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Submitted On: 3/25/2025

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Opposing the lithium battery plant

Dear Honorable Members of the San Juan Capistrano City Council

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed lithium battery development project in San Juan Capistrano. While I recognize the need for advancements in energy storage, this project presents significant concerns regarding public safety, environmental impact, and the well-being of our community.

Lithium battery storage facilities are known to pose serious fire hazards and explosion risks. Incidents in other regions have demonstrated that malfunctions or failures in battery storage systems can lead to catastrophic fires that are difficult to control, releasing toxic fumes and endangering residents. Given San Juan Capistrano's proximity to residential neighborhoods and natural areas, this development raises severe safety concerns that cannot be overlooked.

San Juan Capistrano is known for its historical charm, natural beauty, and commitment to environmental preservation. The construction and operation of a lithium battery facility could introduce hazardous waste, groundwater contamination, and air pollution that threaten our local ecosystem. Additionally, the facility's energy-intensive operations may contradict our city's sustainability goals and climate action initiatives. Putting the historic Mission in harms way on purpose.

A large-scale industrial facility of this nature could negatively affect property values, discourage tourism, and diminish the overall quality of life for residents. The potential for noise pollution, increased industrial traffic, and the visual impact of such a facility are all concerns that warrant serious reconsideration.

Rather than allowing a high-risk lithium battery facility in our community, I urge the council to explore alternative energy solutions that align with San Juan Capistrano's character and safety standards. Prioritizing community input and conducting a thorough risk assessment before moving forward with this project is essential.

I respectfully request that the San Juan Capistrano City Council reject this lithium battery development proposal and prioritize the safety and well-being of our residents. I encourage you to hold additional public forums, commission independent safety and environmental impact studies, and seek alternative energy solutions that do not pose such significant risks to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your leadership in protecting the people and environment of San Juan Capistrano.