

DOCKETED	
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Project Title:	Compass Energy Storage Project
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Document Title:	Leif Brandon Comments - VOTE NO! This is a terrible idea!!
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*Comment Received From: Leif Brandon
Submitted On: 7/15/2024
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VOTE NO! This is a terrible idea!!

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

Regarding: Compass Energy Storage Project (Laguna Niguel)

You absolutely cannot be serious about allowing a lithium battery storage facility in the I-5 corridor in Laguna Niguel. This has already been rejected by the local government and now you are being asked to override the local authorities. That is not America! This is a horrible idea on multiple levels: Public Safety, Environmental Concerns, Homeowner Property Value Impact, Fire Danger, Historical Landmark Threat, etc. I implore you to shut this idea down. A project like this belongs far away from any people, waterway, or other natural habitat. Let's break this down for this commission...

Public Safety - literally 2,000 feet away and over a scrub brush covered hillside sits dozens, if not 100+, million-dollar plus family homes with children, pets, and livelihoods. Imagine how fast a fire will spread and engulf these homes when a lithium cell catches fire. The operator and this energy commission will be liable for billions of dollars in loss which will totally bankrupt those responsible. Put the facility far away from any homes and mitigate this risk.

Environmental Concerns - in the valley below this proposed site sits a water runoff stream which flows down through San Juan Capistrano and Dana Point directly to the sea. This total distance is less than 5 miles. Consider the impact of any heavy metal leakage which is normal for lithium batteries will have on this existing waterway. Even if this commission approves the project, my guess is that environmental organizations will take immediate action to block development and kill the project in the courts. I will be sure to be outside the courthouse waving a sign in support.

Homeowner Property Value Impact - For those homeowners in the immediate surround area, their property values will significantly decrease. I certainly hope you are prepared to compensate these owners for their loss which could easily exceed \$100M. If I lived nearby, I certainly would sue you and the project owners for my loss.

Fire Danger - I've already mentioned this above, but the fact that this facility would be in an enclosed valley surrounded by homes, businesses and scrub brush, this is a recipe for fire which will sweep through the entire I-5 corridor costing billions of dollars in damages and shut down I-5 in both directions thus cutting off the only coastal access point to San Clemente and south. That level of disaster will attract national, if not global, media attention and bad publicity to this project and the CEC.

Historical Landmark Threat – just 4 miles from this project is the world-famous Mission at San Juan Capistrano. All of the reasons above threaten this historic landmark. Any damage or destruction done to the Mission because of this facility will be catastrophic and irreversible. You will be responsible for destroying something irreplaceable.

Please strongly consider all of these FACTS and throw this project in the dumpster where it belongs.