



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Ray Gennawey
Mayor Pro Tem Gene Johns
Council Member Kelly Jennings
Council Member Stephanie Oddo
Council Member Stephanie Winstead

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Cottie Petrie-Norris
California State Assembly, 73rd District
1021 N Street, Room 408A
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: AB 615 (Davies) Power Facilities – Emergency Response and Action Plan
Letter of Support (As Introduced 2/13/2025)

Dear Assembly Member Petrie-Norris,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to offer this letter of **support for AB 615 (Davies)**. AB 615 would require applications for energy storage facilities submitted to the California Energy Commission to include an emergency response and action plan that incorporates impacts on the surrounding areas in the event of an emergency and must include recommendations and feedback from local first responders and emergency agencies to determine whether the proposed site is feasible or should be rejected for public safety reasons. Under current law, emergency response and action plans are not required to be completed until after the project is completed.

The [City of Laguna Niguel](#) is facing this issue with the [Compass Energy Storage Project](#), which is currently pending CEC's Determination of Complete Application without an emergency response or action plan having been developed. The proposed 250 megawatt-hours project is located in the City of San Juan Capistrano, bordering Laguna Niguel's eastern City limits, less than 1,500 feet from Laguna Niguel homes. In early 2023, Compass Energy Storage informed the City of San Juan Capistrano of its intention to forgo the City's review process and utilize the opt-in certification process permitted by AB 205 (2022). The City of Laguna Niguel opposes this project based on a multitude of safety concerns, and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss those concerns.

As introduced, AB 615 would proactively address safety concerns before the project is built. By requiring an emergency response and action plan to be developed at the time of submission, the dangers of having one of these facilities near thousands of homes and a major transportation corridor will only further highlight the short-sightedness of the project. The City of Laguna Niguel respectfully requests the Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy to approve AB 615 and stand with public safety.

Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Management Assistant, at koconnor@cityoflaguneniguel.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Gennawey".
Ray Gennawey
Mayor

Cc: Assembly Committee on Utilities and Energy
Assembly Committee on Emergency Management
Assembly Member Laurie Davies, 74th Assembly District
Laguna Niguel City Council