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Comment Received From: Virginia Van Ness

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Concern Regarding Proposed Energy Storage System in SJC

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in San Juan Capistrano [Docket #: 24-OPT-02], developed by Compass Energy Storage LLC. While I understand the critical need for renewable energy solutions and the importance of reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, I believe this project raises significant environmental, safety, and community impact concerns that must be addressed before moving forward.

Environmental Concerns: The proposed site for the BESS facility may pose risks to local ecosystems, including potential hazards from accidental leaks, fires, or toxic chemical releases. San Juan Capistrano is a community rich in natural and historical resources, and it is crucial to ensure these assets are protected for future generations.

Safety Concerns: Battery energy storage systems have inherent risks, including thermal runaway and fire hazards. Given the proximity of this facility to residential areas, schools, and businesses, the safety measures in place may not adequately mitigate potential threats to the community.

Community Impact: The BESS facility could significantly affect the quality of life for nearby residents, including increased noise, traffic, and aesthetic changes to the area. Furthermore, the project may lower property values and create long-term disruption to the peaceful nature of our town.

While renewable energy is vital for California's future, I urge the Commission to consider alternative locations or energy storage technologies that would reduce the risks and impact on our community. I also request that the Commission require an extensive, transparent, and independent environmental and safety review process for this project, allowing ample opportunity for public input.

San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel residents deserve a say in projects that could drastically affect our environment, safety, and way of life. I respectfully ask the California Energy Commission to deny approval of this project as currently proposed and explore safer, more suitable alternatives for renewable energy storage.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of our community as you consider this project.