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*Comment Received From: Cary Wallin
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Please reject the battery energy storage project

Dear California Energy Commission,

As a resident of Laguna Niguel, I am strongly opposed to the proposed battery energy storage system (BESS) facility by Compass Energy Storage LLC. The 250-megawatt facility is planned for a 13-acre site in San Juan Capistrano, just next to Laguna Niguel, and only a few thousand feet from my home in Sea View Estates.

The site's location within a designated open space surrounded by native plants and vegetation presents a significant wildfire risk, especially given the use of lithium-iron phosphate batteries. These batteries are known to overheat and catch fire, and such fires are extremely difficult to control. The danger extends beyond the initial fire, as these batteries can reignite up to three weeks later, posing a persistent threat.

Additionally, there are serious concerns about the environmental and public health risks associated with this project. If these batteries ignite, they will release toxic gases almost immediately, endangering air quality and public health. This creates a hazardous situation for both the community and first responders.

I urge you to consider these risks carefully. The safety and well-being of the residents should be the top priority. I strongly request that you reject this project to protect our community and environment.