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## **Compass Energy Storage Project BESS Facility San Juan Capistrano**

I am opposed to the development of a BESS facility in San Juan Capistrano for several reasons. BESS facilities raise unique considerations with regard to public safety, emergency management and environmental resources. For example, there have been several fires at commercial BESS facilities both in California and nationwide. The proposed location of the Applicant's project is near established residential neighborhoods in San Juan Capistrano and downslope of several hundred homes in Laguna Niguel (in an existing fire area).

One of the primary hazards associated with lithium iron phosphate batteries is the risk of fire. The risk of fire can be exacerbated by several factors. For instance, if the battery is exposed to high temperatures, it can become unstable and catch fire. Similarly, if the battery is overcharged or discharged too quickly, it can also catch fire. This is because the chemical reactions that occur within the battery can become uncontrolled and lead to a thermal runaway. Given that the project is adjacent to Trabuco Creek, which is an environmentally sensitive watercourse that flows to the ocean, should a fire occur at the proposed commercial BESS site, fire extinguishing compounds used to combat the fire (either from the ground or air) would have the potential of entering the creek and significantly impairing water quality and native flora and fauna.

Another chemical hazard associated with lithium iron phosphate batteries is the release of toxic fumes. Lithium iron phosphate batteries contain a few chemicals, including lithium. If the battery is damaged or exposed to high temperatures, these chemicals can be released into the air as toxic fumes. These fumes can be harmful if inhaled and can cause respiratory problems and other health issues.

Thank you for considering my concerns regarding this proposed BESS development in Sand Juan Capistrano. My hope is the CEC will deny this BESS project.