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Opposition to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)

As a concerned resident of Laguna Niguel I am writing to express STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility in the northern portion of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. It is extremely irresponsible for both cities to even consider the construction of a 250-megawatt BESS facility by Compass Energy Storage LLC in an area designated as general open space covered in significant vegetation and within 1500 feet of residential areas. This location poses significant and immediate wildfire risks to the environment, wildlife, and community residents.

The BESS facility will be composed of lithium-iron phosphate batteries which are incredibly dangerous if they overheat. Lithium battery fires burn hot and fast enough to melt stainless steel and are very difficult to extinguish. Furthermore, they can re-ignite up to 21 days after the fire is extinguished. The toxic fumes released by such a horrific wildfire would just add to the human and climate catastrophe of such an event.