



# ORANGE COUNTY PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION IAFF LOCAL 3631



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November 6, 2024

California Energy Commission  
1516 9th Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Battery Storage Facility in San Juan Capistrano

Members of the California Energy Commission,

On behalf of the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the proposed battery storage facility in San Juan Capistrano. As first responders tasked with protecting the safety and well-being of our community, we are concerned about the significant risks posed by such facilities, particularly the threat of fires caused by unstable electric batteries.

In recent years, there have been numerous reports of battery storage facilities catching fire, creating highly dangerous and unpredictable situations for firefighters and nearby residents. These fires are difficult to extinguish, produce toxic fumes, and can rapidly escalate beyond containment. Our firefighters are placed in harm's way as they work to suppress these fires and protect surrounding homes and businesses.

Unfortunately, the threat is not hypothetical. We have seen firsthand the devastating impact of battery-related fires. One of our brave young firefighters was forced to retire early due to severe injuries sustained while responding to a single incident involving electric batteries.

The potential for large-scale battery fires in a densely populated area like San Juan Capistrano is alarming. This community, known for its residential neighborhoods and historic significance, would be particularly vulnerable to the risks posed by such a facility. Any fire that breaks out in a battery storage site would not only jeopardize the safety of residents but also expose our firefighters to increased risks

We respectfully request that you prioritize the safety of both the public and our first responders in your decision-making process **and oppose the location of this facility in San Juan Capistrano.**

Sincerely,

Chris Hamm, President  
Orange County Professional Firefighters Association

Representing Professional Firefighters protecting the cities of:

Aliso Viejo • Buena Park • Cypress • Dana Point • Garden Grove • Irvine • Laguna Hills • Laguna Niguel • Laguna Woods • Lake Forest • La Palma • Los Alamitos  
Mission Viejo • Rancho Santa Margarita • San Clemente • San Juan Capistrano • Santa Ana • Seal Beach • Stanton • Tustin • Villa Park  
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