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Comment Received From: Ryan Flannery

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Protect Our Community Say No to the BESS Facility in San Juan Capistrano

Dear California Energy Commission,

I am writing to urge you to reconsider the proposed 250-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility planned for San Juan Capistrano. While supporting renewable energy is vital, this project poses serious and unacceptable risks that far outweigh any potential benefits.

Let's be clear: the environmental toll of a facility of this magnitude is profound. The construction and ongoing operation would drastically alter the local landscape, disrupt fragile ecosystems, and introduce persistent air, noise, and light pollution. Local wildlife and the community's peace of mind would suffer. Moreover, the reliance on lithium-ion batteries introduces the alarming possibility of toxic leaks and hazardous waste, particularly in the event of system failures or improper handling.

But even more pressing is the threat to public safety. Facilities of this size carry a well-documented risk of thermal runaway events, leading to fires or explosions. A single incident could endanger lives, overwhelm emergency responders, and leave lasting scars on the community.

Economically, residents stand to lose more than they gain. Property values could plummet. Property taxes might rise. And while job creation is often promised, these positions are typically short-term and do little to offset the long-term burdens the project imposes.

This community deserves clean energy solutions that do not compromise safety, health, or economic stability. I strongly urge you to pursue alternative approaches that are more compatible with the local environment and the well-being of those who live here.

Your leadership can and should prioritize both sustainability and safety. Please make the responsible choice and reject the proposed Battery Energy Storage System Project.

Sincerely,
Ryan