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Comment Received From: Gary Blandin
Submitted On: 6/9/2025
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

RE: Opposition to the Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed siting of the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano, on land currently owned by Saddleback Church.

I have several serious concerns regarding this project:

1. **Proximity to Community Assets:** The proposed facility is dangerously close to residential neighborhoods, schools, **senior living facilities**, businesses, and a medical center. In the event of a fire, explosion, **evacuation** or toxic fume release, the impact on local residents and emergency services would be catastrophic.
2. **Transportation Risks:** Its location near Interstate 5 and **several railway lines** poses a significant risk. A disaster, such as the recent fire at Moss Landing, could lead to closures of these essential transportation routes, severely disrupting regional mobility and commerce.
3. **Environmental Impacts:** This area is home to diverse flora and fauna, **including endangered species**. Moreover, it serves as a popular recreational space, featuring trails enjoyed by hikers, bicyclists, and nature enthusiasts. **The Oso creek drains to the ocean and cannot handle construction debris nor fire debris.** This facility could irreversibly harm the ecosystem and compromise its community value.
4. **Demand on Community Resources:** The facility would also create an unsustainable demand on local resources, including water needed in the event of a fire. **Fires have erupted in this valley, spread and threatened neighborhoods but were successfully extinguished by firefighters using water. Lithium fires cannot be extinguished by water and can burn for days.**

I urge the Commission to prioritize the safety and well-being of Californians above any financial incentives or cost-saving measures that benefit the developer. The proposed site was likely chosen due to its proximity to the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Trabuco to Capistrano 138-kilovolt transmission line; however, this convenience should not come at the expense of community welfare.

I respectfully ask you to consider the serious risks outlined above and reject this OPT-IN application.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.



SIGNATURE

GARY BLANDIN

NAME

ADDRESS