



## 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

June 27, 2025

The Honorable Senator Steve Padilla  
Chair, Senate Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Suite 548  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 841 State Fire Marshal: Personal Protective Equipment: Battery Fire Notice of SUPPORT (As Amended April 21, 2025)**

Dear Senator Padilla,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to support **AB 841 (Patel)**, which addresses the increased exposure to toxic chemicals that firefighters face during lithium-ion battery fires. This bill directs the Office of the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with Cal-OSHA, to establish a working group to recommend enhanced personal protective equipment (PPE) and decontamination procedures to ensure firefighters remain safe and healthy. As the state rapidly increases the pace and scale of renewable energy development, it is imperative that the state safeguard firefighters' health by updating PPE and implementing more effective decontamination procedures.

A [proposed BESS facility](#) in the City of San Juan Capistrano, bordering Laguna Niguel's eastern City limits, less than 1,500 feet from Laguna Niguel homes, is currently under review with the CEC under the [AB 205 \(2022\) Opt-In Certification Program](#). The City of Laguna Niguel, surrounding jurisdictions, Orange County's elected representatives, and hundreds of thousands of residents are adamantly opposed to this project due to numerous public safety concerns.

In the event that the [CEC approves this project](#), despite these blatant public safety concerns, it will be imperative that local first responders are equipped with the proper PPE and decontamination procedures in the event of a system failure at this proposed facility or other BESS facilities across the state.

For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to support **AB 841 (Patel)**. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Assistant to the City Manager, at [koconnor@cityoflagunaniguel.org](mailto:koconnor@cityoflagunaniguel.org).

Sincerely,

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

Ray Gennawey  
Mayor

Cc: Senate Governmental Organization Committee  
Assembly Member Darshana Patel, 76<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
Laguna Niguel City Council