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Comment Received From: Elinor Nelson

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I oppose the Lithium Battery Storage Facility

My name is Elinor Nelson and I have lived in Marina Hills in Laguna Niguel for five years.

I strongly believe that it is highly dangerous to place this type of facility in a populated area. While I support the state's interest in green energy, that should not come at the expense of the safety of the state's residents.

Additionally, there are other points about this location that I would like to emphasize to you.

I'm sure that you are familiar with the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps created by the state of California. My own area, which is just a few short miles from the proposed facility, has recently been upgraded to the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the highest risk zone. I understand that the facility is in a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and is on both sides bordered by Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. With this in mind, I struggle to understand how anyone with a grain of sense would place a facility in our area that could - and in many instances has - create a fire that could burn uncontrolled, since this type of fire is so difficult to extinguish.

Recently, a representative from the Orange County Fire Authority spoke at our HOA meeting about what we as homeowners should be doing to our landscaping in order to minimize our risk. We were told to drastically change the landscaping surrounding our property, to cut down trees and remove bushes and flowers and mulch within certain distances of our homes; we were even told that we need to make sure that the mesh in the vents of our homes was 1/8 inch, not the 1/4 inch that has often been used. The recommendations were quite extreme.

How could it possibly be that one arm of our government is telling us that we as homeowners need to take these measures to protect ourselves, and another arm of our government would authorize the placement of a facility in our neighborhood that could increase our risk exponentially? This makes no sense.

As well, you must know that there is a high school very close to the property where this facility would be located - and if there were a fire, the only escape route for the children and adults would take them even closer to this property.

Some might call this a NIMBY letter, but they would be wrong. This is not concerning a homeless shelter in my community, or a halfway house, or low income housing. This is about placing something in my community that could pose an existential threat. Please don't insult me by thinking this is NIMBY.

Frankly, the prospect of this facility terrifies me. I suspect you would feel the same if this facility were being placed near where you and your loved ones reside. Let's not place these facilities in populated areas. It's not safe and it's not fair.