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**Support for the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan
Capistrano DOCKET NUMBER 24-OPT-02**

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



Los Angeles / Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council

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April 3, 2025

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano
DOCKET NUMBER 24-OPT-02

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of The Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council (LA/OC BCTC), representing over 48 affiliated unions in 14 trades and more than 140,000 skilled craft workers across Southern California, we are proud to express our strong support for the Compass Energy Storage Project, proposed by ENGIE North America in San Juan Capistrano. This 250-megawatt battery energy storage system (BESS) represents a significant opportunity to advance our region's energy infrastructure and decarbonization while delivering substantial economic benefits to our members and the broader community through good-paying jobs and workforce development.

A cornerstone of our support is the inclusion of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the Compass Energy Storage Project. This PLA ensures that construction will be carried out by local union workers, providing fair wages, benefits, and safe working conditions for our skilled tradespeople. It also prioritizes opportunities for apprentices, enabling the next generation of workers to gain hands-on experience and build careers in the construction industry. At a time when Southern California needs reliable pathways to economic stability, this project stands out as a model of how infrastructure development can uplift our communities by supporting family-sustaining jobs.

The Compass project will create numerous good-paying construction jobs, directly benefiting our members in Orange County and beyond. ENGIE North America has projected that the project will generate over \$50 million in local sales and property tax revenue, further strengthening the economic fabric of South Orange County by funding essential public services like schools and public safety — services that our workers and their families rely on. These economic contributions align with our mission to advocate for projects that not only meet regional needs but also invest in the prosperity of our local workforce.

Beyond its economic impact, the Compass Energy Storage Project addresses California's pressing energy challenges. With a capacity to store 250 megawatts of clean energy using advanced Lithium-Iron-Phosphate (LFP) battery technology, it will enhance grid reliability, reduce the risk of brownouts during peak demand, and support the integration of renewable energy sources. This is particularly critical in a high-demand growth area like San Juan Capistrano, where SDG&E projects energy needs will double by 2045. By utilizing existing infrastructure and a strategically selected site — confirmed by a two-year study as one of the few locations able to absorb 100% of the project's output — the Compass project minimizes disruption while maximizing efficiency.

We also commend ENGIE's proactive approach to safety, a priority we share as an organization committed to protecting our workers. Their collaboration with the Orange County Fire Authority to develop a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan, alongside features like a 10-foot non-combustible perimeter wall and real-time management and monitoring systems, ensures that this project will be built and operated with the highest safety standards in mind — safeguarding both our members on the job and the surrounding community.

The LA/OC Building and Construction Trades Council urges the California Energy Commission to approve the Compass Energy Storage Project. This initiative not only bolsters California's clean energy future but also delivers tangible benefits to our local workforce through the PLA, job creation, and economic growth. We stand ready to partner with ENGIE North America to bring this project to fruition, ensuring that it serves as a blueprint for how infrastructure investments can empower workers and strengthen communities.

Thank you for your leadership in advancing California's energy goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernesto Medrano".

Ernesto Medrano
Executive Secretary

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