

**DOCKETED**

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*Comment Received From: Colleen Edwards*

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## **San Juan Capistrano is not an energy dumping ground**

Dear Members of the California Energy Commission,

Our former family home, in which we raised our family for 25 years, shared a backyard fence line with the tiny SDG&E substation across from a tree-lined park. The substation was trees and land -- it was pretty and we lived peacably next to it for many years. Then came SOCRE (<https://www.sdge.com/major-projects/major-projects-transmission-south-oc>). Despite our David vs. Goliath efforts to stop the tiny substation from becoming the primary power source for the new residential communities throughout South Orange County, the project was approved by the 5-member, non-local CPUC. Regrettably, they were more influenced by power and money than by the input of real families living real life in the northwest part of San Juan Capistrano, a low-income area, where most people are far too busy working to put food on their table to fight against a massive organization like Sempra—one that steamrolls citizens with resources and influence that ordinary people simply cannot match. We moved across town two years ago to get away from the 5-story Sempra/SDG&E monstrosity with 150-foot electrical towers.

As though the Sempra-inspired gut punch to the jewel of the missions, San Juan Capistrano, wasn't enough, we are now facing the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in northwest San Juan Capistrano [Docket #: 24-OPT-02]?! Surely, this small equestrian town of 40K residents, a town famed for its historical significance, with a Mission Basilica that invites pilgrimages from the global faithful, and a citizenry willing to tax itself to preserve Open Space, can't be the best location for ANOTHER energy plant? Surely there is a more suitable remote location where people don't live, play, ride, worship, and/or commute to work every day.

I urge you to search your conscience and pursue alternative locations for BESS. What would you do if you lived in town? Your elderly parents? Your children and grandchildren. Please don't allow power, money, and influence to overshadow the needs of the residents of San Juan Capistrano, who have done more than their part to ensure reliable energy. We don't deserve a one-two punch of this magnitude.

Thank you for standing tall to decide what is right and just. "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8, NIV).

Sincerely,  
Colleen Edwards