues. On page 17 of the presentation, Location #1 is just to the south of the existing concrete lined

portion of the Oso Creek channel, this location reflects the high velocity creek flows into the Saddleback private property, immediately adjacent to the proposed Compass Energy Project.” The map of the site is as follows:



SJC10 Rehabilitation Project Concepts February 23, 2021.



Geological concerns in this area have been documented and studied by Orange County Public Works. They mention that the Saddleback Church field collapsed during a recent rain in 2021.

There are definitely geological concerns in this area and it is probably due the type of land that is comprised of Capistrano Formation and Monterey Formation, which is unstable. "Capistrano Formation, named for the town of San Juan Capistrano, is located in southern California, specifically the northern extent of the Peninsular Ranges, which stretch from the Los Angeles Basin to Baja California. It crops out along the coast from Dana Point to San Clemente, and inland for seven miles." Wikipedia.org

The cities of Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, San Juan Capistrano, and San Clemente have these types of unstable land.

Monterey Formation "generally consists of thinly bedded diatomaceous siltstone to shale that is soft to moderately firm and locally indurate. The locally diatomaceous nature of the Monterey Formation materials is characterized by low dry unit weight. The Capistrano formation commonly overlies the Monterey Formation creating bedrock that is difficult to distinguish from one another. The Capistrano Formation generally consists of clayey siltstone to silty claystone and local fine-to-medium grained sandstone." City of Laguna Niguel

During the raining season, water makes the clay slippery and this causes erosion and landslides. Clay is contained in the Capistrano formation and this leads to its instability. For example, in the City of San Clemente during heavy rains water was captured in the same type of Capistrano formation. Water was contained in lenses that made the clay very slippery causing landslides at Casa Romantica, a historic San Clemente site.

In addition, a whole community of Colina Sur was not able to be developed due to unstable land, which is adjacent to the proposed Compass Energy Storage project. There have been other landslide issues in the City of Laguna Niguel going back to 1998. There is sufficient history of geological concerns in the area. Therefore, building a Battery Energy Storage System in this location is not recommended.

Transportation concerns:

Orange County Transportation Authority, OCTA, is the owner of the railroad right-of-way that is located adjacent to the Compass Energy project site. The OCTA has pointed out concerns regarding limited access to the Compass Energy Storage location. OCTA stated that there is “**Sole access to the site is through the geometrically constrained Rancho Capistrano public railroad crossing.**” The railroad right-of-way is active as passenger rail service (the Southern California Regional Rail Authority and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner) and freight operators (BNSF Railway) utilize this railroad line throughout the day.”

This has been properly documented by OCTA in their public comment submitted in October 2024 and May 2025. They are transportation experts and owners of the right-of-way. In the past, I have worked collaboratively with the OCTA while fighting the toll roads for five years with the Not My Toll Road, a grassroots movement. There were plans for Toll Roads that would go through San Juan Capistrano and San Clemente and the OCTA is well aware of traffic in this area. The OCTA have been strong advocates for public safety and transparency.

Environmental impacts:

I am deeply concerned about the environmental impacts on species such as the Pacific Pocket Mouse, Arroyo Toad, the Light-footed Ridgeway, the Belding's Savannah Sparrow, and the Arroyo Toad. Also, the plant species

such as Branton's Milk Vetch, California Sage Brush, and possibly the Brodiaea Fili folia.

Due to hydraulic issues in this proposed Compass Energy location, this increases the likelihood of runoff from water used in fires. The runoff will adversely affect the project's proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek watershed that will further exacerbate potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Ocean just a few miles away. Our creeks will be easily contaminated with heavy metals and absorbed into the region's soil, adversely impacting our local ecosystem that would go to our ocean.

Please **DENY** Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02).

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Amanda Quintanilla