

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	262319
<b>Document Title:</b>	Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project – San Juan Capistrano
<b>Description:</b>	Letter from Chris Brown, Superintendent Capistrano Unified School District
<b>Filer:</b>	Kaycee Chang
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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<b>Docketed Date:</b>	3/25/2025



# CAPISTRANO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

33122 VALLE ROAD, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO CA 92675  
TELEPHONE: (949) 234-9200/FAX: 496-7681 [www.capousd.org](http://www.capousd.org)

March 6, 2025

Mr. Drew Bohan  
Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[Drew.Bohan@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Drew.Bohan@energy.ca.gov)

**Subject: Opposition to Compass Energy Storage Project – San Juan Capistrano  
Docket 24-OPT-02**

Dear Mr. Bohan:

I'm writing to express the opposition of the Capistrano Unified School District, California's 10th-largest school district, to Docket 24-OPT-02. While we recognize the state's climate goals and the role that energy storage systems must play in meeting these goals, the safety and well-being of our students must remain our highest priority.

CEC Docket 24-OPT-02 is a project to construct and operate a battery energy storage system to be located about 2500 feet from Capistrano Valley High School, and about 3000 feet from Niguel Hills Middle School. Both schools have only one entrance/exit, which in both instances is at the end of a dead-end street. There are several other CUSD schools within a radius of about 1 1/2 miles of the proposed site.

The proximity and street configuration of CVHS is, however, of the greatest concern to us. In the event of a toxic conflagration in the proposed BESS, CVHS students and staff would be unable to drive away from the BESS to evacuate their site, as exiting the school means driving farther toward the BESS site. This presents an unacceptable risk to the children of our community and the adults who serve them.

We are aware that the City of San Juan Capistrano is willing to work with the project applicant on an alternative BESS site. City staff are aware of other locations in San Juan Capistrano that are adjacent to transmission lines but not located so close to homes, schools, and high-volume transportation routes.

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We urge the California Energy Commission to carefully consider the risks to the students and employees of CVHS and other local schools, homes, and businesses that could result from an accident at the BESS project in Docket 24-OPT-02, and reject the application.

California's climate goals must not take precedence over basic public safety needs.

Sincerely,

Chris Brown, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Cc:

Senator Catherine Blakespear  
Senator Steven Choi  
Assemblymember Laurie Davies  
Assemblymember Dawn Addis  
Supervisor Katrina Foley  
Ben Siegel, City Manager  
City of San Juan Capistrano  
Tamara Letourneau, City Manager  
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