

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Battery Energy Storage
<b>TN #:</b>	255535-14
<b>Document Title:</b>	Section 4-10_Socioeconomics
<b>Description:</b>	This section describes the potential social and economic effects within the Project vicinity and region arising from the construction and operation of the Project.
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<b>Submission Date:</b>	4/5/2024 11:41:19 AM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	4/5/2024

## 4.10 Socioeconomics

This section describes the potential social and economic effects within the Project vicinity and region arising from the construction and operation of the BESS. This discussion considers Project-related effects to population, housing, public services and utilities, and county tax revenue, and evaluates the economic benefits that will arise from the Project. This evaluation of socioeconomics includes the following elements:

- Section 4.10.1 describes the socioeconomic environment that might be affected by the BESS.
- Section 4.10.2 provides an economic analysis of the construction and operation of the proposed development.
- Section 4.10.3 discusses whether there will be any cumulative effects from the Project.
- Section 4.10.4 describes mitigation measures that will be implemented to avoid impacts.
- Section 4.10.5 discusses the applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS).
- Section 4.10.6 lists the agencies involved and agency contacts.
- Section 4.10.7 discusses permits and permit schedules.
- Section 4.10.8 lists reference materials used in preparing this section.
- Appendix 4.10A presents an economic and public revenue impact study.

### 4.10.1 Affected Environment

The region of influence for purposes of evaluating the socioeconomic impacts associated with the Project will be the city of San Juan Capistrano and Orange County.

#### 4.10.1.1 Population

Land use and growth trends identified for the study area are based on population estimates, projections, and current land use plans. The California Department of Finance (CDOF) estimates that the City of San Juan Capistrano's 2022 population is 34,798 while Orange County's population is estimated at 3,162,245 (CDOF 2022).

According to CDOF, the 2010 population was 34,593 and 3,010,232 in the city of San Juan Capistrano and Orange County, respectively. It is estimated that Orange County's population will grow to 3,291,863 by the year 2030 (CDOF 2020). Based on Orange County population data for years 2010 and 2020, population growth within the county was 5.77%. This equates to a net increase in residents of 174,036 for the 10-year period from 2010-2020. Table 4.10-1 summarizes the historical population data for Orange County and the state of California.

**Table 4.10-1. Historical and Projected Populations**

Area	2010	2015	2020	2022	2030 projected	2040 projected	2050 projected
Orange County	3,010,232	3,154,363	3,190,832	3,162,245	3,291,863	3,315,726	3,268,048
California	37,366,938	39,007,121	39,782,419	39,185,605	41,860,549	43,353,414	44,049,015

**Source:** California Department of Finance 2020, 2022

**Table 4.10-2. Historical and Projected Annual Population Change by Percent**

Area	2010-2020	2020-2030 projected	2030-2040 projected	2040-2050 projected
Orange County	5.99%	3.16%	0.72%	-1.43%
California	6.46%	5.22%	3.57%	1.60%

Source: California Department of Finance 2020, 2022

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s environmental justice screening tool, the population (2016-2020) within a 10-mile area surrounding the Project site was 603,467 (USEPA 2023). This equates to a population density of 2,691 people per square mile (USEPA 2023).

Both the City of San Juan Capistrano and Orange County are expected to experience continued growth over the next 25 years.

#### 4.10.1.2 Housing

As shown in Table 4.10-3, housing stock for San Juan Capistrano and Orange County as of January 1, 2022, was 12,429 units, and 1,142,380 units, respectively; vacancy rate was 3.8% and 5.1%, for San Juan Capistrano and Orange County respectively. As of January 1, 2022, the vacancy rate for the State of California was 6.7% (CDOF 2022). United States Department of Housing and Urban Development considers a vacancy rate below 5% as limiting.

**Table 4.10-3. Housing Estimates as of January 1, 2022**

Area	Total Units	Single-Family (Detached)	Multi-Family (Attached)	Mobile Homes	Percent Vacant
San Juan Capistrano	12,429	9,152	1,903	1,374	3.8%
Orange County	1,142,380	705,437	403,200	33,743	5.1%
California	14,583,998	9,352,428	4,669,343	562,223	6.7%

Source: California Department of Finance 2022

There is no available information regarding the projected number of housing units (occupied and unoccupied housing units) for the future; however, the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) does provide a projection of the number of households (occupied housing units). As seen in Table 4.10-4, San Juan Capistrano is expected to gain 1,800 between 2016 and 2045, an increase of 15.5% (City of San Juan Capistrano Housing Element 2021-2029). Projected households in Orange County during this same time period is also expected to increase by 8.3% (City of San Juan Capistrano Housing Element 2021-2029).

**Table 4.10-4. Projected Number of Households in San Juan Capistrano and Orange County, 2016-2045**

Area	2016	2045	Percent Change
San Juan Capistrano	11,600	13,400	15.5%
Orange County	1,065,000	1,154,000	8.3%

Source: City of San Juan Capistrano Housing Element 2022

### 4.10.1.3 Economy and Employment

Employment trends in Orange County have varied with periods of growth and decline. Between 2018 and 2022, employment decreased by 574,900 jobs. This equates to a -4.4% change between 2018-2022, which is similar to the -4.8% change in employment for the State of California (CEDD 2022; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2023). In Orange County, the greatest change in employment occurred between 2019-2020 where employment declined by 9.2%, corresponding to a decrease of 1,204,100 jobs. The following year (2020-2021), employment grew 3.8% corresponding to an increase of 454,100 jobs. On a percentage increase basis, employment in educational and health services and health care and social assistance industries experienced the largest increases in employment, whereas leisure and hospitality and goods producing industries experienced the largest reduction. Employment trends and distribution in Orange County from 2018-2022 are summarized in Table 4.10-5 below.

**Table 4.10-5. Employment Distribution in Orange County, 2018-2021**

Industry Title	2018 Number of Employees	2019 Number of Employees	2020 Number of Employees	2021 Number of Employees	Percent Change 2018-2021
Other	3,917,400	3,957,200	3,605,700	3,726,000	-4.9
Total Wage and Salary	1,653,800	1,675,300	1,526,600	1,580,400	-4.4
Total Nonfarm	1,651,800	1,673,500	1,524,700	1,578,400	-4.4
Total Private	1,490,600	1,510,900	1,369,000	1,423,200	-4.5
Service Providing	1,384,800	1,407,100	1,273,400	1,329,500	-4.0
Private Service Providing	1,223,600	1,244,500	1,117,700	1,174,200	-4.0
Professional and Business Services	317,400	328,700	307,100	322,200	1.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	261,600	259,500	241,600	249,700	-4.5
Goods Producing	267,000	266,400	251,300	249,000	-6.7
Educational and Health Care Services	225,200	233,100	224,000	236,400	5.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	195,900	201,600	196,100	205,300	4.8
Leisure and Hospitality	222,600	227,700	161,500	179,000	-19.6
Government	N/A	N/A	155,700	155,200	N/A
Accommodation and Food Service	171,700	173,700	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,983,400</b>	<b>13,158,500</b>	<b>11,954,400</b>	<b>12,408,500</b>	<b>—</b>

**Source:** CEDD 2023

**Note:** Jobs located in the county or the metropolitan area that pay wages and salaries are counted although workers may live outside the area. Jobs are counted regardless of the number of hours worked. Individuals who hold more than one job (i.e., multiple job holders) may be counted more than once. The employment figure is an estimate of the number of jobs in the area (regardless of the place of residence of the workers) rather than a count of jobs held by the residents of the area.

Table 4.10-6 provides details on the characteristics of the labor force and annual average employment data at the city, county, and state level from 2018-2022. As shown in Table 4.10-6 below, unemployment rates in San Juan Capistrano have been less than those for Orange County and California.

**Table 4.10-6. City, County, and State Employment Data, 2018-2021**

Area	Year	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
San Juan Capistrano	2021	16,400	15,600	800	5%
Orange County	2021	1,553,900	1,461,200	92,700	6%
California	2021	18,923,200	17,541,900	1,381,200	7.3%
San Juan Capistrano	2020	16,500	15,200	1,300	7.8%
Orange County	2020	1,561,500	1,420,700	140,800	9%
California	2020	18,931,100	16,996,700	1,934,500	10.2%
San Juan Capistrano	2019	17,200	16,800	500	2.7%
Orange County	2019	1,616,000	1,570,000	45,900	2.8%
California	2019	19,409,400	18,612,600	796,800	4.1%
San Juan Capistrano	2018	17,200	16,700	500	2.9%
Orange County	2018	1,615,900	1,567,700	48,100	3%
California	2018	19,289,500	18,468,100	821,400	4.3%

Source: CEDD 2022.

#### 4.10.1.4 Fiscal Resources

Table 4.10-7 outlines San Juan Capistrano's General Fund expenditures and revenues for fiscal year (FY) 2018-2019, FY 2019-2020, and FY 2020-2021. As shown in Table 4.10-6 below, General Fund revenues decreased by 17% from FY 2018-2019 to FY 2019-2020 but increased by 3.4% the following fiscal year (FY 2019-2020 to FY 2021-2020). Taxes are the largest source of revenue for the city, accounting for an average of approximately 68.1% of the city's total general fund revenues.

**Table 4.10-7. San Juan Capistrano General Fund Revenues and Expenditures**

Fund Type	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
<b>Expenditures</b>			
General Government	\$ 4,777,278	\$ 4,430,038	\$ 4,259,536
Public Safety	\$ 10,791,863	\$ 10,915,842	\$ 11,200,854
Community Services	\$ 2,243,595	\$ 2,216,795	\$ 2,060,941
Development Services	\$ 2,984,471	\$ 2,798,700	\$ 3,175,756
Public Works/Utilities	\$ 7,681,871	\$ 7,134,287	\$ 7,635,717
Other	\$ 2,666,768	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Transfers Out - Operating Funds	\$ 385,813	\$ 276,504	\$ 391,212
Total Financing Requirements	\$ 31,531,659	\$ 28,272,166	\$ 29,224,016
<b>Revenues</b>			
Taxes	\$ 21,814,406	\$ 21,156,498	\$ 25,066,302
Licenses, Fees and Permits	\$ 2,255,787	\$ 2,515,607	\$ 2,746,022
Franchise Fees	\$ 1,382,164	\$ 1,862,479	\$ 1,984,810
Fines and Forfeitures	\$ 1,033,042	\$ 989,897	\$ 1,045,320
Revenue From Use of Money and Property	\$ 949,042	\$ 938,454	\$ 389,366

**Table 4.10-7. San Juan Capistrano General Fund Revenues and Expenditures**

Fund Type	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Other Agencies	\$ 892,090	\$ 972,741	\$ 1,228,942
Other Revenue	\$ 6,652,090	\$ 105,493	\$ 137,205
Current Services	\$ 639,535	\$ 700,114	\$ 548,078
Transfers In	\$ 698,352	\$ 877,105	\$ 751,005
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 36,316,508</b>	<b>\$ 30,118,388</b>	<b>\$ 33,897,050</b>

Source: City of San Juan Capistrano General Fund Summary

Table 4.10-8 provides a summary of Orange County's annual budget for FY 2018-2019, FY 2019-2020, and FY 2020-2021.

**Table 4.10-8. Orange County Annual Budget**

Fund Type	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
<b>Expenditures</b>			
Public Protection	\$ 1,378,300,000	\$ 1,377,600,000	\$ 1,604,700,000
Community Services	\$ 2,470,000,000	\$ 2,711,200,000	\$ 3,207,500,000
Infrastructure and Environmental Resources	\$ 1,332,400,000	\$ 884,100,000	\$ 1,021,200,000
General Government Services	\$ 172,500,000	\$ 212,600,000	\$ 231,300,000
Capital Improvements	\$ 206,400,000	\$ 287,300,000	\$ 259,000,000
Debt Service	\$ 152,900,000	\$ 148,100,000	\$ 171,300,000
Insurance, Reserves, and Miscellaneous	\$ 705,200,000	\$ 599,400,000	\$ 717,100,000
Total Financing Requirements	\$ 4,149,699,813	\$ 6,220,300,000	\$ 7,212,100,000
<b>Revenues</b>			
Intergovernmental Revenues	\$ 2,288,100,000	\$ 2,387,400,000	\$ 3,241,100,000
Taxes	\$ 1,067,400,000	\$ 1,119,700,000	\$ 1,185,000,000
Charges for Services	\$ 875,200,000	\$ 898,800,000	\$ 904,400,000
Other Financing Sources	\$ 841,200,000	\$ 970,700,000	\$ 925,800,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 424,000,000	\$ 446,700,000	\$ 508,400,000
Revenue From Use of Money and Property	\$ 248,900,000	\$ 190,400,000	\$ 166,100,000
Fines and Forfeitures/Licenses and Permits	\$ 90,700,000	\$ 85,000,000	\$ 74,100,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 5,835,500,000</b>	<b>\$ 5,940,400,000</b>	<b>\$ 7,017,700,000</b>

Source: Orange County FY 2023-22 Budget

As shown in Table 4.10-8 above, the majority of Orange County's revenue comes from intergovernmental revenues, followed by taxes. Intergovernmental revenue is funding received from another government, either in the form of a grant or as a reimbursement for costs incurred. In FY 18-19, intergovernmental revenues made up approximately 39.2% of Orange County's annual budget revenues. The contribution of intergovernmental revenues to the County's annual budget increased slightly to 40.2% in FY 19-20, and again to 46.2% in FY 20-21.

### 4.10.1.5 Education

The Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) is the school district that serves the BESS Project site and surrounding area. CUSD includes all or part of the cities of San Juan Capistrano, San Clemente, Dana Point, Laguna Nigel, Aliso Viejo, Mission Viejo, and Rancho Santa Margarita, and the communities of Las Flores, Coto de Caza, Dove Canyon, Ladera Ranch, Sendero/Rancho Mission Viejo, and Wagon Wheel (CUSD 2021). Table 4.10-9 provides enrollment by grade for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 school year.

**Table 4.10-9. Enrollment in Capistrano Unified School District, by Grade**

Grade	2019-20 School Year	2020-21 School Year	2021-22 School Year
Kindergarten	3,870	3,240	3,537
1st	3,465	3,239	3,209
2nd	3,487	3,291	3,324
3rd	3,626	3,415	3,350
4th	3,687	3,534	3,468
5th	3,737	3,609	3,563
6th	3,924	3,706	3,722
7th	4,230	3,934	3,825
8th	4,304	4,281	4,051
9th	4,579	4,247	4,256
10th	4,445	4,664	4,360
11th	4,641	4,412	4,662
12th	4,799	4,847	4,647

**Source:** California Department of Education, DataQuest.

**Note:** Enrollment data includes charter schools and alternative schools/programs.

Table 4.10-10 provides student enrollment within the District, County, and State, for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022 school year.

**Table 4.10-10. Enrollment in Capistrano Unified School District, Orange County and Statewide**

Area	2019-20 School Year	2020-21 School Year	2021-22 School Year
Capistrano Unified	52,794	50,419	49,974
Orange County	473,612	456,572	448,729
California	6,163,001	6,002,523	5,892,240

**Source:** California Department of Education, DataQuest

**Note:** Enrollment data includes charter schools and alternative schools/programs.

### 4.10.1.6 Public Services and Facilities

This section describes public services and facilities in the BESS area (San Juan Capistrano and Orange County). Local governments with a large enough tax base provide public emergency services to their residents. In areas where the tax base is too small to create emergency service agencies, the responsibility for providing such services falls to the corresponding county. The three primary emergency service functions provided by local governments

are police, fire, and emergency medical services. As their primary goal, these public service agencies share a role in protecting the safety of people and their property.

#### 4.10.1.6.1 Law Enforcement

The Orange County Sheriff's Department provides law enforcement services for 13 cities, including San Juan Capistrano, as well as Orange County's unincorporated areas. The Sheriff's Patrol Operations Command has four divisions: North Operations, Southeast Operations, Southwest Operations, and Transit Operations. The Project site and surrounding area falls within the Southwest Operations Division service area. The response time to an emergency call from the Project site depends on availability and proximity of sheriff's deputies at the time dispatch receives the emergency call. The nearest station is the Laguna Niguel Police Services located at 30111 Crown Valley Parkway, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677, approximately 2.3 miles from the Project site.

#### 4.10.1.6.2 Fire Protection

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) provides emergency response services to the Orange County region, including the city of San Juan Capistrano. OCFA responds to a wide range of emergency incidents including emergency medical and fire response, hazardous materials response, floods, water rescues, earthquakes, bomb threats, terrorism, and more. The closest fire station to the Project site is Orange County Fire Authority Station No. 9, located at 9 Shops Blvd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691, approximately 1.6 miles from the Project site.

#### 4.10.1.6.3 Emergency Response

OCFA Station No. 9 is located at 9 Shops Blvd., Mission Viejo, CA 92691 is the nearest station capable of handling incidents involving hazardous materials.

#### 4.10.1.6.4 Hospitals

Providence Mission Hospital Mission Viejo is the nearest hospital to the Project site, located at 27700 Medical Center Rd, Mission Viejo, CA 92691, approximately 2.10 miles from the Project site. Providence Mission Hospital has a Level II trauma center within the emergency care department that is staffed 24 hours a day. The emergency and critical intensive care staff include surgeons, oncologists, orthopedists, neurologists, cardiologists, nurse practitioners, and board-certified emergency care physicians. Providence Mission Hospital provides a full range of specialty health care services and expertise in cardiovascular, neuroscience, spine, orthopedics, cancer care, women's services, mental health, and wellness services.

#### 4.10.1.7 Utilities

A public utility is an organization that maintains the infrastructure for a public service. An interruption of public utilities can adversely impact public health. A reduction in the reliability of public utility services impacts all aspects of daily life.

#### 4.10.1.7.1 Electricity and Gas

Limited amounts of hazardous materials would be stored or used on the site during operations including, diesel fuel, gasoline, and motor oil for vehicles, construction equipment, mineral oil to be sealed within the transformers, and lithium-ion batteries. For safety precautions, each individual module will be monitored and controlled to ensure



safe and efficient operations, and every BESS enclosure will be equipped with an integrated fire suppression system, ventilation, as well as gas, heat, and smoke detection and alarms to be designed, constructed, and operated in compliance with the 2022 California Fire Code.

The Project will include the development of an approximately 250 MW battery energy storage system (BESS) and associated infrastructure. The stationary BESS equipment receives and stores electrical energy for use at a future time using batteries. Power released or captured by the proposed Project/Applicant will be transferred to and from the SDG&E Trabuco to Capistrano 138kV transmission line via a loop-in generation transmission line that will interconnect to a SDG&E switchyard that will be constructed within the Project site.

#### 4.10.1.7.2 Water

To meet regulatory standards and reduce potential for stormwater to be discharged off site in exceedance of existing conditions, offsite and onsite will flow to both onsite and offsite stormwater system. Onsite stormwater will be diverted to the channelized portion of the Orange County Flood Control District channel, and offsite runoff will be diverted to a combination of drainage ditches underground discharge lines. No discharges will occur to Oso Creek.

#### 4.10.1.7.3 Wastewater Discharge

There will be no wastewater discharged as part of the Project.

### 4.10.2 Economic Analysis

This section assesses the potential economic impacts of the Project and linear facilities.

Local environmental impacts were determined by comparing Project demands during construction and operation with the socioeconomic resources of the region of influence. Orange County is the region of influence for the Project. Construction and operations of a proposed energy storage facility has the potential to impact employment, population, housing, public services, and utilities, and/or schools. Impacts can either be local and/or regional, although generally impacts tend to be more local than regional. Regional impacts occur outside the county's boundaries.

#### 4.10.2.1 Methodology

An Economic and Public Revenue Impact Study was prepared for the Project (Appendix 4.10A). This analysis contained in the Economic and Public Revenue Impact Study uses an Input-Output (I/O) modeling framework to quantify the Project's one-time and ongoing contributions to city and countywide output, employment, and labor income. The I/O modeling framework is premised on the concept that industries in a geographic region are interdependent in the sense that they purchase output from and supply input to other industries. This regional economic analysis relies on IMPLAN (Impact Analysis for Planning) software, an I/O model that draws on data collected by the IMPLAN Group, LLC, from several state and federal sources, including the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the Census Bureau. The model is used widely for estimating economic impacts across a wide array of industries and economic settings.

Regional economic impact analysis and I/O models in particular provide a means to estimate total effects stemming from a particular industry or activity, and yield estimates of the number and types of jobs created, the wages associated with those jobs, and the total economic output or "final sales" generated within various industries. I/O models rely on economic "multipliers" that mathematically represent the relationship between the initial change in

one sector of the economy and the effect of that change on other interdependent industry sectors, corresponding changes in demand for inputs to those interdependent sectors, and so on. These effects are commonly described as “direct,” “indirect,” or “induced” and are generally defined as follows:

- The **direct effect** is the initial change in economic activity in a specific industry or sector. For example, economic activities (business revenues, jobs, employee earnings) occurring at the Project site would represent the direct impact on the San Juan Capistrano economy.
- The **indirect effect** results from industry-to-industry transactions required to support the direct activity. This effect is a measure of the change in the output of suppliers linked to the industry that is being evaluated. For example, the construction of the new battery energy storage project will cause an increase in sales of construction materials, engineering services, and other goods from “business-to-business” suppliers in San Juan Capistrano and elsewhere. While the Project will create indirect effects in the State overall, for this analysis only indirect effects within San Juan Capistrano and, separately, Orange County, are estimated.
- The **induced effect** consists of impacts from employee spending in the regional economy. Specifically, the employees of directly and indirectly affected businesses generate this effect by purchasing goods and services in the regional economy (e.g., food, clothing, automobiles, health care, etc.). For this analysis, induced effects within San Juan Capistrano and Orange County are estimated separately. As with the indirect effects, there will be additional induced effects felt in the state above and beyond the citywide and countywide effects estimated in this analysis.
- The **total impact** is the sum of the direct, indirect, and induced effects. The total impact measures the overall impact as an activity as it “ripples” through the economy.

This report measures economic significance using common economic metrics, including employment, full-time equivalents, employee compensation, output, and value added, as defined below.

- Employment is equivalent to IMPLAN jobs, a headcount that includes part-time and full-time workers. All employment figures, unless indicated otherwise, are presented this way.
- Full-Time Equivalents (FTE) represent the total number of work hours, excluding overtime and holidays, worked by employees divided by the number of compensable hours in a fulltime schedule. For example, if an employer considered 40 hours to be a full-time workweek through an entire year, an employee working 40-hour workweeks would be equivalent to one FTE while an employee that worked 20 hours weekly through the entire year would have an FTE of 0.5.
- A Job-Year is defined as one year of work for one person. For example, one person holding a job for 12 months equals one job-year, and two people each holding a job for six months would also equal one job-year.
- Employee Compensation represents payments to labor in the form of both income and fringe benefits paid by the employer (e.g., health, retirement).
- Economic Output represents a measure of economic activity, calculated as production value or final sales value. This measure indicates the total value of the economic activity including the value of intermediate inputs (i.e., the goods and services used in the production of final products that are not sold in final-demand markets).
- Value Added represents an alternative and smaller metric of economic activity than economic output. Similar to the concept and definition of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) often used to report national levels of economic activity, value added counts only the additional economic value added at a particular site or area, excluding the value of any intermediate inputs purchased. As a result, value added equals economic output (described above) minus the value of intermediate inputs. A successful project will cover employee compensation, proprietor income and profit, and tax payments with its value added.

There are two important caveats relevant to the interpretation of IMPLAN model estimates derived in the Economic and Public Revenue Impact Study.

First, the input-output methodology assumes that demand for goods and services by industries or households directly relates to the increase in income and that an increase in demand results in a proportional increase in local supply and employment. This assumes fixed linear relationships between input (resource) use and output and between income and consumption. This assumption allows for economic modeling and best estimates of economic impacts, recognizing that responses to final demand changes may not occur in direct linear proportions.

Second, I/O models assume that local suppliers have sufficient capacity to respond to changes in final demand by increasing their output and hiring additional workers without shifting any production resources (inputs) from other competing needs. This assumption may not hold in areas with tight labor or capital markets since suppliers may find it difficult to obtain these labor or material inputs or other resources necessary to expand production. While the County's unemployment rate of approximately 3.7 percent is low, the large size of the County's labor force suggests that there should be sufficient labor available to support the Project without affecting other businesses. Furthermore, it is important to note that I/O modeling does not delineate the origin of labor and whether or not the employees supported by projects would reside within the County or region of interest.

### 4.10.2.2 Significance Criteria

This evaluation of socioeconomic impacts is based on the criteria provided in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Checklist (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 and following). BESS-related impacts from construction and operations of the facility are determined to be significant if they meet the following criteria:

- Induce substantial growth or concentration of population,
- Displace a large number of people or impact existing housing,
- Result in substantial adverse impacts on the local economy and employment,
- Create adverse fiscal impacts on the community,
- Result in substantial adverse impacts on educational facilities,
- Result in substantial adverse impacts on the provision of utility services, and
- Result in substantial adverse impacts associated with the provision of public services.

Other impacts may be significant if they cause substantial change in community interaction patterns, social organization, social structures, or social institutions; substantial conflict with community attitudes, values, or perceptions; or substantial inequities in the distribution of the Project cost and benefit.

### 4.10.2.3 Construction Impacts

Construction will be approximately 18 months long. The applicant has targeted 2025 as a potential start date for construction. Construction phases are shown Table 2-2 in Section 2, Project Description.

#### 4.10.2.3.1 Construction Workforce

The total number of construction workers (consisting of laborers, craftsmen, supervisory personnel, support personnel, and construction management personnel) will consist of approximately 75 to 100 workers (average).

#### 4.10.2.3.2 Induce Substantial Growth of Concentration of Population

The applicant anticipates that skilled labor for surface construction activities will be drawn locally from the County. Any additional skilled labor from outside of the County would rent lodgings for the duration of their employment period. As a result, construction is not expected to significantly increase the demand for housing.

#### 4.10.2.3.3 Displace a Large Number of People or Impact Existing Housing

The applicant anticipates that skilled labor for surface construction activities will be drawn locally from the County. Any additional skilled labor from outside of the County would rent lodgings for the duration of their employment period. As a result, construction is not expected to significantly increase the demand for housing.

#### 4.10.2.3.4 Impacts on the Local Economy and Employment

The results presented in this section rely on IMPLAN analyses to estimate Project impacts on employment and the economy during construction. Additional details and discussion are presented in Appendix 4.10A. The results of the analysis for employment impacts of the Project during construction are presented in Table 4.10-11.

**Table 4.10-11. Employment Indicators of Project Construction**

Area	Employment	Employee Compensation
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano</b>		
Direct Impacts	127	\$17,830,833
Indirect and Induced Impacts	0.26	\$36,163
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano Total</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>\$17,866,996</b>
<b>Orange County</b>		
Direct Impacts	127	\$17,830,833
Indirect and Induced Impacts	111	\$10,851,301
<b>Orange County Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>\$28,682,134</b>

As previously stated, onsite construction activities will support employment for a total of about 127 jobs over the 18-month construction period. The employment value of 127 shown represents the total number of wage and salary jobs. This number was calculated by converting the 123 FTEs to a headcount figure from IMPLAN's FTE to Employee count converter. The FTE figure was calculated based on employment workforce numbers and job duration. These jobs will include electricians, linemen, and other skilled laborers in addition to general laborers. Direct impacts are equivalent for both the City and County as these values represent the on-site activities for Project construction.

**Direct Economic Impact.** The results of the analysis for economic impacts of the Project during construction are presented in Table 4.10-12. In the City of San Juan Capistrano, the construction phase results in a total employee compensation of about \$17.9 million (see Table 4.10-11 above) and an economic output of \$51.6 million. In Orange County the construction phase is estimated to result in a total economic output of \$81.1 million, with \$28.7 million in employee compensation (see Table 4.10-11 above) and. The higher results for Orange County are the result of the greater multiplier effects (indirect and induced impacts) over this larger geography; the direct Project-related impacts are unchanged.

**Table 4.10-12. Economic Activity of Project Construction**

Area	Value Added	Economic Output
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano</b>		
Direct Impacts	\$33,257,971	\$51,467,878
Indirect and Induced Impacts	\$60,923	\$97,534
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano Total</b>	<b>\$33,318,894</b>	<b>\$51,565,412</b>
<b>Orange County</b>		
Direct Impacts	\$33,257,971	\$51,467,878
Indirect and Induced Impacts	\$18,598,795	\$29,644,435
<b>Orange County Total</b>	<b>\$51,856,766</b>	<b>\$81,112,313</b>

Based on the Project's direct spending on labor as well as required materials and services, additional rounds of spending will occur in the City as well as the County and State. Businesses in the supply chain (providing materials, equipment, and services) will respond to meet the Project's demand and constitute the Project's "indirect" effects. Employees' spending on goods and services for their households—groceries, housing, healthcare, education, etc.—are also expected in the City and County and constitute the Project's "induced" effects. In both cases, additional rounds of spending are captured in the impact estimates, such as, for example, the spending of an equipment rental company owner on maintenance services for their equipment and on groceries for their family. Together, the indirect and induced effects are known as multiplier effects.

**Indirect Economic Impact.** For both the construction and operations phases, estimated local spending is based on cost estimates for goods and services that are anticipated to be sourced from vendors locally via San Juan Capistrano- and Orange County-specific industry multiplier effects obtained from IMPLAN modeling. Exemplary purchases would include industrial supplies, business and professional services, labor and materials for periodic improvements (e.g., access road maintenance and weed abatement), and similar costs of doing business, and providers of these goods and services are expected to be available in the City or County and most convenient and cost-effective to serve the Project.

**Induced Economic Impact.** Induced impacts are based on the conversion of estimated labor incomes into household spending, or the "third round" of economic activity created by the direct impacts and subsequent indirect impacts. Employees of the Project and employees at local businesses indirectly affected by the Project will spend their wages on a variety of goods and services. For example, if an employee at the Project spends her wages on food for her family, part of that spending goes to the retail worker who sells the food, part goes to the trucker who delivers the food, part goes to the farmer who grows the food, and part goes to various intermediaries (processors, wholesalers, transportation companies, etc.). Thus, in aggregate, the spending associated with direct and indirect employees' purchases creates demand for other businesses and helps to support other jobs in the City or County economy. Using IMPLAN outputs specific to the relevant geographies, EPS estimated the additional economic impacts that would be generated through the Project's induced effects in the rest of the City and County.

The indirect and induced effects from the construction phase are estimated at about \$100,000 in economic output in the City. In Orange County, the indirect and induced effects from the construction phase are estimated at about \$30 million in economic output.

#### 4.10.2.3.5 Fiscal Impacts in the Community

In addition to the broader economic impacts described in the preceding sections, construction of the Project will also benefit the City, County, and State by generating new tax revenues. The construction sales and use tax estimate assumes the Project will “localize” (i.e., capture) the maximum sales and use taxes on all purchases by establishing a “job site” address for all materials and equipment purchases. The City’s taxable base of the Project’s construction cost (major equipment) is estimated at \$225 million. Regardless of whether the component materials are purchased in the City, in-State but in a different City, or internationally, the establishment of a job site address would result in these sales being taxed at the point of use (i.e., at the Project site in San Juan Capistrano) and therefore the total one percent sales and use tax rate is estimated to accrue to the City, resulting in the \$2.3 million revenue figure. Overall, the Project is estimated to generate a total of \$9.3 million in sales tax revenue, with about \$1.8 million accruing to Orange County, \$5.0 million to the State, and the remaining accruing to other cities within Orange County.

#### 4.10.2.3.6 Impacts on Educational Facilities

The proposed Project would be unmanned and would not increase demand on school facilities. Construction of the proposed Project would introduce a temporary increase in workers, but they would not be anticipated to relocate to the area or bring their families as the workers would likely be sourced from Orange County or surrounding counties and/or be active on-site for only a few months and would not permanently relocate. As such, the Project would not result in an increase in population in the area that would necessitate additional school services. No impact would result from the proposed Project.

In addition, the Project is located within the Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD), which charges developer fees on new residential, commercial, and industrial developments. However, the proposed Project does not include any buildings, and therefore will not be subject to CUSD developer fees.

#### 4.10.2.3.7 Impacts on Provision of Utility Services

Construction will not make significant adverse demands on local water, sanitary sewer, electricity, or natural gas. Changes in electricity demand levels are generally predictable and have daily, weekly, and seasonal patterns. As the intent of the Project is to store energy during off-peak hours, the applicant will plan installation and testing requirements accordingly.

Water requirements for construction will be satisfied through cooperative agreements with local utilities. Given the number of workers and temporary duration of the construction period, the impacts on the local water system will not be significant.

#### 4.10.2.3.8 Impacts on the Provision of Public Services

The construction of the Project may have minor impacts on police, fire, or hazardous materials handling resources. For example, some public services may be required, such as fire protection, but these would be short-term requirements and would not require increases in the level of public service offered or affect these agencies’ response times. The construction will not place an undue burden on public service providers because public services are located near the Project area as well as, distributed throughout the County. As a result of the applicant’s safety policies, the construction will not create significant adverse impacts on public services in the area. See

Section 4.16, Worker Health and Safety, for additional information on health and safety program. Impacts would be less than significant.

#### 4.10.2.4 Operation Impacts

The BESS and all associated equipment will be remotely monitored and controlled. Qualified technicians would visit the site approximately 1-2 times per month to conduct routine inspections and maintenance as well as semi annual and annual services. Periodically, batteries and various components may be replaced or renewed to ensure optimal performance.

##### 4.10.2.4.1 Operation Workforce

Once the facility is under operation, the applicant will staff the facility with a team of employees that includes the following:

- Up to 2 maintenance staff, working 1-2 days per month, 8 hours/day for routine inspections and maintenance
- Up to 10 maintenance staff, working 5-10 days per year, 8 hours/day for semi-annual/annual services and periodic replacements

##### 4.10.2.4.2 Induce Substantial Growth of Concentration of Population

In some cases, indirect population growth can be created through the introduction of new businesses. However, indirect population growth associated with the proposed Project is not forecast to occur because most of the jobs created are forecast to be filled by local residents. Additionally, operation of the Project would be controlled remotely and manually in the field as required. Such operation and maintenance activities would be conducted by current personnel and the hiring of any additional operations personnel would not be required. Further, the Project would not involve any infrastructure improvements, such as a new public roadways or water or wastewater treatment facilities, that would have the potential to enable or induce new area growth. Therefore, the Project would not substantially induce population growth.

##### 4.10.2.4.3 Displace a Large Number of People or Impact Existing Housing

Because the Project will be unmanned and remotely monitored with a limited inspection and maintenance workforce, there will be no impact on housing within the neighboring communities. Hence, the operations of the Project will neither induce substantial growth or concentration of population, nor displace a large number of people or impact existing housing.

##### 4.10.2.4.4 Impacts on the Local Economy and Employment

The results of the analysis for employment impacts of the Project during operation are presented in Table 4.10-13. Project operations will involve monitoring system status, performance, diagnostics, and planning, as well as preventive maintenance activities and periodic corrective maintenance activities. The developer anticipates that an average of eight full-time employees will be required to manage the Project's ongoing operations, each earning about \$72,000 in annual compensation including benefits, resulting in an annual employee compensation (including proprietor income) of about \$840,000 and a total economic output of \$1.5 million. Estimated employee compensation is based on compensation estimates from other California renewable energy projects. Direct impacts

are equivalent for both the City and County as these values represent the on-site activities during the Project's operations phase.

**Table 4.10-13. Employment Indicators of Project Operation**

Area	Employment	Employee Compensation
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano</b>		
Direct Impacts (Annual)	8	\$836,931
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Annual)	0.01	\$744
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano Total (Annual)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>\$837,676</b>
Direct Impacts (Lifetime)	280	\$29,292,598
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Lifetime)	0.35	\$26,054
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano Total (Lifetime)</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>\$29,318,652</b>
<b>Orange County</b>		
Direct Impacts (Annual)	8	\$836,931
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Annual)	4.2	\$306,334
<b>Orange County Total (Annual)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$1,143,265</b>
Direct Impacts (Lifetime)	280	\$29,292,598
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Lifetime)	147	\$10,721,683
<b>Orange County Total (Lifetime)</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>\$40,014,282</b>

**Direct Economic Impact.** The results of the analysis for economic impacts of the Project during operation are presented in Table 4.10-14. In the City of San Juan Capistrano, the construction phase results in a total employee compensation of about \$840,000 annually, summing to \$29.3 million when considered over the Project's 35-year lifetime (see Table 4.10-13 above) and an economic output of \$1.5 million annually, totaling over \$53.8 million over the Project's lifetime. In Orange County the operations phase is shown to result in \$1.1 million in annual employee compensation in the County, summing to \$40 million over 35 years of operation and an estimated Countywide economic output of \$2.4 million annually, totaling \$82.8 million when considered over the project's 35-year lifetime. The higher results for Orange County are the result of the greater multiplier effects (indirect and induced impacts) over this larger geography; the direct Project-related impacts are unchanged.

**Table 4.10-14. Economic Activity of Project Operation**

Area	Value Added	Economic Output
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano</b>		
Direct Impacts (Annual)	\$1,068,375	\$1,534,364
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Annual)	\$1,269	\$1,879
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano Total (Annual)</b>	<b>\$1,069,644</b>	<b>\$1,536,243</b>
Direct Impacts (Lifetime)	\$37,393,129	\$53,702,727
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Lifetime)	\$44,415	\$65,781
<b>City of San Juan Capistrano Total (Lifetime)</b>	<b>\$37,437,543</b>	<b>\$53,768,508</b>
<b>Orange County</b>		
Direct Impacts (Annual)	\$1,068,375	\$1,534,364
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Annual)	\$517,172	\$830,270



**Table 4.10-14. Economic Activity of Project Operation**

Area	Value Added	Economic Output
<b>Orange County Total (Annual)</b>	<b>\$1,585,548</b>	<b>\$2,364,634</b>
Direct Impacts (Lifetime)	\$37,393,129	\$53,702,727
Indirect and Induced Impacts (Lifetime)	\$18,101,037	\$29,059,462
<b>Orange County Total (Lifetime)</b>	<b>\$55,494,165</b>	<b>\$82,762,189</b>

The operations phase is estimated to generate indirect and induced impacts of \$66,000 over the Project's lifetime in the City of San Juan Capistrano. The operations phase is estimated to generate indirect and induced impacts of about \$30 million in Orange County over the Project's lifetime.

#### 4.10.2.4.5 Fiscal Impacts in the Community

Operation of the Project would result in positive fiscal impacts. The Project is expected to generate an average of about \$1.5 million in property taxes each year and a total of \$52.2 million in total over the 35-year period. Under current tax allocation factors, of this total, about \$6 million would accrue to the City, \$12.4 million to Orange County, and \$33.8 million to the State for school funding. The Project is also expected to generate an annual average of about \$170,000 each year in property taxes, totaling about \$6 million in property tax revenues over the life of the Project.

#### 4.10.2.4.6 Impacts on Educational Facilities

The operations of the Project will require only a small workforce. As such, operations will not cause a significant increase in demand for school services or significant adverse impact to school services.

#### 4.10.2.4.7 Impacts on Provision of Utility Services

Project operation will not make significant adverse demands on local water, sanitary sewer, electricity, or natural gas. Water requirements for operations (landscaping and fire) will be satisfied by purchasing water from a local water purveyor. Since the Project will be an unmanned and remotely operated facility, there would be no impacts to sanitary sewer, electricity, or natural gas. The Project's objective is to support the region's electrical grid by providing increased storage and reliability.

#### 4.10.2.4.8 Impacts on the Provision of Public Services

Operation of the Project may have minor impacts on police, fire, or hazardous materials handling resources. For example, some public services may be required, such as fire protection, but these would be short-term requirements and would not require increases in the level of public service offered or affect these agencies' response times. Operation will not place an undue burden on public service providers because public services are located near the Project area as well as, distributed throughout the County. As a result of the applicant's safety policies, operation will not create significant adverse impacts on public services in the area. See Section 4.16, Worker Health and Safety, for additional information on health and safety program. Impacts would be less than significant.

### 4.10.2.5 Environmental Justice

In accordance California Code of Regulations Title 20 Division 2 §1704 Appendix B, this section provides a discussion of impacts to environmental justice populations to determine whether disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of the Project are likely to fall on minority and/or low-income populations.

President Clinton's Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," was signed on February 11, 1994. The purpose of this Executive Order is to consider whether a project may result in disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any minority or low-income population. Although EO 12898 was used to inform the analysis, it is not applicable to the Project since the Project is located on private lands within the State of California and the City of San Juan Capistrano.

The federal guidelines set forth the following three-step screening process which has been used for the Project's environmental justice analysis:

- 1) Identify which impacts of the project, if any, are high and adverse.

Neither EO 12898, nor any of the environmental justice guidance documents, contain official guidance on the definition of "high and adverse." For purposes of this analysis, adverse impacts identified by the professional analysts working on this application as "significant and unmitigable" under CEQA are synonymous with high and adverse impacts as described in EO 12898.

The Project would not result in any significant and unmitigable impacts under CEQA.

- 2) Determine whether minority or low-income populations exist within the high and adverse impact zones.

The analysis involved reviewing census tract level minority data and census tract income data. The analysis includes data on the distribution of the populations that intersect the 10-mile radius buffer by minority and income, respectively.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's environmental justice screening tool, the population (2016-2020) within a 10-mile area surrounding the Project site was 603,467. This equates to a population density of 2,691 people per square mile (USEPA 2023). The minority population within a 10-mile radius buffer of the Project site comprises approximately 38 percent of this total population. The minority population within 10 miles of the Project site is less than 50 percent (USEPA 2023). As such, the population does not meet the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidance for identifying minority populations (CEQ 1997).

The low-income population within a 10-mile radius buffer comprises about 14 percent of the total population. Unlike the CEQ 1997 guidance on minority population, none of the environmental justice guidance documents contain a quantitative definition of how many low-income individuals it takes to comprise a low-income population. In the absence of guidance, for this analysis the density used to identify minority populations (i.e., 50 percent or greater) was also used to identify low-income populations. The low-income population within 10 miles of the Project site is less than 50 percent.

- 3) Examine the spatial distribution of high and adverse impact areas to determine whether these impacts are likely to fall disproportionately on the minority and/or low-income population.

As a result of there being no anticipated high and adverse human health or environmental effects from the implementation and operation of the Project and the minority and low-income populations within 10 miles

of the Project site are less than 50 percent, a final determination of impacts on low income and minority populations is not required.

### 4.10.3 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impact refers to a proposed project’s incremental effect together with other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects whose impacts may compound or increase the incremental effect of the proposed project (Public Resources Code Section 21083; Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15064[h], 15065[c], 15130, and 15355).

Cumulative socioeconomic impacts may occur when more than one project has an overlapping construction schedule. This can create a demand for workers that the local labor force cannot met. As result, an influx of nonlocal workers and their dependents can occur which causes an excessive demand on public services. See Table 4-1 and Figure 4-1 for a list of cumulative projects. Although the various projects may require a similar set of skills, local labor unions have indicated that there is a sufficient supply of skilled labor in Orange County to support the Project. Other kinds of cumulative socioeconomic impacts are also unlikely because the Project’s effects on housing, schools, and public services will be negligible.

### 4.10.4 Mitigation Measures

Because there are no significant adverse impacts caused by the Project, no socioeconomic-specific mitigation measures are proposed.

### 4.10.5 Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards

Table 4.10-15 presents a summary of the LORS, including the Project’s conformance to them.

**Table 4.10-15. Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards**

LORS	Requirements/ Applicability	Administering Agency	Application Section Explaining Conformance
<b>Federal</b>			
Executive Order 12898	Avoid disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority and low-income members of the community. Applies only to federal agencies.	U.S. EPA	Section 4.10.2.3
<b>State</b>			
Government Code Sections 65996-65997	Establishes that the levy of a fee for construction of an industrial facility be considered mitigating impacts on school facilities. School districts may charge a one-time assessment fee to mitigate potential school impacts.	Local School Districts	Section 4.10.2.3

**Table 4.10-15. Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, and Standards**

LORS	Requirements/ Applicability	Administering Agency	Application Section Explaining Conformance
Education Code Section 17620	Allows a school district to levy a fee against any construction within the boundaries of the district for the purpose of funding construction of school facilities. Local school districts may charge a one-time assessment fee to mitigate potential school impacts.	CDE	Section 4.10.2.3
<b>Local</b>			
City of San Juan Capistrano Developer Impact Fees	Levies developer fees on residential, commercial, and industrial development for the purpose of financing City facilities.	City of San Juan Capistrano	Section 4.10.2.3
Capistrano Unified School District Developer Fee Program	Levies developer fees on residential, commercial, and industrial development for the purpose of financing school facilities construction.	Capistrano Unified School District	Section 4.10.2.3

#### 4.10.5.1 Federal LORS

Executive Order 12898 directs federal agencies to prioritize environmental justice. It requires agencies to identify and address any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority populations, low-income populations, and tribal communities. The goal is to achieve environmental protection for all communities. Since the order's enactment, the California Energy Commission (CEC) has incorporated this consideration into its power plant siting decisions, ensuring that applicants recognize and mitigate any potential adverse impacts on socioeconomic resources.

#### 4.10.5.2 State LORS

California Government Code Sections 65996 and 65997 outline the exclusive approaches for evaluating and addressing potential impacts on school facilities arising from real property development. Specially, Education Code Section 17620, recognized within California Government Code Section 65597, permits school districts to impose fees or other conditions on construction activities within school boundaries. These funds are then allocated toward the construction of essential school facilities.

#### 4.10.5.3 Local LORS

In September 1986, the State Legislature passed and the Governor signed Assembly Bill 2926. This bill grants school districts in California the power to levy developer fees on residential, commercial, and industrial development for the purpose of financing school facilities construction. AB 2926 and AB 181 applies to all development within

the Capistrano Unified School District boundary. Separately, the City of San Juan Capistrano requires developer impact fees based on the type and size of residential, commercial, and industrial development.

## 4.10.6 Agencies and Agency Contacts

Table 4.10-16 provides a list of agencies and contacts of potentially responsible agencies.

**Table 4-10-16. Agency Contacts for Socioeconomics**

Issue/Approval	Agency Contact	Applicability
Property Valuation	Mike Shafer, Fourth District Member, California State Board of Equalization 925 L Street, Suite 1402 Sacramento, CA 95814 Phone: 916-323-9794	State Board of Equalization
County Assessor	Claude Parrish 500 S. Main Street 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Orange, CA 92868 Phone: 714-834-2727	County of Orange Assessor
School Impact Fees and Enrollment Issue Impacts	Dr. Christopher Brown Capistrano Unified School District 33122 Valle Rd San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 Phone: 949-234-9200	Capistrano Unified School District
Available Resources, Potential Impacts on Resources, Average Response Times	Orange County Fire Authority 1 Fire Authority Road Irvine, CA 92602 Phone: 714-573-6000	Orange County Fire Authority

## 4.10.7 Permits and Permit Schedule

This evaluation has identified no permits related to socioeconomics will be required.

## 4.10.8 References

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