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Resident Opposed to Proposed Compass Energy Storage Project

I am resident of the city of Laguna Niguel and my home is within appx 3 miles of this proposed 13-acre lithium battery energy storage system facility which boundaries abut the city of Laguna Niguel.

I am STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THIS PROJECT as this lithium battery storage facility would impede upon and negatively impact the Northwest Open Space region of San Juan Capistrano and local residents in the following ways:

1. SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASES WILDFIRE RISK: The open land contains significant natural vegetation and steep terrain and is already highly subject to wildfires. In the past ten years, there have been 23 wildfires within a five-mile radius of the proposed project site. This facility would contain an extensive number of lithium batteries which could ignite and cause fires that burn hotter and faster, thus making them difficult to extinguish quickly.
2. Presents SIGNIFICANT RISK TO THE ENVIRONMENT. Should the lithium batteries ignite, any water or fire extinguishing compounds used to combat the fire will become easily contaminated with heavy metals and absorbed into the region's soil, adversely impacting the local ecosystem and wildlife population. The project's close proximity to the Oso and Arroyo Creek waterbed further exacerbates potential water quality issues, contaminating the San Juan Creek Watershed, which flows to the Pacific Ocean just a couple miles away. In addition toxic gases released would cause significant increase in air pollution
3. NEGATIVELY IMPACTS PUTUIDEM VILLAGE INDIGINOUS COMMUNITY EFFORT located less than a mile of the proposed facility in the Northwest Open Space of San Juan Capistrano
4. FORCES WILDLIFE INHABITANTS, INCLUDING MOUNTAIN LIONS AND COYOTES INTO COMMUNITIES
5. Creates SIGNIFICANT HEALTH RISK TO THE PUBLIC AND FIRST RESPONDERS. If batteries are ignited, First Responders would be exposed to hazardous toxic gases, which can cause severe debilitating health impacts. Toxic gases emitted would generate a significant public health risk for the surrounding communities as well.
6. FURTHER EXACERBATES CALIFORNIA'S HOMEOWNER INSURANCE CRISIS, making it even more difficult for me and other area residents to obtain adequate homeowner's insurance policies.
7. INTERRUPTS TWO MAJOR NATURE TRAILS we and other residents regularly enjoy.

I strongly urge the California Energy Commission to fully consider these adverse fire, environmental, historical, economic and public safety risks that the Compass Energy Storage Project in San Juan Capistrano would create if approved. I respectfully request

the California Energy Commission to unequivocally prioritize public safety and our environment and REJECT THIS PROJECT'S APPLICATION.

Sincerely,
Karie Thomas
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