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Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



ST. MARGARET'S

EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

JENEEN D. GRAHAM, Ed.D.
Head of School

October 22, 2025

Ms. Renee Longman
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano (Docket 24-OPT-02)

Dear Ms. Longman:

St. Margaret's Episcopal School is a leading independent school that has called San Juan Capistrano home since 1979. As one of the largest employers in the city, St. Margaret's is proud to be an integral part of the San Juan Capistrano community and we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project.

Our school is home to more than 1,200 students from preschool through grade 12, and our academic program is rooted in helping young people understand the world around them. While we are mindful of energy challenges and appreciate the work that is done to meet the needs of our communities, the safety and security of our school and students will always be our top priority.

That is why we are deeply concerned about the risks associated with a plant located in close proximity to so many schools, including St. Margaret's, and we are writing to express our opposition to this proposed project. As has been widely documented, lithium battery fires pose a risk to entire communities. Right here in California, cities have evacuated residents, businesses and schools over concerns about toxic smoke in the wake of a fire at one of these plants.

St. Margaret's is one of several private schools in San Juan Capistrano, in addition to the many public schools that serve students close to the proposed site. This community is unique as a destination for young learners, and hundreds of students commute here every day from nearby cities to attend school. It is important that this is considered when deciding on a project with potentially catastrophic risks.

We understand the unique infrastructure challenges that face California, and are hopeful that future innovation will lead to sustainable energy solutions that have safety records beyond reproach. Until then, we urge the California Energy Commission to carefully consider all scenarios and safety risks when making a determination.

Sincerely,

Jeneen Graham, Ed.D.
Head of School