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OCBC's Support for Compass Energy Project

Additional submitted attachment is included below.



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May 14, 2025

Mr. Drew Bohan Executive Director California Energy Commission 715 P Street Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano

Dear Mr. Bohan,

On behalf of the Orange County Business Council (OCBC), the leading voice of business in Orange County, we write to reaffirm and expand upon our support for the Compass Energy Storage Project, as outlined in our June 13, 2024, letter. As the region's population and energy demands grow, this 250-megawatt battery energy storage system proposed by ENGIE North America is essential for maintaining grid reliability and supporting Orange County's \$240 billion economy.

With the closure of the San Onofre nuclear plant and SDG&E projecting energy demand to double by 2045, Compass's role in storing and distributing clean energy during peak periods is vital. Beyond its environmental benefits, the project will generate more than \$50 million in local tax revenue for schools, infrastructure and public safety.

ENGIE North America has demonstrated exemplary transparency and responsiveness in the face of local opposition—engaging stakeholders, collaborating with the Orange County Fire Authority on a robust Emergency Response Plan and incorporating significant safety measures.

OCBC's Legislative Action Guide (2023-24, p. 42, Position 3.32) supports infrastructure improvements in energy generation, transmission, and storage to meet future statewide growth. The Compass project exemplifies this goal, leveraging existing infrastructure to deliver clean energy without new transmission lines or fossil fuel facilities.

We urge the California Energy Commission to approve the Compass Energy Storage Project as a critical step toward ensuring energy resilience and economic prosperity in Orange County.

Sincerely, Amanda Walsh Vice President Government Affairs