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Comment Received From: Cecilia C.

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Opposition to Proposed Lithium Battery Storage

Dear Energy Commission:

I'm a homeowner in Laguna Niguel and write in opposition of the proposed lithium battery storage facility in San Juan Capistrano. Our home is on the border of Laguna Niguel and San Juan Capistrano and is approximately a mile or two away from the proposed facility. Our home is one of thousands that are in close proximity to the proposed fire and would likely be devastated if a fire broke out. (Additionally, Laguna Niguel is home to many senior citizens who would need extra time and help to be evacuated.)

Today is September 10, 2024. Last week on September 5, a fire broke out in Escondido at a lithium battery storage facility. From all accounts, it appears it occurred due to the batteries "overheating". South OC is experiencing record high temperatures this summer--many days reaching the 100s. Yesterday, September 9 a fire started in Trabuco Canyon. Today it is 0% contained and has burned 9,333 acres in just one day in part due to the dry brush typical of South OC and the high temperatures we've been experiencing.

Many insurance companies won't insure our homes anymore due to the fire hazards and our home insurance prices are skyrocketing. The area that the proposed facility is in is surrounded by dry brush. Have you seen it? It is a serious fire hazard to build a battery storage facility there and could cause severe damage to the many nearby homes, or even fatalities.

I am a strong proponent for supporting environmental causes and do my best every day to lessen my carbon footprint. I think it's great that California is pushing for Electric vehicles over gas-powered vehicles. I don't believe in NIMBY politics, but strongly oppose this facility due to the immense fire hazard it poses. I hope that the state considers the serious consequences that could result from allowing this facility to be built at this location. Thank you for your time and consideration.