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Opposition

As a resident of South Orange County, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed Lithium Battery Energy Storage System currently under review. While I understand the importance of renewable energy, this facility poses serious and unacceptable risks to our health, safety, and homes.

Fire and Health Hazards in a High-Risk Area

Lithium battery energy storage systems have a documented history of thermal runaway fires and explosions. These incidents are not only difficult to contain—they release toxic gases and smoke that can be extremely harmful to human health, especially for children, seniors, and individuals with respiratory conditions.

South Orange County is already in a designated high fire-risk zone, where strong winds and dry conditions increase the danger of a fast-moving fire. Placing this type of volatile energy facility in a residential area significantly raises the chance of a disaster affecting thousands of families. Emergency response systems could be overwhelmed in the event of a battery fire, and the lack of clear evacuation routes in some neighborhoods makes this a real public safety concern.

Impact on Homeowners and Property Insurance

The fire risk also directly affects residents' ability to obtain and maintain homeowners' insurance. Many insurers have already pulled out of parts of California due to increasing wildfire risks. Introducing a high-risk facility like this one into our neighborhood could make it even harder for families to find coverage—or force them into costly, limited state insurance programs like the FAIR Plan. This would drive up costs, reduce coverage, and lower property values across the community.

This Is Not the Right Location

This facility is simply not appropriate for a densely populated, family-centered community like ours. There are safer, more remote areas better suited for this type of infrastructure. We support clean energy solutions—but not at the cost of our community's safety, health, and stability.

I urge the Commission to reject this proposal and protect the well-being of South Orange County residents.