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Wash, Rinse, Repeat - Again

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

Project Title: Compass Energy Storage Project

RE: SUPPLEMENTAL PETITION FOR IMMEDIATE TERMINATION: Applicant's May 27, 2026 Update Confirms Complete Project Deconstruction and Speculative Grid Hoarding

To the Siting and Project Management Teams,

On May 20, 2026, we submitted a formal petition detailing a persistent pattern of stagnation regarding the defunct Compass Energy Storage Project. On May 27, 2026, the applicant filed their "May 2026 Update" (TN 270294). Far from demonstrating progress, this new filing provides definitive, self-admitted proof that ENGIE has completely dismantled the original project foundation and is using a state-level regulatory suspension to run a speculative, multi-site land-acquisition gamble.

We submit this supplement to highlight three material admissions in the applicant's latest filing that demand the immediate permanent closure of Docket No. 24-OPT-02 and queue eviction by CAISO:

1. Admission of "Parcel Consolidation" (Definitively Voiding Site Control)

In Section 1.c, the applicant admits that their current commercial strategy is to "consolidate several parcels for adequate acreage to accommodate the energy storage". This is an explicit admission that ENGIE does not possess an alternative site. Instead, they are attempting to engineer an entirely new, multi-owner land deal. An Opt-In application *under AB 205 was never intended to serve as a protective corporate blanket while a developer spends months or years attempting to assemble fragmented real estate.*

2. Radical Siting Shift to Landfill Infrastructure

The applicant notes in Section 1.a that their alternative site search has expanded to a "nearby Landfill". Siting a 250 MW battery energy storage facility on a landfill introduces entirely unique environmental, geotechnical, and hazardous material variables that bear zero engineering relationship to the original application baseline. By pursuing land-use types that require distinct local and county public health clearances, ENGIE is validating that the project described in Docket No. 24-OPT-02 no longer exists.

3. Continuous Stalling of Essential Safety and Public Stakeholder Reviews

The applicant admits in Section 2.b that their mandatory meeting with the Orange County Firefighters IAFF Local 3631 (originally set for April 28) has been delayed and remains un-held, vaguely rescheduled for "May/June 2026". Concurrently, they are only now *requesting* preliminary meetings with Orange County officials regarding landfill parameters. They are generating zero hard engineering data, relying instead on "increased internal project economic modelling" to preserve the valuable financial asset of their CAISO Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) status.

Conclusion

ENGIE's May update confirms my prior exact warning: *the applicant is engaging in a textbook "wash, rinse, and repeat" placeholder strategy.* They are holding a critical public transmission capacity slot hostage on the Trabuco-Capistrano line while admitting they have no site, no secured land rights, no safety stakeholder consensus, and are currently reduced to trying to puzzle together disparate urban and landfill parcels.

The CEC must not allow its voluntary suspension mechanism to be weaponized as an indefinite corporate shield for a paper-only asset. We renew our request that the CEC permanently terminate this docket and CAISO evict the project from the interconnection queue.

Sincerely,

Michael McGrady President, Hidden Creek Estates Maintenance Corporation