

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	260449
Document Title:	Darbi Morris Comments - Opposition to Docket # 24-OPT-02 Project Title Compass Energy Storage Project
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	Darbi Morris
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	12/4/2024 11:26:04 AM
Docketed Date:	12/4/2024

*Comment Received From: Darbi Morris
Submitted On: 12/4/2024
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

Opposition to Docket # 24-OPT-02 Project Title Compass Energy Storage Project

Please review the document attached detailing several reasons to deny the zoning for the Energy Storage Project.

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

12-4-2024

California Energy Commission

Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Project Title: Compass Energy Storage Project

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

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

I am writing to express a multitude of concerns regarding the BESS Facility proposed to be built on the Saddleback Church land in San Juan Capistrano.

Not only is this plant being irresponsibly placed in a dense community but directly affects the health of residents. Large companies like this have ample opportunity to find locations out of reach of human affect, destruction of land and air. Power plants are being shut down due to their toxic emissions after learning from years of their operation what they can do. With BESS facilities, we already have the awareness of their toxins and exposure yet are allowing them to be built right in the backyard of innocent people.

Many of the gases listed below are odorless and colorless. Let me provide what is surrounding the planned location:

NEARBY SCHOOLS: Capo Valley High School, Mission Viejo High School, J Sierra High School, George White Elementary School, Fairmont School, Stoney Brooke Christian School, Marina View Preschool & Kindergarten, Hidden Hills Elementary, Niguel Hills Middle School.

Toxic gases

Other toxic gases that can be released include carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen fluoride (HF), hydrogen cyanide (HCN), and hydrochloric acid (HCL).

Particulate

Soot (PM2.5/1) and other particulates can be released.

It is no surprise that California is prone to aggressive wild fires and coins certain times of the year 'fire season', with 19% of said wildfires due to electrical equipment. Electrical and gas fires are unique. They spread faster than natural fires, their temperatures reach a level so high water can not extinguish, they create their own self sustaining fuel system and not to mention the health hazard of those working to put out the fires and the smoke that will spread for miles.

BESS facility's are unique with the amount of highly combustible gases compacted into one area. An article [here](#) outlines how Hydrogran Cyanide is the real killer from fire smoke. Carbon Monoxide is the fuel behind uncontrollable fires, cited [here](#).

A [study](#) was done on these facilities showing that a quarter of them have faulty fire protection systems. In April 2019, an unexpected explosion of batteries on fire in an Arizona energy storage facility injured eight firefighters. Key word here is unexpected.

Electrical hazards

BESS can experience electrical failures, such as overcharging, over-discharging, and short circuits.

Combustible gases

The gases released during thermal runaway can accumulate and create an explosive atmosphere. These gases include hydrogen, methane, ethane, and other hydrocarbon gases.

Thermal runaway

When a lithium-ion battery overheats or short circuits, it can release flammable gases and produce excessive heat. This can lead to a fire or explosion.

[Massive batter planet fire](#)

[BESS fire in Escondido](#)

FEMA has also come forward and expressed concerns regarding hazards of these facilities. Cited [here](#).

The environment in which the facility lives in plays a large part of it being well maintained. SJC is known for its hot/humid summers along with dewy mornings and nights.

Money and greed blindly lead to the destruction of a lot of things that make communities safe, healthy and prosperous. The area for the proposed facility may seem like the 'perfect' spot but that does not mean that it is the RIGHT spot.

Sincerely,

Darbi Morris

Resident and Community Consumer