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Opposition to BESS in San Juan Capistrano

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

May 24, 2025

California Energy Commission

Docket Number: 24-OPT-02

Project Title: Compass Energy Storage Project

RE: Opposing to the Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project (24-OPT-02)

Dear Commissioners,

I want you to deny Compass Energy Storage Project's application in San Juan Capistrano, on land currently owned by Saddleback Church.

The problems are numerous:

1. Proximity to Community Assets: The proposed facility is dangerously close to where people live, where children go to school, where people shop, and a medical center. In the event of a fire, explosion, or toxic fume release, the impact on residents and emergency services would be catastrophic.
2. Transportation Risks: Its location near Interstate 5 and a major railway poses a significant risk. A disaster, such as the recent fire at Moss Landing, could lead to closures of these essential transportation routes, severely disrupting regional mobility and commerce.
3. Environmental Impacts: This area is home to diverse flora and fauna, including endangered species. Moreover, it serves as a popular recreational space, featuring trails enjoyed by hikers, bicyclists, and nature enthusiasts. The proposed facility would irreversibly harm the ecosystem and compromise its community value.
4. Demand on Community Resources: The facility would also create an unsustainable demand on local resources, including water needed in the event of a fire. This, combined with the additional burden placed on emergency services and first responders could significantly disrupt essential community operations.

I urge this Commission to put people first and prioritize the safety and well-being of Californians above any financial incentives or cost-saving measures that benefit the developer. The proposed site was likely chosen due to its proximity to the San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Trabuco to Capistrano 138-kilovolt transmission line; however, this convenience should not come at the expense of community welfare.

Respectfully,

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