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Concerned resident and environmentalist

This type of facility proposes multiple risks to human health, wildlife and ecosystem, and socioeconomic damages to existing residences. The primary concern is risk to wildfire. There are 50,000 people poised to be affected by fire. A 2-lane road is insufficient to provide the proper access to fire officials to properly mitigate the threat.

A secondary concern is that this land is an undeveloped greenfield. The proposed site is immediately adjacent to the San Juan Creek, which is home to hundreds of species. The construction of an energy storage facility will generate a disturbance on the habitat including related to reverberation, noise pollution, light pollution, and decreased air quality associated with transportation. A facility such as this should be located in an area zoned for industrial use. We cannot continue to develop on greenfield sites - not even for a renewable energy system.

The same concern for air, noise, and light pollution extends to residences. The air quality on the east side of San Juan Capistrano is already poor, as the smog generated by the freeway is trapped against the hillside. Bringing in industrial use and more high-volume traffic will further exacerbate negative air quality. The population living in the Village of San Juan - who are closest to this facility - are already in a low socioeconomic demographic. This project increases the social determinates of health on that population, exacerbating racist public policy.

There are many more concerns, however ultimately: with the overturn of the Chevron act, it is no longer in the jurisdiction of the energy commission to approve this permit. It is government overreach. This will be tied up in the courts for years, costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, that would be better spent on schools, addressing the homeless crisis, or other taxpayer approved uses.