

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
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<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
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*Comment Received From: Elizabeth McLendon  
Submitted On: 1/22/2025  
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

**Request to Deny Approval of Compass Energy Storage Project in  
San Juan Capistrano**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

January 22, 2025

California Energy Commission

Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Project Title: Compass Energy Storage Project

Subject: Request to Deny Approval of Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to formally request that the California Energy Commission deny the application for the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano. While the development of energy storage projects is crucial for California's transition to renewable energy, I believe that the potential fire hazard associated with this project poses an unacceptable risk to public safety and the environment.

The proposed project site is located just west of the I-5 freeway, within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by significant vegetation and brush. The site is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, and just across the freeway from our own community in San Juan Capistrano. This close proximity to residential areas poses great potential risk to the communities.

- The area is an especially fire-prone area. In the past ten years, there have been twenty-three (23) wildfires within a five-mile radius of the proposed project site.
- A fire in such a facility would threaten the nearby neighborhoods.
- The existence of such a facility would further exacerbate the state's homeowner's insurance crisis, making it even more difficult for residents to obtain adequate homeowner's insurance policies.
- A fire at the proposed location could jeopardize use of highway I-5, the principle route for escape by vehicle and the only main highway between Los Angeles and San Diego.
- The recent horrific fires in Los Angeles that quickly spread from home to home exemplify the extent of damage a wildfire in our area could do.
- The recent fire incident in Monterey, caused by a malfunction in an energy storage facility, has highlighted the significant dangers associated with lithium-ion battery storage systems, and raised serious concerns about the ability of energy storage facilities to safely mitigate fire risks.
- Lithium batteries emit toxic gases within seconds of igniting, leading to air, soil, and water pollution and public health risks.
- The project's close proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed would further exacerbate potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Pacific Ocean just miles away.

In light of these concerns, I urge the Commission to deny approval of the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano and only consider solutions that do not present such extreme fire and public and environmental safety hazards.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McLendon

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