

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	24-OPT-02
Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
TN #:	263358
Document Title:	OCHCC Support Letter
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Erin Phillips
Organization:	Dudek
Submitter Role:	Applicant Consultant
Submission Date:	5/25/2025 9:38:54 AM
Docketed Date:	5/27/2025



ORANGE COUNTY HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

May 23, 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 Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (OCHCC), a key advocate for the region's diverse business community, we are writing to lend our support for the Compass Energy Storage Project.

As Orange County continues to grow, both in population and energy consumption, the need for reliable and sustainable energy solutions becomes increasingly urgent. The Compass project—a 250-megawatt battery energy storage facility proposed by ENGIE North America—offers a forward-thinking solution to help meet these demands while safeguarding the economic vitality of our \$240 billion regional economy.

The permanent shutdown of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, combined with SDG&E's forecast of a doubling in energy demand by 2045, underscores the importance of this initiative. The Compass facility will play a critical role in storing renewable energy and ensuring its availability during periods of high usage. In addition to its environmental contributions, the project is expected to provide over \$50 million in local tax revenues, directly benefiting public schools, infrastructure development, and community safety.

ENGIE North America has gone to great lengths to communicate openly with the community, address concerns, and ensure safety by partnering with the Orange County Fire Authority on a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan and integrating state-of-the-art protective measures.

The OCHCC supports strategic investments in energy infrastructure. The Compass project is aligned with these priorities, as it utilizes existing infrastructure to deliver clean energy without requiring new transmission routes or reliance on fossil fuels.

We respectfully urge the California Energy Commission to approve the Compass Energy Storage Project as a vital component in advancing Orange County's energy security and continued economic growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Reuben Franco'.

Reuben Franco
President & CEO

The Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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