

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
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Document Title:	City of Laguna Hills Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)
Description:	City of Laguna Hills Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)
Filer:	Renee Longman
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
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CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

City Council

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Joshua Sweeney
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COUNCIL MEMBERS
Jared Mathis
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Dave Wheeler

July 8, 2025

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

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

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

As Mayor of the City of Laguna Hills, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility less than 1,500 feet from Laguna Niguel residents. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, proposes to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt (MW) BESS facility in the City of San Juan Capistrano. The project site is located within the northern portion of San Juan Capistrano, adjacent to the Oso Creek Channel, Interstate-5, and the LOSSAN/Amtrak Railroad.

The BESS facility would be composed of lithium-iron batteries, which are incredibly dangerous when they overheat, causing the batteries to catch fire. The proposed location of Compass Energy Storage's project site poses significant public safety, public health, environmental, and economic concerns that jeopardize the well-being of residents across the county, including:

- **Wildfire Risks:** The proposed project site is surrounded by vegetation and steep terrain, as well as homes and schools, and is in close proximity to a high fire severity zone, easily leading to the widespread destruction of homes
- **Public Health:** Lithium batteries emit toxic gases within seconds of igniting, leading to air pollution and public health risks. If first responders quickly extinguish a lithium battery fire, they would be exposed to hazardous, toxic gases, which can cause severe, debilitating health impacts. If the fire is not readily extinguished, the toxic gases emitted would generate a public health risk for the surrounding communities.
- **Environmental:** Any water or fire extinguishing compounds used to combat the fire will become easily contaminated with heavy metals and absorbed into the region's soil, adversely impacting the local ecosystem.
- **Water Quality:** The project's proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed further exacerbates potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Pacific Ocean just miles away.
- **Erosion:** The proposed project site is immediately adjacent to an unimproved area of Oso Creek that is experiencing high velocity/volume flows near an active Railroad.

City of Laguna Hills

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

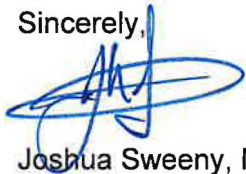
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- Economic: A fire at the proposed project site would likely lead to the closure of the railroad and the Interstate-5 corridor. Even the temporary closure of these key transportation routes would severely impact the Orange County economy.

As Mayor of the City of Laguna Hills, I strongly urge the California Energy Commission to carefully and thoroughly consider these adverse public safety, public health, environmental, and economic concerns throughout the review process. The health and safety of California residents should always take precedence over any potential benefits proposed by this project.

Sincerely,



Joshua Sweeny, Mayor
City of Laguna Hills