

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Compass Battery Energy Storage
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April 18, 2024

Notice of Receipt of Opt-In Application for Compass Battery Energy Storage project (24-OPT-02) / Request for Comments and Information

This letter serves as notification that the California Energy Commission (CEC) has received an opt-in application for the Compass Battery Energy Storage project (24-OPT-02). Compass Energy Storage LLC (Applicant"), proposes to construct, own, and operate an approximately 250-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) in the city of San Juan Capistrano. The approximately 13-acre project site is located within the northern portion of San Juan Capistrano, adjacent to Camino Capistrano and Interstate-5 to the east. The BESS would be capable of storing up to 250 MW of electricity for four hours (up-to 1,000 MW hours). The proposed Compass Energy Storage project (project) would be composed of lithium-iron phosphate batteries, or similar technology batteries, inverters, medium-voltage transformers, a switchyard, a collector substation, and other associated equipment to interconnect into the existing San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) Trabuco to Capistrano 138-kilovolt transmission line located approximately 500 feet from the project site and approximately 90 feet from the project property. The project would connect to the SDG&E electric transmission system via a proposed loop-in transmission line that would be constructed to transfer power to and from the proposed project. The loop-in transmission line would be supported by the replacement of two existing transmission poles and construction of one new transmission pole. Electric energy would be transferred from the existing power grid to the project batteries for storage and from the project batteries to the power grid when additional electricity is needed. No off-site transmission upgrades are required for the full capacity of this project, and an interconnection agreement with SDG&E and the California Independent System Operator has been executed. Following construction of the switchyard by Compass Energy Storage LLC, ownership and operations would transfer to SDG&E. The Project Description (TN 255535-2) section of the application can be accessed directly at the following link:
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/GetDocument.aspx?tn=255535-2&DocumentContentId=91278>.

In 2022, Assembly Bill 205 established a new Opt-In Certification Program for eligible non-fossil-fueled power plants, energy storage, and manufacturing and assembly facilities to optionally seek certification through the CEC. Upon receipt of an application, the CEC has the exclusive authority to certify the site and related facility. With certain exceptions, the issuance of a certificate by the CEC is in lieu of any permit, certificate, or similar document required by any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law, and supersedes any applicable statute, ordinance, or regulation of any state, local, or regional agency, or federal agency to the extent permitted by federal law. The CEC is the lead agency under the California

Environmental Quality Act and is required to prepare an environmental impact report for any facility that elects to opt into the CEC's jurisdiction.

The CEC provides the following notice pursuant to Public Resources Code section 25545.8, which states that subsections (f) and (k) of Public Resources Code section 25519 apply to an opt-in application. The relevant language from Public Resources Code section 25519 is as follows:

(f) Upon receipt of an application, the commission shall forward the application to local governmental agencies having land use and related jurisdiction in the area of the proposed site and related facility. Those local agencies shall review the application and submit comments on, among other things, the design of the facility, architectural and aesthetic features of the facility, access to highways, landscaping and grading, public use of lands in the area of the facility, and other appropriate aspects of the design, construction, or operation of the proposed site and related facility.

(k) The commission shall transmit a copy of the application to any governmental agency not specifically mentioned in this act, but which it finds has any information or interest in the proposed site and related facilities, and shall invite the comments and recommendations of each agency. The commission shall request any relevant laws, ordinances, or regulations that an agency has promulgated or administered.

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877, subsection (f), the CEC staff shall provide information to the local government for review and comment. The relevant language from California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877 is as follows:

(f) The opt-in application shall contain preliminary information demonstrating overall net positive economic benefit to the local government that would have had permitting authority over the site and related facility, consistent with Public Resources Code section 25545.9. Staff shall provide the submitted information to the local government for review and comment.

The CEC webpage for the project can be found at the following link:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/battery-storage-system/compass-battery-energy-storage>.

The documents which comprise the opt-in application can be found in the project docket, which is accessible via the project webpage or directly at the following link: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=24-OPT-02>. The applicant has provided information to demonstrate that the project would provide a net positive economic benefit to the local government that would have had permitting authority in Appendix 1.C Community Benefits Plan (TN 255599). We look forward to

receiving San Juan Capistrano’s comments pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 25519(f) and 25519(k), and California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1877(f) at your earliest convenience.

The CEC also wishes to make San Juan Capistrano aware that Public Resources Code section 25538 applies to an opt-in application. The language from Public Resources Code section 25538 is as follows:

Upon receiving the commission's request for review under subdivision (f) of Section 25519 and Section 25506, the local agency may request a fee from the commission to reimburse the local agency for the actual and added costs of this review by the local agency. The commission shall reimburse the local agency for the added costs that shall be actually incurred by the local agency in complying with the commission's request.

To stay informed about this project and receive notice of upcoming public meetings, sign up to the project subscription, which can be accessed on the project webpage. Once enrolled, automatic email notifications are sent via govDelivery when documents and notices are posted to the project docket.

Feel free to reach out to us directly via email if you have any questions about this notice. Thank you.

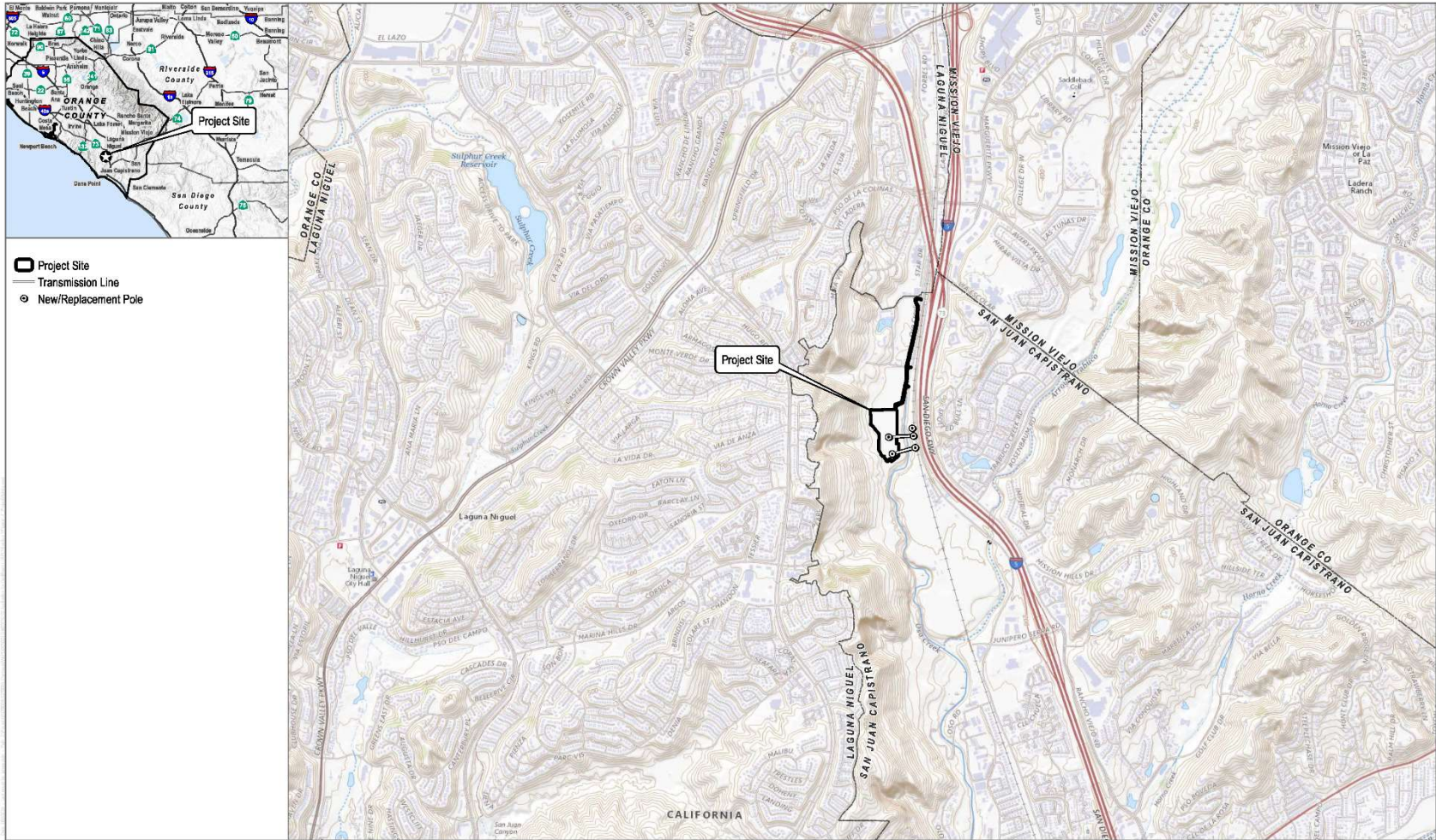
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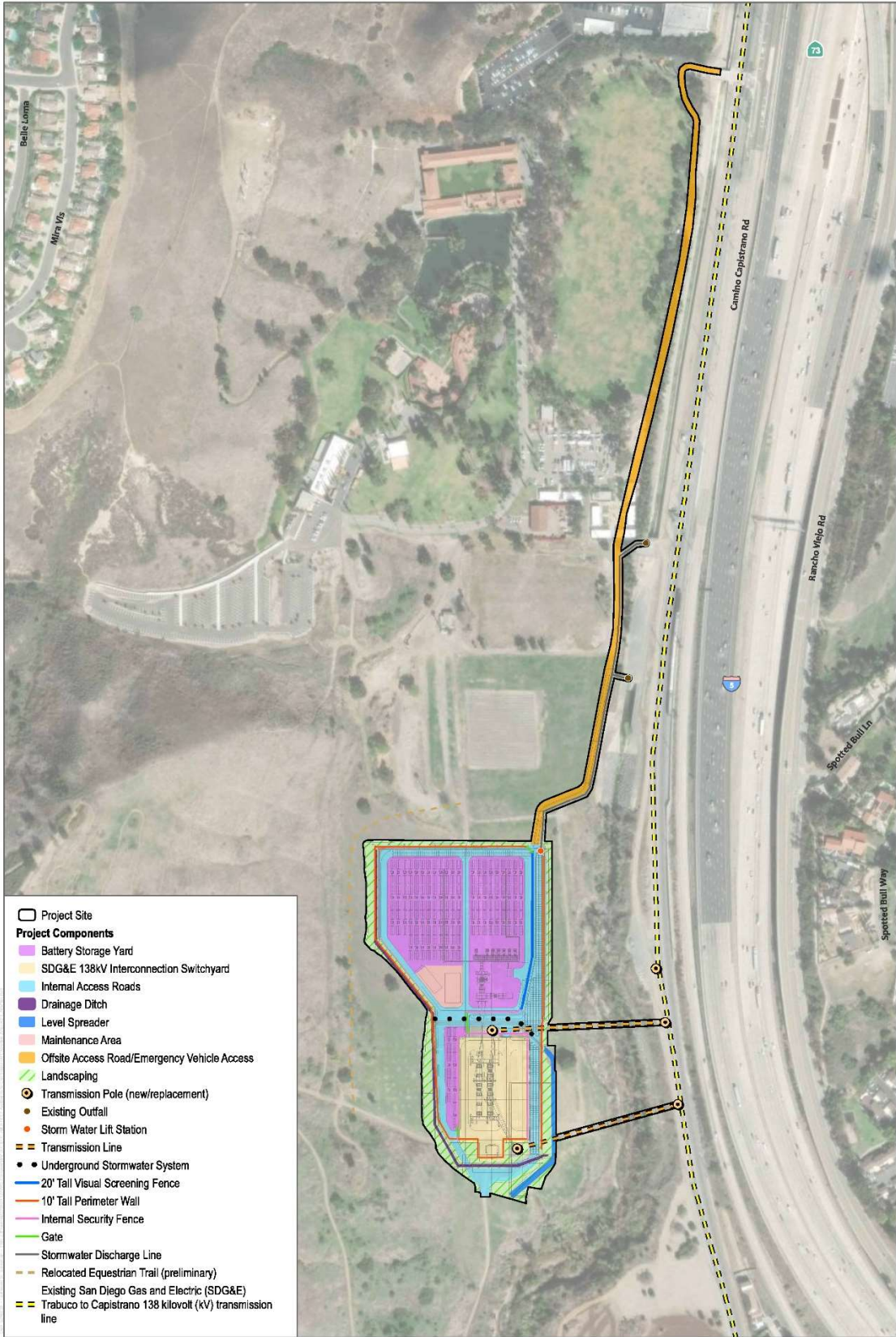
Enclosures: Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity (from application, TN 255535-1)
Figure 2-1 Site Plan (from application TN 255535-2)



SOURCE: USGS National Map 2023

DUDEK 0 1,000 2,000 Feet

FIGURE 1-1
Project Vicinity
 Compass Energy Storage Project



- Project Site
Project Components
 Battery Storage Yard
 SDG&E 138kV Interconnection Switchyard
 Internal Access Roads
 Drainage Ditch
 Level Spreader
 Maintenance Area
 Offsite Access Road/Emergency Vehicle Access
 Landscaping
⊙ Transmission Pole (new/replacement)
● Existing Outfall
⊙ Storm Water Lift Station
 Transmission Line
● Underground Stormwater System
 20' Tall Visual Screening Fence
 10' Tall Perimeter Wall
 Internal Security Fence
 Gate
 Stormwater Discharge Line
 Relocated Equestrian Trail (preliminary)
 Existing San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E)
 Trabuco to Capistrano 138 kilovolt (kV) transmission line

SOURCE: Bing Maps 2023, Sargenti & Lundy 2023



FIGURE 2-1
Site Plan

Compass Energy Storage Project