

JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee Meeting August 3, 2022
Written Public Comments Submitted Via E-Mail
Agenda Item IV A

1. Carla Salamat

8.3.2022 To whom this may concern:

I am writing to oppose the consideration of Camp Scott being used to house violent offenders (707b). These are not juveniles. You are deliberately misrepresenting the clientele. These criminals have committed heinous crimes such as rape, kidnapping, arson, robbery, Sodomy, attempted murder and torture to mention a few. The location that you are considering is inappropriate. It poses a safety risk to the schools (Preschool, elementary, middle schools and high schools) and the residential areas within close proximity to the Camp. There is a school bus stop directly across from the Camp Scott/Scudder. Everyday during the school year, our children stand at that bus stop waiting for the bus to pick them up for school putting their safety at risk. There are small children in the neighborhood as well as senior citizens. What are their rights to live in a safe environment? Not only are you proposing to house violent adult offenders in a residential area, you must also consider the additional traffic that will incur due to transporting criminals, visitors, and all other personnel that will be required to support this jail. This is not the right location! Additionally, there are also safety factors at play for the intended residents of the jail. First and foremost, Camp Scott is located in a high fire area. Having experienced several fires in this area, I know first hand how difficult it is to get out of the area in a timely manner. Now you are wanting to add additional individuals to that mix. How will they get out if there is a fire? Will you have busses waiting for them? How will the transportation get through? Secondly, that area is a flood zone. Not a good choice!!!! Take a step back.....imagine if anyone of you who are making this decision lived in this area. This wouldn't be happening. I can guarantee that!!! Do what is right for our community. Find another more suitable location to rehabilitate these "not juvenile" offenders.

2. Helene McElmurray

I am writing again to express my strong objection to the consideration of altering Camp Scudder and Scott into a max prison. Multiple times by multiple people and the City of Santa Clarita the points have been made as to why this "solution" is NOT only NOT the best solution, but why this proposal is dangerous to Santa Clarita residents as well as the proposed "juveniles":

- It's within 300 feet of hundreds of existing RESIDENTIAL homes, as well as a recently approved 375 home development located next door to the facility
- It's in a flood and fire zone with a two-way ingress/egress street for hundreds of people during evacuations such as those that have occurred previously.
- It's location and proximity to 2 elementary schools and 1 high school is unacceptable
- The traffic of incoming visitors would be intolerable given the access and use of Bouquet as it is used from Lancaster, Palmdale, and Acton, as well as Santa Clarita
- The negative impact to the value of existing homes would unfairly impact current residents
- The Board is IGNORING the other facility which is clearly the better, fairer, and safer option

While I have no argument with rehabilitation efforts towards these youth, I take issue with their needs being placed above the needs of the lawful citizens who will be directly impacted by such a misguided consideration. These roles you play in our county's government are based on a responsibility to serve the public and the public's best interests and safety. That obligation should supersede any and all other considerations including the needs of criminals. This camp is NOT the only option available and any

arguments about money, convenience, time, etc. are bogus given the perverse things this state has paid out tax-payer money on.

Please stand up for the citizens you serve and discard any consideration of Camp Scudder Scott for this project. Protect our family neighborhoods, our elementary and high schools, our evacuation routes, our home's values, etc., and most importantly stand up, in good faith, for the best interests of those who are paying the bills – the citizens – not the unlawful.

3. Julie Hunter

Please find my public written comment for the JJCC-JJRBG Meeting on August 3, 2022 for agenda item IV.A. Presentation on Feasibility Study: Adaptive Use of Camp Joseph Scott as a Secure Youth Treatment Facility by DLR Group.

The City of Santa Clarita filed a lawsuit that LA County must complete the appropriate review required by CEQA before any work is done to transform Camp Scott into a permanent SYTF. The lawsuit requires the DJJ to complete a CEQA compliance report before any alternative facilities are dismissed. At the March 15, 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Barger introduced a motion to adopt the Probation Department's proposal for a SYTF at Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall.

Although this motion did not pass, it provided for an alternative facility proposed and supported by the Probation Department and the Chief Probation Officer.

The news also reported that maintenance has been occurring at Camp Scott. Although regular upkeep is required by the state, maintenance to transform Camp Scott into an SYTF should not take place due to the pending litigation and lack of CEQA report. Further, it is premature to consider adaptive use of Camp Scott until the lawsuit is resolved.

4. Laura Schmidt

To whom this concerns,

There so many reasons for Camp Scott to not open for these violent juveniles. One, I personally have worked with teens for 32 years. As well I always tried to be a positive reinforcement in there life's. In a school year of 1,200 or more students if I change 10 lives I'm lucky. It's all about the child's environment. Kids want to please their peers and want to belong. Add mental health to the picture you have some crazy times. These murders and rapist aren't going to change. There environment has always been negative from birth. While it be physically, mental, or survival. You think these juveniles are going to change? Well your totally mistaken!! All they will do is learn is how to play the system and be released to commit more crimes. With Santa Clarita surviving a mash shooting at the high school about 3 miles from Camp Scott isn't fair to the community. Not mention how closes the house are to the facility.

Not to mention all the traffic that travels Bouquet Canyon. The road is heavily congested all ready. Adding these unwanted visitors to community is unfair. We moved to this area for it's safety. I've lived in this area for 48 years .

I feel my family will have to worry about these juveniles escaping and hurting or killing someone. Our house will go lower in value due to this. The list goes on.

Please send these individuals to an isolated area where they can't hurt people. We pay taxes and have the right to feel safe. If you want this put them in your own backyard.

5. Karen Widman

I am writing to you about Agenda Item IV on Wednesday's Board of Supervisors meeting. I have been writing to you for months and I will continue until I feel our community has been heard.

I am a resident of the Santa Clarita Valley, and live about a mile and a half away from the proposed detention site. This side is commonly referred to as the site to how's juvenile offenders, but it's clearly a misnomer. This location will house maximum security offenders, that committed the crimes when they were

16 and 17 years old. These offenders will be finishing off the remainder of their sentences at this location. I've worked in the field of law-enforcement for almost 28 years, and I can tell you that I believe that the juvenile criminal justice system needs to be reformed. Very few of our juvenile offenders come out of the system any better than they went in. My problem is not with the new vision for juvenile criminal justice. I'd very much like to see young people that have committed crimes as minors find the ability to be rehabilitated and re-interest society as full fully functional adults.

I do have very serious concerns about your proposed location however. I have lived in this valley for over 20 years. I cannot tell you how many times that area has needed to be evacuated for fires, that almost annually ravage that area. I have also lived here and seen that location evacuated when storms come through that and flood the surrounding properties adjacent to the creek. Logistically, there is only a 2 Lane Highway in which will create significant concerns for the ingress and egress out of this location. This is a fragile area with a few residences and ranch properties. We need to be good stewards of our land and think seriously about the environmental impact of this proposed project.

In my humble opinion, a project such as this, needs to be adjacent to major roadways in and out of the location. It should also be within proximity to hospitals, fire stations, and local law-enforcement. This proposed location doesn't meet any of those qualifications.

Please think long and hard about putting such a project in an area that is not designed to sit stain such significant changes.

6. Patricia Widman

As a resident of Santa Clarita, I am writing to express my concerns related to the proposed use of Camp Scott to house dangerous felons so close to the residential area across the street. While I understand that there is a need for housing of these men, the location in question is NOT suitable for this purpose. I strongly urge that an alternative location be used.

7. Concerned Local Resident

Despite numerous documented warnings about the fire danger in the TX canyon area where Camp Scott/Scudder is located, since the very mild month of May, the following fires (below) have broken out in the area. One very close by, and several upwind in the same canyon, one that reached 50 acres. Had there been any wind, it would have been another disaster. Several residents nearby also shoot fireworks off over the camp and they are not stopped. I hope the Probation union is on top of the matter of placing youth and workers in life-threatening conditions. When combined with housing level 4 and 5 offenders in a level 1 minimum security facility, I don't envy the conditions they are being asked to endure. If their union is not actively fighting this, they are not doing their job and workers are not being represented. I recommend you contact your union reps immediately. Camp Scott is a disaster waiting to happen. Fire season is coming, and neighborhoods are arming up and training in preparation for the eventual escapees. Either way, someone is going to be hurt if this goes through. If you truly care about the well-being of these youth, end the decision to use Camp Scott before it is too late.

Santa Clarita Area fires From May 1

- Vasquez Cyn, 1 acre
- Spunky Cyn 50 acres
- Saugus, Tree fire, .1 acre
- Bouquet Junction, .25 acre
- Saugus, .1 acre
- Newhall Ave. Tree fire, .1 acre
- Canyon Country, Structure fire, .1 acre
- Ft. Tejon, Wildfire,
- Bouquet Cyn Rd, 5 acres
- Golden Valley Rd, 5 acres

- Castaic, Lightening strike, .5 acre
- Sylmar, 25 acres
- Telegraph Fire 1.5 acres
- Circle J Ranch, .25 acre
- Owen Fire, .25 acre
- Golden fire, .125 acre
- Castaic, 2 acre
- Castaic, .12 acre
- Sand Canyon, 2.5 acres
- Vista Fire, Castaic, .25 acre

8. Sue Fischer

I would like to bring your attention to a recent news item.

Who is considered a juvenile? This guy!

Cachu -- who was prosecuted as an adult and was serving a 50-year-to-life state prison sentence for murder, where he robbed & shot his victim in the back.

Under Gascons NEW orders & NEW CA state laws Cachu case was sent back to a juvenile court panel, because he was 17 at the time of the crime. The panel ruled 2-1 that Cachu's convictions would be deemed a juvenile crime and he was eventually released in November 2021.

This week Cachu faces 11 charges total, including evading arrest, unlawful possession of a firearm, and driving under the influence.

<https://abc7.com/murder-convict-released-arrested/12068640/>

THIS is the type of 'Juvenile' you want to house in limited security right in the middle of a family neighborhood. I will remind you - even though you are sick of hearing it - 800Ft from our housing tract!!!! (with more single-family dwellings to come)

Find a more reasonable place!