

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
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<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	270102
<b>Document Title:</b>	Michael McGrady Comments - Request for Permanent Termination of Opt-In Application (Docket No 24-OPT-02) and CAISO Queue Eviction for the Defunct Compass
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*Comment Received From: Michael McGrady  
Submitted On: 5/20/2026  
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

**Request for Permanent Termination of Opt-In Application (Docket No 24-OPT-02) and CAISO Queue Eviction for the Defunct Compass**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

## MEMORANDUM / FORMAL PETITION

**TO:** California Energy Commission (CEC) – Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

California Independent System Operator (CAISO) – Queue Management & Compliance Development

**FROM:** Michael McGrady, Representative of Hidden Creek Communities / San Juan Capistrano Residents

**DATE:** May 20, 2026

**RE: Request for Permanent Termination of Opt-In Application (Docket No. 24-OPT-02) and CAISO Queue Eviction for the Defunct Compass Energy Storage Project**

To the Siting and Environmental Branch Project Management Team,

I am writing on behalf of the affected residents of San Juan Capistrano to formally petition the California Energy Commission (CEC) and the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) to permanently terminate the application for the Compass Energy Storage Project (Docket No. 24-OPT-02).

As the public record demonstrates, the temporary project suspension approved under TN 268025 is no longer being used to navigate a legitimate logistical pivot. Instead, a strict comparison of the applicant's February, March, and April 2026 status updates reveals a clear pattern of stagnation—a "wash, rinse, and repeat" placeholders strategy designed strictly to hoard a valuable CAISO interconnection slot while possessing zero viable project infrastructure.

We request that the CEC deny any further extensions and permanently close this docket based on the following material facts:

### **1. Total Failure to Secure Real Property Rights (Section 1 Analytics)**

The core foundation of an active Opt-In application is site control. A quarter-over-quarter review of ENGIE's data proves they have completely stalled out:

- **February 2026:** Applicant claimed desktop due diligence on "approximately 20 sites" with zero active contract negotiations.
- **March 2026:** The target pool abruptly contracted to "approximately 4 sites," with zero matured Letters of Intent (LOIs).

- **April 2026:** The narrative remains structurally frozen. The applicant is still looking at the exact same 4 sites, admitting again that no real property rights, options, or LOIs have been secured.

Furthermore, the underlying property owner of the original 13-acre site, Saddleback Church, has formally terminated their land contract. The option contract has been officially stripped from the property title by the County of Orange. ENGIE is currently maintaining a state docket for a multi-million dollar infrastructure asset with **zero legal access to land**.

## **2. Factually Stagnant Financial and Technical Modeling (Section 3 Analytics)**

Section 3 ("Economic Analysis and Interconnection") of the applicant's reports over the last 90 days has degenerated into an identical copy-and-paste placeholder text. In February, March, and April, the text repeats verbatim that they are running "internal financial models" and "reviewing comparable equipment procurement options."

They are not generating new engineering data; they are simply resubmitting old text to maintain the illusion of regulatory momentum.

## **3. Direct Violation of CAISO Cluster 15 Intent and Public Policy**

CAISO purposely delayed and overhauled the Cluster 15 interconnection window specifically to weed out speculative, "paper-only" projects that clog the state's transmission queues. By occupying a slot via prolonged, indefinite delays without an active site, ENGIE is:

- Artificially bottlenecking the Trabuco-Capistrano transmission line.
- Preventing viable, commercially ready renewable projects from coming online to meet state mandates.
- Imposing an ongoing, unnecessary administrative and legal burden on the City of San Juan Capistrano.

## **Conclusion and Action Requested**

The regulatory intent of a voluntary suspension is to facilitate real, tangible transitions, not to serve as an indefinite corporate shield for a dead asset. ENGIE has failed to demonstrate commercial viability, failed to secure land, and failed to produce distinct progress across three consecutive reporting cycles.

We respectfully demand that the California Energy Commission permanently cancel the Opt-In Certification process for Docket No. 24-OPT-02, and that CAISO move to strip the project of its Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) status for failing to meet standard development milestones.

Sincerely,

**Michael McGrady** President, Hidden Creek Estates Maintenance Corporation

San Juan Capistrano Resident