

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	259173
Document Title:	Orange County REALTORS Comments - Concerns Regarding Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project in SJC
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Orange County REALTORS
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/13/2024 3:29:26 PM
Docketed Date:	9/13/2024

*Comment Received From: Orange County REALTORS
Submitted On: 9/13/2024
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

Concerns Regarding Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project in SJC

Please see attached letter.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



September 13, 2024

California Energy Commission
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

Dear Commissioners,

The Orange County REALTORS® Board of Directors is writing to express concerns regarding the proposed **Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano**. While the development and deployment of renewable energy sources and storage systems are crucial for our future energy landscape, the location and specific technology proposed for this project raise significant concerns—**particularly for nearby homeowners**—that it believes warrant careful consideration.

The proposed site for the 250-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) is situated in a high-risk fire area, surrounded by residential homes and adjacent to Interstate 5, a critical transportation artery. The inherent risks associated with this location, combined with the flammability and toxicity of the proposed lithium-iron phosphate batteries, pose a significant threat to public safety and the environment.

Additionally, the site sits atop a watershed and groundwater basin that drains into the ocean. In the event of a fire or leak, the potential for contamination of these water resources is considerable. This could have long-lasting effects on the local ecosystem and public health, particularly given the toxicity of the battery materials.

Furthermore, the chosen battery technology presents additional concerns. Lithium-iron phosphate batteries, while widely used, are not without their risks. They are known for their flammability and the challenges associated with recycling. The project's reliance on this technology raises questions about the long-term environmental impact and sustainability of the proposed facility. Our association directors urge the California Energy Commission to thoroughly assess these risks and consider alternative locations or technologies that may mitigate these concerns. The safety and well-being of the San Juan Capistrano community, its many homeowners and residents, and the protection of our natural resources should be paramount in the decision-making process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope the Commission will carefully consider these concerns as part of the review process for the Compass Energy Storage Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Molina". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ed Molina
President, Orange County REALTORS®

Cc: Laguna Niguel City Council, 30111 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677