

JJRBG Meeting October 15, 2021
Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail
Agenda Item IV a.

1. Tim and Joy Ory

How is it possible to implement SB823's legislative purpose "to protect society from the consequences of criminal activity" (Welfare and Institutions Code 1710 (b) 1) when evaluating sites next to residential neighborhoods to house the juvenile serious offender population? The answer is plain and simple - IT IS NOT.

Camps Scott and Scudder are within feet of an existing residential neighborhood. A new residential neighborhood of 375 homes within 700 feet East of the Camps is also approved for development. Residential neighborhoods exist to the North, South, and West, and are approved to the East. Just to the North are several equestrian centers and ranch properties with homes.

The Evaluation Criteria Locational Factors of the Score Card are NOT realistic when it comes to nearby residential neighborhoods and driving times. What is the basis behind the 1/4 mile factor? An escapee would be well within our neighborhood at 1/4 mile. The public perception is 1/4 mile was used to ensure camps a breath away from residential neighborhoods where children play in their front yards remain under consideration.

How were the travel time criteria determined for distances? I suggest you drive from the Camps to the Community College near the I-5 and Valencia Blvd during the morning commute hours. In good conditions, it takes more than 20 minutes to reach the freeway on any given day. To commute from our residential area to downtown Los Angeles is easily over an hour during the morning commute and closer to 1.5 to 2 hours to return to the area.

The JJRBG funding is through an allocation from the State of California's General Fund. The bulk of the General Fund comes from individual income taxpayers. It is time for this Subcommittee to listen to the taxpayers and voters of Santa Clarita.

The spirit and intent of the legislation purpose to "protect society from the consequences of criminal activity" can be met through using a remote site for housing and rehabilitative programs for the incarcerated.

We urge the sale of the Camp Scott and Scudder property with net proceeds to be directed equally for victim services programs and intervention programs for youth and their families.

2. Sue Fischer

I am re-sending the email I sent last week as we still have no response of any kind. We the public are your constituents and deserve so much better. We pay our taxes and work hard to care for our homes and community. Your ignorance of our community and refusal to answer our questions is appalling.

Scudder and Scott were built over 30 years ago prior to the development of homes in the Saugus area. I was the third house to occupy this block. There was no Plum Canyon; it was a mountain. Corn fields and farms lined Bouquet Canyon. This is a growing neighborhood now and no place for a prison. It doesn't matter what type.

I have reviewed the Stoplight presentation and have comments and questions

- Public Access: From personal experience, as I live feet from the complex; it can take up to 45 minutes to get to the freeway. At the least it will take 25 minutes.
- Competing Use Factors: A plan for approximately 375 homes is approved. These homes will surround the camps and on the hill behind, as well as, look directly into the camps.
- Competing Use Factors: Prior to the formation of this committee a plan for Bouquet Canyon Road was established to realign and to facilitate the building of these homes. The homes and the realignment equals a much denser population surrounding this prison than originally known.
- Location Factors: Saugus High School is 2.7 miles. As a reminder; Saugus High had a shooting with deaths 2 years ago.
- Location Factors: Rosedell Elementary School is 1.7 miles, Arroyo Seco Middle School 3.2 miles
- Location Factors: A church sits directly across the rural road from the camps.
- Location Factors: Central Park (planned for a major expansion) 3.1 miles
- Location Factors: The Santa Clarita Sheriff: A new station is almost ready to open on Golden Valley Road and it is approximately 7 miles from the camps.
- Location Factors: There is no 1/4 mile buffer zone (or even close) between a Horseback Riding School on the property next door to the camps. There is a second Horseback Riding School next door to the School next to the camps. There is approximately 800 feet from the entrance to the camps and the home across the two lane rural road.
- Location Factors: Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital is the only hospital in Santa Clarita. It is approximately 6 miles from the camps. Their emergency room is constantly filled with inmates from Pitchess.
- Other Factors: The Santa Clarita Valley has grown faster than it's road development. Our traffic patterns struggle most times of the day. We are gridlocked on every road during rush hour and relative to school hours. Whether it be a rural road or a main thoroughfare, Santa Clarita has an undefined road system and not a grid-style, as in the SF Valley and Antelope Valley.

Specific Questions Waiting Response

- The Santa Clarita City Council requested an environmental impact study/CEQA. Has it begun? At what point is it near completion?
- What specifically are the zoning requirements for such a prison?
- What specifically are the zoning requirements for a prison near a school?
- Bouquet Canyon Road will be closed in parts and realigned. Are you aware of this? Are you aware of its implications of this area's growth in density?
- Is the Newhall Sheriff's Department aware of this possible development?
- Is the Newhall CHP aware of this possible development?
- Is Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital aware of this possible development?
- Have you read the traffic studies for the Santa Clarita Valley?

The impression from the handout is that the architect may have looked at Camps Scudder and Scott but has no detailed information about the area in which it sits. The previous use of this property is no longer viable considering its current neighborhood population and design.

I kindly ask that you respond to the public's questions and concerns.