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Comment Received From: John Paluka
Submitted On: 1/27/2025
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Urgent Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project (Docket Number 24-OPT-02)

Dear California Energy Commissioners,

As a resident of Laguna Niguel living near the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project site, I am writing to express my strong opposition to this battery energy storage system (BESS) facility.

My primary concerns include:

1. **Fire Safety:** The project's proximity to residential areas and its location in a fire-prone region pose significant risks. With 23 wildfires within a five-mile radius in the past decade, the combination of brush fires and lithium-ion batteries creates a dangerous scenario that could threaten our community.
2. **Property Values:** The industrial nature of the facility and its associated risks could negatively impact property values in our neighborhood.
3. **Insurance Premiums:** There's a potential for increased homeowner's insurance premiums due to the heightened fire risk associated with the BESS facility.
4. **Environmental Impact:** The project's location near Oso and Arroyo Creek raises concerns about potential water contamination and impacts on the local ecosystem.
5. **Public Safety:** The fire risk and potential for toxic gas emissions in case of an incident pose serious threats to public health and safety.
6. **Evacuation Challenges:** Limited access routes in our area could complicate evacuation efforts in case of an emergency.

I urge the California Energy Commission to prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of our community over any potential benefits of this project. Please reject this project application and consider alternative locations that do not pose such significant risks to residential areas.

I appreciate your consideration of these crucial concerns.

Sincerely,
John Paluka