

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
<b>Docket Number:</b>	24-OPT-02
<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	258510
<b>Document Title:</b>	Julie Ryan Johnson Comments - Docket Number 24-OPT-02
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*Comment Received From: Julie Ryan Johnson  
Submitted On: 8/15/2024  
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

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*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

Dear CEC,

We are deeply concerned about the proposal by Engie North America (“Applicant”) to construct a BESS facility on land currently owned by Saddleback Church located at the northern end of the city. There are significant public safety-related concerns that must be analyzed prior to any BESS project moving forward within San Juan Capistrano, whether at the Saddleback Church site or elsewhere in the community. The proposed location is near established residential neighborhoods in San Juan Capistrano and downslope of several hundred homes in Laguna Niguel. San Juan Capistrano is also home to over 1500 horses with close to a 1000 of those horses within a quarter mile from the proposed plant. We are extremely concerned about the safety of the horses in the near vicinity. There are insufficient transportation vehicles and exit routes available for the large trailers used to move these horses when disaster strikes in our community. Given the high risk of fires involved with these facilities, you would be significantly increasing the risk to these horses and their owners living within such proximity.

There have been several fires at BESS facilities both in California and nationwide. BESS facilities that use lithium-ion batteries create particularly unique fire and explosion hazards. The proposed project is located alongside Trabuco Creek, an environmentally sensitive watercourse that flows to the ocean. If a fire were to occur at the proposed BESS site, fire extinguishing compounds used to combat the fire (either from the ground or air) would enter the creek and thereby flow to the ocean. We urge you to reject the application based on safety and environmental concerns.

Sincerely,

Julie Ryan Johnson, DVM  
San Juan Capistrano Equestrian Coalition Board Member  
Two Stepping Under the Stars Committee Co-Chair  
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