

| DOCKETED | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Docket Number: | 24-OPT-02 |
| Project Title: | Compass Energy Storage Project |
| TN #: | 264430 |
| Document Title: | Continuation of the Informational and Environmental Scoping Meeting for the Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project |
| Description: | Transcript of the second meeting day on June 3, 2025. |
| Filer: | Marichka Haws |
| Organization: | California Energy Commission |
| Submitter Role: | Commission Staff |
| Submission Date: | 6/23/2025 4:31:09 PM |
| Docketed Date: | 6/23/2025 |

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

In the matter of:

| | | |
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| Compass Energy Storage Project |) | Docket No. 24-OPT-02 |
| Opt-in Application for |) | |
| Certification |) | |
| _____ |) | |

INFORMATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING
FOR THE PROPOSED COMPASS ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT

REMOTE VIA ZOOM

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025

10:00 A.M.

Reported by:
Elise Hicks

APPEARANCESCEC STAFF

Elizabeth Huber, Director, Siting, Transmission, and
Environmental Protection Division

Kaycee Chang, Supervisor, CEQA Project Management Unit

PUBLIC ADVISOR'S OFFICE

Mona Badie, Public Advisor

Dorothy Murimi, Outreach Specialist, Office of the Public
Advisor

PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Taylor

Ann Mudry

Melinda Queen

Ruth Anna Bridges

Theresa Ford, B.L.E.S.S.I.N.

James Harris

Lisa Hand

Thomas J. Dunn

Maryann Tucker

Michele Leonhart

Helen Smith

Dianna Stark

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Rachelle DeBaca

Carl David

Stacey Olson

Jamie Stark

Shohreh Hejazi

Brian Robertson

Amanda Quintanilla

Terry Dong

Michael McGrady

Ron Cabrera

Linda Ivanov

Michele Marra Mann

Jerry Slusiewicz

Amy David

Greg Schons

Grace Turi

Vincent Lee

Denis Montenaro

Mary Herron

Bobbie Valentine

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Sarah David

Liz Avila

Sarah Mehta

Carpenter 72

Lidia Corey

Debbie Haag

Amanda Dissmore

Cathleen Pryor

Andre Lubarsky

Ken Cathcart

Robin Frankenfield

Frances Byhower

Pam Pakula

Victor

Gary Bridge

Melodye Shore

Jacqueline Ayer

Vieda Cantacessi

Laurie Cabrerra

Jayne Du

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Ann Thiel

Alissa Cope

Janine Thomsen

Don, Trustee for Burger

Michael family

Samara White

Lorelle Cope

Frank Wong

Thomas E. Glynn

Tony Williams

Linda Hammond

Lee McLendon

Krista Cardinale

Valerie McKellar

Joanne Marquez

Michael Wallock

Nancy Meade Cotton

Kris Green

Shelley Smaleh

Jenny Rose

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Judy Gerrard

Andrew

Angela & Vincent Maroon

Stacy Lawrence

Teala Tata

Mohit Mund

Marie Block

Shawn Rowerdink

Deb

Catherine Aurang

Nancy Thee

Gloria Laub

Byron Betterly

Christine Lambino

Mary Robertson

Patricia Muniz

Paul Buehler

Lawrence Ward

Debbie Salahi

Noa Brown

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Armen Gulesarian

Chris Fernandez

Riley Corey

Joseph K.

Trey Thompson

Maryann

Caroline Sullivan

Tony Rostron

Carmen Hearn

Natalie Bracken

James Bracken

Jessica Rose

Angela Maroon

Brian Pike

Donald Boyd

John Wright

Robert Bargar

Amy Luna Capelle

Dana Butler

John Kinney

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Elizabeth Willy

Nathan Bracken

David Salahi

David J. Dahlquist

Mariam Tarzi

Michael Velarde

Katie Gargano

Samantha

Carl Hess

Jonathan Meyer

Reem Misto

Hilary Nicole

Donny

LW

Amy David

Frans Erkelens

Karen Harris

Jay Rowerdink

Pressley Millen

Bill

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Sarah Webb

Sarah Mehta

Aaron Davis

Carl David

Sara Davis

Mary Koumas Lubarsky

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P R O C E E D I N G S

10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2025

MS. HUBER: Good morning and welcome, everyone, in our virtual public meeting today. I am Elizabeth Huber, and I'm the director of the California Energy Commission's Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division.

Today's public meeting is a continuation of the informational and environmental scoping meeting for the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project that was held on May 29th. If you missed it or would like to watch the presentation from the May 29th meeting, a link to the recording is available on the events page for the Information and Environmental Scoping Meeting for the proposed project at Compass Energy Storage Project, and a copy of the presentation was also filed into that docket.

So the purpose of today's meeting, though, is to provide additional opportunities to receive public comments. The comment period for the notice of preparation closes on June 4th, 2025. The CEC staff will consider all comments received as they prepare the staff assessment that will include a complete EIR for the proposed project. We anticipate the staff assessment will be published and circulated for public review in the fall of this year.

1 So to help set the stage, the CEC does not
2 advocate for or against specific projects. Instead, we
3 ensure each proposal is reviewed objectively,
4 independently, based on safety, environmental standards,
5 community feedback, and applying applicable law at the
6 local, state, and federal levels, and we have been doing
7 this for more than 50 years.

8 So with that, I want to, again, thank you for
9 tuning in today. We look forward to hearing from you.

10 And now I'm going to turn it over to our public
11 advisor, Mona, and her team that will highlight the
12 multiple opportunities for public input. Again, we look
13 forward to hearing from you. And now I'll pass it over to
14 Mona Badie.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you so much, Elizabeth.

16 I'm Mona Badie, the public advisor for the
17 California Energy Commission, and before we move on to
18 public comment today, I'm going to do a brief overview of
19 the different ways that you can participate in this
20 proceeding and other CEC proceedings.

21 If I could have the next slide.

22 Oh. I think we covered this content.

23 So next slide.

24 All right. So we just heard the welcome. And
25 after my presentation, we are going to do public comment.

1 Then there's going to be some closing remarks, including
2 brief remarks about the next steps, and then we'll adjourn
3 this meeting.

4 Next slide.

5 Next slide, please.

6 All right. And one more slide.

7 Okay. Great. Thank you so much.

8 So I'm with the Office of the Public Advisor
9 Energy Equity and Tribal Affairs. Part of our mission is
10 to facilitate public and tribal engagement in CEC programs
11 and policies. We are a free resource available to anyone
12 that wants to participate in CEC proceedings, including
13 this Compass proceeding, and I'm going to be sharing our
14 contact information on a later slide.

15 Next slide, please.

16 I'm going to go into more detail about the
17 different ways to participate in CEC's Compass proceeding.
18 The first is just to follow the proceeding, another is to
19 comment, and the third option open to California Native
20 American tribes is tribal consultation.

21 Next slide, please.

22 So I'm going to go into more detail about how to
23 follow this proceeding. One of the most popular ways to
24 participate in our programs and policies is just to follow
25 them. You can follow our proceedings by reviewing

1 materials we post on our website, signing up for email
2 updates, and by attending events like the one here today.
3 Our events are almost always hybrid or fully virtual via
4 Zoom, so the public can attend from anywhere with a phone
5 or internet connection.

6 On this slide, you will see a snapshot of the
7 webpage for the proposed Compass Project. It has
8 information on the proposed project and project status. It
9 has a place where you can subscribe for free email updates
10 on the project under the subscribe link, and then there's
11 also a link to submit written comments directly to the
12 project docket, and a link to the docket itself.

13 Now, what is a docket?

14 Next slide.

15 The CEC has publicly accessible online dockets
16 for its proceedings. This is basically a place where
17 project application materials, public comments, notices,
18 agendas, and other documents are filed and available
19 online.

20 On this slide, you'll see an image of the docket
21 for the proposed Compass Project. With few exceptions, all
22 materials in the docket are linked and available for anyone
23 to download and view for free. We've received a lot of
24 written comments for the Compass Project so far, and if you
25 go into the docket, you can read your own comment if you've

1 submitted a comment and read others' comments as well.

2 Next slide, please.

3 Another way to participate is to comment.

4 So as in all of CEC's programs and policies, any
5 person can comment verbally at a CEC event or in writing.

6 Please note that comments do become part of the public
7 record, and so they can be searchable via an internet
8 search engine.

9 To comment verbally, you will just attend the
10 event and wait for the instructions during the public
11 comment period to make your comment.

12 For our hybrid events, you can comment in person
13 or via Zoom, online, or by phone, and coming up, we will
14 have the public comment period for today's event and the
15 accompanying instructions.

16 The CEC also welcomes written comments. As I
17 stated before, for the website, we have what's called a
18 docket for each proceeding. You can submit comments to the
19 docket for the proceeding at any time, but the most
20 effective time to do so is during the announced public
21 comment periods. And on our website, you can submit a
22 comment electronically just by typing it into the e-comment
23 page, or you can upload a document such as a letter. We
24 also have email and paper options, and those are detailed
25 in the notice for today's event.

1 If you need assistance providing comments, then
2 you can contact the Office of the Public Advisor, and
3 again, I'll have our contact information on a later slide.

4 Next slide, please.

5 The CEC invites tribal consultations in this and
6 other opt-in proceedings. This is the third option for
7 engagement, and it is open to California Native American
8 tribes. Gabriel Rourke from the CEC's Siting Division is
9 available for inquiries and other communications from
10 California Native American tribes, and I've got his contact
11 information on this slide.

12 Next slide, please.

13 All right. Thank you so much for attending
14 today's event. We've already got 61 people joining us on
15 the Zoom, and we are here to serve California, and your
16 participation helps us do our jobs. I put my contact
17 information on this last slide. Again, my office is
18 available to support public participation in this
19 proceeding.

20 And then I'm going to -- next we are going to go
21 on to public comment. We'll do some instructions.

22 All right. So next slide, please.

23 All right. So at this first comment, we are
24 reserving time for government comments, and that includes
25 California Native American tribes, state, city, county, and

1 elected officials, and then we will move on to general
2 public comment.

3 So if you are here with a government -- and
4 that's including a California Native American tribal
5 government -- and you'd like to comment at this time, if
6 you could raise your hand. And I do ask if you are here to
7 make general public comment to wait until we call for that
8 time period. This initial time period is for government
9 speakers, and I will ask for you to identify your
10 government affiliation before speaking, and if not, ask if
11 you could reserve.

12 So if you are not here with a government, and you
13 have your hand raised, please lower your hand so I can
14 capture anyone from government entities with a raised hand.

15 All right. And it's looking like we don't have
16 government commenters at this time, so I'm going to -- if
17 we can go to the next slide, we are going to move to
18 general public comment. So this is for any attendees. If
19 you'd like to comment, you can start raising your hands
20 now. If you're Zoom online, you'll use the raise hand
21 feature on your screen. It looks like an open palm. And
22 if you're joining by phone, you'll press star nine. That's
23 going to tell us you'd like to comment.

24 And I just want to announce -- so our event is
25 day two. And as Elizabeth mentioned, the recording from

1 day one is on the event webpage, and that has all of the
2 presentations, including the technical presentations that
3 were made on the 29th, and anyone can access that at any
4 time. Today's event is going to be for public comment, and
5 we are going to take as many raised hands as we have, and
6 then we will adjourn after going over next steps.

7 So if you want to comment, now is please the time
8 to raise your hand. Don't wait.

9 All right. So we've got some raised hands.

10 I'm going to announce your name. I will unmute
11 your line, and then I will ask you to unmute on your end.
12 We are asking for comments to be two minutes or less.
13 There's going to be a timer on the screen.

14 Paul, you're identified as PauliPad9. I'm going
15 to open your line, Paul. If you can please unmute on your
16 end.

17 It is helpful if you state and spell your name
18 for the court reporter so we can capture that accurately in
19 our record.

20 MR. TAYLOR: Hello. Yes, my name is Paul Taylor,
21 and that's T-A-Y-L-O-R. I'm a San Clemente resident and
22 homeowner for the last 16 years. I'm retired but spent my
23 career as an engineer and economist in the energy sector
24 all over the world.

25 Like others I oppose the Compass Project on

1 safety concerns but would also like to address another
2 important issue.

3 Last Thursday the CEC said its primary function
4 is state energy policy and commitment to affordable energy.
5 How are we supposed to believe this when we have the
6 highest priced gasoline in the nation and two refiners are
7 imminently leaving? We also have the most expensive
8 electricity in the nation. Since 2008, California's
9 average residential electricity has risen three times
10 faster than the rest of the nation. In seven years, my
11 electric bill has doubled.

12 When I complain about this to the CPUC, I get
13 nothing. Why is this happening?

14 First off, 12 years ago, San Onofre Nuclear Plant
15 was shut down, leading to a \$10 billion cost for ratepayers
16 and a huge deficit in local power supply. Then 11 years
17 ago, Ivanpah solar thermal plant was brought online with
18 notable support from the CEC, but this \$2.2 billion
19 experiment never operated as planned and will largely shut
20 down in 2026 as an incredibly short 12-year run.

21 In comparison, San Onofre ran for 45 years. When
22 SDG&E experiences supply deficits, gas plants are used.
23 This means SDG&E customers like me pay more yet again due
24 to cap-and-trade policy because it's politically unpopular
25 to use fossil fuel in California.

1 So who pays for Compass? Who pays to
2 decommission Ivanpah? How long will the battery storage
3 experiment last before we have to decommission all these
4 facilities? When will we admit solar plus batteries at
5 scale is not affordable? Why don't we recognize the cost
6 of living in California is ridiculous and it's because of
7 bad policy?

8 I cannot believe one public figure even brought
9 this up last Thursday. Rather, we just got hollow
10 platitudes about being committed to clean energy.

11 Accordingly, I oppose the Compass Project and
12 will oppose every other project like it until energy policy
13 in California becomes more balanced and actually addresses
14 affordability instead of just talking about it.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Paul.

17 Next we are going to hear from Ann Mudry.

18 Ann, I'm going to open your line.

19 Just a reminder to state and spell your name for
20 a court reporter. And we are asking for comments to be two
21 minutes or less.

22 Anne, if you could unmute on your end, that will
23 allow you to begin.

24 MS. MUDRY: Thank you. Hi, my name is Ann,
25 A-N-N, Mudry, M-U-D-R-Y. I have lived in Laguna Niguel for

1 42 years. I have worked sometimes two jobs to pay off my
2 own, and now this.

3 A lot of you know my husband, Dwight Mudry,
4 Ph.D., biology, environmentalist, and specialist in permits
5 and limnology. Limnology is water. He has worked with you
6 in the past. CEC.

7 Water -- we all need water. We are 92 percent
8 needed in our human bodies.

9 Here are my grandchildren. Can you see me?

10 MS. BADIE: Sorry, Ann. We don't have the video
11 feed coming through for commenting.

12 MS. MUDRY: Okay. Thank you. I'm sorry.

13 They're my grandchildren. They're bright,
14 brilliant, and both in the gifted program GATE. Ivan wants
15 to get into science and math; Irva, art and legal field.
16 There are 200 elementary, middle, and high schools and
17 colleges within an eight-mile radius of this site. Don't
18 do this to our children, the future of America, or the
19 citizens of Laguna Niguel, our area.

20 Dwight and I oppose this project because of
21 safety. Please go to the dump. The grid is there.

22 Thank you so much for your time.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you Ann for those comments.

24 Next we are going to hear from Melinda Queen.

25 Melinda, I'm going to open your line. Just a

1 reminder to spell your name for our court reporter.

2 We are asking for -- oh. I lost you, Melinda.

3 Oh, wait, there we go. Okay.

4 Melinda, I'm going to open your line now.

5 MS. QUEEN: Hi, this is Melinda Queen. I work
6 for JSerra Catholic High School, and I live in Laguna
7 Niguel, California, right up the hill from where this
8 proposed battery storage site is happening.

9 Not only has our president, Rich Meyer, sent a
10 letter to the California Energy Commission back in December
11 of 2024 for expressing the concerns we have because we are
12 charged with the health and safety of over 1,500 students,
13 faculty, staff, and visitors located just a mile down the
14 road from this proposed site.

15 In addition we have a convent located on Hidden
16 Creek Road there in San Juan, right beneath where the
17 proposed site is as well, and their safety is of the utmost
18 importance to us.

19 I live on the intersection of Golden Lantern and
20 Marina Hills, which is right above where this proposed site
21 is proposed. And I have very deep concerns about the
22 safety of not just the school, the convent, me, my family,
23 but the whole community of San Juan Capistrano and Laguna
24 Niguel regarding this issue.

25 I think if we take a look back at the incidences

1 that have occurred just with trucks, with the lithium
2 batteries, and the devastation it's caused, shutting down
3 the 15 Freeway for three days. Nobody could go on either
4 side of the 15 Freeway. Plus I know there was another
5 incident in -- it was either Los Angeles or Long Beach.

6 So I beg of you as a concerned citizen of this
7 community to reconsider approving this lithium battery
8 storage.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Melinda.

11 All right. next we are going to hear from Susan
12 Stabel (phonetic). Susan, I'm going to open your line.
13 Just a reminder to state and spell your name. There's
14 going to be a timer on the screen. It will start after
15 you've completed spelling your name.

16 Susan, if you could unmute on your end, that will
17 allow you to begin.

18 All right. Susan, your line is open, and you've
19 -- let's see. I think you're still muted so we are not
20 getting any audio from you. I'm going to move on to the
21 next commenter, and then I'm going to come back to you,
22 Susan, to see if we can get your audio to work. Okay?

23 All right. Dennis Montenaro (phonetic), I'm
24 going to open your line. Just a reminder to please state
25 and spell your name for the record, and we are asking for

1 comments to be two minutes or less.

2 Dennis, your line is open, and you've unmuted,
3 but we are not getting any audio from you.

4 All right. I'm going to come back to you,
5 Dennis, and try again. If you could just look at your
6 audio settings, and then we'll come back to you.

7 All right. Ruthanna Bridges, I'm going to open
8 your line. If you could please state and spell your name
9 for the record. I'm going to open right now, and you'll
10 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

11 MS. BRIDGES: My name is Ruthanna Bridges,
12 R-U-T-H-A-N-N-A, Bridges, B-R-I-D-G-E-S. I live in San
13 Juan Capistrano, just probably less than a fifth of a mile
14 as the crow flies from the proposed facility.

15 I've done quite a bit of research on it for its
16 safety and appropriateness so close to homes and schools,
17 and I really feel this is a very poor choice for a place to
18 put this. There's a lot of other areas that are farther
19 away from an impacted area than this is. It baffles my
20 mind why they drop it right in the middle of a community
21 and less than, you know, half of a mile from a large school
22 -- three large schools, by the way. There's another one on
23 the opposing corner, and more right down the street.

24 It seems like there could be many different
25 places to put this, not in our backyard. Everything I've

1 read makes these things sound completely horrific and prone
2 to accidents, not even the potential of accidents, but
3 they're prone to devastating accidents.

4 So I sincerely request that this not be dropped
5 in our backyard. San Juan is a beautiful and safe and
6 lovely place to live, and this is potentially a nightmare,
7 and from everything I've read, it is more than potentially
8 a nightmare.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Ruthanna.

11 All right. Susan, I'm going to come back and try
12 your line again. Just a reminder. So this is for Susan
13 Stabel. I'm going to open your line and then you'll unmute
14 on your end and then you can begin.

15 All right. Susan, we are not getting any audio.
16 I'm going to move on.

17 All right. Theresa Ford. I'm going to open your
18 line. If you could unmute on your end. And just a
19 reminder to please state and spell your name for the
20 record. There's going to be a timer on the screen. We are
21 asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

22 MS. FORD: Hello, my name is Theresa Ford,
23 T-H-E-R-E-S-A, F-O-R-D. I'm a resident of Laguna Niguel.

24 I called in today to expose a troubling breach of
25 impartiality within the California Energy Commission's

1 Informational and Scoping Review process. The CEC
2 Commission exists to serve the public interest by ensuring
3 transparency, fairness, and accountability in energy policy
4 decisions, yet recent events observed on May 29th cast
5 doubt on whether this fundamental principle has been
6 upheld.

7 During the afternoon break, Renee Robin and other
8 ENGIE representatives were seen privately conversing with
9 multiple commissioners and staff without a court reporter
10 present. Meanwhile, community members who waited for hours
11 to receive only two minutes to speak were left watching as
12 the applicant engaged in direct, off-record discussions.

13 This violates the very spirit of impartiality.
14 When session breaks occur, the public hearing is closed and
15 the commissioners are not to receive new information. Yet
16 Compass disregarded this safeguard, and more alarmingly,
17 the CEC permitted it, an unacceptable conflict of interest.

18 The appearance is clear. This Commission shares
19 a comfortable, familiar relationship with the applicant.
20 This reveals that significant time had already been spent
21 together in prior Informational and Scoping during an on-
22 site tour.

23 Additionally I express my disappointment that the
24 May 29th meeting was scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00
25 p.m., yet ended prematurely before 8:30 p.m., failing to

1 honor its published commitment.

2 The public deserves fairness, transparency, and
3 equal access in this process. The CEC must be held
4 accountable and ensure that private discussions during
5 hearings cease immediately. We demand clarity, integrity,
6 and the end of preferential treatment for applicants.
7 Anything less undermines public trust and questions the
8 legitimacy of this review process.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Theresa.

11 Next we are going to hear from James Harris.

12 James, I'm going to open your line. Just a
13 reminder to please state and spell your name for the
14 record. And you can unmute on your end to begin.

15 MR. HARRIS: Hi, my name is James Harris. I'm a
16 Laguna Niguel resident of 32 years, and I'm calling to
17 oppose the proposal of placing a hazardous battery storage
18 facility in a beautiful area located in South Orange
19 County.

20 And Laguna Niguel and the surrounding area of the
21 proposed battery storage facility has been labeled by CAL
22 FIRE as a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. It's curious
23 that the terrain at the battery facility is not also listed
24 as High Fire Hazard Security Zone. It's the exact same
25 terrain.

1 These are terrains that I regularly hike. I try
2 to hike these trails in these locations nearly every day if
3 possible. So the terrain is the exact same terrain, but
4 not listed as the same.

5 So the surrounding areas of these facilities are
6 High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, which we all know what that
7 means, and we all know what the result of a burning battery
8 facility that burns for days on end, what the result would
9 be if it lit up these High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
10 listed by CAL FIRE. That's one issue that I have, just the
11 concern about the environmental impact and the possible
12 destruction of our beautiful communities.

13 But also, I'm curious. I know the counsel is not
14 able to answer this, but I'm curious if there is a pending
15 grand jury investigation of this whole process. If this
16 has been raised or if somebody's moving towards reaching
17 out to the grand jury to start some type of investigation
18 of what's been taking place with this facility and the
19 amount of money that's been passing hands through some of
20 our college districts and other supporters of this
21 proposal.

22 The people in the area are absolutely opposed to
23 this, and I hope that the California Energy Committee is
24 listening to us and prevents this from being built in this
25 location.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you, James.

3 All right. I'm going to -- Dennis Montenaro, I'm
4 going to try your line again, so I'll unmute on my end and
5 then you will need to unmute on your end and then you may
6 begin. We are going to try one more time to see if we can
7 get your audio through.

8 All right. Dennis, we are not getting any audio
9 from you. Can you try unmuting on your end?

10 All right. I'm so sorry, Dennis. We were not
11 able to get your audio.

12 I'm going to move on to Lisa Hand.

13 Lisa, I'm going to open your line. You'll unmute
14 on your end. Just a reminder to state and spell your name
15 for our record. And then also we are asking for comments
16 to be two minutes or less. There'll be a timer on the
17 screen.

18 MS. HAND: Okay. Can you hear me now?

19 MS. BADIE: Yes.

20 MS. HAND: Okay. My name is Lisa Padgalskas
21 (phonetic) Hand, but for ease, I'll just say Lisa Hand,
22 H-A-N-D. I didn't sleep well last night thinking about
23 what I would say today because there's so much on the line
24 here. I live in Concord Hill directly above where this
25 battery plant would be, and my house is on the very edge of

1 that ridge, so if, you know, fires rush uphill -- and
2 selfishly I'm thinking of me and our neighbors would be the
3 first to go probably. So that we are even having this
4 conversation is unfathomable to me and everyone that I talk
5 to.

6 And I hike this hill several times a week. It's
7 beautiful in spring, but the mustard plant and the thistle,
8 they dry out and become flammable vegetation for most of
9 the year. It's not cleared. It's a high fire danger, and
10 there's signs all around that say that.

11 So I invite the CEC to come take a hike with me,
12 but -- you know, take a look and see that all the high,
13 tall weeds, very flammable. But we would have to go early
14 if it gets hot on that hill later, especially now that it's
15 June.

16 So this park or this plant belongs in an
17 industrial park away from homes and schools. So it's not
18 only dangerous, but it would be big, ugly, noisy too. And
19 obviously life-threatening and a threat to our communities.

20 So this might be a lucrative location for
21 Compass, but it will cost me and my neighbors and my
22 community a lot. We lost home values, increased fire
23 insurance premiums, and lost quality of life, and lost
24 sleep, and all the anxiety it's causing all of us because
25 we love our community. I implore you to put yourselves in

1 our position. If you're at the top of the ceiling, you're
2 looking down on this massive plant that's dangerous and
3 flammable, how would you feel about having your home and
4 your family there?

5 Anyway, thank you very much for making the right
6 decision and not allowing this to happen in the middle of
7 our beautiful community. Thank you very much.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Lisa.

9 Next we are going to hear from Thomas Dunn.
10 Thomas, I'm going to open your line. You'll unmute on your
11 end. And just a reminder to please state and spell your
12 name for our record.

13 Thomas, if you could unmute on your end.

14 Oh, there we go. Thank you.

15 MR. DUNN: Yes, my name is Thomas Dunn. That's
16 T-H-O-M-A-S D-U-N-N. And I live at 1 Knob Hill, which is
17 approximately 1,600 feet from where this BESS facility is
18 proposed to be sited. My lot overlooks the entire valley,
19 and I am 458 feet above sea level, whereas the site is down
20 there at about 31 feet above sea level.

21 Let me just be clear about one issue with regard
22 to the CEC. I know that you are not tasked with picking
23 any location for a BESS site. However, it is within the
24 Commission's authority to deny an application when the
25 proposed location is determined through simple, common

1 sense, and unbiased review to be unsuitable and
2 inappropriate to site such a facility, especially close to
3 homes, schools, churches, sacred land.

4 This area, ENGIE knows full well, is in a high
5 fire zone. The CEC, I would petition them to show that
6 they are on the side of citizen safety versus in concert
7 with such a poor choice of location for a BESS facility.
8 I'm for clean energy, yes, but safety is first.

9 In closing, please consider denying this
10 location.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Thomas.

13 Next we are going to hear from Maryann Tucker.

14 Maryann, I'm going to open your line. Just a
15 reminder, just please state and spell your name for our co-
16 reporter.

17 Maryann, if you could unmute on your end.

18 There we go.

19 MS. TUCKER: Hi. Can you hear me?

20 MS. BADIE: Yes.

21 MS. TUCKER: Okay. I wasn't sure how to unmute.

22 Marianne Tucker, M-A-R-Y-A-N-N T-U-C-K-E-R, and
23 I'm a resident of South Orange County, San Juan Capistrano.

24 I have a home that is half a mile away from the
25 proposed Compass Energy Storage Project, and that's about

1 2,500 feet. It's in a community called Village San Juan.
2 It's been there since 1972. There's about 650 homes in
3 there. It's on the east side of the freeway, and there's
4 only one way out, and that is going towards the facility.
5 If there's a fire, an explosion, you have to drive towards
6 that to get out.

7 And there's a lot of other neighborhoods along
8 that same strip of Rancho Viejo Road, not just that one.
9 Many, many homes up in the hills that also have just one
10 way out. They'd have to drive towards the accident that is
11 probably inevitably going to happen at this facility,
12 because eventually it will catch on fire. They always do.

13 Also the fumes from the fire, even when it's not
14 exploding or on fire, the fumes from the project are ever-
15 present. The toxic fumes are always low-lying level, which
16 is very hazardous to our health.

17 I'm so sad because I bought this house in 1980,
18 and I'm having my son and his family move into that in a
19 year or so, but I certainly don't want them to move in with
20 this hazard.

21 The land is susceptible to moving. The railroad
22 tracks are right there. The 5 Freeway is there are going
23 to shut down traffic for days. It's going to be good luck
24 in the state. The only route right from Canada to Mexico
25 is the 5 Freeway. It will be impossible to get to Mission

1 Hospital. There's many, many schools that are going to be
2 impacted.

3 Very dangerous for our health. It's not if it
4 catches fire, but when. It's so hazardous.

5 They don't want anybody on site full-time because
6 it's not safe for the employees to be there monitoring the
7 situation. They have to do it remotely.

8 Please deny this project for the health of all of
9 us in South Orange County.

10 Thank you very much.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Maryann.

12 All right. And next we are going to hear from
13 Michelle Leonhart.

14 Michelle, I'm going to open your line. You'll
15 unmute on your end by clicking the audio icon on your
16 screen. And we are asking for comments to be two minutes
17 or less.

18 MS. LEONHART: Hi, my name is Michelle Leonhart,
19 and I'm a resident of Laguna Niguel. We spell my name
20 M-I-C-H-E-L-E, last name L-E-O-N-H-A-R-T.

21 I attended and sat through the entire day one
22 meeting, and I was there to listen. What I did hear is
23 that the community has raised serious public safety, fire,
24 environmental, ecological, and nature concerns for placing
25 this battery storage facility in this proposed location.

1 What I did hear is that there is virtually no support from
2 the community or from our beloved civic and service
3 organizations for this proposal at this location. What I
4 did hear is that the only benefits outweighing all these
5 risks are to the company's profits and expediency. What I
6 did hear is concern over the integrity of the application
7 itself.

8 I am very concerned over the omissions by Compass
9 of the unstableness of that land, the false claims by
10 Compass of community support for the proposal, and the
11 downplaying of very real public safety threats.

12 With my 34 years in federal law enforcement, I
13 learned to always follow the evidence and to always do a
14 risk-benefit analysis that places public safety on top. I
15 believe the voices from the community, the mayors of San
16 Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel, our state, local, and
17 federal elected officials, as well as the experienced
18 firemen who are not on the Compass payroll, have made the
19 case as to why you should do your duty and deny this
20 application for this unsuitable location.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Michelle.

23 Next we are going to hear from Helen Smith.

24 Helen, I'm going to open your line. Just a
25 reminder to please state and spell your name for our

1 current reporter.

2 Oh, Helen, I lost you. Okay. Helen, I'm going
3 to open your line now.

4 MS. SMITH: Hello, I am Helen Smith, H-E-L-E-N
5 S-M-I-T-H, and I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

6 I was also at the meeting last week in person.

7 I do want to say that this is a force-fit into
8 our Laguna Niguel, San Juan Capistrano, South Orange County
9 community. It's already been rejected by the local
10 communities, and so Compass went to the state to bypass,
11 you know, our input, and so I really appreciate that the
12 state is giving us this chance.

13 And I'll just add -- you know, echo what's been
14 said before, the environmental concerns, especially the
15 fire potential in a community that's already been
16 traumatized by a brush fire that went up into the houses.
17 Also, the safety access, having to cross the railroad
18 tracks.

19 And I don't know enough specifics about it, but,
20 you know, Saddleback Church right there has large
21 congregations, and if they're sharing an access road when a
22 fire breaks out and they have to evacuate, you know,
23 rapidly, that's -- that could be a potential problem.

24 I do use those trails all the time, and I have
25 for over 30 years.

1 So I really want to encourage the state to please
2 reject this application.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Helen.

5 Next we are going to hear from, I think, A.
6 Lucas, if I'm saying that correctly.

7 I'm going to open your line. If you are able,
8 please share and spell your name for our record as well.
9 We are asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

10 A. Lucas, you've unmuted on your end, but we are
11 not getting any audio from you. I'm going to come back to
12 you in a moment. Okay?

13 All right. Next we'll hear from Dianna Stark.

14 Dianna, I'm going to open your line. If you
15 could please state and spell your name for our record. We
16 are asking for comments to be two minutes or less. There's
17 going to be a timer on the screen.

18 MS. STARK: Okay. Hi. Can you hear me?

19 MS. BADIE: Yes.

20 MS. STARK: Okay. So my name is Diana Stark,
21 D-I-A-N-N-A. Last name is S-T-A-R-K. I'm a resident of
22 Laguna Niguel, very close to the proposed site. I am also
23 a business owner, very close to the proposed site. I have
24 also submitted a written comment.

25 And I would like to say everybody is focusing on

1 the safety, and I think none of you care about the safety.
2 Because by placing it here, you're going to poison our
3 land, our environment, our water, our wildlife, our
4 children, our elderly, and our disabled.

5 Because there is Section 8 housing there.
6 There's also over-55 housing there. If anyone cared about
7 the safety, this would never have been proposed in the
8 first place.

9 Saddleback Church has called itself a Christian
10 organization but sold this land to Compass Energy for
11 profit, not considering for one moment the souls you would
12 hurt and the land you would poison.

13 So looking at this, since nobody seems to care
14 about the safety, when this facility burns -- and it will,
15 because they all do, as many of your speakers have
16 commented -- you will be desecrating the value of millions
17 and millions of dollars' worth of California real estate.
18 You will be potentially shutting down a major
19 transportation corridor, which will cost the state millions
20 in lost revenue. You will cause schools to close,
21 businesses to close. You will cost the state and this
22 company. You will create homelessness of our marginalized
23 communities who will have no place to go when they have to
24 evacuate this region.

25 The company will be fined. You will face legal

1 actions. You will suffer reputational damage, and you will
2 potentially face liability costs that will make you
3 unsustainable. The California state already faces a huge
4 budget crisis, and you will be making it worse. You're
5 putting a small Chernobyl in the center of one of Southern
6 California's busiest areas. So like I said, health,
7 wellness, and safety of our population and environment
8 clearly wasn't your concern at any point.

9 But if you are thinking about money, which your
10 short-term gain is obviously your goal, look at the long-
11 term financial devastation for you, Compass Energy, for
12 you, California, and for us, the families and businesses
13 impacted by this plan.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Diana.

16 All right. So we've got a few more raised hands.
17 I am also going to try the folks that we weren't able to
18 get audio from earlier.

19 And just a reminder, if you're joining to make
20 public comment, to please raise your hand now so that we
21 can call on you. And also if -- once we call on your name,
22 if you're joining by Zoom online, you will click on the
23 microphone icon. It -- depending on your screen
24 configuration, it will be on the bottom of your Zoom
25 window. It looks like a little microphone. You'll click

1 on that to unmute on your end.

2 And also, just a reminder, you'll want your
3 microphone function to be connected to Zoom as well. So
4 that's another troubleshooting item to check, to make sure
5 that your microphone is connected to the device that you're
6 speaking into.

7 All right. And I'm going to go to Rachelle
8 DeBaca.

9 Rachelle, I'm going to open your line. You'll
10 unmute on your end. Just a reminder to please state and
11 spell your name for our court reporter. The timer will
12 start after you have completed spelling your name. And we
13 are asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

14 MS. DEBACA: Hi. Can you hear me?

15 MS. BADIE: Yes.

16 MS. DEBACA: Hi. My name is Rachelle DeBaca,
17 R-A-C-H-E-L-L-E, DeBaca, D-E, capital B, A-C-A, and I
18 strongly oppose the proposed lithium battery storage
19 facility in San Juan Capistrano, near my home in Laguna
20 Niguel.

21 At the May 29th meeting, we heard about outdoor
22 battery containers and fire safety measures, but what we
23 didn't hear enough about were the serious public safety
24 risks. As Mayor Troy Bourne said, the site has ongoing
25 erosion and landslide issues. This land cannot be safely

1 developed in its current condition.

2 Even more alarming, the site has only one access
3 point through a railroad crossing with a known history of
4 accidents. Local firefighters are strongly opposed to the
5 project because they understand the danger that limited
6 access poses in an emergency.

7 If we approve this project without addressing
8 these critical risks, we are not planning for the future.
9 We are putting people in harm's way.

10 This isn't just about storing energy. It's about
11 responsibility, safety, and protecting our community.

12 Please reject this project until these dangers
13 are fully resolved.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Rachelle.

16 All right. Next we are going to hear from Carl
17 and Amy David.

18 I'm going to open your line. Just a reminder to
19 please state and spell your name for our record. Thank you
20 so much.

21 MR. DAVID: Thank you. This is Carl David,
22 C-A-R-L David, D-A-V-I-D, and I'm a 30-year resident of
23 Laguna Niguel, two miles from the site, and a retired Army
24 Lieutenant Colonel.

25 Today I want to remind you that and point out the

1 outrage you experienced at the last meeting has permeated
2 our community, and our voices should matter.

3 The thing I want to talk about today is address
4 two deficiencies in the community engagement benefit that,
5 as you know, is required by the project.

6 I specifically question the use of ENGIE by
7 Saddleback College and the South Orange County Community
8 College District that signed a grant of \$750,000. I
9 question the use of a Mission Viejo community benefit, not
10 Laguna Niguel or San Juan Capistrano.

11 Today I participated in a peaceful protest in
12 front of the community college district with a Q&A with the
13 Saddleback College president. He informed us they had
14 rejected a Community Benefit Agreement from ENGIE and
15 Compass, but rather signed a grant only, which questions
16 whether this arrangement qualifies with geography or
17 legality for this application. Please consider this and
18 deny that portion of the application.

19 Additionally, as a military officer, I'm also
20 concerned about the military-style domestic terrorism
21 threat. This is a super soft target that is accessible
22 from multiple avenues of approach, and simple terrorism
23 sniper can take out one or two or all of these.

24 So needless to say, I'm seriously concerned and
25 would hope that staff assessment will include a threat

1 assessment from all avenues of approach using all law
2 enforcement and any potential terrorism, joint terrorism,
3 task force threat analysis.

4 Thank you very much, and please deny this
5 project.

6 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Carl.

7 Next we are going to hear from Stacey Olson.

8 Stacey, I'm going to open your line. We are
9 asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

10 MS. OLSON: Hi. Can you hear me?

11 MS. BADIE: Yes.

12 MS. OLSON: Hi, my name is Stacey Olson,
13 S-T-A-C-E-Y O-L-S-O-N. I also live in the village, which
14 is very near to this site.

15 One thing I know, Mona, from your biography
16 online, it says that you also represent tribal relations as
17 a part of your -- as your primary goals, and that's
18 something that hasn't been brought up.

19 My partner is Native American, and I'd like to
20 mention that this land has been, in Orange County, has been
21 Native land for over 10,000 years, and San Juan Capistrano
22 especially. Right? And so part of the cultural
23 sensitivity that is being ignored by this facility is that
24 there are sacred lands that are within the boundary that
25 will be disrupted. There is a huge environmental impact as

1 well that was mentioned by many already, such as fires and
2 chemical leaks that surround the natural ecosystems, and
3 these hold spiritual value to the Acjachemen people.

4 There's been a lack of representation, and when
5 we think about the long-term damage to the ecological
6 systems that are here, for example Oso Creek, a fire or
7 chemical leak could contaminate this creek. It can affect
8 the wildlife and the water quality.

9 And then we also have, again, issues with
10 emergency access that several people have already
11 mentioned. This facility is planned within 1,500 feet of
12 local homes and affects senior living centers, medical
13 facilities, and the risk of fire and toxic gas, of course,
14 is also of huge concern to residents. Also this site has
15 limited access points, again, and it's really not suited
16 for the type of emergency response that would be required.

17 And then finally, when we think about if there is
18 a fire, that discharge goes straight into the creek, which,
19 again, then also goes to the ocean. Right?

20 So thank you very much.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Stacey.

22 Before we go to other raised hands, I just want
23 to announce -- so we are going to call on everyone that has
24 raised their hand and would like to comment today. Today's
25 event is a continuation of public comment. So after we've

1 heard from everyone, we are going to briefly announce next
2 steps and then adjourn the meeting.

3 So I wanted to just announce that, like, now is
4 the time to raise your hand. If you've got friends or
5 family or neighbors that were planning to attend, we do ask
6 that people join now and raise their hand so we can make
7 sure that we can hear from everyone.

8 I also just want to remind everyone that the CEC
9 does do multiple public events for each of these opt-in
10 proceedings, and, of course, our docket and e-commenting
11 page is open 24-7.

12 And you don't have to do a letter or anything
13 like that. You can just type your comments directly in on
14 the webpage.

15 And so with that, I'm going to go to Jamie Stark.

16 Jamie, I'm going to open your line. You'll
17 unmute on your end. And just a reminder to please state
18 and spell your name for the record.

19 MR. STARK: Can you hear me?

20 MS. BADIE: Yes.

21 MR. STARK: Hi, my name is Jamie Stark, J-A-M-I-E
22 S-T-A-R-K. I'm a resident of Laguna Niguel, not too far
23 from where the proposed facility is.

24 Yeah. I just wanted to echo a lot of what's been
25 said. But, you know, lithium-ion batteries present a huge

1 fire risk. It takes vast amounts of resources and water to
2 extinguish fires. That area where this is located is
3 already fire prone.

4 It presents a huge environmental danger. The
5 Trabuco Creek there, it's an environmentally sensitive
6 area, and fire suppression efforts could contaminate the
7 waterway.

8 The local fire departments have said they can't
9 actually handle these type of fires. So we'd be reliant
10 on, you know, I don't know, federal input, I guess, if
11 there was a fire. I worry about the structural integrity.
12 They're in galvanized steel containers that can rust in
13 salt air, which there's plenty of around here. There's,
14 you know, just vast community safety issues with these.

15 It's in a residential area, and it's not just
16 residential homes or Section 8 housing. There's senior
17 facilities there. There's low-income housing. I don't
18 know where those people are supposed to go if there's an
19 evacuation. And when these type of batteries burn, you
20 have to be evacuated.

21 There's schools everywhere around here. There's
22 Saddleback College, JSerra and Niguel Middle, Capistrano
23 Valley High School are all close to that area there and
24 would all need to be evacuated. It's in the transportation
25 corridor.

1 You got the 5 Freeway there, and you got the
2 railroad tracks that would shut all that down. It's the
3 main artery between Los Angeles and San Diego, and a fire
4 that would shut all that down.

5 It's going to present insurance issues for
6 homeowners, businesses. Everybody in the region is going
7 to have insurance problems as a result of this, and we
8 already face insurance issues in this region because of
9 fire risk, and you want to put something there that, you
10 know, is going to present more fire risk.

11 You've got non-recyclable waste. Lithium
12 batteries are not easily recyclable.

13 It's just, like, endless, the reasons not to do
14 this, and there's no good reason to do it.

15 That's it. Thank you.

16 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Jamie.

17 All right. Next I'm going to open the line of an
18 attendee identified as iPad. Sorry, I don't have your name
19 on the screen.

20 You'll get a cue to unmute. If you'll unmute on
21 your end, it is helpful if you share your name and spell it
22 for our record as well.

23 All right. Oh. There we go.

24 MS. HEJAZI: Hi, my name is Shohreh Hejazi,
25 S-H-O-H-R-E-H. Last name is Hejazi, H-E-J-A-Z-I.

1 I live in Laguna Niguel, and I'm strongly opposed
2 to this project, and I'm so pleased that other people in
3 this session explained the danger and the side effects of
4 this project very eloquently.

5 So I'm just going to finish my comment by please,
6 please reject this project. This will make our environment
7 very unsafe.

8 And thank you for giving me this opportunity to
9 express my opinion. Thank you.

10 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Shohreh.

11 Okay. Next we are going to hear from Brian
12 Robertson.

13 Brian, I'm going to open your line. You'll
14 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

15 MR. ROBERTSON: Okay. I believe I'm unmuted.
16 Hi, Brian Robertson is my name. Laguna Niguel homeowner
17 for the past 18 years.

18 I just can't understand how this project can be
19 further considered to be approved given the fire at Moss
20 Landing facility on January 16th, 2025.

21 And certainly the CEC has heard and read about
22 the fire, and there's probably been talk on it already
23 today in the past, but Moss Landing area is not known for
24 high winds, much cooler year-round than San Juan
25 Capistrano. Moss Landing is an order of magnitude less

1 dense in population than the site earmarked for the Compass
2 Energy Storage Project, but Moss Landing still experienced
3 disastrous issues with the smoke and toxic emissions in the
4 air and soil.

5 There's so many statements from the BESS
6 proponents that Moss Landing used a different type of
7 battery, or there's a 1 percent chance with our mitigation
8 we'll have a problem, and everything's so much better than
9 Moss Landing. Well, just try tell that to the people in
10 Moss Landing that were evacuated up to eight miles away
11 from the fire when initially told only two miles you got to
12 worry about.

13 Well, anyhow, the consideration for the proximity
14 of residents, schools, highways, businesses, just seems to
15 be non-existent. And once again, the state bureaucrats are
16 determined to change what we should be able to control
17 within our cities.

18 Please don't let this happen.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Brian.

21 All right. Next we are going to hear from
22 Michael Q.

23 I'm going to open your line. Just a reminder to
24 please state and spell your name for the record. If you're
25 willing to share that for our court reporter to capture.

1 Michael, if you can unmute on your end, then you
2 can begin.

3 MS. QUINTANILLA: Yes. Hi, my name is Amanda
4 Quintanilla, A-M-A-N-D-A Q-U-I-N-T-A-N-I-L-L-A, and I've
5 lived in Southern Orange County for over 50 years.

6 I'm in strong opposition to the proposed Compass
7 Energy Storage Project. More importantly, I'm opposed to
8 any battery energy storage system in Southern Orange
9 County, especially in our open spaces and mitigated lands.
10 Another location is not an option. Don't even think about
11 coming to San Clemente.

12 As a registered nurse, I'm concerned regarding
13 the health risk from lithium battery fires that emit toxic
14 gases that are hazardous, which can cause severe
15 debilitating health issues. These fires will emit toxic
16 gases and will be a public health risk to the surrounding
17 communities, especially during windy conditions, such as
18 Santa Ana winds.

19 The wildfire risks are extremely high in this
20 location, which is surrounded by dry vegetation. The steep
21 terrain will not provide easy access to extinguish these
22 fires. This will endanger businesses, homes, and schools.

23 Former San Clemente Mayor Chris Hamm and
24 President of the Orange County Professional Firefighters
25 spoke on May 29th, stating that firefighters are not

1 equipped to handle these toxic fires, and this is a
2 powerful statement. He also spoke about health risks to
3 our firefighters. As a result of exposure and long-lasting
4 effects, firefighters have to stop working. This ruins
5 their careers.

6 As someone who fought the toll roads with the Not
7 My Toll Road Group, a grassroots movement through San Juan
8 Capistrano and San Clemente, I'm concerned about the impact
9 on transportation concerns along the I-5 due to this
10 project.

11 In addition, I'm concerned about railroad safety
12 for the railroad right-of-way for the passenger rail and
13 commercial rail service of the LOSSAN Rail Corridor that
14 includes Amtrak, Metrolink, OCTA, and freight operators,
15 such as BNSF Railway.

16 I'm deeply concerned about the environmental
17 impacts on the species, such as Pacific pocket mouse,
18 Arroyo toad, the Light-footed Ridgway, the Belding's
19 savannah sparrow, and the Arroyo toad. Also plant species,
20 such as the Braunton's Milkvetch, California sagebrush, and
21 possible Brodiaea filifolia, which all are endangered and
22 threatened species.

23 If there are any fires that run off of an
24 adversely affected project, proximity of Oso and Arroyo
25 Creek Watershed that will further exacerbate potential

1 water quality issues containing the San Juan Creek
2 Watershed, which flows into the ocean just miles away. Our
3 creeks will be easily contaminated with heavy metals and
4 absorbed to the region's soil, adversely impacting our
5 local ecosystem that would head our ocean.

6 The geological concerns regarding the unstable
7 land that is comprised of Capistrano Land Formation, which
8 is unstable. A whole community of Calina Sur (phonetic)
9 that is adjacent to this property was not able to be
10 developed as a result of this unstable land.

11 Why would anyone think about building a battery
12 energy storage system in this location?

13 I also wanted to address the conduct by a Compass
14 attorney who went up from person to person at the May 29th
15 meeting, trying to influence, intimidate and make
16 allegations about what being -- what the public had stated
17 in their public comment.

18 Thank you so much. I do not support this Compass
19 energy storage system.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Amanda.

22 All right. Next we are going to go to a caller
23 identified as Terry, Terry's iPad.

24 So Terry, I'm going to open your line. You'll
25 unmute on your end. It is helpful if you can state and

1 spell your name for our record as well.

2 MR. DONG: Hello?

3 MS. BADIE: Hello.

4 MR. DONG: My name is Terry Dong, D-O-N-G, and I
5 live in Laguna Niguel and I am opposed to this location for
6 a battery energy storage system, especially after learning
7 that the site is in a high fire zone, has severe creek
8 erosion issues, and is geologically unstable with only a
9 single point of access in case of emergency.

10 I have solar panels on my house. I understand
11 that California pays other states to take our excess solar.

12 We need to store this excess energy, but at sites
13 that only make sense, especially since San Juan Capistrano
14 has offered other sites within the city. This doesn't make
15 any sense. It's too dangerous.

16 Please oppose it. Thank you.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Terry.

18 And just a reminder, if you're here to make
19 public comment, that is the rest of our program today
20 before making some brief closing remarks on next steps and
21 adjournment. So now is the time to please raise your hand
22 so we can make sure to call on you. We are going to call
23 on everyone that has raised their hand before we adjourn
24 today.

25 All right. Next we are going to call on Michael

1 McGrady.

2 I'm going to open your line, Michael. Just
3 unmute on your end and you can begin.

4 MR. MCGRADY: Okay. Can you hear me?

5 MS. BADIE: Yes.

6 MR. MCGRADY: Michael McGrady, M-C-G-R-A-D-Y.

7 I live next door to the proposed Compass Project.
8 Compass is the right name for this project. The CEC's goal
9 of a hundred percent clean energy by 2045 is clear, yet it
10 feels like a Compass spinning wildly. It points in a
11 direction that ignores the actual topography of our energy
12 landscape, forecasting increased electrical demand while
13 falsely promising the abandonment of natural gas peaker
14 plants and imported power.

15 This untenable and unscalable, passionate pursuit
16 of a single target without acknowledging real world scale
17 limitation is desperately thrusting a poorly conceived
18 project and still developing technology next to my home. I
19 feel like I'm coming into this process, though, profoundly
20 disadvantaged. Last week, it was clear that staff and
21 commissioners are already fully aligned with the
22 monomaniacal agenda.

23 Chairman Hochschild, while sympathetic, is a
24 Sierra club Trailblazer Award recipient as a champion of
25 green technology. Commissioner Gallardo today has had Giga

1 2025 in Washington, D.C. advocating for the very lithium
2 battery economy this project supports. It was concerning
3 to hear CEC staff, Dr. Greenberg and Brett Fooks,
4 effectively doing ENGIE's job, suggesting new batteries as
5 safe touting new 2025 codes and collaborations while
6 dismissing installations as recent as five years old as
7 outdated.

8 This project is supposed to last 20 years. If we
9 are just figuring it out now, why not wait another five
10 years to truly understand it?

11 I feel my concerns about this location will be
12 empathetically acknowledged but ultimately overrun. I'm
13 not here to oppose progress but ensure the path we take,
14 the compass we follow, is grounded in a clear-eyed view of
15 reality and fairness, not just an idealized vision.

16 Thank you. And great job, Mona.

17 MS. BADIE: Thanks, Michael.

18 All right. Next we are going to hear from Ron
19 Cabrera. Ron, I'm going to open your line. Just a
20 reminder to please state and spell your name for a court
21 reporter. It's very helpful for our record.

22 MR. CABRERA: Hello. Ron Cabrera, R-O-N
23 C-A-B-R-E-R-A. I'm a retired fire chief and resident of
24 San Juan Capistrano, and I oppose the project due to many
25 serious safety issues, including the following.

1 Tesla Megapacks do burn. ENGIE has insisted that
2 their battery cell technology will not be the cause of a
3 fire. However, the Tesla Megapack system can burn due to
4 other causes, as documented in the EPRI database for BESS
5 failure events, specifically the Tesla megapack fire in
6 Queensland, Australia that occurred in 2023. And according
7 to available data, most BESS fires of known cause were not
8 battery cell-related. Steel containers fail.

9 Regardless of the cause, we must evaluate how
10 fire spreads within and between units and how the steel
11 containers will maintain their integrity. Based on the
12 average thickness of the steel used for BESS containers,
13 the common temperature of a lithium battery fire of 1,800
14 degrees, the container's sides could fail within minutes.

15 Fire Code compliance. The applicable California
16 Fire Code on energy systems states that large-scale fire
17 testing shall be conducted on a representative energy
18 storage system in accordance with UL 9540-A. The testing
19 shall show that a fire involving one energy storage system
20 will not propagate to an adjacent energy storage system.
21 The NFPA's definition of a large-scale fire test is the
22 testing of a storage system that induces a significant fire
23 into the device under test and evaluates whether the fire
24 will spread to adjacent energy storage system units.

25 While UL 9540-A is a starting point for

1 testing -- it provides some information -- it is still
2 limited in scope since the parameters of the test may not
3 create the conditions for a fire to ignite. According to
4 the project hazard mitigation analysis dated November 25th,
5 2024, a large-scale fire test was not performed as required
6 by the Fire Code. And until such testing is performed,
7 Compass is not in compliance of the Fire Code.

8 And lastly, BESS fire embers. Although NV's fire
9 consultants claim burning lithium batteries do not cast
10 embers, the burning cables, switches, and insulation
11 materials within the container will cast hot fragments and
12 embers into the high fire hazard area, especially in high
13 winds.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Ron.

16 All right. Next we are going to hear from
17 Dennis.

18 Dennis, I'm going to open your line. Just a
19 reminder, we are asking for comments to be two minutes or
20 less. And if you could please state and spell your name
21 for the record, that's very helpful.

22 Dennis, your line is open and you've unmuted, but
23 we are not getting any audio. If you can adjust the volume
24 on your microphone, that might help.

25 All right. We are still not getting any audio

1 from you, Dennis. I'm going to come back to you to see if
2 you can do some troubleshooting with your mic.

3 Next we are going to hear from Linda Ivanov.

4 Linda, I'm going to open your line. Just a
5 reminder to say and spell your name for a record and unmute
6 on your end before beginning.

7 MS. IVANOV: Good morning. My name is Linda
8 Ivanov, Sage Environmental Group, L-I-N-D-A I-V-A-N-O-V.

9 My comments relate to the cultural resources and
10 sacred land component of the project.

11 I attended last week's meeting. I observed no
12 participation by the local tribe. I could not find tribal
13 comments on the project docket. I've since contacted some
14 of my personal tribal friends in San Juan Capistrano who
15 were not aware of the project. That is one-half mile from
16 their ancestral village at. How is this possible?

17 The Juaneño tribe has office space in the city
18 hall of Capistrano. Did the city not mention the project
19 over the past several years? This tribe was integrally
20 involved in the planning and construction of Putuidem
21 village nearby this site, working hand-in-hand with the
22 city.

23 Incredulously, the EIR chapter that was submitted
24 by DUDEC noted that tribal consultation was a government-
25 to-government responsibility. They secured an outdated

1 contact list and stated in their submittal that they did
2 not contact the tribes.

3 In my 20 years of working at CRM firms in
4 California, tribal outreach was the responsibility of the
5 EIR preparation team. I feel this is an egregious error
6 and omission. When in this public process does anyone
7 intend to outreach to the local tribe whose ancestors lived
8 on the BESS site?

9 The cultural resources chapter of the EIR was
10 weak in its presentation overall. This proposed industrial
11 facility will most certainly need to excavate to install
12 utilities and connections, revealing buried artifacts and
13 human remains. I submitted a written statement to the
14 docket with more details.

15 The -- excuse me -- San Juan Capistrano city
16 officials last week clearly stated that this site has been
17 investigated for decades for development. All proposed
18 projects were deemed unbuildable because of landslides,
19 creek erosion, and other unstable conditions.

20 I'm outraged that BESS donated, quote, bribed a
21 large sum to the college. I'm outraged that our community
22 is expected to rescue bankrupt Saddleback Church who sold
23 the property to BESS to build an unwanted industrial
24 facility.

25 I thank you for your time.

1 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Linda, for your comments.

2 Next we are going to hear from Grace.

3 Grace, I'm going to open your line. If you could
4 please state and spell your name for our record. We are
5 asking for comments to be two minutes or less.

6 Grace, your line is open. You've unmuted, but we
7 are not getting any audio from you. And apologies. I
8 don't have your last name on the screen. If you could try
9 increasing the volume on your microphone, that might work.

10 All right. We are not getting any audio feed
11 from you, Grace. I'm going to move on, and I will try you
12 again if you want to adjust your settings.

13 All right. And next we are going to hear from
14 Vincent.

15 Vincent, I'm going to open your line. You'll
16 unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

17 Vincent, your line is open. You'll unmute on
18 your end by clicking on the audio setting or the audio icon
19 on your screen.

20 All right. Vincent, we were not able to show you
21 as unmuting. I am going to come back to you in a moment
22 and see if we can adjust your settings in the meantime.

23 All right. We are going to next hear from
24 Michele Marra Mann.

25 Michele, I'm going to open your line. You'll

1 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

2 MS. MANN: Am I unmuted?

3 MS. BADIE: Yes.

4 MS. MANN: Okay. I am a longtime Laguna Niguel
5 resident, and I'm going to read the letter I wrote to the
6 Energy Commission, and then I'm going to tell you about me
7 a little bit, and I'll see if I can do it in two minutes.

8 I am very concerned about this lithium battery
9 storage facility. I would have never even known about it
10 if I hadn't been walking on the cleanest trail one day and
11 had seen the signs and got all the information on Nextdoor.
12 So as a longtime Laguna Niguel resident, I never was
13 informed, no email, no real mail. So how can a community
14 support or not support something they don't know about?

15 But I do know about it now, and I've learned
16 about the risk, and particularly the fire risk and the
17 danger of thermal runaway. So the little research that I
18 did, it said a chain reaction can lead to uncontrollable
19 fires and explosions. Such fires are extremely difficult
20 to extinguish, and they release toxic gases, including
21 hydrogen fluoride and other harmful chemicals. They pose
22 significant danger and significant health risks to the
23 nearby residents, and there are lots of residents that
24 border the slope where that facility will be built.

25 Incidents at similar facilities in other

1 locations have shown that even with safety measures in
2 place, accidents can and do happen. Placing such a high-
3 risk facility near homes, schools, natural areas, they pose
4 an unnecessary danger to our beautiful community that I've
5 loved for all these years.

6 I can't really see my time, but I guess I have 29
7 seconds.

8 Anyway, I urge you to reconsider the location of
9 this facility and explore alternative, safer places that do
10 not put public safety at risk.

11 And on just my personal note, I love walking on
12 that trail. I've walked it for 37 years, and I would hate
13 to see anything horrible happen back there. And it's dry,
14 one little spark, and that slope's going up, and houses are
15 going to burn.

16 So please reconsider this project. Please
17 reconsider it.

18 That's all I have to say.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Michele.

20 All right. Next we are going to move to Jerry
21 Slusiewicz.

22 Excuse me if I've mispronounced your name, Jerry.
23 I'm going to open your line. If you could please state and
24 spell your name for the record, that would really help our
25 court reporter.

1 MR. SLUSIEWICZ: Jerry Slusiewicz is J-E-R-R-Y,
2 S as in Sam, L-U, S as in Sam, I-E-W-I-C-Z.

3 Ready to go?

4 MS. BADIE: Yes.

5 MR. SLUSIEWICZ: Okay. Good.

6 So I'm the former mayor of Laguna Niguel, just to
7 let you know. So I've been to different meetings like this
8 in the past. This seems like a use permit issue. That's
9 basically all it is, is what do we want, you know, what are
10 you guys going to allow for that facility? And is that
11 facility the best place or best location for the use that
12 the proposed -- what they want to put in there, which is
13 the battery storage facility?

14 You know, look. In California, almost all of the
15 population is on the coast. We are a huge state. There's
16 plenty of room outside of one of the most populated
17 counties in the United States. One in a hundred Americans
18 lives in Orange County. Take that one out of every 100
19 people who live in the United States live in Orange County.

20 Yet there's a proposal to put this potentially
21 dangerous -- I get it, it's potential -- may or may not
22 ever happen. But long term, there's all kinds of things
23 that could happen where we have such wide-open spaces, not
24 too far from Orange County, that they could use as a
25 battery storage facility that if something tragic we did

1 have go wrong, some sort of a fire, some sort of an
2 earthquake, ground pollution, whatever, we don't have this
3 issue.

4 It seems fairly easy to me that it's an easy
5 decision to say no for the use of this property for this
6 use. So that's all I've got to say. Appreciate your
7 consideration.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Jerry, for attending and
9 your comments today.

10 Next I'm going to open the line for David group.
11 David, I'm going to open your line. You'll unmute on your
12 end and then you may begin.

13 MS. DAVID: Can you hear me?

14 MS. BADIE: Yes.

15 MS. DAVID: Okay. My name is Amy David. Good
16 afternoon. I'm here today as a concerned community member
17 who attended the May 29th hearing regarding the Compass
18 Energy Storage.

19 I'd like to express my deep concern over what
20 appeared to be a serious breach of public trust during the
21 session break at that meeting. While members of the public
22 were informed that no comments could be made during the 15-
23 minute break because the session was officially paused --
24 present, several attendees, myself included (audio cuts
25 out) --

1 MS. BADIE: Amy, we are getting some break in
2 your audio feed, so we can't hear you.

3 Do you want to speak closer to your mic?

4 MS. DAVID: -- start the clock?

5 MS. BADIE: Yeah. We can move the clock back.

6 We can hear you now if you want to -- sorry about
7 that. Go for it.

8 MS. DAVID: Okay. But you didn't restart the
9 clock. Yeah, we are going back. We are going back in time
10 so you can start. We cut -- we heard the beginning of your
11 remarks. It's just maybe a few sentences that the audio
12 cut out. So I want to make sure to capture everything.

13 MS. DAVID: Okay.

14 While members of the public were informed that no
15 comments could be made during the 15-minute break because
16 the session was officially paused and no court reporter was
17 present, several attendees, including my (audio cuts out)
18 several representatives of the project applicant engaged in
19 prolonged conversations with CEC commissioners, leaning
20 over the dais in private, close encounter without a court
21 reporter present to notate the comments of the discussion.

22 This was inappropriate, but it also undermined
23 the integrity of the public process. Members of our
24 community waited for over 10 hours just to receive two
25 minutes of speaking time to see the applicant speaking

1 privately to commissioners during a time explicitly close
2 to public comment, like the blatant disregard for fairness,
3 transparency, and the commissioners' role as an impartial
4 evaluating body under Civil Code 25545-7.2. This encounter
5 appeared to be a conflict of interest and came off deeply
6 disrespectful and discouraging to the members of our
7 community who respected the integrity of the session break
8 period.

9 The public deserves a process that's not only
10 fair in practice, but perceived as fair. I am incredibly
11 concerned that you would even try to shut down this
12 communication opportunity (audio cuts out) today when it
13 has been published. People have to work for a living and
14 try to get in to get their two minutes of time in order to
15 express their opinions on this, and yet people are in line
16 to be able to speak. We are just shutting this whole thing
17 down as if it is trouble. I am deeply concerned if you are
18 going to take that position.

19 Thank you for listening to me.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Amy, for your comments. I
21 appreciate your patience with the audio feed. I wanted to
22 make sure to capture everything that you -- in your
23 comments today.

24 All right. Next we'll hear from Greg Schons.

25 Greg, I'm going to open your line. If you could

1 please state and spell your name for the record. Once you
2 unmute, you can begin.

3 MR. SCHONS: Okay. Can you hear me?

4 MS. BADIE: Yes. Okay.

5 MR. SCHONS: Yeah, I'm Greg Schons. Just a
6 private citizen.

7 And I just wanted to point out to anybody not
8 aware of this company called Gravity Power. This would be
9 a system that would be safe, it'd be clean, eco-friendly,
10 and yeah, it could be used in place of a lithium battery
11 storage system. It's actually much more cost effective as
12 well. Estimates are up to around half the price for the
13 same amount of energy.

14 So, yeah, I'll just read right off from their
15 website. Actually, is there a way from -- not in two
16 minutes, I was going to show -- there's a great graphic on
17 their website, just gravitypower.net. You can learn all
18 about them.

19 But anyway, how it works is a gravity power plant
20 is simple. It's reliable and elegant.

21 We dig a deep shaft, you know, at the end of the
22 ground using standard technology from the mining industry.
23 We build a piston of reinforced rock in the shaft. We add
24 water and cap it, creating a closed-loop system with no
25 additional water required. So storing energy, a

1 conventional pump and turbine forces water down the
2 penstock, that's like a flow of water going up to the
3 generators. So using the piston with highly efficient
4 hydropower equipment and low -- this is, by the way, this
5 is equipment, standard equipment that we use, like, for
6 hydroelectric power, that sort of thing. The low piston
7 speed, the system efficiency is high, and thousands of
8 megawatt-hours can be stored in each plant.

9 So generating power, as the piston drops, it
10 forces water into the penstock and through the turbine,
11 spinning the generator to produce electricity. So it just
12 sits there.

13 Barely made it. Two minutes.

14 But go to gravitypower.net and check it out.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Greg. We can't share
16 images on the Zoom feed, but if you wanted to docket a
17 comment letter with information, that will allow for public
18 access of the items that you mentioned that you wanted to
19 share.

20 All right. And I'm going to come back to Grace.

21 I just have a first name, Grace. I'm going to
22 try to open your line again, and then you will unmute on
23 your end if you could. And we are going to try to get your
24 audio feed one more time.

25 MS. TURI: Can you hear me?

1 MS. BADIE: Yes.

2 MS. TURI: Oh, thank God. Okay.

3 Hold on. Hold on.

4 Okay. My name is Grace Turi. It's T-U-R-I. I
5 live in Laguna Niguel.

6 I attended the meeting all day last week and
7 filled out the questionnaire and strongly oppose the
8 location of this site. I will not repeat all of the
9 concerns that have been already said, but wish to make
10 three points.

11 First, I attended a peaceful protest this morning
12 with the president of Saddleback College, and he informed
13 us that the money they received was a grant, and they do
14 not hold a position for or against Compass. In fact, they
15 said they will be sending a letter to the CAC to state
16 their position. I don't believe that this qualifies for
17 the application to be deemed completed.

18 Second, which was very troubling to me, during
19 the break session last week, when we were off and not being
20 -- the court reporter was not on and we were at a break,
21 the applicants were talking to the CEC, basically not being
22 recorded, and we don't know what was said and what was
23 going on, which does not look good.

24 Third, I am not sure if the CEC has ever denied
25 an application. Since they have been appointed by the

1 governor, it greatly concerns me that they might be biased.

2 If the CEC does not deny this project at this
3 site, that is what it will actually show -- bias -- and
4 that all of this is just a show to appease the community.

5 I hope, strongly hope, that I am wrong and that
6 the CEC will do the right thing and deny this project.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Grace. I appreciate your
9 patience with the audio.

10 All right. And I'm going to see if Vincent, if
11 we can get your line and audio through for your comments.

12 I'm going to open your line again, if you can
13 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

14 Vincent, if you're with us -- great.

15 MR. LEE: Hi. Can you hear me?

16 MS. BADIE: Yes.

17 MR. LEE: Hi, my name is Vincent Lee. I'm a
18 commentator today to oppose the projected project. I'm a
19 current firefighter in California. I'm going to speak
20 today as a resident of Laguna Niguel.

21 I just want to clarify a few things. As of now,
22 no local fire department has the ability to halt a thermal
23 runaway if a lithium-ion battery fire were to occur in a
24 plant like this. The only way to neutralize it is with a
25 complete submersion of the complex and a saltwater

1 solution, which no fire department possesses the technology
2 currently. So if a fire were to occur in this area, it
3 would continue to burn until all the cells have been
4 compromised, and that fire source would pose a significant
5 risk to everything downwind of the proposed facility. So
6 any resident in Laguna Niguel should be aware that anything
7 downwind in a Santa Ana event would potentially impact
8 their entire community. And if we need to look to any
9 historical context, we can look to Pacific Palisades
10 earlier this year. If you draw a straight line from the
11 proposed facility to the ocean with a wind map, you can see
12 all the affected areas.

13 So I strongly oppose this project.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Vincent.

16 All right. We have got some more raised hands,
17 but I just wanted to do another reminder that if you'd like
18 to comment, we are asking you to use the raise hand feature
19 on your screen. It looks like an open palm. And star 9 if
20 joining by phone. That will let us know you'd like to
21 comment so we can call on you and we can make sure we hear
22 from everyone that wants to comment today before we
23 adjourn.

24 All right. And I'm going to try -- Dennis, I'm
25 going to try your line again. I'll unmute on my end, and

1 then you would need to unmute on your end, and let's see if
2 we can get your audio one more time.

3 MR. MONTENARO: Hello, can you hear me?

4 MS. BADIE: Yes.

5 MR. MONTENARO: Finally. Thank you.

6 My name is Dennis, D-E-N-N-I-S, Montenaro, M-O-N-
7 T-E-N-A-R-O. I'm a 25-year resident of Laguna Niguel. I'm
8 a retired chemist, and the majority of my career has been
9 dealing with plastics, phenolic epoxies, hydrogen
10 compounds, fluoride compounds, so I'm well-versed in the
11 toxic pyrolysis, or burning, of these chemicals. And as
12 we've heard some of the firefighters say, the local
13 firefighters are not equipped to handle this kind of a
14 thermal runaway fire, as happened up in the Monterey area.

15 I would just like to briefly and quickly go over
16 what's released when these batteries burn.

17 Hydrogen cyanide, the LDL -- the lethal dose
18 level -- is 50 parts per million, and the amount released
19 from a 20-kilowatt battery exceeds that by three times.

20 Hydrogen fluoride is the most common. Its LDL is
21 30 parts per million, and it's estimated that when these
22 batteries burn, up to 1,250 parts per million are released.
23 As soon as hydrogen fluoride comes in contact with the
24 atmosphere, the moisture in the atmosphere produces a gas,
25 hydrogen fluoride gas, and given that the hydrogen fluoride

1 ion is so small, it very readily penetrates tissues in the
2 nose, in the lungs, and the rest of the body. And given
3 our condition with Santa Ana winds blowing from east to
4 west, that runaway fire could sweep up the hill and expose
5 thousands of people to toxic gases.

6 The other issue that the firefighters in Monterey
7 encountered was these gases are continually produced, and
8 they will combust at any time. There's no predicting when
9 they will combust. As the batteries are running away,
10 these gases continue to form, and from the heat, they will
11 continue to combust. I hope there's sense in rejecting
12 this facility based on the science that's been proven.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Dennis. Thanks for your
15 patience with the audio.

16 All right. Next we are going to hear from Mary
17 Herron.

18 Mary, I'm going to open your line. If you could
19 please unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

20 MS. HERRON: Thank you.

21 I've spoken on many different topics. Today I
22 just want to talk about, just remember, reminding about the
23 dangers from the chemicals, which are -- some are forever
24 chemicals, like the chemist said, and dangers to our first
25 responders, dangers to citizens and environment. And let's

1 talk about dangers to our democracy, okay, and to the
2 Constitutional Republic.

3 When big money can rule a country -- a county,
4 and even a country, what business does a company have
5 that's owned one-third by foreign investors coming here to
6 the United States? Bribery is a crime, and buying silence
7 is the same thing.

8 And it's disputable about Saddleback College
9 there. I have the paper right here of their gift that they
10 received, but the timing is very suspicious, and so is the
11 source of that gift. So people can judge that just with
12 common sense.

13 We are asking the CEC to stand up for the voice
14 of the people in a Constitutional Republic. You are our
15 last line of defense. Do not let your vote signal that we
16 have lost America to big money.

17 In life, we all are here to make a choice between
18 God and money. What will your decision be based on?

19 BESS is another Trojan horse. It sounds great.
20 It looks like a gift. But study history, or we are doomed
21 to repeat it.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Mary.

24 All right. We are going to hear from B.
25 Valentine. I think I've got that right on the screen.

1 I'm going to open your line. It is helpful if
2 you could share and spell your name for our record as well.

3 MS. VALENTINE: Hi, my name is Bobbie Valentine,
4 B-O-B-B-I-E, last name Valentine, V-A-L-E-N-T-I-N-E. I'm
5 here today as a resident of Laguna Niguel to respectfully
6 urge you to stop the project. While I understand the
7 growing need for renewable energy infrastructure, the
8 chosen location for this project is simply too close to
9 residential neighborhoods and vital infrastructure,
10 creating significant safety and quality of life concerns.

11 The facility's proximity to homes, schools, and
12 major freeways that connect us to the rest of Southern
13 California poses an unacceptable risk in the event of a
14 fire or battery failure. While lithium battery storage
15 systems are often described as safe, they are only safer
16 than other technology, not inherently without risk. These
17 systems can overheat, catch fire, even explode under
18 extreme conditions, as everyone is well aware. If an
19 incident were to occur, evacuation routes would be
20 compromised, putting lives in danger and straining energy
21 services.

22 Moreover, this project threatens to negatively
23 impact our property values and the overall character of our
24 community. To make matters worse, over 3,000 new
25 condominiums were recently built adjacent to our freeway,

1 just one exit away from the proposed site. This rapid
2 growth significantly increases the number of families and
3 individuals that would be directly affected by any
4 emergency, amplifying the potential danger and traffic
5 disruptions that could result from a battery fire or
6 malfunction.

7 If these battery systems are truly capable of
8 withstanding extreme conditions, as they state, it would
9 make far more sense to locate them inland in a less densely
10 populated area, such as the desert, where potential damage
11 would be significantly reduced in case of failure.

12 Please listen to the voices of the residents who
13 will be mostly directly affected by this decision. We urge
14 you to prioritize community safety, environmental
15 responsibility, and common sense by halting the Compass
16 Battery Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Bobbie.

19 Next we are going to hear from Sarah David.

20 Sarah, I'm going to open your line. If you can
21 unmute on your end. We are asking for comments to be two
22 minutes or less, and it's very helpful if you could state
23 and spell your name for the court reporter before
24 beginning.

25 MS. DAVID: Can you hear me?

1 MS. BADIE: Yes.

2 MS. DAVID: Hi, my name is Sarah David, S-A-R-A-H
3 D-A-V-I-D, and I want to bring to attention a critical yet
4 often overlooked aspect of this project: the devastating
5 impact on transportation in the event of an emergency.

6 Just a few hundred feet away, a major railroad
7 serves LOSSAN and Amtrak, connecting communities and
8 facilitating vital commerce. In the event of an incident,
9 this rail line could be compromised, disrupting essential
10 transportation for passengers and goods.

11 Even more concerning, Interstate 5, our region's
12 lifeline, would likely be forced to shut down. This single
13 closure could cut off all movement north and south, halting
14 commerce, emergency response, and daily activities for
15 thousands of people.

16 Compounding the risk, there is only one road
17 providing access to the proposed facility, the residential
18 neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and medical facility.
19 Should an emergency occur, evacuation options would be
20 severely restricted, leaving families and workers
21 absolutely trapped. In some cases, people may have no
22 choice but to move toward the fire, as no other escape
23 routes exist. These transportation vulnerabilities pose a
24 serious public safety threat and must be included in the
25 project's cost-benefit analysis. The California Energy

1 Commission must also address these risks to ensure a
2 comprehensive emergency plan is in place before proceeding.
3 Lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure are at
4 stake.

5 I urge the Commission to take immediate action to
6 safeguard our community.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Sarah, for your comments.

9 All right. We do have another hand raised, and I
10 just want to do another call for raised hands. If you're
11 joining us today and you want to comment, we want to hear
12 from you before we adjourn. And if you're joining us --
13 Zoom online, you'll use the raise hand feature. It looks
14 like an open palm on your screen. And if you're joining by
15 phone, you'll press star 9.

16 All right. Next we are going to hear from Liz.

17 Apologies. I don't have your last name on the
18 screen, Liz. I'm going to open your line. If you'd be
19 willing to share and state your name for the record, that
20 would be excellent. Thank you so much.

21 Liz, if you could please unmute on your end, and
22 then you can begin.

23 MS. AVILA: Thank you. My name is Liz Avila,
24 L-I-Z A-V-I-L-A. I am a Laguna Niguel resident for over 22
25 years.

1 Like many others speaking today, I strongly
2 oppose the location of this project and urge you to deny
3 this project. I attended the May 29th meeting via Zoom,
4 and I'm alarmed at the lack of transparency from Compass
5 during the public presentation and information included in
6 their application.

7 n May 29th, you heard from our local government
8 officials, including Mayor Ray Gennawey and Mayor Troy
9 Bourne. They clearly informed you that the proposed
10 location for this project is not a suitable location. It
11 is not a buildable location, and other locations were
12 offered that are more suitable for this project. And just
13 as important, you heard that this project will create
14 unnecessary risks to public safety.

15 You are hearing about these risks from our
16 residents and retired unpaid experts that live in this
17 community. Please do not ignore this information.
18 Approval of this location would be an irresponsible
19 decision by the California Energy Commission.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Liz.

22 Next we are going to hear from Sarah Mehta.

23 Sarah, I'm going to open your line. Please
24 unmute, and you're in. We are asking for comments to be
25 two minutes or less.

1 MS. MEHTA: Hello. Can you hear me?

2 MS. BADIE: Yes.

3 MS. MEHTA: All right. My name is spelled
4 S-A-R-A-H, last name Mehta, M-E-H-T-A.

5 So first I just want to thank all the
6 commissioners for coming out last week, and Mona I also
7 want to thank yourself for coming out today to listen to
8 the community members.

9 But if there's anything to take away from today's
10 session and from last week, it's that local citizens should
11 have a right to say what should and should not be permitted
12 in their community. Last week we spent over 10 hours with
13 the CEC expressing our widely supported request for denial
14 of this project. We had seven representatives and local
15 politicians come out to speak in opposition of this
16 project. Lori Davies flew out from Sacramento, and Mike
17 Levin also issued multiple statements disapproving of this
18 project due to inappropriateness of location.

19 We as a community are spending a lot of our
20 personal time advocating for our rights with the CEC, but
21 what would be a terrible disservice to this community is if
22 the CEC's takeaway from these meetings was, wow, that was a
23 long day. Instead, I would ask the CEC to look at these
24 sessions with a different lens and just look at how many
25 people have come out last week and today, and how many

1 hours these people have patiently waited for a chance to be
2 involved in local activism because they believe that in
3 California, their voice matters. And they believe that
4 because that's what you have told them.

5 So walking away from today and last week, rather
6 than grumble about the process and how long it's taken, I
7 would ask the CEC commissioners to reflect and ask
8 themselves, have they ever seen anything like this before
9 in the history of their career? Have they ever seen such
10 staunch opposition from the community to a project? And
11 have they ever seen so many families and children and
12 politicians come out because they believe in you, and they
13 believe that you will count their voice and deny this
14 project if they ask you to?

15 This is an unprecedented event that should make
16 the CEC pause for a moment and decide if they claim to be a
17 government agency that values its people and claims to
18 serve the people, then it's the people that they should
19 listen to and not corporations. I urge the CEC, please
20 don't break your trust of the people that count on you to
21 serve them.

22 We had children come out here last week, and
23 these children are looking to you to see, does their voice
24 really matter? Can they actually make a difference as a
25 citizen? We are setting the example of what these children

1 can expect from the California government. It would be a
2 shame if the CEC was the agency that sent the message to
3 the next generation that their voice and their rights will
4 be overridden by the request of big corporations.

5 So in closing, please deny this project and
6 please show our kids and our families and our community
7 that California cares.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Sarah.

10 Next we are going to hear from Amanda Dissmore.

11 Amanda, I'm going to open your line. You'll
12 unmute on your end and then you can begin.

13 Amanda, if you can unmute on your end. There we
14 go.

15 Amanda, we show you as unmuted, but we are not
16 getting any audio coming through. If you wanted to adjust
17 the volume on your microphone or the settings on your
18 microphone, that might be helpful.

19 All right. Amanda, I'm going to go to the next
20 person. I'm going to come back to you if you wanted to
21 adjust the settings on your microphone.

22 All right. We are going to move on to an
23 attendee identified as Carpenter 72. I'm going to open
24 your line.

25 It is helpful if you'd like to share and spell

1 your name for our record as well. We are asking for
2 comments to be two minutes or less. There's going to be a
3 timer on the screen.

4 CARPENTER 72: Can you hear me?

5 MS. BADIE: Yes.

6 CARPENTER 72: Yeah. Now, I listened to these
7 hearings. I've been listening to this hearing and I
8 listened to the one the other day. I think it's becoming
9 inevitable that if the Commission approves this project,
10 it's going to litigation. Right?

11 The community views this as an existential
12 threat. It's going to be the easiest fundraising project
13 ever to get the money to get lawyers. Lawyers are going to
14 make money hand over fist looking for T's that weren't
15 crossed, I's that weren't dotted, loopholes, Delta smelt,
16 spotted owls, First Nations issues, finding anything to try
17 and postpone and stall this. Just because the Commission
18 approves it doesn't mean it will be the end of the battle
19 with the community.

20 So I think given that practicality, it just
21 doesn't make sense to thwart the objective, which is
22 supposed to be advancing the cause of clean energy to fight
23 this battle in this place that seems to make no sense,
24 where community is so united against it.

25 If we really want to advance alternative energy,

1 the common sense thing would be move on. Find a site that
2 makes sense. Find a site where you don't have community
3 opposition. You know, let's get these battery farms built.
4 Let's get them built in the right place. Let's stop global
5 warming. Let's do what we want to do, but this is not the
6 hill to die on. It's just time to move on.

7 And I want to thank the Commission for
8 considering all of these comments, and I hope you make the
9 right decision.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you very much for your
12 comments.

13 All right. Next we are going to hear from
14 attendee identified as Regina and Bruce.

15 I'm going to open your line. It is helpful if
16 you state and spell your name for the record.

17 Regina and Bruce, if you could unmute on your
18 end, that will allow you to begin.

19 All right. We are not getting the unmute.

20 Oh. There we go.

21 Regina and Bruce, we are showing you as unmuted,
22 but we are not getting any audio feed from you. Do you
23 want to adjust your volume or see if there's other things
24 you can do so that your microphone is connected to Zoom?

25 All right. We are still not getting any audio,

1 so I'm going to come back to you if you wanted to adjust
2 your settings.

3 All right. Next we are going to hear from Lidia
4 Corey.

5 Lidia, I'm going to open your line. If you can
6 please unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

7 MS. COREY: Hi. Can you hear me okay?

8 MS. BADIE: Yes.

9 MS. COREY: Hi. Thank you very much for taking
10 my comment. I just wanted to make a quick comment. I'm a
11 Laguna Niguel resident, a mother of four. I'm one with
12 chronic illness. I've been a PTA president, Booster Club
13 president, local advocate for conservation, monarch
14 butterflies. I've been on the board for Laguna Niguel
15 Little League, Laguna Niguel Girls Softball, and I'm deeply
16 invested in the community here. Everything I've ever done
17 for the community has always been about what's best for the
18 community.

19 And I'm certainly in favor of clean energy. We
20 own an electric vehicle. We have an electric vehicle
21 charger in our home.

22 But what I'm opposed to is this project, and this
23 project is just in the wrong place. It's that land is not
24 safe. There's the risk of a landslide. There's the risk
25 of a runaway thermal energy event. And if we were to have

1 to evacuate -- as I mentioned, I have a child with chronic
2 illness -- we would need to bring all of our medical
3 supplies. I don't even know how we would access them if we
4 weren't near our home, and it would be a catastrophic
5 event, not just for us, but for the community.

6 So I really hope the California Energy Commission
7 will see that this is not the right place. It's too
8 concentrated. It's too congested. It's too dangerous, and
9 this will directly impact residents, people who are proud
10 to live here, people who have voted for, you know, the
11 officials that represent them, who are also opposed to this
12 project.

13 And so I really thank you for your time and your
14 consideration. I hope that all these voices that you've
15 heard today will convince you that this is not in the best
16 interest of the community, and that should count for
17 something.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Lydia, for attending and
19 your comments today.

20 All right. Next we are going to hear from Debbie
21 Haag.

22 Debbie, I'm going to open your line. If you
23 could please unmute on your end, you may begin.

24 MS. HAAG: Thank you. I'm Deborah Haag. I'm a
25 resident of San Juan Capistrano, but I was a former Laguna

1 Niguel resident for 33 years, so I'm new to San Juan.

2 I'm calling to mention, if the site is so unsafe
3 for Compass to not have employees there, what about the
4 church and its congregants? How safe will it even be for
5 Saddleback Church Rancho Capistrano to hold weekly church
6 services, many a weekend, Bible studies or even events, if
7 it's not safe for Compass employees to be there?

8 Access to that location is severely limited. One
9 way in, one way out. It's over a railroad track. It's
10 steep for large fire trucks and emergency vehicles.

11 Then you have the issue of when there is an
12 emergency, what do people do but panic? All the arterial
13 streets and the freeway will be jammed. It will be a big
14 parking lot with parents going for their kids at school,
15 students that drive on their own, panicking to get home,
16 the regular commuters that just happen to be traversing on
17 the freeway through our area, and people who work in our
18 area leaving to get out.

19 If you're a local resident, you might remember
20 the traffic gridlock we had for hours on the 5 Freeway at
21 JSerra in Ortega, which is Highway 74, just about three
22 weeks ago. What normally takes me eight minutes to get
23 from my daughter's home in San Juan to my house took 45
24 minutes, close to an hour.

25 What can I say? After hearing all of the safety

1 and fire concerns that there are, you don't need a brain to
2 figure out that this project needs to be denied. And I
3 implore the CEC to think logically about all that everyone
4 has heard, including themselves. This doesn't make any
5 sense. It just doesn't make any sense. It needs to be
6 somewhere else.

7 Thank you for your time.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Debbie.
9 I apologize for mispronouncing your last name.

10 All right. Now we are going to go to the
11 attendee identified as Baksdad 16. I'm going to open your
12 line. If you could unmute on your end and please state and
13 spell your name for the record if you're willing to share.

14 All right. Attendee identified as B-A-K-S-D-A-D
15 16, if you could unmute on your end, then you may begin.

16 All right. We are showing you as -- oh. Let's
17 see. I think you are unmuted, but we weren't getting any
18 audio.

19 All right. We are not able to get your line
20 unmuted on your end.

21 And I have some folks that we had some audio
22 issues with. I'm going to go back and try again to open
23 your line and have you unmute on your end. But in the
24 meantime, I just wanted to do another announcement for
25 folks that might have joined us after the morning started

1 that if you would like to comment at today's event, we are
2 asking you to let us know by using the raise hand feature
3 on your screen -- it looks like an open palm -- or star 9
4 if joining by Zoom. That's how we know that you'd like to
5 comment today. And we want to make sure to hear from
6 everyone who wants to comment using the raised hands before
7 we adjourn today's event.

8 All right. Regina and Bruce, I'm going to open
9 your line again. If you can please unmute on your end and
10 see if we can get your audio to work so we can hear your
11 comments.

12 Regina and Bruce, if you could unmute on your
13 end.

14 Okay. There we go.

15 We show you as unmuted. We are not getting audio
16 on our end. If you could try to adjust the volume on your
17 mic.

18 All right. We are still not getting any audio.
19 One option that I wanted to offer is if you wanted to go on
20 the web page and just enter an e-comment, you'll just type
21 it into the website and you can submit there and it will go
22 to the docket, and all the docket comments are reviewed by
23 the Energy Commission. Another option is to use your phone
24 to call in today, and that might work better for your
25 microphone options.

1 All right. And let's try Amanda Dissmore again.

2 Amanda, I'm going to try to open your line. If
3 you can unmute on your end and begin.

4 MS. DISSMORE: All right. Can you hear me?

5 MS. BADIE: Yes.

6 MS. DISSMORE: Okay. Thank you.

7 I am here to address the California Energy
8 Commission in strong opposition to the lithium battery
9 storage facility being pressured on our community by a
10 profit driven developer. We do not have to guess what
11 could be the potential consequence of a lithium battery
12 storage facility in densely populated South Orange County
13 as we have seen the devastating consequences of lithium
14 battery fires near San Diego County and in the recent Moss
15 Landing Fire, which has had a devastating environmental
16 impact. This has both health implications to people in the
17 surrounding communities, as well as economic implications
18 to businesses, travelers, residents, and even property
19 values, in addition to the overlying safety concerns.

20 A quick online search of lithium toxicity in
21 humans from sources such as the NIH National Library of
22 Medicine make a key point that despite treatment after
23 lithium toxicity, some experience permanent damage,
24 including a syndrome called SILENT, which stands for
25 Syndrome of Irreversible Lithium-Effectuated Neurotoxicity.

1 Symptoms include cognitive impairment, sensory motor
2 peripheral neuropathy, also cerebral dysfunction. The
3 World Health Organization has classified lithium as a
4 thyroid system disruptor based on human and animal studies
5 and highlights the increasing use of lithium raises health
6 concerns. Lithium is only one of the compounds of concern
7 that can be released in a battery storage fire causing
8 innumerable health concerns.

9 As a local resident and business owner raising a
10 family near the proposed site, I urge the California Energy
11 Commission to put the community's health and safety first
12 by opposing the lithium battery storage facility. This is
13 the wrong site in the middle of densely populated
14 neighborhoods near churches, schools, and businesses, as
15 well as being adjacent to creeks running to the ocean,
16 which poses risk to our ocean and land.

17 The area is in landslide and high fire danger
18 areas. The risks not only lie with the lithium storage
19 itself, but the heightened risk of fire and landslide prone
20 area. In the event of a future catastrophe at this site,
21 no one will be able to claim that we could not have
22 predicted what would happen.

23 Thank you so much.

24 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

25 All right. Next we are going to hear from

1 Kathleen Pryor.

2 Cathleen, I'm going to open your line. If you
3 can unmute on your end, then you may begin.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. PRYOR: My name is Kathleen Pryor. I live in
6 Laguna Niguel. My comments are a facility containing toxic
7 and explosive chemicals should be manned 24/7 and 365 and
8 include a guarded entrance with trained security personnel.
9 On site personnel should be approximately trained as first
10 responders and firefighters with a minimum of four staff
11 members at all times.

12 I'm calling from my office. I apologize for the
13 noise.

14 Please update the CEC cost benefit analysis to
15 include this personnel, personnel training and necessary
16 first response, firefighting equipment, security equipment,
17 and supporting infrastructure.

18 We were told there were going to be three fire
19 hydrants covering 13 acres of batteries, and there would be
20 1100 shipping containers. This is not a good fire plan,
21 but it may meet the minimum standards. We are asking for
22 the CEC to review these standards.

23 And we are also concerned about the investors.
24 The investors have been assured of a return on their
25 investment. And we want more people investing money to

1 help us build our green energy structures, and we don't
2 want to have them go up in flames either, and we don't want
3 to have them find out after a fire either comes in or
4 starts at the facility that it was in a high fire zone to
5 start with, and somehow the permit was approved, and now
6 their investment went up in flames.

7 So we also ask for the CEC's attention to this
8 and I appreciate the chance to speak to you. Thank you.

9 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Cathleen.

10 Next we are going to hear from Mary Koumas
11 (phonetic) Lubarsky.

12 Mary, I'm going to open your line. You'll unmute
13 on your end and then you may begin.

14 MR. LUBARSKY: Hello, this is Andre Lubarsky,
15 Mary's husband. Spelling is A-N-D-R-E L-U-B-A-R-S-K-Y.
16 I'm a 66-year native Californian and 37-year resident of
17 Laguna Niguel.

18 And I would like to begin by acknowledging the
19 CEC's Commission's statement that it is not the
20 Commission's role to identify an alternative location for
21 this project, however it is within the Commission's
22 authority to deny an application when the proposed location
23 is determined to be unsuitable or inappropriate.

24 The City of San Juan Capistrano has already
25 denied this project on the grounds of location

1 inappropriateness. Similarly, the City of Laguna Niguel
2 has formally expressed that this proposal site is unsafe,
3 unsuitable, and incompatible with the surrounding areas.
4 Community members have dedicated over 10 hours of public
5 testimony to express their urgent and overwhelming concerns
6 regarding the proposed site. It is clear that this
7 location lacks the support of the surrounding community.

8 I respectfully urge the Commission to deny this
9 application based on the site's unsuitability, and to allow
10 the applicant ENGIE the opportunity to identify an
11 alternative location and submit a revised application for
12 future consideration.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

15 All right. We've got a couple folks that I'm
16 going to retry for audio, and I just want to do another
17 call for any raised hands. That will tell us you'd like to
18 comment today. We want to hear from everyone that wants to
19 comment before we adjourn. So I'm just encouraging
20 everyone to please raise your hands now. If you're joining
21 on Zoom, you'll click on the raise hand icon that's on your
22 screen. And if you're joining by phone, you'll press star
23 9.

24 All right. Let me try -- we've got some more
25 raised hands.

1 I'm going to go back and see if Regina and Bruce,
2 if we can get your audio to work. I'm going to open your
3 line. You can unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

4 All right. Regina and Bruce, we show you as
5 unmuted on your end. But we are not getting any audio
6 through from your line. If you want to try adjusting your
7 microphone.

8 All right. I'm so sorry, Regina and Bruce, but
9 I'm not getting any audio from you, so I'm going to move
10 on. Again, if you'd like to comment, we have an e-
11 commenting page on the CEC proposed project webpage. It's
12 very easy to type in comments and click submit, and those
13 comments will be reviewed.

14 Sorry we couldn't get the audio on your end to
15 work to hear from you at today's event, but we do encourage
16 that other option, and we will have future events as well.

17 All right. I'm going to move to KC.

18 KC, I'm going to open your line. If you could
19 please state and spell your name for the record. It does
20 help with our court reporter, and you'll need to unmute on
21 your end before you can begin.

22 All right. Attendee identified as KC, if you
23 could please unmute on your end, then you can begin your
24 comment.

25 MR. CATHCART: Yeah. Thank you.

1 My name is Ken Cathcart. I've been a resident of
2 Laguna Niguel for 30-plus years.

3 So I have a few comments here. I'm concerned
4 with the value, my property value. The installation of a
5 lithium battery storage facility near residential areas
6 pose significant risk to property values, insurance
7 accessibility, and environmental safety with profound
8 socioeconomic implications.

9 The potential for decline in the property values
10 is estimated 3 percent to 7 percent, which my property is
11 close to \$170,000 of immediate decline in value if you
12 install your facility there. And that's imposing a tax on
13 me, my family. You know, this is just financially
14 impacting to us, you know. Not to mention that insurance
15 is going to be extremely difficult to acquire.

16 There's plenty of incidents that were reported,
17 like the 2019 Arizona explosion and the 2024 San Diego fire
18 that burned for 11 days. This underscores the severity of
19 the risk. The San Diego incident prompted evacuation
20 orders, shelter in place directives due to fear of toxic
21 fumes, highlighting potential for widespread disruption.

22 Environmental impact extends beyond immediate
23 fire events and improper disposal of recycled -- recycling
24 or damaged batteries can further contaminate local
25 ecosystems. Risks are particularly concerning for

1 residential areas where residents face health hazards.

2 With safety measures, like fire station systems,
3 temperature monitoring, and battery management systems are
4 designed to reduce risk, incidents like the East Hampton
5 and San Diego fires demonstrate there are failures that
6 still occur.

7 You know, all that has impact on our ability to
8 get insurance, maintain insurance, and often will be highly
9 risk-evaluated and often declined, so that's a huge
10 financial impact on our residents.

11 I deeply oppose this project. I wish it would be
12 placed somewhere else.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Ken, for your comments.

15 All right. Next I'm going to open the line for
16 attendee I just identified as iPhone. Apologies, there's
17 no name appearing with that attendee.

18 Hopefully you'll see the unmute prompt on your
19 screen to unmute. And it is helpful if you can share your
20 name and -- share and spell your name for our record as
21 well.

22 All right. Opening your line now.

23 MS. FRANKENFIELD: Yes. Hello. Thank you. My
24 name is Robin Frankenfield.

25 And can you hear me?

1 MS. BADIE: Yes.

2 MS. FRANKENFIELD: Okay. Yes.

3 And I am a 30-year homeowner in Laguna Niguel. I
4 live within 1,500 feet of the proposed site base. My home
5 is directly above the site, which is separated only by dry
6 brush.

7 I attended the May 29th meeting and heard all the
8 comments. I heard the mayor of San Juan Capistrano, Troy
9 Bourne, clearly state that as a builder, his company was
10 the company that was in negotiations to build on this exact
11 location. However, the Aliso Creek was deemed unstable and
12 was moving west towards the site. His project was
13 ultimately withdrawn for environmental issues. This exact
14 land has not been developed for environmental feasibility
15 issues. This project should be rejected for the land
16 movement alone.

17 Compass is pushing this project, and they have
18 been told that it's not appropriate on this land. Greed
19 and profit are the driver, not public benefit as they
20 state. Compass' legal attorney Renee Robin was seen making
21 comments on session break to court -- commissioners without
22 a court reporter. This process is not suited for the
23 proposed project period.

24 Rick Warren of Saddleback Church made millions on
25 the book and philosophy, The Purpose Driven Life. How is

1 any Christian believer able to continue knowing the
2 potential loss of life, the young, the old, the
3 disadvantaged, the voiceless?

4 Where are those pastors at Saddleback Church now?
5 Many have relocated. They are not on any of these
6 communications supporting this. They are just looking for
7 the bottom line.

8 Commissioners were not informed about this
9 project.

10 God is watching. Residents are watching. As a
11 mother, wife, and caregiver, our next generation needs your
12 support.

13 The CEC must reject this project.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Robin.

16 Next we are going to hear from Frances Byhower.

17 Frances, I'm going to open your line. If you can
18 unmute on your end, then you can begin.

19 MR. BYHOWER: Hi. Oops. Two minutes. Can
20 you -- hi, my name is Frances Byhower.

21 Are you going to start the timer?

22 We wait for you to say and spell your name so we
23 can --

24 MR. BYHOWER: Oh. Okay.

25 MS. BADIE: -- have everyone have the same time

1 for comments.

2 MR. BYHOWER: Okay. Thank you.

3 Hi, my name is Frances Byhower, F-R-A-N-C-E-S
4 B-Y-H-O-W-E-R, and I live over in San Juan Capistrano in
5 the San Juan Village apartments or condos. And I just am
6 just about ready to retire. And I'm looking forward to
7 living here and not having my house burned down.

8 And I think this is a very bad location for this
9 battery energy -- wait, what is it called? B-E-S-S, energy
10 storage site. I really want to beg for them to please
11 don't put it here. We really can't -- there's a lot of
12 people living in this little village here that I live in,
13 and it would be very hard. There's only one or two exits
14 out of this village, and if a fire erupted, it would be --
15 there would be tragedy for sure. There is, like I said,
16 only two exits and we are about 0.29 miles from the site,
17 so I'd rather just have those farms and everything there.

18 And maybe they could find a different location
19 for the site for the battery storage. But not there, not
20 in the middle of the city of Laguna Niguel and San Juan
21 Capistrano.

22 That's all I have to say.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Frances.

24 Before I open the line of the next commenter, I
25 just want to do another call out. If you are here today

1 and you'd like to make comments at today's event, we are
2 asking folks to raise their hand so we know. We'd like to
3 hear from everyone who wants to comment today before we
4 adjourn, and you'll use a raise hand feature on your
5 screen. It looks like an open palm if joining by Zoom
6 online. And if you're joining by phone, you'll press star
7 9. That's how you'll raise your hand if joining by phone.

8 And so I'm going to open the line for a phone
9 number ending in 111. If you could please press star 6 to
10 unmute, then you may begin.

11 MS. PAKULA: Hello. My name is Pam Pakula,
12 P-A-M-P-A-K-U-L-A. I've been listening to this and the
13 previous meetings presented by CEC. I've been to other
14 meetings to learn more about this project, as well as done
15 some offline and self-research. And I, like all of the
16 other speakers this morning, vehemently oppose this
17 project.

18 Oh. And by the way, I live in San Juan Capitano.

19 It's been obvious, at least in the previous
20 meetings, that the project developers have chosen this site
21 out of their convenience, meaning it has the high-tension
22 lines, it's a raw piece of land, easier to build their
23 infrastructure, and the high-tension lines are close to the
24 communities in which they hope to serve with this energy.

25 That being said, the facility needs, A, more

1 research because the percentage of disasters that come from
2 these facilities is great. So I suggest, A, move it to a
3 site that's more reasonable, not in an inhabited area,
4 easier for emergency vehicles.

5 It was mentioned that the military from Camp
6 Pendleton would participate in any fire mitigation should
7 there be one or other leakage. So my suggestion is since
8 we already have the eyesore of San Onofre down there in
9 open space, easily accessible by the Marines at Camp
10 Pendleton, and a plume of toxic gases in case there should
11 be an emergency would go over open space on Camp Pendleton
12 and not into homes, not into neighborhoods, not into
13 schools, not anywhere else, besides the fact it's not
14 sacred land like we have here on San Juan Capistrano.

15 And you have the high-tension lines. So they
16 said that, oh, the further it's from the location in which
17 it's to serve, we lose power on the lines. Well, fix that
18 problem before you put a facility such as this in an area
19 which does not deserve to be desecrated by your steel
20 boxes, containers, and dangerous content.

21 So, again, I vehemently oppose, like my neighbors
22 of this project, and strongly encourage the California
23 Energy Commission to not bow to international development
24 funds and the state mandate. Let us manage our own
25 communities.

1 Thank you for your opposition to this project.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

3 Next we are going to hear from Victor.

4 Victor, I'm going to open your line, if you could
5 unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

6 VICTOR: Okay, very good. Can you hear me?

7 Yes.

8 VICTOR: Excellent. Thank you.

9 Okay, well, firstly, I wholeheartedly oppose the
10 proposed Compass Project at this location. Implementation
11 of the facility technology management is moving faster than
12 any regulation or safety protocols. This needs to be
13 relocated in an isolated area for safety beyond measure
14 until incidents and issues stabilize for a better
15 understanding. New battery technologies -- and in this
16 case, lithium iron -- resets the maturity back to the
17 beginning.

18 The actions of the developer is truly a testimony
19 of their character and goal and not their words or paid
20 testimonies. To cite a couple, the city denies a permit,
21 and the developer immediately pulls their application and
22 moves to the state to take the path of least resistance.
23 This shows that their interest is not the community but
24 their profitable desire. The developer has ads on social
25 media, even to this day, baiting support from people

1 regardless of their location. Speakers' comments from last
2 week testified that the majority of people were not even
3 from the area. Additionally, the interests of the
4 proponents' entities was money and jobs, not the -- I'm
5 sorry, was money and jobs, not the safety of the
6 communities that live in the area.

7 he single Freeway 5 artery on Sunday afternoon
8 shows the traffic fragility as it's congested while people
9 head north from the weekend. Now, let's go ahead and add
10 an area evacuation to that. This is no bueno.

11 As many have commented, there is a reason nothing
12 has been developed on that site and even some areas on the
13 hill above. I urge the CEC to make the right decision for
14 the communities and the population in the area, and to keep
15 them safe from this untested facility and technology, and
16 please respect the local control, not that of the state.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

19 Next I'm going to open the line for Gary.

20 Gary, I apologize. I don't have your last name
21 on the screen. I'm going to open your line if you can
22 unmute on your end. We are asking for comments to be two
23 minutes or less, and it's very helpful if you would share
24 your name and spelling for a court reporter and record.

25 MR. BRIDGE: Okay. Gary, last name Bridge,

1 G-A-R-Y, last name Bridge, B-R-I-D-G-E.

2 So my comment is because of the -- there's no 100
3 percent way to guarantee that there will never be a fire at
4 this facility, it's impossible to have any 100 percent
5 guarantee of that. So because of that, when a fire does
6 erupt at this location, it will be total chaos to evacuate
7 the thousands of people.

8 The Moss Landing -- I'm citing the Moss Landing
9 Fire. The Moss Landing Fire, there were only 400 homes
10 nearby. That was about 1,000 people, 1,200 people, that
11 got evacuated. There were close to 10,000 homes within a
12 mile radius of this facility. It will be impossible to
13 evacuate everybody.

14 The Moss Landing Fire also shut down Highway 1
15 between Monterey and Santa Cruz for three days. Let's all
16 picture the 5 Freeway that's right nearby being shut down
17 for three days. It would be total chaos here in South
18 Orange County.

19 There have been fires at Otay Mesa. There have
20 been fires at Escondido recently. All of these within the
21 last four years. And the fire at the Moss Landing, that
22 plant was only four years old. This is not like the plant
23 was 20 years old. So there's just no 100 percent way to
24 guarantee that there will never be a fire here.

25 And there's also the situation, like everybody's

1 mentioned, with the erosion of Oso Creek. So that's a
2 horrible location. The environmental fallout in Monterey
3 from now they're finding toxic metals in the soil.

4 It's just a horrible location. We are not
5 against this technology. We are just against this
6 location. Oil and gas refineries now have over a 3,200-
7 foot setback. The BESS facility should also have at least
8 a 3,200-foot setback, not in this so close to homes.

9 And that's basically it that I had to say.

10 Thank you so much. Please deny this approval of
11 this project.

12 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

13 Next we are going to hear from Melodye Shore, if
14 I've pronounced your name correctly.

15 I'm going to open your line, Melodye. If you
16 could unmute on your end, then you can begin.

17 MS. SHORE: Hi. Can you hear me now?

18 MS. BADIE: Yes.

19 MS. SHORE: Hi. Thank you. My name is Melodye
20 Shore, M-E-L-O-D-Y-E S-H-O-R-E. I'm a resident of Laguna
21 Niguel.

22 While I strongly support clean, renewable energy
23 technologies, I also believe that we have to be mindful of
24 its potential drawbacks. In the case of the Compass Energy
25 Storage LLC's proposed battery energy storage facility, I'm

1 convinced by the facts and not just emotion or concern
2 about property values that this location in Laguna Niguel
3 is at once impractical and irresponsible.

4 Numerous and state representatives have already
5 voiced their concerns about the dangers posed by this
6 project site. You've already heard strong opposition from
7 local businesses, public and private agencies, chemists,
8 energy specialists, and even our first responders.

9 This cannot and should not be viewed as a nimby
10 pushback. It's about science coupled with common sense.

11 The worst-case scenarios aren't merely
12 hypotheticals. While technologies have improved over time,
13 this BESS project presents very real, very significant
14 risks to our community, and when considered together
15 honestly and objectively, we believe these dangers far
16 outstrip any potential benefits. Thank you for the
17 opportunity to give voice to our opinions and to also
18 incorporate the facts.

19 After taking time to review the evidence, I stand
20 with those who strongly oppose this project as it's
21 proposed for our Laguna Niguel site location.

22 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Melodye.

23 So right now, I'm not showing any more raised
24 hands. If you are here and would like to comment, we are
25 making another call-out for raised hands, and we want to

1 make sure that everyone who wants to comment today can be
2 heard. And if we don't get any more raised hands, someone
3 from CEC's Siting Division will come on next and talk about
4 some next steps, and then we would adjourn.

5 And we can still take comments before we adjourn.
6 So if you are here and you'd like to comment, please raise
7 your hand at this time so we can make sure to hear you.

8 All right. We have Jacqueline Iyer.

9 Jacqueline, I'm going to open your line. If you
10 could unmute on your end, then you may begin.

11 MS. IYER: Can you hear me?

12 MS. BADIE: Yes.

13 MS. IYER: Thank you.

14 Yes, my name is Jacqueline Iyer. I'm a
15 practicing consulting engineer with 40 years' experience.
16 I also have particular expertise in SDGE's 138kv system
17 where this project is connecting, So this testimony must be
18 considered expert opinion as that term is contemplated in
19 adopted state statutes, including but not limited to CEQA.

20 The property is zoned Planned Community District,
21 which is set forth in section 9-3.315 of the city's
22 municipal code. It is intended to allow only open space,
23 agricultural, and low-density residential uses on the site.

24 The Compass BESS Project violates the zoning code
25 because it is inconsistent with the intent of the zoning

1 that underlies the project, and it is contrary to the plain
2 language restrictions imposed by the zoning code.

3 Because section 25545.8 of AB 205 requires the
4 Commission to comply with section 25523D of the Warren-
5 Alquist Act, and because section 25523D requires the
6 Commission to make findings required by section 25525 in
7 circumstances where, as here, the project violates the
8 zoning code, the Commission is required to find that the
9 project is required for public convenience and necessity
10 and that there are not more prudent and feasible means of
11 achieving this public convenience and necessity. The
12 Commission can make no such finding, and therefore cannot
13 approve this project, because there are many, many other
14 locations served by the 138kv system that are not in
15 developed areas where the Compass BESS poses significant
16 and unmitigable hazard, public safety, and wildfire risks.

17 It is understood that the project proponents have
18 said that alternative locations will not work, but the
19 reasons cited are vapid, insubstantial, and pertain solely
20 to convenience and ease of development for the developer,
21 which are not factors that pertain to feasibility.

22 So given these facts, the Commission cannot
23 approve this project under any circumstances because it
24 cannot make the findings required by section 25525 of the
25 Warren-Alquist Act.

1 Thank you very much for your time.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

3 All right. Next we are going to hear from Vieda
4 and Dawn.

5 I'm going to open your line. If you could unmute
6 on your end, you may begin.

7 MS. CANTACESSI: Can you hear me?

8 MS. BADIE: Yes.

9 MS. CANTACESSI: Okay. Great.

10 My name is Vieda Cantacessi. That's V-I-E-D-A
11 C-A-N-T-A-C-E, double S like Sam, I.

12 I want to bring to the Commission's attention
13 that several years back, the California Coastal Commission
14 denied the extension of the 73 toll road to San Clemente
15 because it was going to adversely affect and change the
16 ocean current and sea life. That was the right decision.
17 The CEC's decision to deny this same thing is what is
18 appropriate as well. It will make the Coastal Commission's
19 decisions seem like child's play compared to the
20 devastation that this battery location will hold.

21 I also want to know if you're vetting the people
22 who are proposing to have the battery location located
23 there, if they're getting paid, if they're supported in
24 some way financially with jobs or other benefits, are they
25 from out of the area that have no right to comment on the

1 communities that are being impacted?

2 There are also so many, it's been repeated many
3 times, homes, schools, the historical landmarks, including
4 the Mission Basilica founded by Junipero Serra, and the Los
5 Rios neighborhood, as well as numerous homes, businesses,
6 churches, senior living centers, the 5 Freeway, the Amtrak,
7 commerce, the Shea Stables, and natural animal habitats,
8 just to name a few, that should give your Commission great
9 cause and great concern.

10 This was not the appropriate location for this
11 battery storage. It needs to be relocated. Please use
12 your very wise common sense and empathy for human and
13 animal life. This should be a very easy decision for you
14 to make by denying this battery location in the San Juan
15 and Laguna Niguel areas.

16 I've been a resident of Laguna Niguel for over 37
17 years.

18 Thank you very much for your time and your
19 consideration, and please do the right thing and deny.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

21 Next we are going to hear from phone number
22 ending in 344.

23 I'm going to open your line. If you could unmute
24 on your end, you may begin. For phone -- for call-in
25 attendees, you'll press star six to unmute.

1 MS. CABRERRA: Hello?

2 MS. BADIE: Yes. Hello.

3 MS. CABRERRA: Hi, my name is Lori Cabrerra, and
4 I am a resident of San Juan Capistrano, and I am calling in
5 just to voice my opposition of the battery storage
6 facility. And I'm not sure, but I have two points to make
7 regarding fire safety.

8 And the first one is -- oops, I'm sorry. The
9 first one is about electrical equipment in a wildland area.
10 And electrical equipment has been responsible for a
11 significant number of wildfires, including some of the most
12 devastating. In 2023, our state data shows that electrical
13 equipment sparked 479 fires. Allowing the BESS facility on
14 a High Fire Hazard Area significantly raises the risk of a
15 dual fire disaster.

16 The second thing is helicopter fire interference
17 for a helicopter. So whether a wildfire ignites the BESS
18 or the BESS ignites a wildfire, the embers and flames will
19 reach the closest homes on the ridge within minutes. In
20 this situation, water-dropping copters will be the best
21 chance at slowing the fire spread. But unfortunately, due
22 to the dangers of dropping hundreds of gallons of water
23 near electrical power facilities, the strategic aerial fire
24 attack will be severely compromised.

25 This is extremely scary for our community, and

1 I'm just urging the CEC to deny this location for this BESS
2 facility, because it is just in the wrong area. Too close
3 to homes, to schools, like you all have heard before.

4 But I'm just asking that you seriously consider
5 changing this location.

6 I thank you for your time.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Lori.

8 All right. I'm doing another call out for raised
9 hands. So right now we don't have any raised hands.

10 I wanted to make sure that anyone who wants to
11 comment today, wants to speak today, has the opportunity,
12 so if you could raise your hand now. I'd like to call on
13 you at this time before we move to the next steps and
14 adjourn.

15 All right. We've got Jayne Du.

16 I'm going to call on you, Jayne. I'm going to
17 open your line. If you can unmute on your end, you may
18 begin.

19 MS. DU: Hello. Can you hear me?

20 MS. BADIE: Yes. Hello.

21 MS. DU: My name is Jayne Du, and I am a Laguna
22 Niguel resident. Thank you for hearing us one more time to
23 discuss our views on the placement of this current lithium-
24 ion storage facility so close to the residents.

25 The story of the dichotomy between energy and

1 community development is a timeless tale, intimately tied
2 to the growth of the Industrial Revolution itself.
3 Traditionally, we have seen resource extraction in
4 developing countries to feed the appetite of industrial
5 nations, but we have also seen resource extraction in our
6 country. For example, we see the coal mines of West
7 Virginia transform the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains into
8 a home where terms like canary in the coal mine and the
9 iron lung were formed. The issue we are in, of where the
10 community is fighting an issue related to voracious energy
11 development, is not an original story.

12 We understand the mandate from the governor is to
13 increase energy production. But by not being too specific
14 on location, the governor's mandate allowed for some
15 freedom within city governments to decide. By
16 circumventing the authority of city government, Compass
17 Energy effectively exploited the trust Sacramento gave to
18 its cities.

19 Furthermore, the argument on private market
20 development of energy systems historically has served an
21 equal disadvantage on the community if a mediator is absent
22 to help the community safeguard its interests. The
23 residents of California, fortunately, have an agency to
24 mediate our grievance and hear our concerns via the
25 California Energy Commission, or the CEC, you guys.

1 The type of space needed for a battery storage
2 system is not simply 41 acres or proximity to a kilowatt
3 transition line, but also whether the space is safe. The
4 proximity to residents of only 1,500 feet away, located in
5 a wildfire risk area, which has the capacity to shut down
6 major corridors of transportation including train and
7 highways should either a wildfire or lithium fire were to
8 occur should be top of mind in consideration.

9 Additionally, the potential for groundwater
10 pollution, and given the location's proximity to the ocean,
11 can also impact coastal pollution and marine ecological
12 biodiversity. When considering the sheer size of this
13 lithium-ion battery in the given space, a high risk fire
14 incident has the potential to repeat a wildfire to the
15 scale of the Palisades fire in its capacity to run rampant
16 right away. That should be the primary consideration for
17 the CEC in discussing the use case applicability of the
18 Camino Capistrano location for the battery energy storage
19 system.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

22 Next we are going to hear from Phoebe Wise
23 (phonetic).

24 Phoebe, I'm going to open your line. If you can
25 unmute on your end, then you may begin.

1 Phoebe, we are showing you as unmuted on your
2 end, but we are not getting any audio. If you could adjust
3 the volume of your system or your microphone, that might be
4 able to resolve it.

5 All right. Phoebe, we are still not getting any
6 audio. I'm going to come back to you if you want to adjust
7 your settings in the meantime.

8 Next we are going to hear from Ann.

9 Apologies, I don't have your last name on the
10 screen, Ann. I'm going to open your line. If you could
11 please unmute on your end, then you may begin.

12 MS. THIEL: Am I good?

13 MS. BADIE: Yes.

14 MS. THIEL: Okay. Hi, my name is Ann Thiel,
15 T-H-I-E-L.

16 I am opposed to the storage facility in that
17 location, not the technology. It's just, it just doesn't
18 seem to make common sense. It's so close to the five, so
19 close to home, so close to Oso Creek, which dumps into
20 Doheny State Beach, and that's really extra troubling for
21 me after the terrible fires we've had this past year and
22 how the fire control chemicals have, you know, hurt ocean
23 life. And it's just, with this location, we just don't
24 need it.

25 And I really appreciate the Energy Commission

1 taking the time to listen to everyone and give people a
2 chance to be part of the process. And I hope your decision
3 is -- I hope your decision is now at the location that in
4 San Juan that's been chosen, and I really appreciate the
5 time to make my voice heard.

6 And so anyway, thank you very much.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Ann, for attending and for
8 your comments.

9 Next we are going to hear from Alissa.

10 Alissa, I'm going to open your line. Apologies,
11 I don't have your last name on the screen. You'll unmute
12 on your end if you can see it and spell your name for the
13 record, it's very helpful for us.

14 MS. COPE: Thank you. Yes, Alissa Cope, C-O-P-E.

15 Hold on, I just need to get my, I have a little
16 prepared statement that I'd like to read. I'm sorry, I
17 might have to call back in again. I didn't realize it's so
18 quick.

19 MS. BADIE: You're okay. If you, yeah, if you
20 want to raise your hand again, I'll lower your hand and --

21 MS. COPE: Okay.

22 MS. BADIE: -- raise it again.

23 MS. COPE: Okay.

24 MS. BADIE: But yeah, if you could do that really
25 quickly, that'd be great.

1 All right. Next we are going to hear from Janine
2 Thomsen.

3 Janine, I'm going to open your line if you can
4 unmute on your end and then you may begin.

5 MS. THOMSEN: Okay. Can you hear me?

6 MS. BADIE: Yes.

7 MS. THOMSEN: Okay. Great. Thank you.

8 My name is Janine Thomsen, J-A-N-I-N-E, and my
9 last name is Thomsen, T-H-O-M-S-E-N.

10 And after the meeting last Thursday, I started to
11 really wonder about the population differences between the
12 areas where the battery fires have occurred in California
13 during the past year and the proposed site in San Juan
14 Capistrano. Doing some web research, specifically using
15 the demographics by Radius.com, here's what I found out.

16 I found that at a one-mile radius around the
17 facilities, Otay Mesa and Moss Landing have a population of
18 under 500 people, where the proposed site has a population
19 in that same one-mile radius of over 12,000 people. At a
20 three-mile radius, Otay Mesa and Moss Landing have a
21 population of under 5,000, where the proposed site has a
22 population in that same radius of 113,000. If 55 percent
23 of the people living in a three-mile radius of the San Juan
24 Capistrano facility had to be evacuated, which is what is
25 assumed to what has occurred at Moss Landing, that would be

1 over 61,000 people.

2 Beyond evacuation, if we consider that those in a
3 10-mile radius could be affected by toxic smoke and ash,
4 the number affected by the proposed facility could be over
5 600,000. That's 20 percent of the Orange County
6 population.

7 I urge you to consider other feasible locations,
8 one of which could be San Onofre, which is far less
9 populated and already has the power line infrastructure in
10 place. I further urge you to strongly consider all the of
11 voices of opposition you have heard from the community.

12 While your term will eventually come to an end
13 with the CEC and the governor will change, it is the
14 residents of this community that will be left to deal with
15 any and all aftereffects of this facility being built
16 forever. No facility is 100 percent fail-safe or
17 fireproof. Even if the risk is minimal, the sheer number
18 of people that could be affected by the proposed facility
19 is just too great.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

22 All right. We are going to go back to Alissa.

23 Alissa, I'm going to open your line, and if you
24 could just unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

25 MS. COPE: Thank you. Alissa Cope.

1 My topic is public health and safety. The
2 facility contains toxic and explosive chemicals and should
3 be manned 24-7, 365, to include a guarded entrance with
4 trained security personnel. On-site personnel should be
5 appropriately trained as fire responders and first
6 responders with a minimum of four staff members, two
7 trained operators, and two security personnel. Please
8 update the CEC cost-benefit analysis to include this
9 personnel training and the necessary first response
10 firefighting equipment, security equipment, and supporting
11 infrastructure.

12 The regulatory requirements for the operation
13 phase should be similar or more stringent than an oil
14 refinery or chemical plant using explosive material.
15 Please update the conditions of approval and cost-benefits
16 for these additional requirements.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Alissa.

18 All right. I don't have any further hands
19 raised. If you've joined us and you'd like to comment
20 today, we ask that you raise your hand at this time. We
21 want to hear from everyone who wants to comment today, and
22 after we hear from all the raised hands, there will be some
23 final remarks, and then we will adjourn. So I want
24 everyone who wants to comment today to raise their hand at
25 this time. You can raise your hand at any time so that we

1 can. It will join the queue, and you'll be called on in
2 the order that you raise your hand. So anytime you want to
3 comment, you can raise your hand, and we will call on hands
4 in the order received.

5 All right. Don Trustee for Berger. That's the
6 attendee identification.

7 I'm going to open your line. You can unmute on
8 your end. We are asking for comments to be two minutes or
9 less, and it is very helpful if you can state and spell
10 your name for the court reporter.

11 MR. TRUSTEE: Hi. I don't know where the unmute
12 is.

13 MS. BADIE: We can hear you, Don.

14 MR. TRUSTEE: Oh. Terrific.

15 Number one, where are these batteries
16 manufactured?

17 Number two, to the situation that likely we are
18 going to move closer to nuclear facilities to manufacture
19 our electric. As that develops and improves, we will be
20 getting nuclear up and online at record paces because we
21 have some friends elsewhere in the world who would gladly
22 see us join their partnerships.

23 The interesting thing about nuclear facilities is
24 that they run 24-7 at 100 percent, so if there's some
25 electric any of us have from any source in any fashion that

1 we want to donate or sell back and route to the clients of
2 energy, they're out of luck, so all of our electric
3 generation outside that plant will be worthless.

4 Number three, even if the batteries are assembled
5 here, it is my understanding that there are chemicals
6 critical to the manufacturing of these types of batteries
7 that are going to be in extremely short supply to us
8 because the chemicals come from no longer our best friends.

9 Did this come across clearly? I hope. Didn't
10 hear.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Don.

12 MR. TRUSTEE: Oh, what qualifies me with these
13 comments?

14 MS. BADIE: No. I said thank you. Thank you for
15 your comments.

16 MR. TRUSTEE: Can I explain my qualifications for
17 talking about these things?

18 MS. BADIE: Yes, you may.

19 MR. TRUSTEE: I have three master's and two
20 doctorates. One's in medicine and the other's in
21 mathematics and statistics and physics. I got a Master's
22 of Physics from the University of Paris, France. I've
23 worked in 72 industries. I understand a great deal.
24 Expert in nothing, but just seen a lot, learned a lot. And
25 if this facility shuts down for lack of resale, how is

1 going to and who is likely to disassemble and replace the
2 environment back to its original status or state? That
3 also is very important. That would be my closing question.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments today.

6 All right. Our next hand raised is Mary Koumas
7 Lubarsky. I believe we heard from one Lubarsky.

8 I'm going to open your line. If you could please
9 state and spell your name for the record and begin.

10 MR. LUBARSKY: Yes. This is Andre Lubarsky
11 again. I'm not going to make a comment, but, Mona, I have
12 a question for you. It sounds as though you want to --
13 you're trying to wrap this up. And according to what I was
14 told, that this forum is going to be open from 10:00 a.m.
15 to 6:00 p.m., and I have friends and neighbors who are
16 planning to make comments and are working at work and
17 cannot join right now and plan to do this after work and at
18 breaks in the afternoon.

19 So the question is, are you planning to wrap this
20 up prior to 6:00 a.m., or is it going to stay open and
21 available for comments until then like it was promoted?

22 MS. BADIE: Thanks, Andre. So in our notice, we
23 do an outside end time so that we can make sure that we
24 have the facility and that people know that they can
25 attend. But we do put a notice in there that we can end

1 early depending on the agenda and the comments. We just
2 estimate the end time.

3 And so for this event, if we are not getting
4 folks that want to make more comments because this event is
5 just for continuation of public comments, then we would
6 adjourn before 6:00 p.m.

7 But we will have more events to hear public
8 comment for this proceeding, and we also put in the chat
9 the e-commenting page, and the dockets are also linked in
10 the presentation in our notice today. So we welcome
11 comments from all different forums.

12 But that is the end for the day.

13 MR. LUBARSKY: Okay, well I just did want to make
14 you aware that people I know are planning to --were
15 planning on doing this later in the day because of their
16 work schedules and the conflicts with that. So it would be
17 unfortunate if you were to wrap this up, and then they were
18 not able to make their comments.

19 So that's my input, and I appreciate you for
20 listening in, and hopefully you'll leave this open longer
21 so that everyone can make their comments heard.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Andre.

24 All right. Next we are going to hear from an
25 attendee identified as Michael family.

1 I'm going to open your line. If you could please
2 share and spell your name for the record, that would be
3 very helpful.

4 MICHAEL FAMILY: Can you hear me?

5 MS. BADIE: Yes.

6 MICHAEL FAMILY: Thank you.

7 Members of the Commission, thank you for hearing
8 our concerns about the hazards this facility poses to our
9 air, water, wildlife, health and communities.

10 The Tribal Council of the Ojibwe Nation have
11 submitted their formal opposition to the Compass Energy
12 Project. I am not on the Tribal Council, so I cannot and
13 will not speak for them, but I urge you to visit the CEC
14 docket and read their letter. I speak only as one
15 indigenous person who cares deeply about my ancestral
16 history and the history of my indigenous cousins.

17 Last week, a representative from ENGIE stated
18 that the Compass Energy Project will not affect sensitive
19 cultural habitats. Please don't take her word for it.
20 Take the short walk from the proposed facility site to the
21 nearby Northwest Open Space. Visit the village of
22 Putuידem. Put your hands on the grinding stone. Stand
23 under the oak tree. Learn about the people who have been
24 here since time immemorial and who are still here today,
25 then decide for yourselves if the land you're on and the

1 history around you is worth protecting.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

4 Next we are going to hear from Samara W.

5 I'm going to open your line, Samara. If you can
6 please unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

7 MS. WHITE: Hi, this is Samara White.

8 My concerns are similar to several of the other
9 members of the community. I live in the Colinas de
10 Capistrano neighborhood, which is in Laguna Niguel, really
11 close to the proposed battery storage site, I've been
12 watching the disaster unfolding in Moss Landing, as have a
13 lot of my neighbors and family, and we are really hoping
14 that we don't have a similar issue close to here, a similar
15 vulnerability.

16 This area is prone to fires. There's a lot of
17 unmaintained brush, extremely close to many, many houses,
18 and we really strongly oppose this and hope it can be
19 stopped.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

22 Next we are going to hear from Lorelle Cope.

23 Lorelle, I'm going to open your line. If you can
24 unmute on your end, then you may begin.

25 MS. COPE: Hi, my name is Lorelle Cope. I live

1 in San Juan Capistrano, and I have two issues that I'd like
2 to bring up opposing the BESS facilities development.

3 One is ecoterrorism. The state of the world
4 right now is extremely fragile. And with this unmanned
5 site and the potential of a plane dropping a bomb on it
6 and, you know, the resulting destruction that that would do
7 to the area. The air is very, very frightening, especially
8 for so heavily populated in this area. And that could
9 result in, you know, worst case scenario being, you know,
10 large lawsuits, homeowners insurance not covering this.
11 And it's -- the list, the doomsday list goes on and on.
12 And I just don't think we need to add to that.

13 And then on a separate note, we have to worry
14 about our bees. We have a lot of bees in the area. The
15 bumblebee, the crotchless bumblebee is known to be in that
16 area. It has adapted to live in modified landscapes. And
17 that's a powerful -- we all know we need our bees and to
18 take care of them, and taking them down, destroying their
19 area, would not be good. So there's a lot to consider.

20 So thank you for listening.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

22 All right. Next we are going to hear from
23 Francis Wong.

24 Frank, I'm going to open your line. If you can
25 unmute on your end, then you may begin.

1 Francis, we'll need you to unmute on your end.

2 There we go.

3 MR. WONG: Okay. Okay. Yeah.

4 My name is Francis Wong. I was there in the town
5 hall San Juan Capistrano last Friday. I wasn't prepared my
6 speech. But anyway, I was opposed to this project. And I
7 don't want to go through in detail about how it has or is.

8 But I did some homework. Looking for the history
9 of this type of lithium battery storage fire incident.
10 There was, according to consumer product safety
11 Commissions, they report over 25,000 fire the last five
12 years. This is alarming to me.

13 Hello. Can you hear me?

14 MS. BADIE: Yes.

15 MR. WONG: Okay. Because my computer is acting
16 funny. And furthermore, I searched in California state
17 alone for that number of lithium battery storage fire
18 incident. There was a major fire at the Moss Landing
19 Vistra power plant in January 2025. That's the biggest
20 fire in that report, according to Google.

21 Also, Escondido. City of Escondido was also a
22 fire in last year, and also Long Beach. So, I just wonder
23 why we still doing this in a high-density population. Is
24 it -- the five minutes cannot put the fire out at the same
25 time. You have to wait for the fire is finished,

1 completely burn. This should be weeks, or even months. and
2 release all this toxic film.

3 So next thing I want to ask you why the city
4 don't have the authority, I would just say more friendly.
5 Why can't the California Energy Commission to work with
6 EPA. What would the city -- what would the citizen here to
7 work together have a best better solution before you guys
8 approve it and go forward.

9 That's dangerous process. We need a dual
10 process. Even triple process to make sure that we, the
11 citizen will not suffer this, explore this type of
12 dangerous. I just want to ask you guys be more openly to
13 consider our citizen safety.

14 You know money is not everything. You know, if
15 you look at that, look at that California, the coastals. I
16 would say, there's not many places that you can find in the
17 world -- what do you call it -- river air weather. You
18 just cannot buy it if you pollute it. We need to preserve
19 this.

20 I can imagine some of you, your family member --
21 I mean from the government of California Energy
22 Commissioner that approved this project. Just think about
23 your friends, your family, your relative might come to here
24 to enjoy the environment. But if you approve this. I mean
25 disaster going to happen I mean look at the history of the

1 fire.

2 So I just want to -- sincerely please consider
3 this, not to approve. Money, you can always earn. But
4 disaster safety, you cannot buy.

5 Thank you so much.

6 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

7 Next we are going to hear from Thomas Glynn.

8 I'm going to open your line, Thomas. You'll
9 unmute on your end we are asking for comments to be two
10 minutes or less there'll be a timer on your screen.

11 MR. GLYNN: Hi there. How are you?

12 MS. BADIE: Hi.

13 MR. GLYNN: I am a San Juan Capistrano resident,
14 since 1987. Moved away for a while moved back about a year
15 ago because of the many benefits of the area. We have two
16 individuals in our family that are compromised health wise,
17 and they will be significantly impacted by a fire from this
18 planet which I believe is high likelihood based on all the
19 information that I've heard

20 So that being said, I'd like to just share a
21 different angle if I could in the short amount of time that
22 I have I have a background in civil litigation. I've
23 practiced for 25 years. I've represented plaintiffs in the
24 Enron civil litigation, other class actions where thousands
25 and thousands of people represented when wrongs have

1 happened. And I only mention what I'm going to mention to
2 shed information, shed light, on where things are coming
3 from for my perspective, which is also as a California
4 resident. And I would hope that all California residents
5 have a chance to hear this as well, because I think the
6 state may not be aware that it's setting itself up for huge
7 liability. And I'll try to summarize why.

8 If you have a fire, and you have damages and say
9 those damages are \$10 million -- if you have punitive
10 damages, those are bring the damages to an astronomical
11 amount that the state would be facing, and in this
12 situation where there's knowledge beforehand of the
13 consequences that would occur. You have a setup for
14 punitive damages.

15 The CEC should immediately consult with attorneys
16 on a high level that are involved in class action
17 litigation and other mass torts and get their opinion on
18 this because the state is setting itself up for a huge
19 disaster. That would be the biggest debacle you've ever
20 seen in Southern California. So again, I only mentioned
21 this to share some light and shed some light based on my
22 background, which is 25 years of litigation and seeing
23 cases that would result from something like this. And I,
24 as a California citizen, would want to know what's going
25 through so I wouldn't be on the hook to have more taxes and

1 other liabilities per individual. So please consult with
2 your attorneys, CEC, see what they say, because I'd be very
3 surprised despite government allowances that that's okay
4 and they feel comfortable with going forward with this
5 project.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Thomas.

8 All right. Next I'm going to open the line for
9 Tony and Linda Williams.

10 If you can unmute on your end, and you may begin.

11 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. So this is Tony Williams.
12 I'm a resident of Laguna Niguel and an electrical engineer
13 with over 20 years' experience in the siting and
14 development of green energy projects.

15 It's not only an issue of safety and fire hazard.
16 I think it's just a common sense issue of economics. The
17 project that we are looking at here is going to be located
18 in a residential area. And residential areas in California
19 within just a few years will be well served with battery
20 storage by electric vehicles that will sign up agreements
21 with the utilities to supply stored energy at a time when
22 the utility needs it.

23 However, when you go inland and you have large
24 solar power projects, these solar power projects right now
25 depend on a transmission line to transmit their energy to

1 where most of the load is, which is along the coast, and
2 that energy comes at a very cyclical nature from a solar
3 power plant. So we are talking a few hours per year that
4 it reaches peak load, and the transmission line has to be
5 capable of taking that peak load.

6 If they have adequate battery storage in those
7 locations, then you can levelize the load over thousands of
8 hours a year to the extent that you would have smaller
9 transmission lines or, alternatively, much larger solar
10 projects than we have now using the same transmission lines
11 that are already there to transmit power over a 24-hour
12 period to the load centers that need them. So
13 economically, it's a much better deal to do the project
14 inland away from the densely populated areas.

15 So I don't know why we are concentrating so much
16 on saying this is an ideal site. It is far from an ideal
17 site. There are much better sites. They already exist.
18 You can put them adjacent to existing solar power plants.
19 You can expand the existing solar power plants and have
20 adequate transmission with transmission lines that already
21 exist.

22 That's all I have to say.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

24 And I believe we -- CEC staff are asking for a
25 break, and I'm just waiting for confirmation on the link so

1 we can announce that.

2 In the meantime, I'm going to call on Linda
3 Hammond.

4 Linda, I'm going to open your line. If you could
5 please unmute on your end and begin.

6 DR. HAMMOND: Hi, there. My name is Dr. Linda
7 Hammond. I am a resident of Orange County for over 20
8 years, and I've been a resident of Laguna Niguel since
9 2016.

10 I'm calling to voice my opposition to this
11 planned facility. I feel that it is a very unideal
12 location. For one, it is very close to the Amtrak train
13 tracks, and so obviously you have that train coming through
14 there throughout the day, you know, 24-7, seven days a
15 week. So the impact of those vibrations of the trains
16 coming through there I think is an extreme hazard.

17 In addition, the location is obviously somewhat
18 close to the 5 Freeway. So my greatest concern is if there
19 is an emergency, a fire break out at this location, and
20 from what I've read about these type of facilities, the
21 fire just has to burn itself out, what is the impact on
22 Amtrak service, the 5 Freeway, the residents, you know, in
23 the surrounding areas, the air quality, as well as the fire
24 spreading beyond the facility, because that location, as is
25 the case with most of Southern California, is extremely

1 fire hazard terrain. And so this fire is not going to be
2 able to be contained within that area, so in addition to
3 having the toxic fumes from the lithium batteries itself,
4 you are going to spread to the natural habitat as well,
5 resulting in a spread of fires. In addition, you're going
6 to have the pollution from the burning of the facility.

7 So I am just wondering, what is the logic of
8 thinking that this is an ideal location? I don't see in
9 any circumstance that this is an ideal location, and I feel
10 that you need to search for other locations. I am in favor
11 of any form of renewable energy, but I do not believe that
12 this is an ideal location.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Linda.

15 All right. We are going to hear from Lee
16 McLendon, and then we are going to take a 30-minute break.

17 So, Lee, I'm going to open your line at this
18 time. After the break, we will come back. If there's more
19 raised hands, we will hear those comments as well.

20 So, Lee, I'm going to open your line at this
21 time. You'll unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

22 MS. MCLENDON: Is it working now?

23 MS. BADIE: Yes.

24 MS. MCLENDON: Oh. Cool. Thank you.

25 I'm here speaking in opposition to the placement

1 of the Compass Battery Energy Storage in San Juan
2 Capistrano. I am generally in favor of progress in
3 alternative energy systems, but I feel we should be
4 cautious about moving so quickly that unsafe or unsound
5 conditions are locked in. The lithium battery storage
6 facilities have so far not proven to be safe for placement
7 in residential areas, as evidenced by the many fires. The
8 currently proposed placement is inappropriate because it is
9 near many residential communities, the I-5 Freeway, and
10 schools and hospitals.

11 I understand that Saddleback College has come out
12 with its support of the proposed Compass Project, but this
13 seems to be tied to grant money accepted by the South
14 Orange County Community College District Board without
15 public input. This quid pro quo arrangement deems
16 Saddleback College's support irresponsible and
17 unacceptable.

18 So I urge the Commission to deny approval of the
19 Compass Energy Storage project in San Juan Capistrano.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

22 All right. We are going to go to a break for
23 now, and then we'll return and hear additional comments
24 from raised hands. So we'll put a break slide up and we
25 will return at 1:45 p.m.

1 Thank you so much.

2 (Off the record at 1:07 p.m.)

3 (On the record at 1:47 p.m.)

4 MS. BADIE: If we have CEC IT on, we can start
5 the countdown.

6 Okay. Hi, everyone. We are back in recording.

7 This is day 2 of CEC's first public meeting for
8 the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project. If we could
9 pull up our comment slide.

10 We are here to take public comment. We did have
11 a public comment period in person and on Zoom on the 29th,
12 and today is a continuation of public comment for those
13 that were not able to attend on the 29th or could not stay
14 for the duration to make their comments.

15 And so if you are here and you'd like to comment,
16 we do ask that you raise your hand at this time. If you're
17 on Zoom, you'll use the raise hand feature on your screen.
18 It looks like an open palm. And if you're joining by
19 phone, you'll press star 9. That's going to let us know
20 you'd like to comment.

21 And in our notice, we do put an outside time.
22 And so for this day, we put an outside time of, I believe,
23 6:00 p.m. That is to make sure that we have the venue and
24 the staff available. But if the agenda ends earlier, we do
25 adjourn our meetings, and we do provide that notice in our

1 notices to make sure everyone's aware that if the agenda
2 wraps up, then we will adjourn early. So apologies if
3 there was any misunderstandings there, but we are here
4 today, and we'll call on every hand raised while we are
5 here before we adjourn.

6 And again, I'm just asking for any raised hands
7 at this time.

8 If you would like to comment, please raise your
9 hand.

10 All right. We have a hand raised from Liz. I
11 think that we heard from Liz, but I'm not sure if that's a
12 different person.

13 I'm going to open your line, Liz. You'll unmute
14 on your end. And then it's helpful if you could please
15 state and spell your name for our record. And we are
16 asking for comments to be two minutes or less. There'll be
17 a timer on the screen.

18 And for any other attendees, if you want to
19 comment, you do not have to wait to raise your hand. The
20 hands get raised in the order received, so you can raise
21 your hand at any time, and we'd like to do that in advance
22 so we know how many folks we have left.

23 All right. Liz, I'm going to open your line.

24 MS. AVILA: Thank you, Mona. I did speak
25 earlier. My name is Liz Avila. That's L-I-Z A-V-I-L-A. I

1 already provided comments, but I have a question for you.

2 Can you please clarify if the California Energy
3 Commission members are attending this public notice meeting
4 via Zoom? If yes, are they all attending? And who is
5 attending? If not, why are they not present?

6 Thank you.

7 MS. BADIE: Thanks for your comments, Liz.

8 Yeah. We want to hear from everyone who hasn't
9 commented yet today.

10 So let me go to Krista Cardinale.

11 Krista, I'm going to open your line. If you
12 could please unmute on your end. It is helpful if you can
13 state and spell your name for a court reporter as well.

14 MS. CARDINALE: Hi. Can you hear me?

15 MS. BADIE: Yes.

16 MS. CARDINALE: Okay. Hold on one second.

17 My name is Krista Cardinale. It's Krista,
18 K-R-I-S-T-A, Cardinal like the bird with an E at the end.

19 Thanks for giving me a second to voice my adamant
20 opposition to this proposed battery storage facility. I've
21 been a resident of this area my entire life. I'm speaking
22 up not only as a community member, but as a mother of a
23 young child and a daughter to two elderly parents that also
24 live in the area.

25 I'm deeply concerned about this Compass Lithium

1 Battery Storage project that's proposed for San Juan and
2 Laguna Niguel. This facility would sit so close to homes
3 and the 5 Freeway, one of our region's major lifelines.
4 Something were to go wrong, as they often do with these
5 types of facilities, an accident or a fire on the site
6 could have catastrophic consequences, not only for traffic
7 and first responders, but for all of us living nearby. And
8 that really concerns me.

9 It's my understanding that this storage size
10 would tie with the 10th largest in the world, and that's
11 frightening.

12 Lithium battery fires are notoriously difficult
13 to control. They burn hot, release toxic gases, and can
14 reignite even after being put out. With California already
15 struggling with wildfires, placing this kind of facility
16 near residential neighborhoods seems reckless and
17 negligent.

18 And let's not forget what's at stake culturally.
19 This area is home to landmarks like Mission San Juan
20 Capistrano and the Los Rios Historic District, places that
21 connect us to our history. A fire or hazardous incident
22 like this could damage those sites beyond repair. This
23 location is the wrong choice.

24 As a lifelong resident, I'm asking our leaders to
25 protect what makes this community special and safe. Please

1 say no to the Compass Project at this proposed location.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

4 Next we are going to hear from Valerie McKellar.

5 Valerie, we're going to open your line. You can
6 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

7 MS. MCKELLAR: Hello, good afternoon. My name is
8 Valerie McKellar, that's V-A-L-E-R-I-E M-C-K-E-L-L-A-R, and
9 I'm speaking today to express my strong opposition to the
10 proposal of placing this battery energy storage facility
11 within this community.

12 In my professional life, I serve as Director of
13 Investment Operations, where I'm responsible for evaluating
14 risk, long-term impact, alignment with strategic
15 objectives. This location introduces concentrated,
16 unmanaged risk. You should not place a high-risk
17 industrial facility in the heart of a residential and
18 family-centered area.

19 From an operational lens, this project fails on
20 multiple levels. It lacks appropriate emergency
21 infrastructure. It creates disproportionate exposure for
22 nearby residents. It underestimates the long-term
23 liability risks if something goes wrong, which, based on
24 national precedence, is not just theoretical. This
25 proposed site is so close to our homes, schools, and

1 community spaces. The location signals a failure in land-
2 use planning and community protection.

3 We are being asked to accept a high-risk
4 installation in areas that should be safeguarded, not
5 sacrificed. Good operations in any field are about
6 aligning missions with measured actions. This proposal
7 does not do that.

8 Please don't let this project move forward at
9 this site and redirect it to a more appropriate site and
10 one that can support California's clean energy goals
11 without jeopardizing the safety and trust of the
12 communities that you serve.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Valerie.

15 Next we are going to hear from Joanne Marquez.

16 Joanne, I'm going to open your line. You'll need
17 to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

18 MS. MARQUEZ: Hello.

19 MS. BADIE: Hi.

20 MS. MARQUEZ: Hi. My name is Joanne Marquez, and
21 I've been a resident of San Juan Capistrano since 1984. I
22 live in the Capistrano Villas, which is a complex of about
23 5,000 people about two miles south of the site for this.

24 Our complex has two roads in and out of the
25 entire complex, with close to five -- I think that somebody

1 the other day said 4,700 people, but it's close to 500.
2 The majority are children. There are nine schools in the
3 area. There's a high fire danger. There's a danger of the
4 railroad, and we heard the other day about the vibrations
5 from the railroad could cause a danger to the battery farm.
6 There are medical facilities. It's just not a good place,
7 people living in houses 1,500 feet above in Laguna Niguel.
8 It's an area that's had flooding and fire problems in the
9 past.

10 The year that I moved here, there was a flood
11 that blocked off Camino Capistrano, and actually a guy had
12 gotten out of his car and was washed out to sea. That
13 would have been around 1983 or -- and it's just not a good
14 location. Electricity is the way of the future. The
15 electric cars and everything is electronic, and that's
16 great, but this is just I can't think of a worse location
17 for this than the one that's being proposed, and I hope
18 that you'll reject it.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

21 All right. I am not seeing any new raised hands,
22 and I wanted to make sure we heard from everyone today. If
23 you are here and you'd like to comment, now is the time to
24 raise your hand. That will let us know. We will take more
25 comments at this time before we move on to the next part of

1 our program.

2 All right. We have Michael Wallock with a raised
3 hand.

4 Michael, I'm going to open your line. You'll
5 just need to unmute on your end. Just a reminder to state
6 and spell your name for the record. That really helps our
7 court reporter, and then also we are asking for comments to
8 be two minutes or less, and there's going to be a timer on
9 the screen.

10 Michael Wallock, if you can unmute on your end,
11 and then you may begin.

12 MR. WALLOCK: Hello. Can you hear me?

13 MS. BADIE: Yes.

14 MR. WALLOCK: Okay, great. Thank you. Sorry
15 about that.

16 Yes, hi. My name is Michael Wallach,
17 W-A-L-L-O-C-K, and I am a resident of Laguna Niguel. I
18 live in the Westerlies neighborhood, which is just above
19 the hillside from that site.

20 And I would just like to echo what I think most
21 nearly every single resident of the surrounding communities
22 have been saying, which is, you know, we understand the
23 need for renewable energy, et cetera, but this location for
24 the site is about the worst location you can pick. If you
25 just -- you know, if you just look at the location itself,

1 it's right at the base of a flammable hillside, and if
2 anything that we have learned from the horrific wildfires
3 that we had up in Los Angeles, all it takes is one Santa
4 Ana wind event and a spark, and that hillside could go up
5 extremely fast, and we would lose all of those houses.

6 Also, just with the way that the embers travel,
7 it's endangering, you know, all of the surrounding
8 neighborhood communities. I know Capistrano Valley High
9 School is right across a freeway from that location. I
10 think it's less than 5,000 feet. You know, so you're
11 endangering just from any sort of the toxic smoke or what
12 could come off that could really endanger the kids that are
13 there, and not to mention the other surrounding schools as
14 well. I mean, I believe, you guys have JSerra High School,
15 which is right down the pathway from that location as well.

16 So, I mean, that's, I think, is the biggest
17 concern, is just the location's not right. If we are going
18 to want to build a facility like that, I don't understand
19 why we wouldn't want to do it in perhaps one of the areas
20 that's zoned for more industry, an industrial area, where
21 you don't risk all the residential houses around there.

22 Again, I think this is a terrible location. I
23 don't know anyone in the community that supports this. So,
24 I mean, that's -- that's the point I really want to get
25 across. And again, I'm one of the residents that would be

1 directly impacted by this.

2 My time's almost up, but thank you very much.

3 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

4 Next we are going to hear from Nancy Meade
5 Cotton.

6 Nancy, I'm going to open your line. If you could
7 just unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

8 MS. MEADE COTTON: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Nancy Meade-Cotton, N-A-N-C-Y, Meade, M-E-A-D-E, Cotton, C-
10 O-T-T-O-N. I reside in Laguna Niguel in Niguel Summit.

11 I am opposed to the lithium battery storage in
12 San Juan Capistrano. The location is much too close to
13 homes, open spaces, and wildfire vegetation. Local
14 officials have raised serious concerns as a project. I
15 live at the top of Niguel Road, close to where we had the
16 Coastal Fires two, three years ago -- three years ago. We
17 are already having difficulty obtaining fire insurance for
18 our homes, and this would make it that much more difficult,
19 in addition to the dangers of other wildfires.

20 I believe that if you need to have this, it
21 should go in another area other than a residential area.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

24 Next we are going to hear from Andrew.

25 Andrew, I'm going to open your line. We asked if

1 you could share your name and the spelling of your name for
2 our record as well, and we are asking for comments to be
3 two minutes or less. There's going to be a timer on the
4 screen.

5 Andrew, I'm sorry, I don't have your last name on
6 the screen. If you can unmute on your end, then you can
7 begin.

8 All right. Andrew, we are not getting unmuting
9 on your end. I'm going to come back to you if you want to
10 look at your settings. I'll come back in a minute.

11 Next let's hear from Kris Green.

12 Kris, I'm going to open your line. If you could
13 just unmute on your end, then you can begin.

14 MS. GREEN: Hi. Can you hear me?

15 MS. BADIE: Yes.

16 MS. GREEN: Hi. Thank you for allowing the
17 public to speak about this.

18 I'm speaking today to strongly oppose the signing
19 of this lithium-ion battery storage facility near our
20 neighborhoods and freeways. While these systems are great
21 for supporting renewable energy, their risks when placed
22 too close to people and animals and open spaces are simply
23 too great. These lithium battery fires are not ordinary
24 fires, so if one of these batteries catches on fire, they
25 burn at thousands of degrees. They release toxic gases

1 like hydrogen fluoride, and they're nearly impossible to
2 extinguish as we know.

3 Just like in Surprise, Arizona, a battery
4 explosion injured eight firefighters, and it cost the city
5 nearly \$2 million in emergency response. In Moss Landing,
6 California, toxic fumes prompted shelter-in-place orders,
7 and the county, not the operator, was stuck with the bill
8 for response and cleanup.

9 But the damage doesn't stop with the fire. These
10 facilities contaminate groundwater, they poison the soil,
11 and they render the surrounding land unusable for
12 agriculture. Toxins released can travel for miles,
13 silently exposing residents downwind, and the worst part is
14 operators like Compass Energy often aren't insured enough
15 to cover these disasters. So that means when things go
16 wrong -- and they eventually do -- we, the taxpayers, have
17 to pay for it.

18 So this is not just about safety, it's about
19 justice. Communities bear the environmental, health, and
20 financial costs of a facility that they have no real say
21 in.

22 So I thank you for allowing us to speak against
23 this today. Until these systems are truly safe and fully
24 insured, they must not be built near homes, schools, or
25 freeways. So let's protect our people before we prioritize

1 private profit.

2 Thank you for letting me speak today.

3 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

4 Next we are going to hear from Shelley.

5 Shelley, I'm going to open your line. You'll
6 just need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

7 MS. SMALEH: Hello, thank you for the opportunity
8 for us to give our feedback.

9 As a resident of Laguna Niguel and also living
10 very close to the coastal fire, we lived through the terror
11 of, you know, not knowing what will happen to our homes,
12 and basically first-hand witnessing the speed of how just
13 one spark can really destroy communities.

14 In addition to what everyone else has been saying
15 about the toxicity, which is really great and, you know,
16 endangering our community, I would also like to echo the
17 fact that this will lower the value of our homes. This
18 will have a great impact on our insurances, which we are
19 already having a really hard time obtaining ever since all
20 the fires, and the great risk to the health and, you know,
21 for just the health of the environment and all of the
22 people around this community.

23 As everyone has said, I really hope that they
24 would consider having this in a remote area, in industrial
25 areas. There's plenty of desert and more land inland that

1 are not occupied by people for miles and miles, and that
2 should be the location of, you know, such endeavor.

3 So thank you again for the opportunity to hear
4 us.

5 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Shelly.

6 Next we are going to hear from Jenny Rose.

7 I'm going to open your line, Jenny. If you could
8 just unmute on your end, and just a quick reminder to
9 please don't state and spell your name for the record if
10 you can. And we are asking for comments to be two minutes
11 or less. There will be a timer on the screen.

12 MS. ROSE: Can you hear me?

13 MS. BADIE: Yes.

14 MS. ROSE: Okay, great. My name is Jenny Rose,
15 R-O-S-E. I live in Dana Point.

16 And I just wanted to read a brief statement by
17 Hartford Insurance Group about the dangers of thermal
18 runaway, which is a real concern for me and should be for
19 everybody. Basically their brief will take less than two
20 minutes. It says that lithium-ion batteries not only
21 increase the number of fires, but they especially increase
22 the severity of a fire due to the thermal runaway
23 potential, which can occur with the batteries.

24 Thermal runaway is a phenomenon which causes
25 rapid fire intensification due to a flammable electrolyte

1 within the cells, and it can quickly spread to adjoining
2 battery modules and packs. Even when handled properly
3 there is a cause for concern because overexposure to heat
4 or damage can cause the electrolyte to ignite, explode, and
5 expose adjoining battery cells within the pack. This is
6 especially important to be aware of if you are transporting
7 the batteries.

8 It goes on to say that the thermal runaway --

9 MS. BADIE: Uh-oh, Jenny. I think you might have
10 accidentally clicked mute if you want to come back on.

11 Uh-oh. Jenny Rose, your line got muted on your
12 end.

13 All right. I think you're back on, Jenny, if you
14 want to continue. Yes.

15 MS. ROSE: I just wanted to say that because of
16 the recent fires we've had in Los Angeles and the fact that
17 insurance is so difficult to come by nowadays, unless there
18 are provisions for insurance for people to be able to
19 rebuild -- I mean, we saw what wind conditions can do. And
20 as the other speakers have all said, it's going to happen
21 eventually. There will be a fire. Lithium makes it
22 exponentially worse.

23 And if we are going to be having fires, something
24 needs to be done to protect the residents, not just our
25 properties, but the lives of the local residents.

1 That's basically all I have to say other than to
2 thank you for letting us have an opportunity to speak.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you for those comments.

5 Next we are going to hear from Judy Gerrard.

6 Judy, I'm going to open your line. If you could
7 just unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

8 Judy, your line is open on our end. You will
9 need to unmute on your end.

10 MS. GERRARD: Hi. Can you hear me?

11 MS. BADIE: Yes.

12 MS. GERRARD: Oh, perfect. Thank you. My name
13 is Judy Gerrard. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

14 I just have two points that I wanted to bring up.

15 One, everyone keeps talking about the little risk
16 involved in this. And I think if there's any risk
17 involved, that's too much risk. I mean, there's just --
18 it's just too -- as everyone has said in the past, there's
19 just too much damage that can be done from something like
20 that if something goes wrong.

21 And then the other part I wanted to mention is it
22 came to my attention that Saddleback College actually
23 received \$750,000 to be paid over five years towards the
24 college to approve -- sorry, from the company building this
25 facility, the lithium battery facility. And because

1 Saddleback College approved the money, that college,
2 because of its size, fulfilled the requirements of the
3 percentage of the community that would approve this
4 project, therefore letting it go to this level. And it
5 just seems to me wrong that it wasn't that someone
6 financially benefiting from this could fulfill the
7 requirements to get it to this part -- this point. To me,
8 it feels like it should be the actual community who's not
9 going to benefit financially that should make the decision
10 if this battery facility should be in the neighborhood.

11 So I just wanted to pass that information along
12 and just thank you again for listening. And please just
13 take that in mind that you are now truly hearing from the
14 community who is not financially benefiting from this
15 battery facility.

16 Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

18 All right. Let's -- I'm going to try Andrew's
19 line again.

20 Sorry, Andrew, I only have a first name on the
21 screen. I'm going to open your line. You'll need to
22 unmute on your end. If you are on Zoom online, you'll see
23 a microphone symbol on your screen. You'll click on that
24 to unmute. And if you're joining by phone, it will be star
25 six.

1 I'm going to try to open your line again.

2 ANDREW: Hi. Can you hear me?

3 MS. BADIE: Yes.

4 ANDREW: Oh, thank God.

5 Well, thank you for hearing the comments. I know
6 a lot of people aren't really informed of all these things
7 that there actually should have been a letter mandated to
8 every person in the surrounding cities way back when the
9 process began to start informing them about it.

10 Anyways, like I said before, this decision was
11 taken out of our hands and given to you. We didn't really
12 have a say in it. I'll make that point.

13 The number one risk is a toxic smoke and long-
14 term soil contamination. I don't know. I'm worried that
15 Compass is a subsidiary of a big business, and what's to
16 say that they can't declare bankruptcy if they have to pay
17 for 1,000 houses and toxic smoke cleanup. I don't know if
18 they've been forced to put any, like, billion-dollar bond
19 down, you know, as a stipulation on this.

20 It shouldn't be there anyways. There's plenty of
21 plenty of industrial areas like an Anaheim.

22 If AQMD -- I was a business and I tried to, like,
23 do a project that was going to emit any kind of toxic smoke
24 or have the potential for it, the AQMD would like all kinds
25 of restrictions and I'd be forced to go to industrial areas

1 and I'd have filtration systems and all other stuff like
2 that, but this thing has the potential to cause that kind
3 of damage if there's no regulation on it.

4 I want to know what happened to the people that
5 approved Moss Landing. That project was approved by
6 somebody, and whoever approved that was wrong, because
7 obviously it burned to the ground. So I don't know if you
8 guys can inform us, you know, what happened to, you know.

9 So I'm worried about the long term safety of
10 this. Like I said, the decision was out of our hands. Why
11 should we pay increased insurance costs if that happens?

12 And I just think it should be relocated somewhere
13 else. The high desert. You know, there's plenty of grid
14 connections out there. Big open spaces, paved areas. It's
15 just too close.

16 And also, you're bypassing the original
17 regulations for the state that said that they had to be
18 3,500 feet away from any residents. The California Energy
19 Commission or the state, when they passed the law, gave you
20 guys the authority to not follow recommendations that
21 somebody decided were a good idea a long time ago. And
22 now, you know, they're going past those own regulations.

23 Thank you for your time. Thank you for hearing
24 my comment.

25 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

1 Next we are going to hear from Angela M.

2 Angela, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
3 need to unmute on your end and then you can begin.

4 MS. MAROON: Okay. Are you there?

5 MS. BADIE: Yes.

6 MS. MAROON: Okay, great.

7 Actually, my husband's here. He's got notes.

8 MR. MAROON: So I'm going to go on record. My
9 name is Vincent Maroon. My wife and I have lived here at
10 the 4 Floweridge Circle for 30 years. And as I look
11 forward to my retirement, I'm now faced with what I
12 consider a cataclysmic event. The fact that I would have
13 to uproot and leave my home of 30 years.

14 So what I'm giving you is the human side. You've
15 heard a lot of complaints about the benefit, you know, the
16 economic effects and what have you. I'm speaking to the
17 human side of the equation. This is potentially a
18 cataclysmic event that not only is going to affect me
19 personally. Right? It's going to do that, but it's also
20 going to affect the children, the rest of the families, and
21 the balance of the community in this area.

22 The simple fact that a \$90 billion French power
23 company leveraging its resources to take advantage of
24 California resources and California communities is simply
25 outrageous. This is not considered progress. Progress is

1 renewable energy that is contributing to the welfare of the
2 communities that it's available in. This is not something
3 that's going to contribute to the welfare of this
4 community. Historically and recent experiences have
5 devastated effects across several other cities in the world
6 and in the United States.

7 So the simple truth in this situation, in my
8 opinion, is that there are similar facilities that have had
9 bad experiences for themselves and the communities that
10 they serve that have effectively destroyed lives and
11 communities. And this could all be avoided. As has been
12 pointed out, there are several other locations that are not
13 close to communities. Consider the San Onofre plant.
14 Consider the prima facie landfill down in San Juan
15 Capistrano. All those are isolated locations that are
16 ideal for this situation.

17 So finally, in closing, please do not approve
18 this facility. The risk for the community is much greater
19 than the reward for the French company.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

22 Next we are going to hear from Stacy Lawrence.

23 Stacy, I'm going to open your line and you'll
24 just need to unmute on your end. It is helpful if you can
25 state and spell your name for a query as well.

1 MS. LAWRENCE: Hi. Yes. My name is Stacy
2 Lawrence, S-T-A-C-Y L-A-W-R-E-N-C-E. I am a resident in
3 San Juan Capistrano. I have three children who I'm raising
4 here.

5 My family and my community oppose the lithium
6 battery storage. We have a fire crisis in our state, and
7 to even consider putting this near the creek, the ocean,
8 and high fire areas in near communities, homes, and private
9 schools in San Juan Capistrano is dangerous, and you guys
10 are not considering just the implications.

11 I feel like this is greed, money, and a land
12 grab. And there is nothing positive for this community.
13 We have an equestrian-rich community. We have a historic
14 mission. We have development that has just attracted
15 tourists from all parts of the world to our city, and this
16 is going to damage that.

17 Like the gentleman before, I don't want to have
18 to move my children out of this city that I love and I
19 consider a home, but I will if this moves forward.

20 And again, developers and people going behind the
21 back straight to this state and not taking into
22 consideration the people who live here is wrong, and I am
23 opposed to it, and I will do whatever it takes on my end to
24 get the community's support to bring this to the state
25 level.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

3 Next we are going to hear from Teala Tata.

4 I'm going to open your line, Tila. You'll just
5 need to unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

6 MS. TATA: Hi, my name is Teala Tata, and I live
7 in Laguna Niguel. And I just wanted to make a last
8 comment. I was there the other day and made a comment, but
9 I kind of wrote something.

10 But anyways, I just think we as a community do
11 not have the confidence and the safety of this technology.
12 While Compass may argue that facility will not be a source
13 of fire, that does not eliminate the very real risk imposed
14 by its presence in a High Fire Danger Zone, not to mention
15 that our insurance will go up exponentially more than it is
16 even now.

17 These facilities utilize lithium-ion phosphate.
18 In most cases, the cause is still unknown. The reality is
19 clear. The technology is susceptible to explosive
20 reactions at higher temperatures, such as during a wildfire
21 event, and we are not speculating the community has already
22 faced devastating wildfires. We have seen firsthand how
23 quickly fires spread, how unpredictable its path can be,
24 and how catastrophic the consequences are when it collides
25 with explosive volatile materials.

1 On May 29th, 2025, multiple fire authorities
2 publicly testified before the Commission, clearly stating
3 that local firefighting sources are not equipped to contain
4 a complex fire in the event of this nature quickly or
5 safely. Their concern is not hypothetical. It is
6 foreseeable reality if this project proceeds at the
7 proposed site. The worst-case scenario is not just
8 theatrical, it's inevitability in a region where wildfire
9 risk remains high year after year. A single wildfire
10 already difficult to contain but two fires burning
11 simultaneously, one natural and one fueled by hazardous
12 material, would create an emergency response nightmare.
13 Approving the facility in this location is a direct threat
14 to public safety.

15 We urge the California Energy Commission to
16 recognize the gravity of this risk and reject all proposals
17 before disaster strikes, or be held accountable for
18 devastation when it happens.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

21 And we have some more hands raised, but I just
22 wanted to do another call out on instructions. If you're
23 here and like to comment, you can raise your hand at any
24 time, and your hand will join the queue. If you are on
25 Zoom online, you'll use the raise hand feature on your

1 screen. It looks like an open palm. And if you're joining
2 by phone, you'll press star nine. That's going to let us
3 know you'd like to comment, and we will call on all raised
4 hands before moving on to the next item in our program
5 today.

6 So I do encourage you to raise your hand at this
7 time if you want to make a comment.

8 Next we will hear from MNM. I'm going to open
9 your line. If you could just unmute on your end, then you
10 may begin. And just a reminder, it is helpful if you state
11 and spell your name for our record as well.

12 MS. MUND: Hello?

13 MS. BADIE: Yes. Hello.

14 MS. MUND: Yes, hi. My name is Mohit Mund,
15 M-O-H-I-T-M-U-N-D.

16 So basically, I'm calling because I'm very much
17 concerned. I'm a resident here at Laguna Niguel for almost
18 18 years, and I did not know nothing about this company
19 until I researched. Ironically, the company's name is
20 BESS. You know what it rhymes with, BS.

21 So I live right on top of the mountain where this
22 facility is going to be built. So what I'm trying to say
23 is, basically, this whole thing has been created by the
24 politicians of the surrounding cities, Laguna Niguel, Dana
25 Point, and San Juan. Wherever they have seen empty lots,

1 they have started building apartments and all kinds of
2 stuff. Result, the population has increased, the traffic
3 has increased. It almost seems like we live in L.A. I'm
4 telling this because, you know, I've been living here for
5 18 years. It was never this bad.

6 So because of this, energy consumption has gone
7 up, the prices of energy has gone up, and now this is
8 what's going to be -- you know, the politicians are doing.
9 Now they want to put a grid up so that when there is higher
10 consumption of energy, they can do whatever, put that into
11 the grid. Well, you know, this whole problem has been
12 created by the politicians.

13 So what I'm going to say is basically, we are in
14 an earthquake zone, and Santa Ana winds, and we don't have
15 the manpower or resources to tackle if something goes
16 wrong. Everything is stretched to its limit.

17 So that's what I'm going to say, and that's all.
18 I mean, if anything goes wrong, we are not capable of doing
19 anything because of lack of resources.

20 Thank you very much for your time.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

22 Next we are going to hear from Lauren Block.

23 Lauren, I'm going to open your line. It is
24 helpful if you can state and spell your name for the record
25 as well, and we are asking for comments to be two minutes

1 or less. There'll be a timer on the screen.

2 I'm going to open your line now.

3 MS. BLOCK: Okay. Can you hear me? Yes.

4 MS. BLOCK: Okay. this is actually Marie Block,
5 M-A-R-I-E, last name Block, B-L-O-C-K. And I just wanted
6 to share that my husband and I bought our first home in
7 Laguna Niguel in 1987. We continue to live in this home
8 and have worked and raised our kids in this home for the
9 past 38 years. To live in South Orange County is a
10 privilege, and we don't take it for granted.

11 The proposed Compass Lithium Battery Farm in
12 northern San Juan Capistrano is a mistake for so many
13 reasons. If we learned anything from the battery farms
14 placed in neighborhoods in Moss Landing or Escondido, we
15 see that both of them caught fire and caused massive
16 pollution and damage to the surrounding areas.

17 If we look at the cities in South Orange County
18 within a 10-mile radius of the proposed battery farm in San
19 Juan Capistrano, the following would need to happen when
20 the battery farm catches on fire. Notice I said when, not
21 if, the battery fire catches on fire. This battery farm
22 would be like a ticking time bomb.

23 The following would need to occur when there is a
24 fire at the Compass Battery Farm. There are 11 cities
25 within a 10-mile radius of the proposed battery farm, and

1 they would need to be evacuated. Think of the thousands of
2 people that would be affected. 29 schools, which include
3 middle schools, elementary, high schools, private schools,
4 and charter schools, within a 10-mile radius of the battery
5 farm, and the students, teachers, administrators, and staff
6 would also need to be evacuated.

7 Thousands of people drive north and south on the
8 5 Freeway every single day. Traffic would be stopped for
9 miles, hours, and days, which would trap people on the
10 freeway if and when a fire was to occur at the battery
11 farm. The same would be true for those people that take
12 the Amtrak train. A battery farm would also affect the
13 surrounding neighborhoods above and around it if and when a
14 fire would occur. The beautiful San Juan Capistrano hills,
15 waterways, air quality, noise level would be greatly
16 affected.

17 First responders in South Orange County would
18 also be put in harm's way, and the toxins produced by a
19 battery farm could affect them forever. Think about what
20 happened to the first responders during 9-11.

21 So, I know my time is short. So, the good of the
22 many should be considered over the greed of the few. And
23 that's it.

24 Thank you.

25 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

1 Next we are going to hear from attendee S
2 Rowerdink. I hope I've said that correctly.

3 I'm going to open your line, and then you'll just
4 need to unmute on your end before beginning. It is helpful
5 if you can state and spell your name for the Corps reporter
6 as well.

7 MS. ROWERDINK: Hi, my name is Shawn Rowerdink,
8 R-O-W-E-R-D-I-N-K. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

9 First, I want to say that I do not consent to the
10 lithium battery storage and disposal proposal. It is a
11 fire hazard. It's toxic. It's waste poisoning the soil,
12 atmosphere, and environment, an increase in fire hazard and
13 in our insurance, our property values will drop, and it's
14 very hazardous and detrimental to the health and lives of
15 all residents and surrounding areas, not to mention our
16 first responders. I would just be repeating what has been
17 said already.

18 I just wanted to state the fact that I am opposed
19 to this greedy situation.

20 Thank you.

21 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

22 Next we are going to hear from Stacy Lawrence.

23 Stacy, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
24 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

25 MS. LAWRENCE: Hello. Yes. Thank you.

1 I spoke previously. I just wanted to add that
2 this land that is being proposed was a gift to Saddleback
3 Church, who, in turn, is in a move that most residents and
4 people in the community of San Juan Capistrano, the city
5 itself, does not approve of this project. But Compass
6 Energy Storage is seeking approval from the CEC to bypass
7 the city's permit process. So we are not even a part of
8 it.

9 This is a deal between two people, two entities,
10 that have nothing to do with the community. We just saw
11 the complete devastation in the Palisades fire. There was
12 no resource -- there was a lack of resources, and cities
13 and neighborhoods were decimated due to those fires.

14 I'm on the FEMA website right now, and it talks
15 about the risks and responses for lithium-ion battery
16 fires. And there are many. There's the chemical
17 composition. They contain volatile electrolytes, and they
18 can release flammable gases. There's ejection. There's
19 risk of re-ignition. There's thermal runaway.

20 And none of this is being considered. This is
21 just money, and that is it.

22 This has nothing to do with the people. This has
23 nothing to do with the land. This has nothing to do with
24 the residents or the city. We do not support this. We are
25 against this. There are many other places to have this,

1 not in the middle of neighborhoods, schools, parks, and
2 wildlife.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. BADIE: I do ask that we allow time for
5 people that have not spoken yet to be able to make their
6 comments. If anyone has raised their hand again that
7 already commented, I do ask you to please lower your hand
8 so I can make sure I'm calling on people that haven't
9 spoken yet.

10 We have over 80 people have spoken today, so it's
11 hard for me to remember all the names. I'm asking for
12 everyone to cooperate, and if you have already spoken to
13 please lower your hand so I can make sure I'm calling on
14 people and they get their turn as well.

15 All right. Next we are going to call on Deb.

16 Deb, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
17 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

18 DEB: Hi. Can you hear me?

19 MS. BADIE: Yes.

20 DEB: So I've been a resident ever since I was
21 born here in 1984, so 40 years. I'm in my childhood home
22 of my parents that purchased this house in Laguna Niguel in
23 1972, so 53 years ago.

24 Many have already said the key facts of how it's
25 going to negatively impact the people, this area, the land.

1 So I'm just trying to do my part to stop this, and so I
2 just want it to be noted that I am opposed. I'm not going
3 to repeat all the facts. I agree with everything that
4 people have been saying.

5 So please note that I am opposed, and you can
6 give my time to others.

7 Thank you.

8 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Deb.

9 I'm going to call on Julie. I don't have a last
10 name on here. I am relying on folks who have already
11 spoken to lower their hand.

12 So Julie, I'm going to open your line. If you
13 could please unmute on your end, it is helpful if you can
14 state and spell your name for the record.

15 Julie, we've opened your line, and you'll just
16 need to unmute on your end to begin.

17 All right. Julie, we are not getting any
18 unmuting on your end, so I'm going to move on, but I will
19 try you again.

20 Next we are going to hear from Catherine Aurang.

21 Catherine, I'm going to open your line. You'll
22 just need to unmute on your end.

23 Uh-oh. Catherine, I think I lost you.

24 Okay. Catherine, I'm going to open your line.
25 You'll just need to unmute on your end, and then you can

1 begin.

2 MS. AURANG: Hi, this is Catherine Aurang. Can
3 you hear me?

4 MS. BADIE: Yes.

5 MS. AURANG: Okay, my last name is spelled A-U-R-
6 A-N-G. And I was made aware of this lithium battery
7 storage facility sometime last year, and I was incredibly,
8 incredibly surprised.

9 And I have been listening to all of the comments
10 that people have made against this, and I'm no different.
11 I have been living here in Laguna Niguel for 16 years, and
12 my brother has also lived here in this city as well for
13 almost the last 20 years. I'm speaking on behalf of them
14 as well as my neighbors and the entire community.

15 I concur with everyone who's in opposition. I
16 can say I work in the world of pharmaceuticals where we are
17 always assessing risk and mitigation, and as you know, with
18 pharmaceuticals, it's highly, highly regulated.

19 And to hear about this particular proposition,
20 it's even worse than what I, you know, experience in the
21 world of pharmaceuticals. The risk is so great. There's
22 not even a proper way to mitigate against this because this
23 is, for me, there's just no -- there doesn't appear to be
24 common sense. So I am a big proponent for highly, you
25 know, regulated, energy-efficient types of, you know,

1 businesses, but I just don't think that this is the
2 appropriate place for this type of facility.

3 So with that said, I hope the Energy Commission
4 can use common sense to consider denial of this
5 proposition.

6 Thank you.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Catherine.

8 All right. Next, let's see -- sorry.

9 All right. Next we are going to hear from Nancy
10 Thee.

11 I'm going to open your line, Nancy. You'll just
12 need to unmute on your end. And if you could please state
13 and spell your name for the record, that'd be very helpful.

14 MS. THEE: Hi, this is Nancy Thee. T as in Tom,
15 H-E-E. I've lived -- do you hear me?

16 MS. BADIE: Yes.

17 MS. THEE: Okay. I just wasn't sure.

18 I've lived in Laguna Niguel for 40 years, and I
19 have seen this community grow. And I am originally from
20 Pacific Palisades. As you know, the fire there just
21 consumed my hometown, and I would hate to see that anything
22 could happen to this community.

23 It seems implausible to me that this could even
24 be considered with the fire danger and the displacement of
25 so many people that have already been displaced amongst our

1 neighboring cities from south to northern California. I
2 mean, I just -- it's unfathomable to me that this would
3 even be a consideration, to put something so dangerous in
4 our community. And so I am definitely opposed.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Nancy.

7 All right. Let's try Julie again.

8 Julie, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
9 need to unmute on your end. And that's how you can begin
10 your comments.

11 Julie, apologies, I don't have a last name for
12 you on the screen. If you could please unmute at this time
13 we can hear your comments.

14 All right. We are not getting an unmute from
15 you.

16 And I'm doing another call for new comments from
17 people we haven't heard from today. If you could please
18 raise your hand at this time. We want to make sure we hear
19 from you before we move on in the program. If you're
20 joining on Zoom, you'll use the raise hand feature on your
21 screen. And if you're joining by phone, you'll press star
22 nine. That's going to let us know you'd like to comment.
23 And I'm just going to give that a moment.

24 And then I'm going to hand the programming to
25 Kaycee Chang at CEC. And you can continue to raise your

1 hand, and I will come back to folks that have raised their
2 hands. But Kaycee has some announcements to make. And
3 then we will go back to raised hands.

4 Thanks, Kaycee.

5 MS. CHANG: Thank you, Mona.

6 Can we have the next slide, please? Perfect.

7 All right. Hi, everyone. I am Kaycee Chang with
8 the Siting Transmission and Environmental Protection
9 Division. Thank you all for taking the time today, this
10 morning, and now into the afternoon for sharing your
11 comments. And thank you to those who have joined us for
12 both days.

13 As Mona Badie, our public advisor, has mentioned,
14 you can submit comments anytime. We did file a notice of
15 preparation to the docket on May 2nd, and we want to point
16 out that comments on the scope and content of the
17 environmental document in response to the notice of
18 preparation are due by June 4th, 2025. Comments can be
19 submitted electronically via the e-comment system on the
20 CEC webpage for the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project
21 or mailed directly to the CEC at the address identified on
22 this slide.

23 So we'll pause one moment in case anyone wants to
24 take pictures of this slide.

25 This is also available on our docket. We did

1 post our presentation from the May 29th public meeting.

2 All right. Can you please move to the next
3 slide?

4 So we want to reemphasize that we will consider
5 all comments received as we prepare the staff assessment
6 that will include a draft environmental impact report for
7 the proposed project. We anticipate the staff assessment
8 will be published and circulated for a 60-day public review
9 period in the fall of 2025, and then the next planned
10 public meeting would be on the staff assessment, so we will
11 hold a public meeting close to the project site with the
12 findings of the staff assessment during that public review
13 period.

14 We'll also keep this slide up and pause while we
15 are waiting for more hands raised. And if we receive more
16 hands raised, I will pass it back over to Mona.

17 MS. BADIE: Thanks, Kaycee.

18 We do have an additional caller with a raised
19 hand, so if we could pull the timer slide back up. Thank
20 you so much.

21 All right. Phone number ending in 086, I'm going
22 to open your line. You'll need to unmute and un-mute
23 before beginning. And you'll press star 6 to unmute. We
24 are asking for comments to be two minutes or less. And if
25 you could just unmute now. Phone number ending in 086.

1 All right. We show you as unmuted, but we are
2 not getting any audio. So if you could please adjust any
3 microphone settings you have so we can get your audio
4 through.

5 MS. LAUB: Can you hear me now?

6 MS. BADIE: Yes.

7 MS. LAUB: Oh. Fantastic. Awesome.

8 Thank you for giving me a voice today. I'm
9 calling from beautiful Dana Point, And I hope we can
10 continue to say that. Clearly there's a very enormous
11 population that is extremely opposed to this. We need to
12 get the word out still.

13 As many have mentioned, there is nothing about
14 this that makes any sense whatsoever. I have children that
15 are very concerned about their future health. Living in an
16 environment with high risk of toxics, not to mention the
17 wildlife.

18 I mean, come on. Let's do the right thing. It's
19 really unnecessary.

20 I have a husband and many family members that are
21 firefighters that are suffering from different lung issues
22 from being exposed to chemicals. Let's do better than
23 this. Let's be smart about this. Let's fight. Let's get
24 the word out. Let's go and do the right thing. So we can
25 all sleep at night. And unfortunately, there's a small

1 handful of people out there that this kind of stuff does
2 not matter to them for a number of reasons.

3 So we can be strong. Let's do this. And here we
4 go so we can have many more beautiful days.

5 Once again, Dana Point resident of over, gosh, 40
6 years. And I hope we can we can continue living in this
7 beautiful, serene place. Let's do the right thing.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

10 And we didn't catch your name if you would be
11 willing to share that. It's not required, but it does
12 help.

13 MS. LAUB: Nope, not a problem at all.

14 First name is Gloria. And the last name is Laub.
15 And that spells L-A-U-B as in boy.

16 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Gloria.

17 All right. Next we are going to hear from Byron.

18 Byron, I'm going to open your line. If you could
19 please unmute on your end, and then you may begin.

20 MR. BETTERLY: Okay. I'm here. Can you hear me?

21 MS. BADIE: Yes.

22 MR. BETTERLY: All right. great. Byron Betterly
23 (phonetic). I live in Laguna Niguel. I'm really familiar
24 with LiPo batteries because of a hobby. I use them all the
25 time. But I know how to safely use them. That's why I'm

1 really opposed to this project here in our community.

2 It's totally unsafe to have it near a major
3 population center adjacent to a freeway with extremely
4 limited access, only one road in. I'm very familiar with
5 the Crystal Cathedral property. I used to live at the
6 Bathgate Ranch right adjacent to that whole location south
7 of the slope there. So I just want to make sure everybody
8 understands what a major fire risk that is to have this
9 project built in that location. For a lot of reasons, the
10 firefighters are obviously opposed to it, as well as all
11 the residents that live in the proximity of that project.

12 So I urge everyone to oppose that project. It's
13 a horrible location, very unsafe, and obviously being
14 pushed by people that are -- don't live here and don't care
15 about the, you know, welfare of the residents.

16 That's my comment.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you so much.

18 All right. Next we are going to hear from
19 Christine Lambino.

20 Christine, I'm going to open your line. You'll
21 just need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

22 MS. LAMBINO: All right. There we go.

23 So, yes, good afternoon. My name is Christine
24 Lambino. I am a resident of Laguna Niguel, and I am in
25 full support of our city leaders and their continued

1 opposition to this energy storage project and urge the
2 California Energy Commission to deny certification.

3 I believe this project was rightfully denied at
4 the local level with input from local stakeholders, and I
5 find it quite unacceptable that it's still being pushed
6 forward with very limited opportunities for community
7 input.

8 As others have mentioned, I'm concerned about its
9 extremely close proximity to the I-5 Freeway, and in the
10 event of a fire emergency at the site, or even nearby, the
11 impacts on evacuation routes and public safety, and the
12 ability of folks like me to be able to evacuate quickly and
13 safely. It's also, as others mentioned, close to
14 residential neighborhoods, and I'm concerned about
15 pollution and potential long-term health risks for having
16 this facility so nearby.

17 I sat in on the meeting, I believe it was -- or
18 the first meeting on this, and we even had young children
19 in our city speaking out about this project, and I think
20 that says something. They're voicing their opposition, and
21 they deserve to grow up in a community where they're heard,
22 and their safety and health are prioritized.

23 I support a thorough community-driven review
24 process, not one that's going to bypass key stakeholders on
25 this. So I am asking for denial of this plan.

1 So thank you.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

3 All right. Next we are going to hear from Mary
4 Robertson.

5 Mary, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
6 need to unmute on your end, and it is helpful if you could
7 say and spell your name for our record as well.

8 MS. ROBERTSON: Yes. Hi, my name is Mary
9 Robertson, R-O-B-E-R-T-S-O-N, and I want to thank you for
10 the opportunity to talk.

11 I have been a Laguna Niguel homeowner for over 18
12 years, and I would just like to leave the Commission with
13 one thought in the form of a question that I hope you will
14 take seriously and recall when making your decision. In
15 light of what we've seen in previous battery fires, in
16 light of what we've seen in wildfires, in light of what we
17 experience with Santa Ana winds, would you seriously want
18 this battery storage in your neighborhood? In an area
19 where your children or grandchildren attend school? In
20 proximity to your house or your relatives' homes?

21 I am strongly opposed to this storage unit for
22 numerous reasons, as has been previously stated by all
23 speakers. Please disapprove and locate in a non-populated
24 area.

25 Thank you for your time.

1 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Mary.

2 All right. Next we are going to go to Patricia
3 Muniz. I'm going to open your line, Patricia. You'll just
4 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

5 MS. MUNIZ: Okay. You can hear me?

6 MS. BADIE: Yes.

7 MS. MUNIZ: Great. I'm Patricia Muniz, and I
8 live in Laguna Niguel.

9 And I am obviously concerned about the battery
10 storage facility there in San Juan Capistrano because we've
11 had fires there anyway, you know, just spontaneous
12 vegetation fires, and I just don't believe that it's safe.
13 You know, it's surrounded by homes. It's surrounded by the
14 freeway, and, you know, if there is a fire there, the fumes
15 are toxic. The toxic chemicals can get in the public water
16 system, you know.

17 And so I'm just wanting to voice my dissent that
18 this should not be allowed to happen.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments,
20 Patricia.

21 Next we are going to hear from Paul Buehler.

22 Paul, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
23 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

24 MR. BUEHLER: Okay. My name is Paul Buehler.
25 That's B-U-E-H-L-E-R.

1 I want to register my disapproval on this. I
2 live about one mile from where this facility would be open.
3 I live in a house directly above it on a ridge line, so if
4 a fire started, it would come right up the ridge and burn
5 my house out. Apparently, the state also feels the same
6 way. They put us in a super negative area, which allowed
7 my insurance company this year to raise my rates 75
8 percent. They also believe this is a dangerous area to
9 live in, specifically with the fire hazard.

10 I've been to all of the meetings. All of the
11 firemen have said the same thing, that it will happen. It
12 might not happen today or tomorrow, but within five years,
13 something's going to catch fire. And when they all catch
14 fire, they can't put it out, and this whole place will just
15 be an inferno. Even while the inferno is burning, all fire
16 departments and police are going to be out of the area, so
17 they're not going to protect me. As well as shutting down
18 I-5, the corridor. It's just going to be a disaster.

19 I really hope they can find someplace else, and I
20 really appreciate your time.

21 Thank you.

22 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

23 All right. I'm doing another call for raised
24 hands from folks that we haven't heard from yet. We want
25 to make sure that anyone who's here today who hasn't been

1 heard and would like to comment can raise their hand at
2 this time. Once we've heard from all the raised hands, we
3 are planning to adjourn the meeting. And in the chat,
4 we've put links to the e-commenting page, and a recording
5 from last week's event and also today's event will be
6 available on the event page as well. The recording from
7 Thursday's event has presentations from CEC as well as the
8 applicant at the event on Thursday, and more information
9 can be obtained from those presentations.

10 All right. And we have a hand raised from
11 Lawrence Ward.

12 I'm going to open your line, Lawrence. You'll
13 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

14 MR. WARD: Hi. This is Lawrence Ward. I also
15 live in Laguna Niguel. I'm a former resident of Lahaina,
16 Hawaii, and I know very well the risk that is posed by
17 wildfire dangers in this area.

18 Currently, the mustard seed is six to eight feet
19 tall in the hills surrounding the proposed BESS site. I
20 understand the need for energy storage, especially with the
21 fluctuations in the grid. However, I can't condone or find
22 it wise to build the battery facility in this area. When
23 the L.A. fires were happening, I was able to see from the
24 ridge line two other small fires that were started, and my
25 deep concern is that as time goes on, when the winds reach

1 40 to 60 miles an hour, if a fire were to start, there's
2 nothing that will stop it. If you add the toxic smoke from
3 a battery facility, it's a recipe for disaster.

4 This would be akin to building a nuclear facility
5 sitting on the ocean. In San Clemente, they chose to
6 decommission that facility.

7 I don't believe that this is the right location
8 for the facility. I'm not against the facility in any way,
9 shape, or form, but I don't think in the center of Orange
10 County, in a highly populated area, in a known wildfire
11 risk zone is an intelligent decision.

12 I hope that you take my comments to heart. I
13 believe that it's a when, not if scenario unfortunately
14 that Laguna Niguel will face a wildfire. I hope that
15 doesn't occur.

16 And I just want to show respect for everybody on
17 this call, but I walk those hills. I know those hills. I
18 know the site very, very well. It's at the Saddleback
19 PEACE Farm. I'm a member of Saddleback Church. I love
20 Orange County, and I don't want to see anything bad happen
21 to it, and if there's another solution that you could
22 consider that's not in such a highly populated area, close
23 to a train, an interstate, and hundreds and hundreds of
24 homes and schools and churches, I think that would be a
25 better idea. So if there's another solution that you can

1 have, please do that solution, and respect to everybody on
2 this call, and God bless you.

3 I hope you make the right decisions. Please act
4 with wisdom on a long-term basis. If we've had this many
5 fires and incidents in the last few years, it's not going
6 to get better. It's probably going to get worse. So I
7 pray for your guidance and your wisdom in this situation.

8 Thank you for your time.

9 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

10 We are going to go next to Debbie Salahi.

11 Debbie, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
12 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

13 Debbie, we see that you've unmuted, but we are
14 not getting any sound from your line. If you could please
15 adjust the volume of your microphone, that might help.

16 Debbie, we are not getting any audio from you,
17 and I want to make sure you have time to troubleshoot. You
18 are the last commenter, so I want to just give that a
19 moment.

20 And again, if there's anyone else who would like
21 to comment we haven't heard from before, please raise your
22 hand.

23 MS. SALAHI: Can you hear me now?

24 MS. BADIE: Yes. We can hear you, Debbie.

25 MS. SALAHI: Okay. Great. Thank you. My

1 microphone wasn't right.

2 I just wanted to say that I believe in this
3 project, but I'm very against having it where it is. I
4 think it's a fire hazard. It's just too close to so many
5 homes.

6 And I don't have my words with -- I don't have my
7 information in front of me, but my friend just called and
8 said that you were taking information right now. So I just
9 wanted to say that I'm very against this because I just
10 think it's not a good location for it. If you could find
11 another location that's not so close to so many people and
12 someplace that is not a fire hazard.

13 I really appreciate it.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

15 Next we are going to hear from Noah Brown.

16 Noah, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
17 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Go ahead, Noah.
19 You want to talk?

20 MR. BROWN: I am Noah Brown. I am seven. I
21 don't want the battery felicity [sic]. I love living in
22 San Joon --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- Juan.

24 MR. BROWN: -- Juan, and it is unsafe to have
25 something that can cause a fire. I love the animals and my

1 dog, Gus. Please keep us safe by saying no.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Noah.

4 Next we are going to hear from Armen G.

5 Armen, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
6 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

7 MR. GULESARIAN: Hi there. Can you hear me?

8 MS. BADIE: Yes.

9 MR. GULESARIAN: Great. My name is Armen
10 Gulesarian (phonetic). I live up in Laguna Heights. I,
11 too, walk the trails quite frequently, and I'm concerned
12 about the fires.

13 There was a call that took place that I wasn't
14 alerted to. I got a call. I was out to dinner with my
15 wife. This was a couple months back, and there was an
16 expert on, talking about how it's impossible for these
17 things to catch fire and the plume and the radius and the
18 studies.

19 I'd like to get copies of all these studies that
20 he was referring to -- and I'm joining late, so maybe you
21 already covered those -- but I would like copies of all of
22 the claims of safety so that we can have those, so that
23 down the road, if we do run into problems, we have it
24 documented that the folks that wanted to build this thing
25 reassured us all along the way that there could be no

1 problems and nothing would happen. And so we'll have that
2 documented.

3 And then I am also curious as to what type of
4 insurance coverage this facility is going to have in place
5 if it does fail so that we have a party with deep pockets
6 to reimburse us for rebuilding all of our homes from said
7 failure of the power source. So those are the things that
8 are most concerning to me, like, hey, if you want to build
9 something cool, make sure, though, that you have the deep
10 pockets enough to rebuild all of our homes if what you
11 build blows everything up.

12 Thank you for saying that there's more
13 information there, but I really would like to transfer it
14 to the expert who was really trying to say, oh, there's no
15 way that the smoke would carry. There's no way that's
16 based on these reports.

17 So hopefully it's in there. I'll take a look at
18 it later, but I want to thank you for your time and this
19 opportunity.

20 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Armen.

21 Next we are going to hear from phone number
22 ending in 111.

23 I'm going to open your line. You will need to
24 unmute on your end, pressing star six, and then you can
25 begin.

1 ON BEHALF OF MS. FERNANDEZ: Hi. I did phone in
2 before, but I am making a comment on behalf of a friend who
3 couldn't take the time because she's at work. So this
4 comment is on behalf of Chris Fernandez, C-H-R-I-S F-E-R-N-
5 A-D-E-Z. And her comment was being a generational resident
6 of the area when it was county land and long before any of
7 our cities were formed. She's a resident of San Juan now.

8 Anyway, she brought up another point that says,
9 we used to have loud-speaker sirens from the nuclear power
10 plant when it was put in, loud-speaker sirens that were
11 tested on a monthly basis, and they stretched far and wide.
12 One is far up in South Laguna, and I can't even tell you
13 how far south because it was a camp Pendleton, and into the
14 inland areas. And then they sent out iodine caplets to all
15 the residents. And mind you, this was back when the hotels
16 weren't in. It was open space. Very few residents in
17 comparison, clearly, to what we have today.

18 So her question is, would that mean that
19 installing -- and we would be seeing those sirens all being
20 installed again to alert the neighborhoods and the
21 surrounding areas within a 10-mile radius of any -- any,
22 not just a fire, but any dangerous toxin leak or other
23 concerns for health and safety? Would we have those sirens
24 again? And God knows what else in case of a probable
25 emergency. And will you be sending out any iodine caplets?

1 I don't think they work for all the different
2 toxins that would be released through one of these
3 catastrophic events that, like another caller said, not if,
4 but when they happen.

5 So anyway, that's her comments. I made the call
6 for her. Thank you for accepting my call and her comment.

7 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

8 Next we are going to hear from Riley Corey.

9 Riley, I'm going to open your line. You'll need
10 to unmute on your end and then you can begin.

11 MS. COREY: Hi, my name is Riley Corey. I'm
12 eight years old and it's spelled R-I-L-E-Y C-O-R-E-Y. My
13 school is right up at where they're going to put the
14 battery from, and I don't want them to do that because I
15 don't want my school in danger.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments, Riley.

18 And next we are going to hear from Maryann.

19 Maryann, I'm going to open your line. You'll
20 just need to unmute on your end, and it is helpful if you
21 could state and spell your name for our court reporter as
22 well.

23 Maryann, your line is open, but you'll need to
24 unmute on your end.

25 All right. Marianne, we are not getting an

1 unmute on your end. I'll come back to you.

2 Joseph K., I'm going to open your line. If you
3 can please unmute on your end, you can begin.

4 MR. K.: Hi. Thank you for taking the time. I'm
5 a physician and local resident who lives a mere three miles
6 from this proposed battery storage site.

7 I have a family with two young children, and I'm
8 concerned not only for their health and safety, but also
9 for the health and safety of everyone who lives near this
10 ill-advised project. Women, children, the elderly, the
11 disabled who aren't able to mobilize quickly, those who
12 suffer from respiratory conditions, those who are bedridden
13 and simply won't be able to evacuate in a timely manner in
14 the event of a fire spewing toxic smoke. Please strongly
15 consider how densely populated this area is, and please
16 recognize that a mass evacuation process will surely result
17 in many left in harm's way due to their limited mobility.

18 In the acute setting, people will go to the
19 hospital for life-threatening asthma and COPD
20 exacerbations. People will be flooding local ERs and
21 urgent care centers for skin and eye irritations and burns.
22 People will be hospitalized for systemic poisoning as a
23 result of exposure to dangerous gases like hydrogen
24 fluoride and heavy metals like lithium, nickel, cobalt,
25 which are found in battery components. In the chronic

1 setting, people with preexisting respiratory conditions
2 will suffer a further deterioration of their respiratory
3 status. New cases of lung diseases will emerge in
4 previously healthy individuals, permanent neurologic
5 disorders from carbon monoxide and heavy metal --

6 MS. BADIE: Joseph, we've lost your audio. If
7 you want to move closer back to the mic again.

8 Joseph, we've lost your audio, so we couldn't
9 hear the end of your comments.

10 All right. I'm going to close your line and
11 lower your hand. If you are able to adjust your settings,
12 please raise your hand again.

13 All right. Next we are going to hear from Trey
14 Thompson.

15 Trey, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
16 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

17 MR. THOMPSON: Good afternoon. Thank you for
18 taking this. My name is Trey Thompson. I've been a long-
19 time resident of Laguna Niguel.

20 And I just want to say that I oppose this
21 building of batteries near my home. It would affect my
22 property value, but more importantly it's going to affect
23 my health if there's a disaster. And I can't believe that
24 we are even having this conversation regarding this battery
25 being built in such a populated area.

1 So I hope that you guys will reconsider this and
2 find another location.

3 Thanks so much.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

5 All right. Let's try Maryann again.

6 Maryann, I'm going to try to open your line
7 again. And then let's see if you can unmute on your end so
8 you can begin your comment.

9 MARYANN: Okay. Did I unmute it? Can you hear
10 me?

11 MS. BADIE: Yes. Yes.

12 MARYANN: Oh, good. I'm on my phone. I've never
13 done this on a phone before.

14 Okay. So I just wanted to say since public
15 comments are supposed to be open from 10 to 6 today, I
16 think you should stay open for the people that are getting
17 off work that want to make comments because they're going
18 to be misled thinking they can make comments after work if
19 they get home before 6, so it's -- I just think it's kind
20 of premature to shut your meeting down.

21 Is there any way, since you said 10 to 6, can you
22 follow that guidance that you told everybody and all that?

23 What do you think?

24 Can you hear me?

25 MS. BADIE: Yes, Mary. Thank you, Maryann.

1 MARYANN: I still have some time left, right?

2 MS. BADIE: Yes. You can make comments.

3 MARYANN: Well, I just want to say that the
4 shifting land there where it's moving, where this side is
5 supposed to go -- and I'm a registered nurse, and I agree
6 with the physician that just spoke -- that there's going to
7 be lots and lots of health problems.

8 There was a Moss Landing incident of the BESS
9 facility up there. Well, not BESS, but whatever they call
10 it, the battery farm in Monterey County. It's called Moss
11 Landing, and it's a fire started in January. They thought
12 they put it out. Okay, it reignited in February. They
13 thought they put it out. They still don't know what caused
14 the fire.

15 People are having to sell their homes, sell their
16 businesses. They can't breathe. Their voices are hoarse.
17 I've seen them interviewed on the TV, the news coverage for
18 that. And it's just devastated that area.

19 So that's only 1,200 people that live there, and
20 we have tens and hundreds of thousands of people that live
21 around this area now in San Juan Capistrano, Laguna Niguel,
22 Laguna Beach, San Clemente, Mission Viejo. Hundreds of
23 thousands of people are going to be affected, ruin the
24 property values. It's such a nice place to live. It will
25 just ruin it indefinitely, if not forever. So please deny

1 this project. Thank you.

2 And keep it open until 6, please, for other
3 people.

4 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Maryann.

5 All right. we are going to try Joseph K. again.
6 I'm going to open your line. If we can get your audio to
7 work again. We'd like to hear the rest of your comment, if
8 you could limit to the time remaining.

9 MR. K.: Thank you so much. I don't know what
10 happened, but I'll resume where I presume we got cut off.

11 I mentioned in acute settings, people will go to
12 the hospital for life-threatening asthma and COPD
13 exacerbations. People will be flooding local ERs and
14 urgent care centers for skin and eye irritations. People
15 will be hospitalized for systemic poisonings from the
16 dangerous gases like hydrogen fluoride and heavy metals
17 from lithium, cobalt, and nickel, which are known to be
18 battery components.

19 In the chronic setting, people with preexisting
20 respiratory conditions will suffer a further deterioration
21 of their respiratory status. New cases of lung disease
22 will emerge in previously healthy individuals. Permanent
23 neurologic disorders from carbon monoxide and heavy metal
24 exposures will not be a surprising outcome. Will there be
25 a risk for death? No physician in their right mind will

1 tell you no.

2 This hillside is an inherent fire risk by itself.
3 We've seen several fires there. It's also unstable land,
4 not to mention that earthquakes can happen anytime and
5 anywhere in California.

6 We've been told that this new battery chemistry
7 is safer than prior generations of lithium batteries, but
8 no matter how safe the chemists and engineers make it,
9 batteries will be at risk for igniting if a wildfire or
10 land movement which damages the facility occurs.
11 Facilities such as these must be constructed far away from
12 people. Otherwise, we are just gambling with people's
13 lives.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Joseph.

16 Next we are going to hear from Becky Galpert
17 (phonetic).

18 Becky, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
19 need to unmute on your end and then you can begin. Becky,
20 if you can unmute on your end, you can begin. If you're
21 Zoom online, you'll click on the microphone symbol. And if
22 you're on the phone, you'll press star six.

23 All right. Becky, we are not getting an unmute
24 on your end. I'm going to come back to you if you want to
25 adjust your settings.

1 All right. And next we are going to hear from
2 Caroline Sullivan.

3 Caroline, I'm going to open your line. You'll
4 just need to unmute on your end and then you can begin.

5 MS. SULLIVAN: Yes, Caroline Sullivan. Do you
6 want me to spell my name?

7 MS. BADIE: Yes, please.

8 MS. SULLIVAN: It's C-A-R-O-L-I-N-E Sullivan,
9 S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N.

10 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Caroline. You can begin.

11 MS. SULLIVAN: Okay. I am very much opposed to
12 the creation of a battery energy storage system in San Juan
13 Capistrano. It is a very, very bad idea.

14 Such a battery storage system possesses many
15 risks. The most likely is the potential for such batteries
16 to catch on fire and continue to burn for days before
17 finally burning out, all the while emitting toxic chemicals
18 into the air. I ask that the California Energy Commission
19 do the right thing and reject the project application.
20 Public safety and quality of life is at stake for the
21 residents of San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel.

22 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

23 Next we are going to hear from Tony Rostron.

24 Tony, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
25 need to unmute on your end. You can begin.

1 Tony, I'm showing you as unmuted on both ends,
2 but we are not getting any audio from you.

3 I'm going to try to see if we can try one more
4 time for Becky and I'll --

5 MR. ROSTRON: Can you hear me now?

6 MS. BADIE: come back.

7 Oh, there we go. Yes, we can.

8 MR. ROSTRON: Okay. My name is Tony Rostron.
9 Surname is spelled R-O-S for silver, T-R-O-N. I live at 17
10 Daytona in Laguna Niguel, about a mile from the site.

11 I'm not against safe energy storage per se but I
12 am vehemently against this dangerous technology in our
13 community. Give us a safe alternative. That's all I say.
14 I think the idea is great. I certainly think this idea is
15 great.

16 Please deny the project. That's all I want to
17 say.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

20 All right. I'd like to try Becky's line again.

21 Becky Gilbert, I'm going to open your line, and
22 we are going to try one more time to see if we can get your
23 audio through. You'll need to unmute, and then you can
24 begin.

25 All right. Becky, we are not getting the unmute

1 on your end, so we are not able to hear your comments.

2 I can try again, but let's hear from Carmen Hearn
3 next.

4 Carmen, I'm going to open your line. You'll need
5 to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

6 MS. HEARN: Good afternoon. Can you hear me
7 okay?

8 MS. BADIE: Yes.

9 MS. HEARN: Wonderful. Carmen Hearn, my last
10 name is H-E-A-R-N.

11 I want to give a little bit of background. I
12 actually lived in the Moss Landing Prunedale area, so I'm
13 very familiar with the project. The project for background
14 was approved, I want to say, back in 18-19, 2018-2019, and
15 was approved for -- I believe it was either a 15- or 20-
16 year land lease or a relationship for PG&E and the battery
17 companies, et cetera, to create this Moss Landing receiving
18 site.

19 And the fire that erupted this past -- what was
20 it -- January, if you think about it, it didn't take long
21 for things to go horribly wrong. Poor management, bad
22 leadership, poor lack of knowledge, people not
23 understanding battery composition and decomposition, and
24 just overall impact to the environment.

25 So when the fire broke out -- and I have since

1 moved. I don't live in the Prunedale area any longer, I
2 actually live here in San Juan Capistrano and can speak
3 first-handedly what has happened to neighbors and friends
4 who live in that area.

5 I don't know who the physician was that spoke,
6 but everything he spoke about is very real. People have
7 moved out of the area, people who have been in that area
8 for decades. Moss Landing is a very quaint area in the
9 Monterey Peninsula in Northern California, and it's just
10 horrible what has happened up there. It is known as the
11 salad bowl area, so a lot of our produce comes from that
12 area, and I would tell you that I couldn't guess what's
13 happening to, the vegetation that comes, you know, not only
14 through California, but across the state.

15 So my hope is that there would be a no vote on
16 this. It's horribly impactful, and it's negative, and we
17 are asking people who have no background in it to become
18 leaders of it.

19 MS. BADIE: Thank you, Carmen.

20 All right. Becky, I saw you raise your hand
21 again. I'm going to try one more time to see if we can get
22 your line to unmute on your end.

23 All right. We are not able to get unmuting on
24 your end.

25 Let's hear from Natalie next.

1 Natalie, I'm going to open your line. If you can
2 please unmute on your end, then you can begin.

3 MS. BRACKEN: Hello. Hi. Hi. So actually, I
4 have James Bracken here, who I already spoke out about this
5 on Monday, but I have my husband here. So he also wants to
6 speak out about this.

7 MR. J. BRACKEN: So I listened to one of the
8 previous public forums on this topic, and it was quoted
9 that there was millions of dollars in tax revenue that was
10 going to the city. And I haven't been able to identify the
11 duration of what that period was, of where those tax
12 revenues were coming from, or the actual figure that was
13 quoted. So I'd appreciate if that could be displayed to
14 the public.

15 That's my comment.

16 MS. BADIE: All right. Okay. Thank you.

17 MS. BRACKEN: Can I continue my comment as well?

18 MS. BADIE: Oh. Yes.

19 MS. BRACKEN: Okay. So just to continue on that
20 point, I think they said it was going to be property tax
21 revenue to the city. But property tax doesn't go to the
22 city. It goes to the county. So it's not really a local
23 benefit, is it, was one of my thoughts. And then just to
24 finish my commentary that I started on, when was it, last
25 week. The community that we live in is on Rancho Viejo

1 Road across the freeway. A lot of people have spoken up
2 about the other side of the freeway, which is, you know,
3 Laguna Niguel, but I mean San Juan Capistrano and very
4 close to this proposed site.

5 All of the streets and the residential
6 neighborhoods off of Rancho Viejo Road are dead-end
7 streets. So there is -- you know, we are 108 houses. Next
8 door is the village, which is 600 or 700 houses. We have
9 Stone Ridge over the hill, which is another 100 houses.
10 You know, there's all the population off of Avery. All of
11 these neighborhoods have one way in and out. It's a dead
12 end because there's a canyon on the other side. And we all
13 have to drive towards this site if there is an evacuation,
14 and everybody ends up on Rancho Viejo Road, which is not a
15 big road. So, you know, it's a real concern for me that
16 this could happen.

17 Lastly, I just wanted to say that it says on this
18 fact sheet that was given that the local laws -- the
19 project is supposed to comply with applicable laws. But
20 then it kind of says if the project is required for public
21 convenience and necessity, and there is not more prudent
22 and feasible means of achieving public convenience and
23 necessity -- I'm sure there are other more prudent and
24 feasible means of achieving this convenience. I just
25 cannot believe that this is the best option to provide this

1 kind of facility. We have hundreds of thousands of people
2 in this neighborhood, and I am 100 percent opposed to this
3 project.

4 Thank you.

5 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

6 All right. Next we are going to hear from
7 Shelley.

8 Shelley, I'm going to open your line. You'll
9 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

10 MS. SMALEH: Hi. Sorry. Last time I spoke, I
11 failed to give you my last name for the record.

12 It's first name S-H-E-L-L-E-Y, last name Smaleh,
13 S-M-A-L-E as Edward, H as Henry.

14 In addition to everything that everyone has said,
15 I just want to say, going back to the human aspect of
16 another neighbor that mentioned, and the physician. So,
17 I'm a young person with chronic cancer, something that
18 cannot be cured, and I actually moved to Laguna Niguel. I
19 left a very, very fast corporate lifestyle to move to South
20 Orange County after a lot of research on how I can better
21 my life to have, you know, whatever that's left to be
22 better and more healthy. So we found this place to be a
23 place that we could basically settle for however much years
24 I have left, and to feel that that could be taken away,
25 after I have invested so much to be here, it's really

1 daunting.

2 So, on a personal level, besides everything else
3 about the values and insurance that I had mentioned before,
4 this is really hard for me because it really impacts my
5 health. And the fact of, like, thinking, you know --
6 coming here for a clean lifestyle and to be so close to
7 toxicity is really dangerous and scary for me. So, I just
8 wanted to, as a person, put that on the record that
9 there -- I'm sure there's a lot of people that have health
10 issues and are afraid of what this could mean for them,
11 too.

12 So thank you for considering that.

13 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

14 All right. I wanted to do another call for
15 hands. If you're joining us on Zoom, you'll use the raise
16 hand feature on your screen. And if you're joining by
17 phone, you'll press star 9.

18 All right. I have a hand raised from Brian.

19 Brian, I don't think we've heard from you yet, so
20 I'm going to open your line, and you'll just need to unmute
21 on your end and begin. And, again, I'm just asking folks
22 to please, if you have already commented, to lower your
23 hand so I can call on the folks that we have not heard from
24 yet. We want to hear from everyone once today so that we
25 can make sure we hear from everyone who wants to speak.

1 Brian, your line is open, and I believe you've
2 unmuted, but we are not getting any audio from you.

3 All right. I'm going to come back to you, Brian,
4 if you want to adjust your settings.

5 All right. I have Jessica with a hand raised.

6 Jessica, I'm going to open your line. You'll
7 need to unmute on your end, and you can begin. If you're
8 Zoom online, you'll use the microphone icon to unmute, and
9 you'll click on that. And if you're joining by phone,
10 you'll press star 6.

11 I'm going to open your line now, Jessica.

12 MS. ROSE: Hi, there. Can you hear me?

13 MS. BADIE: Yes.

14 MS. ROSE: Okay. Thanks. I just wanted to
15 vehemently oppose this project. I have two children. I
16 live in Laguna Niguel, and one of my children attends
17 school very close to where this site would be.

18 And for all the reasons people have cited
19 regarding safety and general danger for wildfires. I have
20 a sister who lost a home in Pasadena in January to the
21 fires, and I also moved here, like the previous woman, from
22 Georgia, actually, and the quietness of the area compared
23 to where we were and the general safety of this area
24 compared to where we were is why we made this trek cross-
25 country. And the fact that this site is being considered

1 so close to community, I just cannot believe this has any
2 real benefit other than financial benefit for those
3 involved.

4 And so for those reasons I strongly do not want
5 this in our area.

6 Thanks. And my last name is Rose, by the way,
7 like the flower.

8 MS. BADIE: All right. Thank you.

9 And next we are going to hear from Angela M.

10 Angela, if you have already made comments, I do
11 ask for your reserved time for people who have not
12 commented yet. I'm trusting everyone to only raise their
13 hand if they have not commented yet so we can hear from
14 everyone.

15 I'm going to open your line now.

16 MS. MAROON: Hi. Thank you. I did call earlier,
17 but I had my husband take my turn since he was in between
18 conference calls.

19 My name is Angela Maroon, A-N-G-E-L-A, Maroon,
20 M-A-R-O-O-N, like the color. I have lived in Laguna Niguel
21 for 29 years. Our house is on Flower Ridge Circle in
22 Concord Hills neighborhood. My house is four houses from
23 the trail which -- and is directly above the proposed site.

24 The fact that we have to do this is insane that
25 it has gotten this far. I'm sad and I'm angry that this

1 company feels it's okay to gamble with my life, my family's
2 lives, and my neighbor's lives. The smoke and fire and
3 toxins were in their direct path.

4 As a recent cancer survivor, this is terrifying.
5 We've already had several fires on the hillside that came
6 very close to our street, and so close that I had to start
7 evacuating my neighbor across the street. The winds, the
8 dry season, every year I pray there's no fire. I just -- I
9 pray that this doesn't go through.

10 But I also want to say that I'm very grateful for
11 all of those who are fighting for our neighborhood and for
12 our city and for our residents.

13 Thank you.

14 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

15 All right. next we are going to hear from Julie
16 Boyd.

17 Julie, I'm going to open your line. You'll need
18 to unmute on your end and then you can begin.

19 Julie, we've unmuted your line on our end, and
20 you'll need to unmute on your end to begin your comments.

21 All right. Julie, I'm going to come back to you
22 in a moment to see if you can do some troubleshooting on
23 your settings.

24 Okay. Next we are going to hear from phone
25 number ending in 139. I'm going to open your line. You'll

1 need to unmute on your end. For phone, you will press star
2 six to unmute.

3 MR. PIKE: Hello, my name is Brian Pike, and I'm
4 a Laguna Niguel resident.

5 I've been to a community hearing, and everything
6 that I've read and heard of the job at hand, the negatives
7 far outweigh the positives. I strongly oppose this
8 project.

9 Thank you.

10 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

11 All right. We have Julie Boyd.

12 I'm going to open your line. You'll need to
13 unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

14 MR. BOYD: Hello?

15 MS. BADIE: Hi. There is an echo on your end, so
16 if you've got another device, you'll just need to mute
17 that, and then you can begin.

18 MR. BOYD: My name is Donald Boyd, and I live --
19 let me shut that off -- I live in Laguna Niguel. I live
20 about 2,500 feet away from where this facility is going up.

21 Hello?

22 MS. BADIE: Yes. We can hear you.

23 MR. BOYD: Okay. Sorry, I had to get away from
24 that other machine. So I was -- oh, here we are. I was at
25 the -- I was actually at the meeting for -- when we went to

1 that community center in San La Capistrano, and I got up in
2 front of the panel, and I said a few things, and I was
3 pretty nervous, and so this time I kind of wrote it down.
4 And so if it sounds like it's being read, it probably is.

5 So we've lived here in Laguna Niguel for 37
6 years. My wife currently has Parkinson's disease. We are
7 both native Californians and have raised three children
8 here in this house. My wife and I are both 75 years old.
9 We live as the crow flies, like I said, around 2,500 feet
10 away from this proposed lithium storage facility.

11 And I remember 25 years ago or so coming out of
12 Sacramento and in the newspapers concerning the electrical
13 grid and how weak it is, and how vulnerable electrical
14 service would become because of the rapid growth and
15 development in California. And since that time, sure, an
16 occasional car would slam into an electrical box, resulting
17 in a temporary loss of electricity. We managed. We had
18 candles. We had concerned neighbors. It was manageable.

19 Don't know what the big deal is now with these
20 potentially dangerous lithium storage facilities planted
21 within breathing distance of neighborhoods with young
22 families who still have mortgages while raising children,
23 guaranteeing uninterrupted service. Well, that's nice and
24 all, but at what cost and to who?

25 I think we both realize how uninvolved the

1 general public can become during such debates. In our
2 neighborhood on Trussells, I have only seen one other
3 neighbor get involved in this fight, and I know that if I
4 went door to door throughout my tract, that I would find at
5 least 50 percent of my neighbors would agree that the CEC
6 needs to find another site and maybe more.

7 We beg you in the name of community to find a
8 more people-friendly and environmentally friendly location
9 for this facility.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

12 All right. Next we are going to hear from John
13 Wright.

14 I'm going to open your line, John. You'll need
15 to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

16 MR. WRIGHT: Can you hear me?

17 MS. BADIE: Yes.

18 MR. WRIGHT: Okay. Great. My name is John
19 Wright. I've lived in Laguna Niguel for many, many years.

20 And I just wanted to -- I only have a quick
21 minute, but I just want to -- I really oppose this project
22 for multiple reasons, for safety and for, you know, what's
23 happening up north and just -- yeah, I just can't believe
24 that they're thinking about going through with this
25 project.

1 So I just wanted to voice my concern today.

2 MS. BADIE: Thank you for your comments.

3 And next we are going to hear from R. Bargar.

4 I'm going to open your line. You'll just need to
5 unmute on your end, and it is helpful if you can state and
6 spell your name for R. Bargar as well.

7 MR. BARGAR: Are you able to hear me now?

8 MS. BADIE: Yes.

9 MR. BARGAR: Hi. It's Robert, and my last name
10 is B-A-R-G-A-R. I'm a fairly recent resident of Laguna
11 Niguel. My wife and I moved here five years ago to escape
12 the winters we had long endured in Massachusetts and
13 consider this our final residence, hopefully for the
14 remainder of our lives.

15 I'm a physician, I'm board-certified in
16 preventive medicine, so I have a certain perspective on
17 things like this. And given everything that I've come to
18 learn about this project, it sounds to me as though it's an
19 unsustainable risk that anyone who is concerned about their
20 health and well-being in this area should be extremely
21 concerned about.

22 Everything that I've heard indicates that in the
23 event of a fire, which is not an unlikely outcome, the
24 consequences are likely to be quite disastrous for the
25 environment and for any living being in the proximity,

1 given that this type of installation does not respond well
2 to water in terms of trying to extinguish the fire, so it's
3 likely -- a fire is likely to result in a long-term
4 environmental disaster.

5 So while I'm a believer in alternate energy and
6 in fact installed solar panels about a year ago in spite of
7 the fact that the best financial remuneration for that had
8 elapsed, I believe that this particular site is ill-suited
9 for this project and that it would be extremely wise for
10 both the company sponsoring it and for those regulating it
11 to make sure that it finds another, better, safer location.

12 Thank you, and I appreciate what you're doing to
13 try and make this area safe and have the energy it needs
14 going forward.

15 MS. BADIE: Thank you.

16 Next we are going to hear from Jim Bracken, and
17 then we are going to take a break. This will allow us to
18 reconvene later for folks that we are planning to attend
19 during the end of the time on the notice and accommodate
20 that.

21 So Jim, I'm going to open your line. You'll just
22 need to unmute on your end, and then you can begin.

23 Jim, so we've opened your line, and on your end,
24 you're going to unmute. If you're online, you'll click on
25 that microphone icon, and if you're joining by phone,

1 you'll press star six.

2 All right. Jim, we are not getting an unmute on
3 your end.

4 So what we'd like to do now is we are going to
5 take a break until 5:00 p.m., and we'll put up a break
6 slide momentarily, and then at that time, we will reconvene
7 and hear any further raised hands. Right now there's no
8 new commenters with raised hands, so we are going to take
9 that break, and then we will reconvene and hear from any
10 raised hands at that time.

11 So 5:00 p.m., if we could get a break slide up.

12 Thank you so much, and we will be with you
13 shortly. Thank you so much.

14 (Off the record at 3:43 p.m.)

15 (On the record at 5:00 p.m.)

16 MS. MURIMI: Thank you everyone for taking the
17 time to participate in the continuation of public comment
18 for the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project. I'm
19 Dorothy from the Office of the Public Advisor, Energy
20 Equity and Tribal Affairs. We'll be continuing from where
21 we left off with public comment.

22 A few reminders. Before that, commenters will
23 have two minutes to give their comments. To let us know
24 you'd like to make a comment, use the raise hand feature.
25 If you're calling in, dial star nine to indicate you'd like

1 to make a comment and star six to unmute on your end once
2 called upon.

3 To ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak,
4 if you have made your comment, please lower your hand and
5 allow those that have not had that opportunity to give
6 their comments. Once called on, please state your name and
7 affiliation, if any, for public record. Thank you.

8 And we'll start with Amy Luna Capelle. And
9 apologies if I've misstated your name.

10 Amy, your line is unmuted.

11 MS. CAPELLE: Hi. Thank you. Good evening. My
12 last name is spelled Capelle, C-A-P-E-L-L-E.

13 And I'm calling just to say that, you know,
14 tonight I'm not here as an opponent of progress, but really
15 to talk about how we all have been talking as guardians of
16 our community, our safety, and our environment, and to just
17 voice our strong opposition to the proposed Compass battery
18 energy storage system here again in San Juan Capistrano.

19 I just want to be clear that this is not a NIMBY,
20 not in my backyard, issue. I've heard now from several
21 people, just talking around town, who don't understand kind
22 of the severity of the impact this project would have on
23 us, that people are thinking that we are being NIMBYs. But
24 that dismissive label attempts to silence our legitimate
25 concerns by painting residents as selfish or

1 obstructionists.

2 You know, we understand the critical need for
3 renewable energy and modernizing our grid. And our
4 community supports sustainable solutions, but our
5 opposition to this specific project stems from deeply
6 rooted evidence-based concerns and not a blanket rejection
7 of energy infrastructure.

8 I think part of our frustration stems from how
9 projects like this are being pushed through. You've heard
10 already from lots of people about the dangers, but I also
11 think that we need to acknowledge the original intent of
12 legislation like Senate Bill 350, which led to this project
13 being brought before the Commission rather than being
14 decided at a local level. I know that initially it was to
15 try and make sure that we were able to meet our goals for
16 sustainable energy, but what ends up happening and what
17 ended up happening here in this case is that communities
18 are finding ourselves with diminished power to shape the
19 future of our neighborhoods.

20 And we deserve a voice in what happens in our
21 neighborhoods. That's all.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Amy.

24 Next we'll go to Michael Q.

25 Michael, your line is unmuted.

1 Michael, you may have to unmute on your end.

2 Okay. Well, we'll come back to you, Michael.

3 We'll move to Jim Bracken, and apologies, Jim, if
4 I've misstated your name. You're unmuted.

5 MR. J. BRACKEN: Hi. Can you hear me okay?

6 MS. MURIMI: Yes, we can.

7 MR. J. BRACKEN: Good. I've lived in Orange
8 County for over 30 years and we've all seen considerable
9 growth there. Prior to living in -- I currently live in
10 San Juan Capistrano.

11 Prior to living here, I lived in Ladera Ranch,
12 and though not an electrical storage facility, we were
13 proposed to have a gas turbine generator put into that
14 facility. That was fortunately blocked by the residents of
15 that area, and at the time, we were threatened with
16 blackouts and brownouts if it didn't go forward. We
17 haven't seen that to date, and that facility was never put
18 forward.

19 And I suspect the same is true with what's being
20 proposed here. We are being led to believe that we'll have
21 brownouts and blackouts, and I strongly do not suspect that
22 to be the case.

23 I strongly oppose this. I think it's a very
24 dangerous environment to put a fire risk installation in
25 such close proximity to an awful lot of houses. I would

1 prefer to have brownouts than to have this dangerous
2 facility in our vicinity.

3 Thank you so much.

4 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Jim.

5 We'll move on to Dana Butler. Dana, your line is
6 unmuted. Apologies if I've misstated your name.

7 MS. BUTLER: No, thank you so much for taking my
8 call.

9 You know, I'm really fascinated that this can be
10 bypassed because -- in terms of local approval -- because
11 when you look at the numbers that affect the community,
12 there are more than 441,000 people in a five-mile radius of
13 where this is proposed to be. The city of Laguna Niguel,
14 private homes in San Juan Capistrano, right on Camino
15 Capistrano, and downtown San Juan Capistrano, the historic
16 site of the mission San Juan Capistrano, a senior
17 affordable housing project with 75 units, JSerra Catholic
18 School with 100 students -- or excuse me, 1,000 students
19 and faculty and staff, Fairmont Schools with 360 students,
20 the Shea Center with 1,100 weekly visitors, 35 horses, and
21 we have over 700 horses within the five-mile radius of
22 this -- the one-mile radius, excuse me, of this proposed
23 site. You know, there are evacuation challenges that are
24 staggering, absolutely staggering, because it's not if,
25 it's when this facility will catch fire.

1 And the problems are going to be not just with
2 the environmental damage, not just with thousands of lives
3 that will be at risk because they won't be able to escape,
4 but, you know, the first responders, I spent Saturday
5 evening with firefighters, and they talked to me about how
6 devastating lithium fires are. And one fireman with full
7 breathing apparatus was, was disabled for life because of
8 exposure to a lithium fire, and it went in through his
9 skin, the gases permeated through his skin, he was disabled
10 for life at 46 years old.

11 We don't need this in this highly populous area
12 with more than 1.2 million people in a 20-mile radius of
13 this plant. Heavy metals, gases, fires, it's just an epic
14 thing we can prevent, and we encourage and implore you that
15 you do not move this project forward. It is a dire threat
16 to our community, and you are the people who can help us
17 stop that.

18 Thank you very much for taking my comments.

19 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Dana.

20 We'll move on to John Kinney.

21 John, your line is unmuted.

22 You may need to unmute on your end, John.

23 MR. KINNEY: Hello?

24 MS. MURIMI: Hi. We can hear you, John.

25 MR. KINNEY: Oh. Sorry. Thank you.

1 John Kinney, K-I-N-N-E-Y. Thank you for taking
2 my call. I appreciate everybody's participation all day
3 long. This has been a long affair, as was last Thursday.
4 Unfortunately, I've had some doctor appointments, both
5 interrupting both.

6 Anyways, I agree with everybody that has
7 commented to this point. This is just simply the wrong
8 location. I'm a resident of Laguna Niguel, and I know the
9 area well. It is very too close to not only the creek that
10 has moved over the last 20 years 50 feet towards where this
11 proposed location should be.

12 And I believe that the mayor of Laguna Niguel and
13 the mayor and staff of San Juan Capistrano started off
14 Thursday's comments absolutely on point. The applicant has
15 misled -- and I don't want to use the L word. They just
16 misconstrued their applicant. Their application has many
17 falsehoods in it, and I believe that should have raised the
18 flags for the CES [sic] to deny this application, this
19 proposal, this land, this location.

20 I'm not opposed to having a different location.
21 I have a solar panel -- well, (indiscernible) -- on my
22 roof, but I do not have a battery because I'm connected to
23 a neighbor, and I don't want my neighbor to be impacted by
24 a potential battery malfunction in my garage.

25 Thank you very much. I appreciate everybody's

1 time and concentration. Thank you.

2 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, John.

3 We'll move on to Betsy. The name listed here is
4 Betsy's iPhone.

5 Betsy, your line is unmuted. You may begin your
6 comment.

7 Once again, calling for the individual named
8 Betsy.

9 MS. WILLY: Hi, my name is Elizabeth Willy
10 (phonetic).

11 Sorry, I'm walking back to my car. Can you --

12 MS. MURIMI: We can come back to you if that
13 would be better.

14 MS. WILLY: I think I'm unmuted.

15 Can you hear me?

16 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can hear you.

17 MS. WILLY: Sorry about that.

18 Okay. My name is Elizabeth Willy. I'm a
19 homeowner in Laguna Niguel. We bought the house in 2011.
20 It was our dream. Like, we had saved -- we had lived with
21 my mom and dad for six years to buy that house, and
22 sacrifices were made. I know I'm just one story of
23 thousands of people who own homes, but literally where this
24 planned facility is going in is a thousand yards from where
25 that property exists.

1 I'm already having a hard time getting insurance
2 on that house because insurers don't want to pay fire
3 insurance and earthquake insurance. And this is not just
4 me. This is across the state. We are seeing companies
5 drop coverage. If that thing were to catch fire, the
6 effects would be devastating, not just for my home and for
7 my family, but like so many other people have spoken about
8 in the entire area.

9 There are schools. There's a home for the
10 elderly. There are horses, animals. My children play on
11 that hillside. They ride their bikes. During the
12 pandemic, they spent days on that hillside building jumps.
13 If that thing were to go up, it's a tinderbox. The whole
14 neighborhood would be at a complete loss.

15 We just saw those devastating fires in Altadena
16 and in the Palisades area. This would be thousands of
17 times worse given the toxicity that lithium batteries let
18 out.

19 I don't think I need to speak to the dangers of
20 it. I am absolutely flabbergasted that it's even being
21 considered that such dangerous chemicals could be stored in
22 such close proximity to where, you know, residential
23 neighborhoods and schools and all the other things exist.

24 I am vehemently opposed to this. I really hope
25 that it will not get approval because I just don't

1 understand how it possibly could. It's dangerous. There
2 are so many other open spaces in the state that don't have
3 people in the immediate vicinity where it could be housed.

4 So that's all. Thank you for your time.

5 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Elizabeth.

6 We'll move on to -- we'll go back to Michael Q.

7 Michael Q, your line is unmuted. You may begin
8 your comment.

9 Michael, once again, your line is unmuted. You
10 may begin your comment.

11 We'll come back to you once again, Michael.

12 Next we have Nathan Bracken. Apologies if I've
13 misstated your name.

14 Nathan, your line is unmuted. You may begin your
15 comment.

16 MR. N. BRACKEN: Hi. Can you hear me?

17 MS. MURIMI: Yes, we can.

18 MR. N. BRACKEN: Great. Thanks.

19 So my name is Nathan Bracken.

20 I just wanted to call in and say that I oppose
21 this project, and mainly because I feel that this is not
22 the most prudent location to have a facility to power our
23 grid. San Diego, I had a look at the population heat maps
24 for where there are clusters of people living and sort of
25 compared that to how the San Diego gas and electric grid

1 functions where, you know, our area is charged from.

2 And I just see that this is such a high-density
3 population area. And so I feel that putting a battery
4 facility in this highly dense area is a high risk. And,
5 you know, in between here and San Onofre and Carlsbad, just
6 south of San Clemente, there's a lot of open land. And I
7 feel that that would be a much, you know, safer option.
8 And still charged the grid that we use.

9 And going off of this idea that's being shared
10 from people here, you know, people lost their insurance in
11 the Palisades fire just recently. And so the summer before
12 the Palisades fire, insurance companies removed home
13 insurance for people in that area. And they don't have a
14 battery facility. And I feel that, you know, this would
15 give insurance companies a significant reason to remove
16 insurance from people living in this area. And I think
17 that's, you know -- that is some damage done for the
18 implementation of this facility as a, you know, potential
19 direct response from that, you know, regardless of if a
20 fire happens or not.

21 So yeah, we have an area and we have land that
22 can be used to support this facility that's not in San Juan
23 and still charges this grid.

24 So thank you.

25 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Nathan. Next we'll go to

1 David Salahi.

2 David, your line is unmuted. You may begin your
3 comment.

4 MR. SALAHI: Hi, my name is David Salahi. I'm a
5 25-year homeowner of the city of Laguna Niguel.

6 I'm opposed to the proposed battery energy
7 storage system at this location. I'm not opposed to
8 battery storage systems in general, but this site is less
9 than 1,500 feet from neighborhoods. There's significant
10 wildfire and other risks at this site. The EMI and
11 phosphate batteries are prone to overheating and difficult
12 to extinguish. The site's proximity to natural vegetation
13 and steep terrain increases fire risks, with 23 wildfires
14 reported in the area over the past decade.

15 Additionally, I'm concerned about toxic gas
16 emissions from battery fires, potential contamination of
17 soil and water sources, and adverse impacts on public
18 health, first responders, and the local ecosystem. I urge
19 the California Energy Commission to reject the project,
20 prioritizing public safety and community well-being over
21 potential benefits.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, David.

24 Next we'll move on to David J. Dahlquist.

25 Apologies if I misstated your name. David, your

1 line is unmuted. You may begin your comment.

2 Once again, calling for David J. Dahlquist.

3 Last name spelled D-A-H-L-Q-U-I-S-T.

4 MR. DAHLQUIST: Hello. You hear me now?

5 MS. MURIMI: Yes, we can.

6 MR. DAHLQUIST: Okay. Yeah. My name is David
7 Dahlquist, and I'm a member of the community. We own a
8 townhouse in the village across from the facility and
9 across from the freeway.

10 And I have concerns of the particular location.
11 I'm not a NIMBY. I'm not one of those people that are
12 anti -- a luddite. It's just that this particular location
13 is highly questionable because of its location and
14 proximity to many things that will affect not only our
15 community but California in general.

16 A lot of things have been brought up already that
17 I will not have to go through, but one is impact to
18 transportation. No one's really brought that up. When
19 there's an incident, there will be a quarantine and a
20 closed-down area. Now this happened at the Moss Landing
21 incident. Now technology at Moss Landing is older in some
22 cases. In others, it's the exact same technology, the
23 Tesla.

24 What would happen in these situations, and what
25 do happen in these situations, is they would close down the

1 5 Freeway. They would also close down the railroad, which
2 is in close proximity to the facility. This would block
3 all commerce going to Southern California, San Diego, and
4 San Diego to other parts of California. It would block
5 emergency apparatus. It would block evacuation. So that
6 alone is a very questionable idea for putting that in that
7 location. Also, it's close, and if winds change, it will
8 affect the major hospital in the area, and it would
9 probably have to be evacuated too.

10 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comments, David.

11 MR. DAHLQUIST: You're welcome.

12 MS. MURIMI: Next we have Maryam Tarzi.

13 Your line is unmuted. You may begin your
14 comments, Maryam.

15 MS. TARZI: Can you hear me?

16 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

17 MS. TARZI: Hi, my name is Maryam, and I live in
18 the neighboring city of Laguna Niguel for over 30 years.

19 I'm here to express strong opposition to the
20 battery energy project. Obviously not because we oppose
21 clean energy, we all want clean energy, but because this
22 project poses serious risks to the public environment.

23 You know, the City Council lawmakers have
24 unanimously denied this rezoning, but Compass bypassed all
25 that and went through the AB 205.

1 However, objections are, obviously, number one,
2 the dangerous location. The proposed facility is just
3 1,500 feet from homes, across from high school, college,
4 businesses, next to trains, sits on the I-5 Freeway, a
5 major emergency route, and only access to Camp Pendleton,
6 San Diego, and northern cities. It's a high-density area
7 with limited access for first responders.

8 Second, frequent and serious fire risks. BESS
9 facilities have documented fire history, over 140 global
10 fire incidents, and in recent years over 23 incidents in
11 the U.S. alone. This is from the Electric Power Research
12 Institute. Meanwhile, cities like Laguna Niguel just
13 recently canceled fireworks due to fire dangers, and yet we
14 are being asked to accept industrial lithium-ion facilities
15 across the freeway residents.

16 In the environment, these fires don't just burn,
17 they release toxic gases, threatening nearby businesses and
18 homes, contamination.

19 Also the insurance property value, and lawsuits.
20 Fire owners near BESS sites face higher insurance premiums,
21 lower property values, and if there are fires, there'll be
22 a slew of lawsuits for fires destroying homes. There's a
23 widespread bipartisan rejection of this, and we need to
24 adhere to that. Also, lawmakers are working on AB 2303, CB
25 283, which are limiting -- you know, rejecting CEC approval

1 of projects, and making sure that it meets safety
2 standards.

3 The city and the AB 205, we need to just rest
4 right now to see what happens to AB 303 and SB 283 before
5 we make any judgments or any passings of any laws.

6 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Maryam.

7 Next we have Michael Velarde. Apologies if I've
8 misstated your name, your line is unmuted. You may begin
9 your comment.

10 That's Michael Velarde, V-E-L-A-R-D-E.

11 MR. VELARDE: That's correct. Are you able to
12 hear me?

13 MS. BADIE: Yes, you can.

14 MR. VELARDE: Thank you. Yes, my name is Michael
15 Velarde. I was raised in Laguna Niguel. I'm currently
16 raising my children in Laguna Niguel.

17 I have a sense of history of this place. I think
18 about the Acjachemen people that lived here in the very
19 area where this plan is proposed -- excuse me. I think
20 about the San Juan Creek that drains directly to the ocean.
21 We should continue to be the custodians of this area for
22 future generations. I'm reminded about the San Onofre
23 Power Plant creating problems that are larger than the
24 issues they're intended to solve.

25 Therefore I strongly oppose the plant. I think

1 we have to be willing to accept brownouts if that's the
2 alternative to this kind of environmental risk -- excuse
3 me -- in such a densely populated area by schools and
4 homes.

5 That's my thought. Thank you for listening.

6 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comments,
7 Michael.

8 Next we have Katie Gargano. Apologies if I've
9 misstated your name.

10 Katie, your line is unmuted. You may begin your
11 comment.

12 MS. GARGANO: Hi. Can you hear me?

13 MS. MURIMI: Yes. I can.

14 MS. GARGANO: Hi. This is Katie Gargano, and
15 lithium batteries pose potential safety hazards such as
16 fire and explosion risks if improperly installed or
17 damaged.

18 Incidents involving lithium battery fires, though
19 rare, have raised community safety concerns. Although
20 rare, it doesn't mean that they won't happen.

21 Manufacturing and disposal of lithium batteries
22 can have environmental implications, including resource
23 depletion and pollution, and residents are concerned about
24 the long-term environmental footprint.

25 While lithium energy storage offers advantages

1 like renewable energy integration and energy independence,
2 the community emphasizes cautious implementation and
3 thorough safety measures and ongoing discussions. But I do
4 also advocate for a ban on lithium energy storage in our
5 neighborhoods, and especially close to freeways, close to
6 schools, close to businesses, and everything else.

7 So thank you. I appreciate you listening.

8 I do advocate for a ban on this.

9 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comments, Katie.

10 Next we have Samantha.

11 Samantha, your line is unmuted. You may begin
12 your comment.

13 SAMANTHA: Hi. Can you hear me?

14 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

15 SAMANTHA: Hi. I'm a newer resident to Laguna
16 Niguel. I live in the apartments over by Crown Valley IMT
17 and the Apex area. It's still pretty close to the proposed
18 battery plant.

19 I just wanted to say I strongly oppose this as
20 well. I think everyone else has really good points that I
21 would like to second. I don't understand why it's even
22 being considered in this area, considered how it's such a
23 dangerous fire area. People have already mentioned the
24 Monterey plant that's had catastrophic consequences as well
25 to the people who live there and the environment there.

1 Toxic gas and heavy metals are my major concern. This
2 would affect such a large amount of people in this area,
3 and not to mention the wildlife and the creek that runs off
4 right into the ocean. I just think that is such a
5 preventable disaster, to be honest.

6 Transportation out of the area, I'm also heavily
7 concerned about. I don't feel like there would be any kind
8 of plan or organized response. It's just a really bad area
9 to have that kind of thing happen.

10 Also, the risk that it poses to starting, like,
11 wildfires. Again, my family was in the Laguna Beach
12 wildfires and the fires can travel so fast. I just can't
13 imagine a lithium battery fire and what that would do to
14 our surrounding neighborhood. Also, if Santa Ana winds
15 were at play, that's also extremely dangerous to me.

16 So I agreed with the former person speaking. I
17 think we need to be the custodians for future generations
18 for this area, so I'm strongly opposed.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Samantha.

21 So once again, just a quick reminder on comments.
22 So if you'd like to make a comment, use the raise hand
23 feature. Once your line is opened, you'll see the
24 microphone pop up. You may need to -- you will need to
25 unmute on your end.

1 So now I see -- I'll continue to call on
2 individuals.

3 I see someone with the title iPhone 4.

4 So you may need to, once you see your phone, a
5 microphone will appear and you'll need to unmute on your
6 end. Apologies, we do not have a name with that.

7 So someone with an iPhone as the title of their
8 device.

9 So we'll come back to you.

10 Next we'll move on and go to Carl Hess.

11 Carl, your line is unmuted.

12 MR. HESS: Can you hear me?

13 MS. MURIMI: Yes, you can.

14 MR. HESS: Okay. Great. Interestingly enough,
15 mine's an iPhone 4 as its title as well.

16 Anyway, I am a resident of Laguna Niguel. I live
17 in the community of El Niguel Heights. I am the president
18 of the Homeowners Association Board of Directors, and I
19 guess I would start by saying that we are opposed to the
20 project. But furthermore, for the recent years, we have
21 been working with the Orange County Fire Authority, you
22 know, closely and, you know, trying to comply with their
23 directives and some of their mandates, which are
24 increasingly becoming proactive, including requiring fire
25 inspections for resale properties before allowing escrow to

1 close in high-risk areas.

2 The other thing they did, and this may be already
3 covered over the course of the day, but they redid the map
4 for fire safety in Orange County and rezoned several areas
5 according to fire risk. Now, I saw on the website where
6 they're talking about fire history, but the OCFA does not
7 care about fire history -- they care about fire hazard and
8 risk. So, they come in in very high, high, moderate, and
9 low-risk areas.

10 This proposed site is actually in a high-risk
11 area according to the Orange County Fire Authority. I
12 guess I would be interested to hear if the OCFA has weighed
13 in and what their position on this project is and if we,
14 you know -- we've been working, you know, hard to decrease
15 fire risk and increase fire safety, and to put a project in
16 that would increase fire hazard and increase fire risk in a
17 high-risk area would be not only irresponsible but
18 unconscionable.

19 And that's all.

20 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Carl.

21 MR. HESS: Thank you.

22 MS. MURIMI: Next we have J.M. iPhone.

23 J.M., your line is unmuted.

24 MR. MEYER: Yes. Hi, Dorothy. Thank you. Yes,
25 my name is Jonathan Meyer. My family and I moved to Laguna

1 Niguel in 2018. I have a couple kids in high school, and
2 my wife and I plan on staying in this home and retiring
3 here. You know, we are two and a half miles from the
4 proposed site and it, frankly, like most other people have
5 said, doesn't make any sense at all. We are surrounded by
6 vegetation and wildlife and homes and schools and
7 businesses and the freeways. Mission Hospital is somewhat
8 nearby and, you know, the creek that flows into the ocean,
9 it just simply does not make any sense at all. You know, I
10 don't think it's a matter of if but when something goes
11 wrong.

12 This could be kind of an extremist mindset, but
13 it seems like this is now could be quite a target for some
14 sort of act of violence or even a terrorist attack, given
15 the damage that would be released upon the community. And,
16 you know, like I said, it doesn't make any sense at all,
17 except to the people that stand to financially gain from
18 it, and I think it's just shameful and disgusting.

19 That's all I have today. Thank you for the time.

20 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comment.

21 Next we have Reem Misto. Apologies if I've
22 misstated your name.

23 Reem, your line is unmuted.

24 MS. MISTO: Yes, thank you. I agree with
25 everyone. I am definitely opposing to it. I have lived in

1 Niguel since 94, raised my two boys here, and it just
2 absolutely does not make sense to have that facility. And
3 again, I agree with everyone, what they said, fire hazard
4 and why this location.

5 So that's what I want to say.

6 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Reem.

7 We'll move on to Hilary Nicole. Hilary, your
8 line is unmuted. You may begin your comment.

9 MS. NICOLE: Hi. Can you hear me at all?

10 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

11 MS. NICOLE: Excellent. Thank you for your time.

12 I have been following this project along with
13 others, and I just wanted to echo that this is a very bad
14 location for the project given its proximity to such high-
15 density residency and fire outbreak corridors, given the
16 limited transportation options along that corridor. And
17 it's bounded by the railroad tracks, which often have
18 petroleum gas moving up and down as well, which is a
19 different level of risk. And CA needs to limit the amount
20 of fire risk it incurs, not accelerate it.

21 I strongly encourage the Commission to reject the
22 use of this site for this proposal.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Hilary.

25 Next we'll move on to Donny's iPhone.

1 Donny, your line is unmuted.

2 DONNY: Hello, yes. Can you hear me?

3 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

4 DONNY: Yeah. So I strongly oppose the proposed
5 plan for this site, for all the reasons that have been
6 mentioned, you know, prior to me speaking here.

7 You know, you've got a regional level one trauma
8 center, you know, less than a mile away, so that's just
9 common sense. You know, you have -- and this place would
10 be right in the center of a tinderbox. So just those two
11 factors alone, you know, you shut down that trauma center,
12 and then you have a Palisades Fire here -- yeah, it doesn't
13 make any sense.

14 So I strongly oppose this site.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comment.

17 We'll move on to the individual listed as LW.

18 Once again, the name is LW.

19 Your line is unmuted.

20 L.W.: Dorothy?

21 MS. MURIMI: Yes. Hello.

22 L.W.: Click your heels three times because
23 there's no place like home. I'm all about battery storage,
24 but not in this zone. My hand is raised, but it's not in
25 compliance. My voice is here, and it speaks in defiance.

1 When the men in gray suits sit down for a listen,
2 I hope they hear every word I say, and this project doesn't
3 come to fruition. Here in South OC, where the sunsets
4 glow, we need more energy to make the rat race go.
5 Shipping containers stack like a Lego set, but don't forget
6 Otay Mesa's lithium threat. It burned for two weeks, and
7 what about Moss Landing? Add Santa Ana winds, and nothing
8 will be standing.

9 Compass is smiling with a corporate grin, but the
10 watchmen on the hill are not giving in. If CEC wants to
11 push rezoning away, why not put it to a vote and see what
12 residents have to say? Imagine a fire in the night without
13 warning, kids crying in pajamas, houses gone by morning.
14 One-way streets, no room for escape. We've seen this
15 before, and the result devastates.

16 The energy could be clean, but the risks stack
17 high. A house of cards built on profit without addressing
18 why. There's not much in the news, not much in the press,
19 very little information, and I doubt it's what's best.

20 There's plenty of land in Irvine and Pendleton.
21 Why not build there? They probably said no because they
22 are scared. I believe in solar and wind smart energy
23 plans, not risking towns and lives with corporate scams.
24 We need energy, we need storage, but the three little bears
25 don't like this porridge. The site is too hot, it's just

1 not right. If the rest are too cold, that's more than all
2 right. I'm not anti-green, just pro-community, truth and
3 unity without compromise or immunity.

4 San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel, we stand
5 without fear. Spread the word now and make your voices
6 clear.

7 Thank you for the time. I hope you appreciate
8 the rhyme. It's time for LW to head home. Next time I'll
9 be there with a megaphone.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comment.

12 L.W.: Hope that made you smile, Dorothy. Truth.

13 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, L.W.

14 Next we'll go on to Carl and Amy David.

15 Carl and Amy, your line is unmuted.

16 MS. DAVID: Hi, this is Amy David. I would like
17 to say that I spoke with the president from Saddleback
18 College earlier today. We went over there to protest on
19 the property, and he said that the original contract that
20 was signed on behalf of the SOCCD had different language in
21 it that included the community engagement. They had them
22 revise all of it, and I'll be happy to submit the tape
23 because he gave us permission for the record. They had
24 them revise it to pull out community engagement. So, if
25 they pulled out community engagement and revised this

1 grant, then the CEC had asked for community engagement. So
2 would that cause the application to not be complete?

3 So I ask that you review and ask the SOCCD for
4 the two copies or the revised contracts so that you can see
5 the changes, and specifically, why did they pull it out?
6 He said they pulled out all that language because they did
7 not want to take a position on this issue. I said, so you
8 just wanted to take the money? You didn't want to give a
9 position? He said, well, the CEC will do the right thing.
10 I said, that was a bit of a gamble, I would think. But if
11 he doesn't believe as the President of Saddleback College
12 that this is community engagement, then I'd have to take it
13 from the source that that bit of requirement was not met.

14 That's my biggest concern. So, I would ask that
15 you kindly look into that and I will do my best to submit
16 the tape recording of our protest this morning of which he
17 gave permission and stated it in front of all of us.

18 Thank you for hearing me out.

19 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comments, Amy.

20 Next we'll move on to -- we'll come back to the
21 individual that was listed as iPhone. So, once again, your
22 line is unmuted. If you have an iPhone and your line has
23 been unmuted, you'll notice a microphone come up. Please
24 unmute on your end.

25 We'll give that one moment before we proceed.

1 All right. we will come back to you.

2 We'll move on to PCM. The individual listed as
3 PCM.

4 Your line is unmuted. You may begin your
5 comment.

6 Once again, calling for the individual listed as
7 PCM. You may need to unmute on your end.

8 We will come back to you, PCM.

9 We'll move on to Frans, and that is F-R-A-N-S.

10 Frans, your line is unmuted. You may begin your
11 comment and you may need to unmute on your end.

12 MR. ERKELENS: Yeah. Good afternoon. My name is
13 Frans Erkelens. I'm a resident of Laguna Niguel.

14 I'm opposed to this battery plant for many
15 reasons, just to name a few. It's close to a trauma
16 center, close to a school, to a railway station, entrance
17 to the community. It has many fire hazards. Really
18 listening to a lot of the comments and, you know, in
19 alignment with all the opposition, and fully agree with the
20 prior comments as well that should be -- you know, that the
21 community should be fully engaged and comments should be
22 heard. And I like something like this to be voted on.

23 So, yeah, thank you for hearing my comments.
24 Much appreciated.

25 Thank you so much.

1 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Frans.

2 So we will move on to Karen Harris.

3 Karen, your line is unmuted.

4 MS. HARRIS: Well, thank you. Can you hear me?

5 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

6 MS. HARRIS: My name is Karen Harris, K-A-R-E-N
7 Harris, H-A-R-R-I-S. I'm a neighboring resident of Dana
8 Point. I'm a risk manager for a transit agency.

9 I object to the building of this facility because
10 of its extremely poor location. Understanding the risks
11 this type of facility has for thermal runaway events --
12 runaway events, I'm having trouble, frankly, understanding
13 how this location could have ever even been considered for
14 a plant like this.

15 The market for insurance, property insurance, in
16 California right now is extremely volatile, especially with
17 all the recent fires. Double-digit and, in some cases,
18 triple-digit premium increases and policy cancellations are
19 becoming the norm. It's difficult for people to do
20 business and to live and do business in California with
21 this kind of a market. This is especially problematic in
22 areas with higher risks of fire -- for fire. To allow a
23 plant like this to be built alongside a canyon and in a
24 residential -- near residential and businesses would be
25 extremely irresponsible and would likely result, even if a

1 thermal runway event never took place, in residents and
2 businesses having to leave the area because of increase in
3 their insurance premiums.

4 Secondly, the extremely close proximity to the
5 railroad tracks presents unique risks, especially since
6 freight trains routinely transport hazardous materials.
7 Having two major ignition sources that come so close
8 together would be a terrorist's dream.

9 Thank you for hearing my comments and I object to
10 this project moving forward. Thank you for your comments,
11 Karen. Next we will go to Jay Rowerdink. And apologies if
12 I've misstated your name. Please state your name for the
13 record.

14 MR. ROWERDINK: Jay Rowerdink.

15 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Jay.

16 You may begin your comment.

17 MR. ROWERDINK: Thank you for the time.

18 I just wanted to reiterate from the previous
19 person's comments. My wife and I have lived in the area
20 for 10 years and I'm in the mortgage industry, and the lady
21 was 100 percent correct in that the premiums on homeowners'
22 policies for fire insurance will be almost unobtainable if
23 this is put in place because of the risk involved with the
24 potential fire hazard and devastation to the community.

25 So whoever was able to railroad this through, we

1 should have a conversation with that committee. I totally
2 oppose this and many of my clients are part of the Orange
3 County Fire Authority and other fire departments in the
4 area, and this is something that saddens me that we are
5 even having this conversation at a time like this with fire
6 insurance and homeowners policy and everything else being
7 already doubled and tripled, along with the fact that
8 trying to get a loan from a lender when they find out that
9 your home is near this type of facility.

10 So myself and my wife, Shawn, oppose this, and I
11 appreciate you guys having this forum, and hopefully we can
12 continue to support each other through this disastrous
13 proposal.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for the comment, Jay.

16 So before we move on to our last comment, we are
17 just going to make a last call for comments. So once
18 again, if you're calling in, dial star 9 to indicate that
19 you'd like to make a comment and star 6 to unmute on your
20 end once called. For individuals who are on Zoom, use the
21 raise hand feature. It looks like an open palm.

22 So we'll go to PCM. Individual listed as PCM.

23 MS. MILLEN: Hi. Can you hear me?

24 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

25 MS. MILLEN: Hi, my name is Presley Millen and

1 I'm a homeowner in San Juan Capistrano and I am calling in
2 to, just like everyone else, express my strong opposition
3 to this build. I think we are all shocked this location
4 was ever a possibility and I just want to point out that
5 the only people that this site benefits is the company
6 saving money on connecting to the grid. In every other
7 way, it's the worst possible location.

8 I'm hoping that all of this unanimous opposition
9 from the community, our local elected officials, our state
10 representatives, even people from San Diego
11 representatives, the fire department, everybody that lives
12 here and knows about this or is involved in the safety is
13 opposed, and I hope that you're just going through this
14 process as a formality, but you've already decided that
15 this is a bad idea. And yeah, that's about it.

16 I'm hoping that the Commission is there to make
17 decisions that benefit the community, not the companies,
18 and I hope they ponder that when they're thinking about
19 this.

20 Also, I have a couple questions. I know you
21 can't answer them, but maybe I'll just put it in the ether.

22 I have yet to find out what Amtrak has to say
23 about any of this. It seems like a problem there would be
24 affecting like our national infrastructure at that point
25 with the railroad and the freeway.

1 And I'm also wondering where the Coastal
2 Commission is, because everyone around here knows how
3 diligent they are and thorough in preventing the littlest
4 thing contaminating the creek, but I don't know why they're
5 not -- I'm not seeing them speak out about this.

6 That's all. Thank you.

7 MS. MURIMI: Thank you.

8 Next we have Bill.

9 Bill, you're listed as Bill's -- well Bill's
10 iPad. You'll probably need to unmute on your end. Look
11 for the microphone on your device.

12 BILL: Okay, hi. Can you hear me? Yes, I can.

13 Yeah. I just wanted to voice my opinion. I just
14 found out about this through my local church, and I am
15 totally against it also because of the safety factor. I
16 just believe there's too many people in the area, a
17 railroad train that goes by their freeway and it just would
18 create a disaster if that catch fire or anything. It's
19 just an unsafe thing.

20 So that's just -- I just want to give my opinion,
21 and I'm against it, and hopefully you guys make the right
22 decision and reject this project.

23 Thank you.

24 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Bill.

25 We'll move on to Sarah Webb.

1 Sarah, your line is unmuted. You may begin your
2 comment.

3 Sarah, I'm showing you as unmuted. You may need
4 to adjust your device.

5 MS. WEBB: Can you hear me?

6 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

7 MS. WEBB: Hi. I'm calling with a strong
8 objection to the site that is being discussed, and second
9 all the comments that everybody has brought up. My husband
10 and I have lived in the Laguna Niguel area for nearly 40
11 years, and letting this facility get built on our doorstep
12 would be devastating for multiple reasons that everybody
13 has mentioned, and I just want to add my name to the list
14 to say I am strongly opposed to it and appreciate the
15 efforts of all the volunteers in putting this all together.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Sarah.

18 We'll move on to Sarah Mehta.

19 Apologies if I misstated your name. Sarah, you
20 may begin your comment.

21 MS. MEHTA: Hello. Can you hear me?

22 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

23 MS. MEHTA: Okay. Great.

24 Yeah. I just wanted to state that I did make a
25 very, very brief comment at the very beginning of this

1 meeting at 10:00 a.m. when it started

2 But we just got some updated information,
3 actually, from Lisa Bartlett, one of the SOCCD board of
4 directors members and we just wanted to let you know we had
5 reached out to her in regards to this project, because as
6 one of our other community members stated earlier, there
7 was a really big concern with the South Orange County
8 Community College Districts receiving a community benefit
9 for this application, and we reached out to Lisa Bartlett
10 for her comment. And she responded back to us in writing,
11 and I have it right here.

12 She said we were assured by staff that the grant
13 approval was in no way connected to supporting the battery
14 project in SJC. I have never supported the battery project
15 in the San Juan Capistrano location because it is a
16 terrible location, too close to homes, and on or near a
17 large hillside which poses access issues in the event of a
18 fire.

19 That being said, there should not be any project
20 or structure built near homes or a hillside that could
21 catch fire and endanger residents and homes to the public
22 at large. Let's see what we can do and ensure that the CEC
23 does not approve this project location for the battery
24 storage project.

25 Regards, Lisa Bartlett.

1 So that is an official statement that we will be
2 submitting to the docket line, but I also wanted to confirm
3 too that we did meet with the president of Saddleback
4 College, and he informed us that when ENGIE originally
5 reached out asking if they would endorse a community
6 benefit, the college said no, we are not comfortable taking
7 a community benefit from ENGIE. And so they had the grant
8 rewritten to remove all legal language in connection with
9 the community benefit, so that this was solely an
10 independent grant received from ENGIE. So in effect this
11 application actually has not met the community benefit
12 requirements because Saddleback College themselves refused
13 to receive a community benefit from ENGIE.

14 So I think that's important to add to the record
15 and it needs to be looked at by the California Energy
16 Commission.

17 Thank you.

18 MS. MURIMI: Thank you for your comment.

19 Once again, to ensure everyone has an opportunity
20 to speak, if you've made your comments today, please lower
21 your hand and allow those of them that have not had an
22 opportunity to give their comments.

23 We'll move on to Sarah Davis.

24 Sarah, your line is unmuted you may begin your
25 comment.

1 Once again a call for Sarah Davis.

2 Sarah, we'll come back to you.

3 We'll go to Aaron.

4 MR. DAVIS: Hi. Can you hear me?

5 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

6 MR. DAVIS: Awesome.

7 Yeah. For the record, my name is Aaron,

8 A-A-R-O-N, Davis, D-A-V-I-S.

9 As a professional firefighter and a resident of
10 Laguna Niguel as well as a father, I firmly stand opposed
11 to the proposed lithium-ion battery storage system proposed
12 to go in just down the hill from us. While I understand
13 the need for renewable energy solutions, the risk posed by
14 this facility are just far too great to ignore. Lithium-
15 ion batteries are highly volatile. They can experience
16 thermal runaway leading to uncontrollable fires that
17 release toxic gases into the environment, as well as people
18 nearby. These fires are not only difficult to extinguish
19 but also pose a significant health risk to nearby
20 residents, especially our children and elderly. As someone
21 trained to respond to these emergencies, I know firsthand
22 how devastating these incidents can be.

23 As a resident I'm concerned about the impact on
24 property values and added strain on our local
25 infrastructure, as well as possibly being denied insurance

1 for our home.

2 As a father I worry about the long-term health
3 and safety of our children growing up near a facility that
4 could become so hazardous. Our city should prioritize as
5 well as the Commission should prioritize the proven
6 technologies that align with the well-being of our
7 residents.

8 I urge you to reject this proposal and explore
9 alternatives that don't compromise safety of our families
10 and the integrity of our community.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Aaron.

13 Next we'll move on to David group.

14 David you're --

15 MR. DAVID: Can you hear me?

16 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

17 MR. DAVID: Yeah. This is Carl David, and I am
18 the one that spoke earlier briefly about the SOCCCD, and
19 what Sarah was just talking about is very important. But
20 my comment really is fairly swift.

21 You've heard all of the comments of all the
22 community, all of the things about fire, all the things
23 about terrorism, all of the things about transportation and
24 in summary it just makes absolutely no sense why this
25 continues.

1 But really if the -- I really want to pose a
2 question that we might put on the docket, is if the ENGIE
3 fraudulently produced an application for you, what is your
4 recourse and can you quickly review their application and
5 terminate this whole process to save all the taxpayer money
6 and all of the angst and everything that's going on in our
7 communities? Because this needs to end. This just has to
8 stop now and I thank you for giving me that extra little
9 bit of time.

10 MS. MURIMI: Thank you David.

11 We'll move we'll go back to Sarah Davis. That's
12 Sarah Davis.

13 Your line is unmuted.

14 Sarah, you may need to unmute on your end.
15 That's Sarah Davis.

16 Okay. We'll come back to you Sarah.

17 We'll go to Carl and Amy David. I believe you
18 your line is unmuted.

19 All right. Going back to Sarah Davis.

20 All right. Sarah, you may need to input your
21 information -- or not your information. Pardon me. You
22 may need to input your comments as a regular comment if you
23 are unable to come through.

24 Oh. I see Sarah Davis?

25 MS. DAVIS: Can you hear me now?

1 MS. MURIMI: Yes. We can.

2 MS. DAVIS: Gosh I'm so sorry. My privacy
3 settings.

4 Yes. My name is Sarah Davis. I have been a
5 resident of Laguna Niguel since 2013. I love this
6 community. It's very dear to my heart. I'm also a fire
7 wife and I live right up the hill with my two kids.

8 And I passionately and strongly oppose this
9 project. I think it is way too big of a public safety risk
10 and I just I can't even believe that that site is even a
11 topic of conversation given the fire risk.

12 And I will leave it at that. I strongly oppose
13 this project.

14 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Sarah.

15 We'll go to Mary Koumas Lubarsky. Apologies if
16 I've misstated your name.

17 Mary Lubarsky.

18 MS. LUBARSKY: Hello?

19 MS. MURIMI: Hello.

20 MS. LUBARSKY: You can hear me?

21 MS. MURIMI: Yes.

22 MS. LUBARSKY: I am Mary Lubarsky and I am
23 calling about my opposition to the lithium battery plant.

24 And it's very concerning because it's close to
25 our home. It's close to schools. It's close to the

1 freeway. It's close to the train line. And it's an
2 amazing amount of batteries which could catch fire easily
3 and stay burning for a long time. There has been no
4 discussion about increasing our infrastructure to protect
5 us from that type of a fire, and many of the things that
6 are a problem are that there are toxic fumes that are going
7 to affect a lot of people. Not just people that are very
8 close, people in a large general area, including schools,
9 churches, and many, many, many homes.

10 This location is in a residential area. It is
11 sensitive as far as the landscape water access. There's a
12 river that goes by there and empties into the ocean. Any
13 toxic material will then end up in our ocean. I feel that
14 this is a very, very bad idea. It just -- and I oppose
15 agreeing that this can be built.

16 Thank you very much.

17 MS. MURIMI: Thank you, Mary.

18 So that concludes public comment at this time.
19 We have reached our time of six o'clock.

20 I do want to pass the mic to Kaycee who has more
21 information to give.

22 So Kaycee, on to you.

23 MS. CHANG: Thank you, Dorothy, and thank you
24 everyone.

25 I am Kaycee Chang with the Siting, Transmission,

1 and Environmental Protection Division. Truly, thank you
2 all for taking the time today to come here and share your
3 comments, and a special thank you to those who joined us
4 for both days on the May 29th and today.

5 Earlier today, our public advisor Mona Badie
6 mentioned that you can submit comments to our docket
7 anytime using our e-commenting link. We did file a notice
8 of preparation to the docket on May 2nd, and we wanted to
9 note that comments on the scope and content of that
10 environmental document in response to the notice of
11 preparation are due by June 4th, 2024. Again, comments can
12 be submitted electronically via the e-commenting system on
13 the CEC webpage for the proposed Compass Energy Storage
14 Project, or you can also mail directly to the CEC at the
15 address identified on this slide.

16 We'll pause for a second if anyone wants to take
17 a screen capture or picture of this slide. This slide is
18 also available on our docket now.

19 We did file our presentation to the docket that
20 we presented on May 29th, and we also have a recording of
21 May 29th on the event webpage, and we will also have an
22 event recording of today's event available soon this week.

23 All right. Can we get the next slide please?

24 I want to emphasize that we will consider all
25 comments received as we prepare the staff assessment that

1 will include a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the
2 proposed project. We anticipate the staff assessment will
3 be published and circulated for a 60-day review period in
4 the fall of 2025, and then the next planned public meeting
5 would be on the staff assessment. We will hold a public
6 meeting as close to the project site as possible with the
7 findings of the staff assessment during that public review
8 period.

9 And with that, again, we thank you for your
10 public comments, and we will adjourn for today.

11 Thank you everyone.

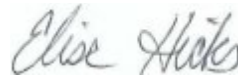
12 (The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.)
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23rd day of June, 2025.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

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I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

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Myra Severtson
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