

| <b>DOCKETED</b>         |   |
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| <b>Project Title:</b>   | Compass Energy Storage Project            |
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| <b>Document Title:</b>  | Melissa Strodbeck Comments - Fire Concern |
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*Comment Received From: Melissa Strodbeck  
Submitted On: 5/27/2025  
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

## **Fire Concern**

Dear Members of the Energy Commission,

I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed Compass Energy battery energy storage facility on Camino Capistrano. The Shea Center is located just one mile south of the proposed site, and we are deeply concerned about the serious risks this facility would pose to the safety of our employees, clients, volunteers, and therapy horses.

As a nonprofit serving individuals with disabilities through equine-assisted therapy, our center is uniquely vulnerable in the event of an emergency. A fire or explosion at the battery facility—even a small one—could quickly escalate into a catastrophe. Evacuating our herd of horses and our clients, many of whom have mobility challenges, would be extremely difficult under normal conditions. Under duress, it could become impossible.

Compounding this danger is the location's poor accessibility. The surrounding roadways are already heavily congested, especially during school dismissal times. I invite you to visit us at 3:00 p.m. on a school day to experience it firsthand: traffic from our location to the nearest freeway on-ramp (just three blocks away) can take over 15 minutes due to the release of students from Fairmont and J. Serra schools. The situation is further restricted by nearby train tracks and limited exit routes.

Now imagine that same traffic scenario with hundreds more vehicles—ours, the Capistrano Villas neighborhood with thousands of residents, San Juan Equestrian neighbors, and school parents—all trying to flee at once during a battery-related emergency. The result would be a bottlenecked evacuation, endangering lives and leaving no viable escape route.

We urge you not to approve this facility in its proposed location. Please do not risk the lives of vulnerable individuals, our dedicated staff, and our therapy animals. The safety of our community should not be compromised for industrial convenience.

Respectfully,  
Melissa Strodbeck  
Controller  
The Shea Center for Therapeutic Riding