

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	261978
<b>Document Title:</b>	Public Comment Letters Received via United States Postal Service February 11 - 12, 2025 Comments - Public Comment Letters Received via United States Postal Service February 11 - 12, 2025
<b>Description:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02), Public Comment Letters Received via United States Postal Service, February 11 - 12, 2025
<b>Filer:</b>	Renee Longman
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
<b>Submission Date:</b>	2/25/2025 2:16:01 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	2/25/2025

**Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)**  
**Public Comment Letters Received**  
**via United States Postal Service**  
**February 11 - 12, 2025**

California Energy Commission  
Project Manager, Renee Longman  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

The proposed location of Compass Energy Storage's project site poses significant and immediate wildfire risks. The BESS facility would be composed of lithium-iron phosphate batteries, which can be incredibly dangerous if they overheat, causing the battery to catch fire. Lithium battery fires burn hotter and faster than other fires and cannot be easily extinguished. Lithium batteries can reignite twenty-one (21) days after extinguishing the fire, presenting a long-lasting and persistent threat. Should the lithium batteries overheat and catch fire, the proposed project site's natural vegetation, steep terrain and surrounding landscape pose a significant and immediate fire threat.

In the past ten years, there have been twenty-three (23) wildfires within a five-mile radius of the proposed project site. Given the nature of lithium battery fires, firefighters are forced to take a containment approach. Should a fire break containment, all nearby homes and businesses would be in immediate fire danger. The imminent fire risk posed by the BESS facility threatens residents' safety and further exacerbates the state's homeowner's insurance crisis, making it even more difficult for residents to obtain adequate homeowner's insurance policies, compounding the already dire situation.

In addition to the heightened risk of wildfires, the proposed BESS project site presents significant environmental and public health risks. Lithium batteries emit toxic gases within seconds of igniting, leading to air pollution and public health risks. Any fire, regardless of



size generates a significant risk for our first responders' health should this project be approved.

Should first responders quickly extinguish a lithium battery fire, they would be exposed to hazardous toxic gases, which can cause severe debilitating health impacts. If the fire is not readily extinguished, the toxic gases emitted would generate a significant public health risk for the surrounding communities. Any water or fire extinguishing compounds used to combat the fire will become easily contaminated with heavy metals and absorbed into the region's soil, adversely impacting the local ecosystem and population. The project's close proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek watershed further exacerbates potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Pacific Ocean just miles away.

I strongly urge the California Energy Commission to carefully and fully consider these adverse fire, economic, environmental, and public safety risks as they evaluate Compass Energy Storage's proposed project. The health and safety of California residents should always take precedence over any potential benefits proposed by this project. I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission reject this project application and unequivocally prioritize public safety and community quality of life.

Sincerely,

Name: Sandra Watson

Address 25226 Via Piedra Blanca, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Email address Sandywatson@aol.com



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Sincerely,

Name: René R. Carlis   
Address: 25505 Rue Chanson  
Email address: rene@carlisinsurance.com

\* I own an insurance agency here in Laguna Niguel.  
I can assure you this will cause major problems insuring homes & businesses here! Who thinks of these things?? We are already in high Fire Risk Zone. They need to build this as far away from human & animal life as possible. CA. is a big State, someone needs to get a grip on Reality!



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Sincerely,



Name:

Nancy Greene

Address

29262 Rue Cerise, Laguna Niguel, CA

Email address

ncgreene@msn.com

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Sincerely,

Name: Kim Rimpia  
Address: 29266 Rue Parisse Laguna Niguel CA  
Email address: Km Rimpia@aol.com

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Dear California Energy Commissioners,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

*Catherine Lazaran-McKee*

Name: Catherine Lazaran-McKee

Address: 29315 Rue Fleurie Laguna Niguel, CA 92647

Email address: clazarana@cox.net

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Dear California Energy Commissioners,

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Sincerely,

Name: TMG Timothy DeJarnette  
Address 29306 Rue Cerise, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
Email address tdejarvetle1@gmail.com

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Sincerely,

Name: Barbara Lee  
Address: 25496 Rue Terrasse, LN, 92677  
Email address: lynnjir153@gmail.com

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Name: Anastacia Phippen

Address 25492 Rue Terrase, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677

Email address lrhanastacia@aol.com



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Name: ERROL PHIPPEN

Address 25429 RUE TERRASSE, L.N. 92677

Email address errolpkippen@yahoo.com



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In the past ten years, there have been twenty-three (23) wildfires within a five-mile radius of the proposed project site. Given the nature of lithium battery fires, firefighters are forced to take a containment approach. Should a fire break containment, all nearby homes and businesses would be in immediate fire danger. The imminent fire risk posed by the BESS facility threatens residents' safety and further exacerbates the state's homeowner's insurance crisis, making it even more difficult for residents to obtain adequate homeowner's insurance policies, compounding the already dire situation.

In addition to the heightened risk of wildfires, the proposed BESS project site presents significant environmental and public health risks. Lithium batteries emit toxic gases within seconds of igniting, leading to air pollution and public health risks. Any fire, regardless of

size generates a significant risk for our first responders' health should this project be approved.

Should first responders quickly extinguish a lithium battery fire, they would be exposed to hazardous toxic gases, which can cause severe debilitating health impacts. If the fire is not readily extinguished, the toxic gases emitted would generate a significant public health risk for the surrounding communities. Any water or fire extinguishing compounds used to combat the fire will become easily contaminated with heavy metals and absorbed into the region's soil, adversely impacting the local ecosystem and population. The project's close proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed further exacerbates potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Pacific Ocean just miles away.

I strongly urge the California Energy Commission to carefully and fully consider these adverse fire, economic, environmental, and public safety risks as they evaluate Compass Energy Storage's proposed project. The health and safety of California residents should always take precedence over any potential benefits proposed by this project. I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission reject this project application and unequivocally prioritize public safety and community quality of life.

Sincerely,

Name: Kristine Converse / Mary Cranford

Address 29286 Rue Cener, Laguna Niguel CA 92677

Email address Kconverse100@cox.net / m.cranford@cox.net

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

Name: M. Rosenberg Marcia Rosenberg  
Address: 2555 Rue Terrace, Laguna Niguel 92677  
Email address: Rosenberg27@gmail.com



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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,



Name: MARCELLA MELTON

Address 25502 RUE TERRASE, LAGUNA NIGUEL

Email address mamelton1@aol.com

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

Name: Irène Marcote  
Address 25566 Rue Terrasse, L. Niguel 92677  
Email address imarcote@gmail.com

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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I strongly urge the California Energy Commission to carefully and fully consider these adverse fire, economic, environmental, and public safety risks as they evaluate Compass Energy Storage's proposed project. The health and safety of California residents should always take precedence over any potential benefits proposed by this project. I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission reject this project application and unequivocally prioritize public safety and community quality of life.

Sincerely,

Name: TIMOTHY GASPARD

Address 14 NARBONNE LAGUNA NIGUEL, CA. 92677

Email address GYPSUMSP@gmail.com

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

Michael and Linda Goland

Name: Michael & Linda Goland

Address 25521 Rue Terrasse Laguna Niguel 92677

Email address mgm1facog@yahoo.com  
golandlinda@yahoo.com

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

Name: Nellwyn Middleton  
Address 29301 Rue Cerise, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
Email address nellwyn1437@yahoo.com



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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

Name: Brandon Berbaum  
Address 29256 Rue Cerise Laguna Niguel CA 92677  
Email address bberbaum@gmail.com

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,

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Sincerely,

Name: Cyndi Jones

Address 25486 Rue Terrase, Laguna Niguel Ca. 92677

Email address Cjoneslex@gmail.com

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)**

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Sincerely,

MARCIA S. FALITI

Name: Marcia S. Faliti

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92677

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

The proposed location of Compass Energy Storage's project site poses significant and immediate wildfire risks. The BESS facility would be composed of lithium-iron phosphate batteries, which can be incredibly dangerous if they overheat, causing the battery to catch fire. Lithium battery fires burn hotter and faster than other fires and cannot be easily extinguished. Lithium batteries can reignite twenty-one (21) days after extinguishing the fire, presenting a long-lasting and persistent threat. Should the lithium batteries overheat and catch fire, the proposed project site's natural vegetation, steep terrain and surrounding landscape pose a significant and immediate fire threat.

In the past ten years, there have been twenty-three (23) wildfires within a five-mile radius of the proposed project site. Given the nature of lithium battery fires, firefighters are forced to take a containment approach. Should a fire break containment, all nearby homes and businesses would be in immediate fire danger. The imminent fire risk posed by the BESS facility threatens residents' safety and further exacerbates the state's homeowner's insurance crisis, making it even more difficult for residents to obtain adequate homeowner's insurance policies, compounding the already dire situation.

In addition to the heightened risk of wildfires, the proposed BESS project site presents significant environmental and public health risks. Lithium batteries emit toxic gases within seconds of igniting, leading to air pollution and public health risks. Any fire, regardless of

size generates a significant risk for our first responders' health should this project be approved.

Should first responders quickly extinguish a lithium battery fire, they would be exposed to hazardous toxic gases, which can cause severe debilitating health impacts. If the fire is not readily extinguished, the toxic gases emitted would generate a significant public health risk for the surrounding communities. Any water or fire extinguishing compounds used to combat the fire will become easily contaminated with heavy metals and absorbed into the region's soil, adversely impacting the local ecosystem and population. The project's close proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed further exacerbates potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Pacific Ocean just miles away.

I strongly urge the California Energy Commission to carefully and fully consider these adverse fire, economic, environmental, and public safety risks as they evaluate Compass Energy Storage's proposed project. The health and safety of California residents should always take precedence over any potential benefits proposed by this project. I respectfully request that the California Energy Commission reject this project application and unequivocally prioritize public safety and community quality of life.

Sincerely,

Name:

Rick Munyon

Address

1402 LINETE S.C.

Email address

RRKMUNYON@YAHOO.COM

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Sincerely,

Name: Keith Smith

Address: 25512 Old Terrace Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Email address: VINOKEITHKSS@GMAIL.COM



California Energy Commission  
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Project Title: Compass Energy Storage Project

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Dear California Energy Commissioners,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

Name: Charles Pratt  
Address 26166 Bridlewood Dr. Laguna Hills, CA 92653  
Email address Charles Pratt

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,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

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Sincerely,

Name: William F. Kieckhafer

Address 29295 Rue Cerise, Laguna Niguel

Email address W.Kieckhafer@aol.com

*William F. Kieckhafer*

February 5, 2025

Renee Longman  
California Energy Commission  
715 P. Street  
Sacramento CA 95814

Re: Compass Energy Storage Project

Docket number 24-OPT-02

San Juan Capistrano

Dear Renee,

Here are letters signed by individuals who live in the housing tract right above the proposed site for this Lithium Battery Energy Storage Facility. Their homeowners association collected these letters.

We are paying for the postage to help them with the cost of mailing and trying to eliminate the endless opening of individual envelopes on your end.

B.L.E.S.S.I.N.™ is the community group that opposes this permit. We dearly hope you deny this permit and any other permits for this location.

Sincerely,



Cathleen Pryor

President

B.L.E.S.S.I.N.™



BAN LITHIUM ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS IN NEIGHBORHOODS





# The case for local control of battery energy storage systems

By Katrina Foley

"This is a lot more than a fire. It's really a wake-up call for this industry." These were the remarks from Monterey County Supervisor Glenn Church as the county of Monterey proclaimed an emergency due to the largest Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Facility in the world catching fire on January 16, 2025. More than 1,200 residents evacuated, people reported health issues from emissions, toxic runoff permeated the area, the facility's fire suppression system failed, calls for investigation by the state legislature occurred, and local highways, schools, and businesses were disrupted due to closures.

As someone entrusted by the voters to serve in elected office for 20 years, my heart breaks when the lives and wellbeing of our residents are harmed as a result of poor policy decisions. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) technology has been championed by clean energy advocates for its ability to capture and store energy generated from renewable sources like wind and solar that can be used to power the grid when needed. On paper this sounds great. Who wouldn't support increased grid reliability and saving money on our electric bills?

The costs of utilities, along with almost everything else, are skyrocketing in California. Our Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, who chairs the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy, is doing commendable work to lower energy costs. However, the reality is battery storage facilities raise serious concerns for public safety and the environment.

Orange County residents know all too well that the risks of wildfires are an everyday part of our lives. Fire season is year-round and not changing any time soon.

While the battery storage facility that caught fire in Monterey is in a relatively low fire risk area, the same cannot be said for a proposed BESS project in San Juan Capistrano. The location for this proposed project borders the city of Laguna Niguel and is adjacent to dry-open space areas.

You might ask why Battery Storage Energy System facilities



A fire blazes at the Vistra power plant's battery storage facility in Moss Landing in Monterey County. SHMUEL THALER - SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

answer is simple. The lithium-ion battery technology used in these facilities generate their own oxygen, which means water will help cool down a blaze, but rarely extinguishes the flames. The best our firefighters can do is contain these fires and let them burn out. A 2024 battery facility fire in San Diego was initially extinguished in 24 hours but reignited twice and finally smoldered out after 5 days.

Both the cities of San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel oppose the proposed project in Orange County but have little power to stop it. This is because of Assembly Bill 205, a law passed by the State of California in 2022 that allows the California Energy Commission and California Coastal Commission to bypass local zoning rules to approve these types of large energy projects. Concerns by our communities and hundreds of local residents have not been addressed.

Our local residents and officials understand the risks of wildfires and the safety needs of our community more than appointed state bureaucrats, despite their well-meaning intentions. This will not stop me from taking action.

As the vice chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, embracing sustainable energy systems is a top priority for me, but not at the expense of neigh-

ary 28th meeting of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, the board will consider an urgency ordinance I introduced to place a temporary moratorium on all BESS developments in unincorporated Orange County. The temporary moratorium will give the County of Orange and the Orange County Fire Authority time to work together to study and draft safety standards and regulations for the board to adopt in order to allow for responsible future BESS developments. Governing is about balance and working towards the greater good for all.

I have spearheaded the development of our first climate action plan and initiated sustainability efforts that expand our economy and protect the environment. I agree with the concept behind sustainable energy storage, but it must not be at the cost of our safety. I encourage residents and local officials to lobby your state representatives to amend AB 205 and submit comments to the CEC on developments circumventing local controls. We must have the ability to provide guidance on where BESS facilities can responsibly develop. With dry conditions and wildfires of all sizes appearing early, we must act now to prevent a future catastrophe.

*Katrina Foley is vice chair of the Orange County Board of Supervisors and a director of the*



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Dear California Energy Commissioners,

As a concerned resident of the City of Laguna Niguel, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility. The project applicant, Compass Energy Storage LLC, is proposing to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt BESS facility on a 13-acre project site along the northern portion of the City of San Juan Capistrano immediately adjacent to the eastern border of Laguna Niguel. The project site, which is less than 1,500 feet from several residential neighborhoods in Laguna Niguel, is confined within a designated general open space hillside surrounded by native plants and significant vegetation, brush, and two recreational nature trails. This close proximity to residential areas heightens the potential risk to the community. Our community has organized city meetings, sending comments to the CEC website, and writing letters, demonstrating our united opposition.

The proposed location of Compass Energy Storage's project site poses significant and immediate wildfire risks. The BESS facility would be composed of lithium-iron phosphate batteries, which can be incredibly dangerous if they overheat, causing the battery to catch fire. Lithium battery fires burn hotter and faster than other fires and cannot be easily extinguished. Lithium batteries can reignite twenty-one (21) days after extinguishing the fire, presenting a long-lasting and persistent threat. Should the lithium batteries overheat and catch fire, the proposed project site's natural vegetation, steep terrain and surrounding landscape pose a significant and immediate fire threat.

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Sincerely,

Name: Michael & Sandra Troyer  
Address: 29252 Rue Cewise, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677  
Email address: 2miketroyer@gmail.com

Michael & Sandra Troyer 1-28-25





California Energy Commission  
Project Manager, Renee Longman  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Sincerely,

Name: THOMAS GLYNN

Address 29981 HILLSIDE TERRACE, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CA 92675

Email address thomaseglyn@gmail.com

