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*Comment Received From: Craig Ames
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**Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project - Fire, Safety,
Environmental**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project: Safety, Environmental, and Community Concerns

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned homeowner in Laguna Niguel, California, to express my strong opposition to the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project. While I understand the importance of enhancing our energy infrastructure and supporting renewable energy initiatives, I have significant concerns about the potential impacts this project may have on our community and environment.

Firstly, the location of the Compass Energy Storage Project raises serious environmental and safety concerns. Laguna Niguel is known for its natural beauty, residential character, and proximity to protected open spaces. The construction and operation of a large-scale battery storage facility could pose risks such as fire hazards, hazardous material spills, and noise pollution, which could adversely affect the local ecosystem and the quality of life for residents.

Recent events have heightened these concerns. In 2022, an electrical fire caused by SoCal Edison on the other side of Laguna Niguel destroyed more than 20 homes. This fire started in a valley and rapidly burned up the steep slope, devastating residential areas with similar topography to the proposed project site. The potential for a similar incident involving a battery storage facility is alarming. Given the steep, dry terrain in our region, a fire originating from the storage site could quickly escalate, putting numerous homes and lives at risk.

Furthermore, it is crucial to consider the specific risks associated with lithium battery technology. Lithium batteries are prone to thermal runaway events, a condition where an increase in temperature causes a further increase in temperature, often leading to a destructive fire. This is not just a regular power plant; the unique risks posed by large-scale battery storage are significant. A thermal runaway event could result in uncontrollable fires that are extremely difficult to extinguish and could release toxic gases, further endangering the local population and environment.

Moreover, the introduction of such a project could lead to increased costs of home insurance for residents. Insurance companies might perceive the increased fire risk associated with the battery storage facility as justification for raising premiums or even canceling policies. This financial burden would be an unfair consequence for homeowners who have chosen to live in this area for its safety and serenity.

Ironically, the proposed site for this project currently hosts a community regenerative farm that provides local residents with fresh produce and contributes to sustainable agricultural practices. Razing this farm to make way for a battery storage facility undermines the community's efforts to maintain green, regenerative initiatives and

highlights the disconnect between the project's goals and its actual impact on the environment.

I urge the California Energy Commission to thoroughly evaluate alternative locations for this project that would have a lesser impact on residential areas and sensitive environmental zones. There may be more suitable sites in industrial zones or areas with less residential density that could mitigate the potential risks and drawbacks associated with this development.

In conclusion, I believe that the Compass Energy Storage Project, as currently proposed, poses significant risks to the Laguna Niguel community. I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission reconsider the location and scope of this project to better protect our local environment and residents' quality of life.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

Craig Ames
Laguna Niguel, CA