

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
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**City of Dana Point Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy
Storage Project BESS Facility in San Juan Capistrano**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



June 17, 2025

California Energy Commission
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02
Project Title: Compass Energy Storage Project

Matthew Pagano
Mayor

John Gabbard
Mayor Pro Tem

Jamey M. Federico

Mike Frost

Michael Villar

RE: Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project BESS Facility in San Juan Capistrano

Dear Commissioners,

The City of Dana Point neighbors both the City of San Juan Capistrano and the City of Laguna Niguel and is within a 5-mile radius from the project site. Dana Point is home to several beaches including Doheny State Beach, which is fed from San Juan Creek flows. While the City of Dana Point supports efforts to increase renewable and clean energy, our highest priority is the safety and well-being of our residents, visitors and environment. I am writing to express the City of Dana Point's strong opposition to the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project due to several concerns regarding this project.

Public and Environmental Safety

The proposed location for this project is in very close proximity to homes, schools, rail transportation, Interstate 5 freeway, and San Juan Creek. If a fire were to occur in one of the project's lithium-iron-phosphate batteries, the recommended method of extinguishing the fire is to let it burn itself out. These fires emit toxic gases, which would impact a dense area of residential neighborhoods, schools, and businesses. The Moss Landing BESS fire, at a CEC approved facility earlier this year caused 1,200 residents to be evacuated, and the full environmental impact of that fire on the air and soil in the surrounding area is yet to be determined.

Local Processes and Community Engagement

This project has already been effectively denied by the City of San Juan Capistrano, and the City of Laguna Niguel along with other cities and schools in the area, opposes this project. The applicant has circumvented the local government approval process by going through the State's Opt-In Certification process. Local governments are best suited to make decisions about industrial infrastructure in their communities, as they are the most familiar with their environments and residents.

There has been overwhelming opposition to this project from local residents, as demonstrated at the Informational and Environmental Scoping Meeting and in the hundreds of comments submitted in the Project's Docket Log. Residents do not want this facility in their neighborhood. They do not want to risk their health, homes, or

communities. Residents are already worried about their insurance coverage and rates, and this Project's fire risk could exacerbate this concern.

Project Site

The proposed site's location and impact to surrounding sensitive natural environments:

- The site is immediately surrounded by vegetation and slopes and is adjacent to a high fire severity zone. In the event of a fire caused by one of the batteries, a wildfire in the surrounding brush could spread rapidly, threatening the nearby homes and schools. Such a fire would emit toxic gases into the air, soil, and nearby creek that leads to the Pacific Ocean, which could have severe negative health impacts on residents and wildlife.
- The only access route to the project site requires crossing the active LOSSAN Rail Corridor, which carries commuters, goods and military equipment. Construction traffic through this crossing could have operational impacts on the railroad, causing significant regional transportation issues. In the event of a fire, rail operations could also impact the evacuation of the facility and first responder's ability to access the site.
- A known history of San Juan Creek erosion near the project site makes it difficult, or perhaps impossible, to safely develop this land. This consideration was brought up during the Informational and Environmental Scoping Meeting and had not been brought forth and addressed by the applicant.
- In the event of a fire or other emergency incident, Interstate-5, the LOSSAN Rail Corridor, and other critical travel routes could be severely impacted or shut down, which would cause regional mobility disruption throughout Southern California.

Overall, the City of Dana Point understands the importance of implementing clean energy technologies. The Compass Energy Storage Project poses a serious risk to the health of safety of residents, wildlife, and the natural environment. Local governments and resident voices need to be incorporated in such impactful development decisions. I respectfully urge you to reject the Compass Energy Storage Project.

Sincerely,



Matthew Pagano
Mayor

cc: City Council