

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	261909
<b>Document Title:</b>	Unidos South OC Comments - Clarification
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	System
<b>Organization:</b>	Unidos South OC
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Public
<b>Submission Date:</b>	2/20/2025 5:09:27 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	2/21/2025

*Comment Received From: Unidos South OC  
Submitted On: 2/20/2025  
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

## **Clarification**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



February 15, 2025

Renée Robin, J.D.  
Director, Permitting & Planning  
ENGIE, North America  
Renee.robin@engie.com

Cc: Ben Siegel  
City Manager  
City of San Juan Capistrano  
bsiegel@sanjuancapistrano.org

Dear Ms. Robin,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing on behalf of Unidos South OC in reference to the Compass Energy Storage project application, including the Community Benefit Plan, which we have recently had the opportunity to review.

In the plan, we noted the statement: "Since early 2023, the Compass Community Engagement Team has been meeting with and listening to community-based organizations and the City of San Juan Capistrano to gain an understanding of local and regional needs." Unidos South OC appreciates the opportunity to engage in conversations that help others better understand the needs and assets of the communities we serve. To that end participated in meetings with Engie in January and May of 2024 in which Engie expressed a desire to give back to the community in the event that their project was approved.

However, we must respectfully clarify certain points regarding the nature of those conversations.

The application references the following statement: "Upon execution of binding community benefits agreements, Compass will update its application with relevant information about the counter-party and the terms of the agreement." This statement does not accurately reflect our discussion. Unidos South OC was never asked to agree to anything or sign any legally binding document. Unidos was explicitly told that Engie's potential contribution to the community was not contingent upon any actions of Unidos South OC, nor would it require any support from us for the project. Moreover, we were made aware that Unidos South OC was free to oppose the project, as contribution to benefit the community would be unrelated to any support or opposition of the project.



Further concerns arise from the fact that Unidos South OC was informed that Engie desired, *but was not required*, to make positive contributions to the San Juan Capistrano community contingent upon the approval of the project. In contrast, the application cites Public Resources Code - PRC § 25545.10, which clearly states that Engie is required to enter into “one or more legally binding and enforceable agreements with, or that benefit, a coalition of one or more community-based organizations.”

Given this situation, we feel that Engie has not been forthcoming in its communications with us, nor in accurately representing its relationship with Unidos South OC in the application.

This letter serves to clarify that Unidos South OC will not enter into any legally binding agreements with Engie. Furthermore, we will not endorse, support or otherwise promote the Compass Energy Storage project in San Juan Capistrano.

We hope that this matter can be addressed with the necessary transparency, and that Engie will make the necessary corrections to its application. We remain open to further dialogue, but as it stands, we feel it is crucial to address these discrepancies for the record.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

John and Heather Chapman  
Co-Executive Directors  
Unidos South OC

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Battery Energy Storage
<b>TN #:</b>	255568-1
<b>Document Title:</b>	Appendix 1C_Community Benefits Plan
<b>Description:</b>	Provides the Applicant's plan and timeline to obtain community benefits agreements consistent with Public Resources Code section 25545.10.
<b>Filer:</b>	Erin Phillips
<b>Organization:</b>	Dudek
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Applicant Consultant
<b>Submission Date:</b>	4/5/2024 6:12:39 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	4/8/2024

---

# **Appendix 1C**

## Community Benefits Plan

## Compass Energy Storage Project – Community Benefits Agreement Narrative

### *Overview*

For ENGIE North America Inc. and its affiliate and project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC (Compass), it is of vital importance to be engaged in the community where its clean energy projects are located to create long-term relationships and to make a difference beyond the project's clean energy and greenhouse gas reduction benefits.

The Compass Community Benefits strategy envisions making long-term commitments to support a range of community-based organizations in Orange County that align with its corporate values. The Compass Community Engagement Team, supported by local community outreach professionals, have met with a number of organizations that will support the development and well-being of children, workers, and disadvantaged populations in Orange County.

### *Community Organizations in Conversation with Compass*

Since early 2023, the Compass Community Engagement Team has been meeting with and listening to community-based organizations and the City of San Juan Capistrano to gain an understanding of local and regional needs. The following is a brief description of the opportunities that Compass is currently exploring. Upon execution of binding community benefits agreements, Compass will update its application with relevant information about the counter-party and the terms of the agreement.

- A local community-based organization focused serving the disadvantaged population of San Juan Capistrano. This organization is dedicated to neighborhoods of South Orange County disproportionately affected by inequities and social challenges. Programs include extra-curricular activities that have a proven connection to academic performance, expanding children's potential and exposing them to new skills working with children and youth, to fill gaps in the areas of education and enrichment activities. Compass is evaluating several opportunities, including but not limited to providing internet access, supporting acquisition of community meeting space, and youth education program development.
- An organization focused on improving the lives of youth facing adversity by providing strong, enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that create pathways for the future and a mentor for a lifetime. This organization needs to specifically expand its services in the Southcoast Orange County region to provide youth and post-secondary mentoring for education and workplace success. Engie is working directly with this organization to evaluate targeted opportunities to financially support the organization's mission to enable it to serve more children within its service territory.
- A local Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) two-year community college that provides workforce training opportunities to the South Orange County community including San Juan Capistrano. Compass is discussing ways to provide training to enable more community members to prepare for employment in clean energy jobs. This college was

awarded a developing HSI grant to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the academic attainment of, Hispanic students. Our support will be targeted to help expand and enhance the academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability of the College so that it can better support large numbers of Hispanic and other low-income students in completing postsecondary degrees. Some of the programs Engie has identified for possible support are the Economic and Workforce Development Program, and the Career and Technical Education Program. We will be working with the college to identify the optimal opportunities for community support in the upcoming weeks.

- Compass is in conversation with the City of San Juan Capistrano and has worked to identify community needs in the areas of public safety, parks and recreation, circulation, and the arts. Compass will be presenting the City with a proposal for these community benefits for their consideration. While the City has not indicated support for the project, Compass has offered a desire to enter into a contingent agreement with the City to provide specified public benefits agreement consistent with the City’s Capital Improvements Plan, should the project be approved by the CEC.

In addition, Compass intends to reserve funding allocated for each of the Community Benefits Agreements to fund local sponsorships and events to ensure the support of initiatives that create and foster a sense of community within the Project area.

*Anticipated Timeline*

Discussions with the aforementioned community-based organizations and the City are ongoing. Between April and August 2024, Compass intends to execute legally binding agreements with one or more of the organizations described above, to satisfy AB 205’s opt-in requirements. A complete Community Benefits Agreement plan will be submitted no later than 45 days after completeness review to be in compliance with Public Resources Code Section 25545.10.

Community Based Organization	Community Interest	Timeline for Agreement
Local Non-Profit	Disadvantaged SJC community support	April – July 2024
Youth-Serving Non-Profit	Orange County children, mentorship	April – July 2024
Higher Education Institution	Workforce development, Hispanic Community	April – July 2024
City of San Juan Capistrano	Public Safety, Parks and Recreation	April – July 2024