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Comment Received From: Christina Mansour

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Docket 24-OPT-02 Supplemental Comment from Laguna Niguel Resident on New Safety & Cumulative Risks

Dear California Energy Commission Staff and Commissioners,

I am a resident of Laguna Niguel and write to supplement the record for the proposed 250 MW Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano (Docket 24-OPT-02) with new information that has emerged since the Draft EIR comment period closed on November 25, 2025.

Even though the facility is not in my city, Laguna Niguel will be directly and severely affected for reasons the Draft EIR did not adequately analyze:

1. ****Recent BESS Fire Incidents (Post-November 2025)****

- December 4, 2025 – 200 MWh Gridstor fire in Valley Center, CA (multi-day toxic smoke plume and evacuations).

- November 29, 2025 – Second major reignition in 2025 at Vistra Moss Landing (300 MW).

These events show that even “safer” lithium-iron-phosphate systems can still experience unstoppable propagation and hazardous off-gassing” risks the Draft EIR rated “less than significant with mitigation.”

2. ****Shared Evacuation Routes & Fire-Response Strain****

The site is less than 4 miles from Laguna Niguel at the I-5 / SR-73 / Camino Capistrano interchange”our primary wildfire and tsunami evacuation corridors. A serious incident would close these routes and divert Orange County Fire Authority units that Laguna Niguel relies on under mutual-aid agreements.

3. ****Updated Cal Fire Mapping (December 2025)****

Newly released Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone boundaries now reach closer to the project site than the Draft EIR assumed, increasing ignition risk during Santa Ana wind events that regularly threaten both cities.

4. ****Outdated Cumulative Impact Analysis****

At least two additional 500+ MW BESS projects are now in pre-application within 12 miles (San Clemente area). The Draft EIR’s cumulative analysis is obsolete and understates the combined burden on regional firefighting, air quality, and evacuation capacity.

I respectfully request that the Commission:

- Require a Supplemental or Recirculated EIR incorporating the new fire incidents and updated fire-hazard mapping,

- Deny certification unless the project is relocated away from the I-5/73 corridor and residential communities, or
- Impose fully funded, enforceable conditions (on-site fire station, dedicated water supply, etc.).

Laguna Niguel residents should not be forced to accept unanalyzed risks from a project over which we have no local control.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,
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