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Re: Compass Energy Storage Project – Status Update, April 2026

This letter provides the California Energy Commission with an update on the status of the Compass project for the month of April 2026, including the ongoing efforts to secure an alternative site for the project. This information is to inform the CEC of our progress in response to the recently approved suspension of the processing the Opt-in application for the Compass Energy Storage Project (TN 268025),

Our efforts to bring the project back into active status include (1) additional due diligence and landowner outreach on multiple sites within a feasible distance from the Trabuco-Capistrano transmission line; (2) outreach to diverse public, private and NGO stakeholders whose knowledge and interest in the vicinity can provide new insights about project siting in the area; and (3) internal project economic modelling taking into consideration the existing LGIA and market conditions. The following is a summary of those efforts to date:

1. Site Assessment and landowner outreach

- a. As noted in our March update, Engie Development staff has conducted additional internal mapping and desktop due diligence on approximately 4 of the previously vetted sites and the corresponding gen-tie options in the vicinity of the Trabuco-Capistrano transmission line. These sites are primarily urban infill locations, as well as the nearby Landfill, where approximately 13 acres might be suitable for a BESS project. We have conducted site visits and are conducting physical site due diligence on two sites to evaluate their suitability.
- b. We have had direct meetings with several landowners for these sites and are engaging with at least two of those landowners on possible terms. Our direct negotiations with those landowners have yet matured to become confirmed LOIs and we will notify interested stakeholders and the CEC as soon as something tangible develops.

2. Stakeholder Outreach

Engie staff and consultants have continued our contacts with key stakeholders and have held additional in person or virtual meetings to discuss next steps for the Compass project. Each of these meetings has provided additional insights into key siting parameters, as well as possible alternative locations for our consideration.

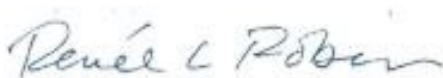
- a. In addition to our meeting with the Orange County Fire Authority leadership and Division Chiefs on March 25th, to ensure close coordination on safety standards and review processes, we have continued to communicate with OCFA staff on possible site locations.
- b. Orange County Fire Authority (3/25)
- c. Meeting on 4/25/26 with a major telecommunication company regarding real property rights
- d. Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (4/28)
- e. Orange County Firefighters IAFF Local 3631 (originally set for 4/28, but being rescheduled for May 2026)

3. Economic Analysis and Interconnection

- a. Engie has maintained its Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) with CAISO and has continued our monthly meetings with SDGE on this project.
- b. Engie is continuing to review comparable equipment procurement options as part of project cost analysis.
- c. Engie is running additional internal financial models for the potential site alternatives and continue to revise project schedule changes to assess feasibility and deliverability.

We will continue to update the Commission staff on any new developments in these site transition efforts. Please let us know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely yours,



Renée Louise Robin, J.D.

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