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*Comment Received From: Julie Sakici
Submitted On: 3/29/2025
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Oppose battery farm in residential area

Dear CEC,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed 250-megawatt Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) facility in San Juan Capistrano, Orange County. While I understand the importance of advancing renewable energy initiatives, I believe this specific project raises serious issues that outweigh its potential benefits.

Firstly, the environmental impact of such a large-scale facility cannot be ignored. The construction and operation of the BESS will significantly alter the local landscape and ecosystem. Increased air, noise, and light pollution from the facility could disturb wildlife habitats and negatively affect residents' quality of life. Furthermore, the use of lithium-ion batteries poses risks of hazardous material leaks, especially in case of accidents or improper disposal.

Secondly, public safety is a major concern. Battery storage systems are susceptible to fire and explosion risks due to thermal runaway events. With the size of this facility, any incident could result in catastrophic consequences for the surrounding community.

Additionally, the economic implications for local residents are troubling. Such developments often lead to increased property taxes and decreased property values. The promised economic benefits of job creation may be limited and temporary, failing to outweigh the long-term costs imposed on the community.

I respectfully urge you to reconsider this project and explore alternative energy solutions that prioritize environmental protection, public safety, and community welfare. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Julie Sakici