

DOCKETED

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Comment Received From: Cathleen Pryor

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A recommendation for the CEC regarding siting battery storage facilities in high fire zones

Dear CEC,

As you are discovering, the site of the Compass project has numerous problems. These were all known by local government and the residents. You have had to spend taxpayer money to uncover the issues and the massive cost of mitigating or trying to correct those problems. We regret that.

If I may compliment the City of San Juan Capistrano, they carefully reviewed the plans and based on what you have already discovered and more, they rejected the request for a rezoning permit which would have preceded a multitude of permit requests for the design and components. This is a very well-run city and you can rely on their judgement, but we understand you have been tasked with reviewing applications at the state-level without regard to city or county input.

We are recommending you deny this application and further place a moratorium on approving battery storage facilities proposed for high-fire or very-high fire zones. We have millions of acres that are not in these zones, much less be in the middle of a historic city and very close to thousands of residences, schools, churches and a major freeway. If you could steer the developers to safer grounds, that would be a great improvement in the Opt-In process. We would very much appreciate that.

Katrina Foley, our County Supervisor, is working tirelessly to find a better way to screen and permit these facilities. The County of Orange passed a moratorium on permitting battery storage facilities for a year to give them time to create wise guidelines and move the county safely forward. She has offered County land to Engie as an alternative. We feel she has the right idea and is working to protect the public and avoid a fiasco.

With regard to this particular location, we recommend you place a moratorium on this area of San Juan Capistrano for ten years or until a lithium container battery fire can be easily extinguished by the local firefighters within 2 hours.

Engie/Compass has worked very hard to satisfy the OPT-IN requirements but this location is just impossible for what they intend to build. To be fair, I would advise on your website so all developers can view it, the locations that are not approvable for the next ten years. This one will probably be at the top.

You do not need to waste your time or resources reviewing plans for battery storage facilities in this location. I believe you have to guide developers to easily approvable locations and, if I can suggest, the economically poorer locations of California. In my opinion, when this application is withdrawn or denied, you do not want a parade of

developers blinded by the extremely cheap access to transmission lines and an extremely profitable project, lining up to put "lipstick" on a failed application to get approval.

The government officials and the general public will continue to supply you with reasons to deny this permit so you can safely conclude this location is not acceptable. We appreciate your thoroughness and the very difficult job ahead.

Regards,
Cathleen Pryor
President

B.L.E.S.S.I.N.

BAN LITHIUM ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS IN NEIGHBORHOODS