

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	259325
Document Title:	Don Kolehmainen Comments - Lithium Battery Farm- Horrible Location
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Don Kolehmainen
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	9/27/2024 11:33:06 AM
Docketed Date:	9/27/2024

*Comment Received From: Don Kolehmainen
Submitted On: 9/27/2024
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

Lithium Battery Farm- Horrible Location

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

LITHIUM BATTERY FACILITY SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO- TERRIBLE LOCATION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

DON KOLEHMAINEN- RESIDENT LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA

To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my concerns about the proposed site for a Lithium Battery Farm. Please understand, I am not opposed to storage facilities in a REMOTE location. I know the state has energy concerns and they will only get worse as time goes on with the mandates of clean environments and energy.

This is all about LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.

My family and I have lived in Laguna Niguel, Concord Hill development, for over 25 years. We have loved our neighborhood and community. It was a wonderful and safe place to raise our children. The proposed location is a terrible site for this type of facility and the city of San Juan has already disapproved the project and location. Our home is probably about 1000 feet from the hillside of the location of the proposed site. We are just over the hill from the site.

Let me ask you several questions to see if you would want a facility of this nature this close to your home of over 25 years. What is the risk of fire from one of these facilities? How easy are the fires to extinguish? How TOXIC is the smoke from these fires that have to burn themselves out?

There is a slope that comes up to our neighborhood that has caught on fire in the past, fortunately, the OC Fire Authorities responded quickly and put the fire out. We were all packed up with our critical documents and were ready to evacuate. These Lithium battery FIRES are very difficult to extinguish and have the potential to cause much more damage than a hillside brush fire that can be put out.

How much will our homeowners insurance go up because of the increased chance of fire? The state has already seen dramatic increases in cost of policies in certain areas. Information just reported in the news- Insurance premiums have risen an average of 34%. That is an AVERAGE. And some insurance companies are pulling out of California. I wonder why?

We have at least two schools in the same valley of the proposed site along with an Alzheimer's Senior Living Facility. Think about the safety of those patients who would not be able to be transported quickly enough if a fire were racing towards their facility. In addition, think of the air quality and safety for the students at the schools. Just beyond the schools are horse stables- how do you evacuate all of the livestock?

How about the I-5 freeway, THE MAJOR route from LA to San Diego? How long can it be shut down due to a fire on the site property? It is very close to the freeway. (Look at the recent road closures due to the Highway 15 fire towards Las Vegas and the San Pedro fire- these were SINGLE Battery Containers on a

truck) What about the train tracks which are right against the proposed site? Metro Link, Surfliner, AM Track, Freight Trains. The church property is right there also.

If the winds were blowing inland you have a major medical center, Mission Hospital, close by. What about air quality for the patients who are already compromised. Saddle-Back College and the Mission Viejo Mall are also very close.

Just a few weeks ago a facility in Escondido CA area started on fire and it burned for days. It was a very small facility compared to what is being proposed over our hill.

Back in July a truck carrying a battery on highway 15 towards Las Vegas started on fire and it shut down the highway in BOTH directions for approximately 44 hours.

As I write this letter, a truck carrying a Lithium battery overturned and started burning in San Pedro yesterday (9/26). That fire is still burning and the road to the shipping docks is shut down in both directions. The LA Fire department isn't even trying to extinguish it because of the copious amount of water that would need to be used to put it out and then there would be contaminated water in the harbor. (They are staying 2000 feet away from the container for their safety) The fire captain said these batteries that are being transported are only 30-60 percent charged. If it were 100 percent charged it would be a much worse situation. This is "ONE" battery container on a truck. Can you imagine the fire if "ONE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED" of these containers were involved in a fire just over the hillside from YOUR home.

Another factor to consider- Do you want to destroy the hillside along the freeway with the eye sore of 1,100 of the storage containers and the noise produce by 1,100 HVAC units constantly running to keep each of the containers at an acceptable temperature. What about the High Tension lines that transfer the energy stored? A rural site would be much better suited for a facility of this type.

It is my understanding that the sale of the church property is NOT finalized yet. Stop the sale and STOP the STORAGE FACILITY from being put near my home.

As one can obviously see, this is a HORRIBLE site for a Lithium Battery Farm. There are many more reasons why it should NOT be placed in this location, but I have given you enough information that you should see my point...

Have a great day.

Sincerely,
Don Kolehmainen
Concord Hill- Crested Butte Circle resident