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<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
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*Comment Received From: Jessica Smith*  
*Submitted On: 5/25/2025*  
*Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

## **Stop Battery Project**

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in San Juan Capistrano [Docket #: 24-OPT-02], developed by Compass Energy Storage LLC. I believe this project raises significant environmental, safety, and community impact concerns that must be addressed before moving forward.

**Environmental Concerns:** The proposed site for the BESS facility poses risks to local ecosystems, including potential hazards from accidental leaks, fires, or toxic chemical releases. San Juan Capistrano is a community rich in natural and historical resources, and it is crucial to ensure these assets are protected for future generations.

**Safety Concerns:** Battery energy storage systems have inherent risks, including thermal runaway and fire hazards. We've unfortunately seen first hand this year how perilous the fire risk is in Southern California and we should not be doing anything that significantly increases that risk. If a fire were to start in this area, it could range uncontrollably destroying a significant portion of OC in its path.

**Community Impact:** The BESS facility could significantly affect the quality of life for nearby residents, including increased noise, traffic, and aesthetic changes to the area. Furthermore, the project may lower property values and create long-term disruption to the peaceful nature of our town.

While renewable energy is vital for California's future, I urge us to consider alternative locations or energy storage technologies that would reduce the risks and impact on our community. I also request that the Commission require an extensive, transparent, and independent environmental and safety review process for this project, allowing ample opportunity for public input.

San Juan Capistrano and Laguna Niguel residents deserve a say in projects that could drastically affect our environment, safety, and way of life.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of our community as you consider this project.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Smith