

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Battery Energy Storage
TN #:	255599
Document Title:	Appendix 1C_Community Benefits Plan
Description:	Provides the Applicant's plan and timeline to obtain community benefits agreements consistent with Public Resources Code section 25545.10.
Filer:	Erin Phillips
Organization:	Dudek
Submitter Role:	Applicant Consultant
Submission Date:	4/9/2024 3:37:03 PM
Docketed Date:	4/9/2024

Appendix 1C

Community Benefits Plan

APPENDIX 1C

Compass Energy Storage Project – Community Benefits Agreement Narrative (Updated April 9, 2024)

Overview

For ENGIE North America Inc. and its affiliate and project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC (Compass), it is of vital importance to be engaged in the community where its clean energy projects are located to create long-term relationships and to make a difference beyond the project's clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

The Compass Community Benefits strategy envisions making long-term commitments to support a range of community-based organizations in Orange County and in the City of San Juan Capistrano that align with its corporate values. The Compass Community Engagement Team, supported by local community outreach professionals, have met with a number of organizations that will support the development and well-being of children, workers, and disadvantaged populations in Orange County.

Community Organizations in Conversation with Compass

Since early 2023, the Compass Community Engagement Team has been meeting with and listening to community-based organizations and the City of San Juan Capistrano to gain an understanding of local and regional needs. The following is a brief description of the opportunities that Compass is currently exploring. Upon execution of binding community benefits agreements, Compass will update its application with relevant information about the counter-parties and the terms of the agreements.

- A local community-based organization focused serving the disadvantaged population of San Juan Capistrano. This organization is dedicated to a neighborhood of San Juan Capistrano disproportionately affected by inequities and social challenges. Programs include extra-curricular activities that have a proven connection to academic performance, expanding children's potential and exposing them to new skills working with children and youth, to fill gaps in the areas of education and enrichment activities. Compass is evaluating several opportunities, including but not limited to providing internet access, supporting acquisition of community meeting space, and youth education program development.
- An organization focused on improving the lives of youth facing adversity by providing strong, enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that create pathways for the future and a mentor for a lifetime. This organization needs to specifically expand its services in the Southcoast Orange County region to provide youth and post-secondary mentoring for education and workplace success. Engie is working directly with this organization to evaluate targeted opportunities to financially support the organization's mission to enable it to serve more children within its service territory.

- A local Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) two-year community college that provides workforce training opportunities to the South Orange County community including San Juan Capistrano. Compass is discussing ways to provide training to enable more community members to prepare for employment in clean energy jobs. This college was awarded a developing HSI grant to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of, Hispanic students. Our support will be targeted to help expand and enhance the academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability of the College so that it can better support large numbers of Hispanic and other low-income students in completing postsecondary degrees. Some of the programs Engie has identified for possible support are the Economic and Workforce Development Program, and the Career and Technical Education Program. We will be working with the college to identify the optimal opportunities for community support in the upcoming weeks.
- Compass is in conversation with the City of San Juan Capistrano and has worked to identify community needs in the areas of public safety, parks and recreation, circulation, and the arts. Compass will be presenting the City with a proposal for these community benefits for their consideration. While the City has not indicated support for the project, Compass has offered to enter into a contingent agreement with the City to provide specified public benefits in the form of a binding agreement consistent with the City’s Capital Improvements Plan, should the project be approved by the CEC.

In addition, Compass intends to reserve funding allocated for each of the Community Benefits Agreements to fund local sponsorships and events to ensure the support of initiatives that create and foster a sense of community within the Project area.

Anticipated Timeline

Discussions with the aforementioned community-based organizations and the City are ongoing. Between April and August 2024, Compass intends to execute legally binding agreements with one or more of the organizations described above, to satisfy AB 205’s opt-in requirements. A complete Community Benefits Agreement plan will be submitted no later than 45 days after completeness review to be in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 25545.10.

Community Based Organization	Community Interest	Timeline for Agreement
Local Non-Profit	Disadvantaged SJC community support	April – July 2024
Youth-Serving Non-Profit	Orange County children, mentorship	April – July 2024
Higher Education Institution	Workforce development, Hispanic Community	April – July 2024
City of San Juan Capistrano	Public Safety, Parks and Recreation	April – July 2024