

<b>DOCKETED</b>	
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<b>Project Title:</b>	Compass Energy Storage Project
<b>TN #:</b>	260365
<b>Document Title:</b>	JSerra Catholic High School Comments - San Juan Capistrano - Battery Plant COmments
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*Comment Received From: JSerra Catholic High School  
Submitted On: 12/2/2024  
Docket Number: 24-OPT-02*

## **San Juan Capistrano - Battery Plant COmments**

Please see attached document.

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*



# JSERRA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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FAITH. INTELLECT. CHARACTER.

December 2, 2024

Ms. Renee Longman  
California Energy Commission  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Compass Energy Storage Project – San Juan Capistrano  
Docket Number 24-OPT-02

Dear Ms. Longman:

JSerra Catholic High School is an independent high school located in the historic city of San Juan Capistrano. Through an intimate partnership between parents and inspirational teachers, we strive to develop the faith, intellect, and character of the young men and women who attend here. Part of that development includes learning about and participating in our civic responsibilities, which is why we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Compass Energy Storage Project.

We are charged with the health and safety of over 1,500 students, faculty, staff, and visitors, located on campus at any given time. Our JSerra convent is less than 500 yards from the proposed project, and the campus itself is less than a mile downwind.

While we celebrate environmental awareness at JSerra (we operate a solar farm on campus), too often the news is reporting on another lithium battery fire. These fires have closed schools and highways, ordering mass evacuations while ejecting flames and toxic smoke. Unlike our photovoltaic system, this is a technology still under development. Even if long-term as a society we need to explore lithium battery storage, we must be cautious as to where we locate such facilities.

A mass evacuation during a school day would be nothing less than calamitous. With Interstate 5, the rail lines, Camino Capistrano and Rancho Viejo roads all closed, with many students and staff living north of JSerra, the fear of fire and toxic smoke would emotionally overwhelm parents and clog roadways as students and parents try to reunite.

We strongly urge the California Energy Commission to carefully and fully consider these adverse environmental and public safety risks as they evaluate Compass Energy project.

Respectfully,

Rich Meyer  
President