

DOCKETED

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Access for fire trucks at this location is inadequate and possibly inside it

As the OCTA commented, there is only one small street into the planned 13 acre facility with 1100 large containers of Lithium batteries. When a fire breaks out, the Fire Department responds in force to contain it. Where will multiple fire trucks wait for each other to cross the railroad tracks to drive into the facility? Camino Capistrano? This street can get congested quickly. It provides the sole entrance and exit for this facility. Why isn't it required to have two entrances/exits for any BESS facility to allow the fire department to quickly respond in numbers?

Is there enough room between the containers for a fire truck to fit and maneuver? We were told there was about 8-10 feet between the containers to prevent the fire from easily spreading between containers. That is not enough room for the fire trucks to turn and park in the best location to fight a fire. How many fire trucks can park inside the 10 ft perimeter wall? How many could easily exit quickly if the fire gets out of control?

Until we find a way to quickly control and extinguish a lithium battery fire, we have to provide the fire department with maximum flexibility and safety. Because this facility is so close to residential neighborhoods, the fire department would have to leave when embers start flying in order to protect the neighborhoods and just let the facility burn. These neighborhoods run for miles along the top of the ridge above hillside brush and natural landscape which quickly ignites. I do not believe we have enough firefighters to protect the neighborhoods and fight a BESS fire. Do we want a situation in which a whole BESS facility burns down?

This is just not the right location.