

JJRBG Meeting July 21, 2021
Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail
Agenda Item 4. and 4b.

1. William Mcadam

This is William McAdam addressing Items 3 & 4 Camps Scott and Scudder.

To the LA County Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council,

For the last 21 years, I have lived less than 2 blocks from the entrance to the two camps being considered to change them into prisons for young people aged 17 to 25. I am shocked and disappointed in the lack of communication and planning for such a significant change to the use of this property in the middle of a residential neighborhood. Those two camps always housed juveniles that had committed minor crimes and were given chances to rehabilitate and finish school. It was not a high security area and the residents never had to fear about their personal security.

What you are suggesting is appalling and will destroy my neighborhood. This is not a reasonable change of use by the county without full hearings, environmental reports and approval by the residents affected by these changes. Just because some committee made a suggestion based on little or no real specific information, is no reason to move forward with the consideration of these two sites.

Theses are felons that have committed serious offenses against society and up until now have been incarcerated in a prison. While I believe in trying to rehabilitate prisoners to be contributing members of society, they still need to be secured in a appropriate prison structure for the term of their sentence. The area of these two camps is easily accessible by anyone, and even if you build tall fences , I do not believe it will be safe for our community.

I would appreciate your full consideration when you vote on these issues and I would expect a reasonable amount of time for full community involvement in such a important decision. I understand that society is trying to change the way we deal with the incarceration of individuals, but don't make hasty decisions that negatively affect my neighborhood.

2. Tracy Viregutz

Hello,

I would like to voice my opposition and for you to reconsider other options besides Camps Scott and Scudder for housing solutions. I do not believe the committee made the decisions ethically without public meetings and I do not believe the committee considered all other possibilities, some of which are more remote and will not have impacts on close by communities. I do not feel that Camps Scott and Scudder should be approved for this project.

3. Jason Webb

To whom it may concern,

Agenda Items 3 and 4

I object to the proposal to move violent juvenile offenders to Camp Scott or Camp Scudder, or anywhere in Santa Clarita.

The proximity of Plum Canyon Elementary school to these camps should be reason alone that this proposal is a very bad idea, however there are many residential neighborhoods nearby. Why are we to be put in danger? I'm sure you have more remote locations available in Los Angeles County to use.

4. Richard Petrella and Debra Petrella

I'm not sure who thought this was a good idea but I live right across the street from this run down camp. This area has grown and the homes around here are vast. The land right next to this camp is slated for new homes to be built numbering 375. This must not be in our back yard it is completely unsafe.

5. Dennis P. Hunter

Hello,

As a resident and homeowner, living less than one mile from camps Scott and Scudder, I'm writing to voice my concern about the subject agenda items. For housing youth offenders, the camps are too close to residential neighborhoods and high fire risk areas. If one of the offenders escapes, there's a chance they could break in to one of the nearby homes. Or, their visitors could burglarize homes and vehicles. Also, since some of the offenders are arsonists, there's the possibility that they could start a fire that quickly spreads to nearby neighborhoods. The last thing we need is more fire risk in Santa Clarita.

Please don't place violent youth offenders near children and families here in Saugus. The risk is not worth it and the community doesn't want it.

6. Julie S. Hunter

Dear Members of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council,

I am very concerned about the proposed use of campus Scott and Scudder in Santa Clarita and the speed at which it's being pushed through without community outreach and investigation of alternatives. The defunct facilities were not designed to house violent offenders. The camps are located close to single family homes with children as well as many local schools. In addition, the only access is from Bouquet Canyon Road, a windy, two-lane canyon road (one lane in each direction), fire-prone and remote from the rest of the county. The extreme wind in the area is also subject to power outages.

To quote a statement issued from 5th District Supervisor Barger's office, "Camps Scott and Scudder were hastily identified as the proposed location to house the male population. Unfortunately, this recommendation was made without any community input or stakeholder engagement. In addition, the Subcommittee failed to evaluate and consider all open and closed camps such as Munz, Mendenhall, Holton and Miller."

As a committee, please do your due diligence by evaluating and considering ALL open and closed camps as possible options for housing California Department of Juvenile Justice youth.

7. Selma Francia

To Whom It May Concern:

Regarding Public Meeting on July 21, 2021, Items 3 and 4 on Agenda.

As a resident of Santa Clarita, I am voicing my opposition on behalf of myself, my family, & neighbors to transfer serious juvenile offenders to facilities within the City of Santa Clarita. These facilities are too close to many family residential areas and schools throughout this community.

There are plenty of remote locations away from our populous City of Santa Clarita to have criminals so close to our community. For the well-being and safety of the residents of Santa Clarita, please DO NOT approve transfer of serious juvenile offenders to facilities within the City of Santa Clarita.

8. Karen Widman

My name is Karen Widman and I have been a resident of Santa Clarita since 1999. I have strong feelings about the LA County proposal to place juvenile offenders between the ages of 18 to 25 at Camp Scudder in Camp Scudder. These camps are originally designed to house low risk offenders at those locations. The proposal to bring ALL inmates, between the ages of 18-25, to this location is very misguided. I strongly believe that if the subcommittee researched this project, before they announced their decision, they would have found that there are several flaws with the proposal. First, this is a Canyon in community which is accessed only on a 2 Lane Highway in and out of the area. This area is subject to brushfires every season. In order to accommodate the ingress and egress out of this area, that roadway would need to be significantly widened. Additionally, this area is also subject to flooding when we experience heavy rains during the winter.

These camps have been at this location for many years with the existing footprint for their current use. The proposal, would significantly change the camp's appearance and design within the community. It would require a significant amount of modifications to be able to house high risk offenders in this area. These fences, and guard towers would literally sit within feet of residential neighborhoods.

I am fully aware that the state of California gave L.A. County a limited timeframe to locate a place to house this inmate population. However, I am of the strong belief that a proposal of this significance requires much more community input than this proposal was given. The residents of this area, including myself, are beyond angry that this proposal has been submitted without any kind of transparency, or input from the community. I would strongly encourage you to look at all of the options available, prior to formalizing your decision on the placement of these camps.

9. Rocio Chua

Hello my name is Rocio Chua and I am writing regarding Items 3 and 4 of today's meeting agenda. I write to voice my opposition to the Los Angeles County Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Subcommittee's plan to transfer serious juvenile offenders to facilities within the City of Santa Clarita. I believe such a move would seriously impact the safety and well-being of the community and families in the city of Santa Clarita and other options should be pursued. The fact that this plan was considered before obtaining community input tells me you do not have the community's best interest in mind and would have pushed ahead were it not for community backlash. I strongly oppose this plan and ask that the committee review other more appropriate facilities for this project.

10. Joe Bolanos

To Whom it may concern,

Obviously big politicians wont care, also residents from other parts of the county of Los Angeles. But as a Santa Clarita resident I strongly oppose to this. It seems LA county finds a thriving, secure community and then tries to homogenize it to the bad quality of life it offers in others. Santa Clarita has battled unruliness, homelessness, has created parks, has created a biking networks a SAFE one. Has created a nice tight community that helps whenever needed... We have only one police station, which is barely enough for the valley, however between first responders, Fire dept and Sheriff Dept, the SCV thrives, residents from around want what we have: security, cleanliness, overall they want our model.

That being said, doesn't the LA COUNTY in its entirety have another place to situate these camps? We have enough of the pitches detention center and its riots, suspected escapees and so on as to add these young people to the list. We are bringing potential felons to our grounds, don't you see they will notice how unprotected SCV is? They won't remain by the system in SCV, but once they see what is inside, they will flock to the scv and potentially nest there and destroy the delicate thing we have going... why burden one of the safest city in the USA with such a program? You want all to have equal access to crime or what?

Why target SCV? In life we cannot operate under the unrealistic positivism that politicians have sometimes saying: No one, ever will escape, they will be rehab'd... No, we have to be conscious that in real life, systems break, we do not need that political bomb in our hands, potential mistreatments, abuse, escapes (with this how it will be handled)

Santa Clarita is designed to be an open community thru and thru, this will start making the beautiful SCV look like ugly walled San Fernando valley I will ask again WHY TARGET THE SCV?

Is this political due to the last Republican district?

I would Recommend the minds behind this to actually protect the SCV and show it around to that there is anything of value in the whole LA county... LA city is a homeless burdened place, crime on the rise... not enough floors in a building to escape pollution and crime... San Fernando valley, burdened with lawlessness, Antelope valley a meth haven, and so on....

Why do you want to burden the SCV and possibly and probably destroy it?

11. Edith Andrea Gasca

Hello my name is Edith Andrea Gasca and I am writing regarding Items 3 and 4 of today's meeting agenda. I write to voice my opposition to the Los Angeles County Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Subcommittee's plan to transfer serious juvenile offenders to facilities within the City of Santa Clarita. I believe such a move would seriously impact the safety and well-being of the community and families in the city of Santa Clarita and other options should be pursued. The fact that this plan was considered before obtaining community input tells me you do not have the community's best interest in mind and would have pushed ahead were it not for community backlash. I strongly oppose this plan and ask that the committee review other more appropriate facilities for this project.

12. Alexia Cina

Hello my name is Alexia and I am a youth advocate and community organizer with the anti recidivism coalition. As someone who was previously incarcerated in several different traumatic facilities I want to stress my concern on the harm being done on the youth letting them sit in the compound while the county agrees on a plan...acting on urgency needs to be done now and that does NOT involve choosing Barry j and challenger as an easy way out. Let the JJRBG do the implantation of something that resembles youth justice reimagine not policing and incarceration. A model that is rooted in repair, healing, and growth. Creating more safety in camps and in communities as well. Thank you.

13. Cynthia Hanley

We are residents of Santa Clarita who live in very close proximity to Camps Scott & Skudder.

We are completely against this ludicrous proposal. These locations are extremely close to residential neighborhoods. And since there is only a two lane road in & out of the area it's even more ludicrous. Who ever came up with this plan need to be fired. And what's the agenda with not consulting or notifying the City Of Santa Clarita?? City officials found out from a concerned citizen.

Put your "camp" somewhere far away from here. We don't want it.

14. Theresa Bosarge

1. As a resident of SCV since 1984 I oppose the “ serious juvenile offenders facility“, proposed to be located at the camp Scudder and Scott probation camps. My home is located approx 1200 feet from these facilities. Some of my neighbors even closer, one home being about 400 feet.
2. 340 new homes have been approved to be built feet from these facilities, which will include closing parts the Bouquet Canyon, permanently. How will you deal-with evacuations, being that this is a fire and flood area? Bouquet Canyon is one road in and out. The only access to visitors to the prison will be through the surrounding neighborhoods
3. What are the zoning laws on a maximum security facility being so close to a family neighborhood and the 3 schools in its radius? The bus stop is literally at the entrance to the camp where the school kids gets off to walk home. The bus stop they use to get to school is just across the street where they wait in the morning
4. What is the definition of a juvenile? This facility with house high offenders up to the age of 25. Last time I checked they are adults
5. Just last week, the already established prison in our area caused a lock down because of fights at pitches maximum security prison, deputies and prisoners where hospitalized. This facility is no where close to homes as your are proposing for the serious juvenile facility on Bouquet canyon.
6. This conversion of the Scudder and Scott camps will put more stress on our sheriffs dept. What safety and security are you planning on giving to the neighbors and staff if this project is approved
7. If approved what with this place look like, are we talking armed towers, barbered wire topped high walls, flood light, sirens? Amber alerts if someone escapes? Neighborhood lock downs? Right now the camps have a chain linked fence
8. The residents of scv live here because it is a very safe city , where people have worked very hard to raise their children here, with great schools, parks and recreation. This facility will shatter that sense of security. Not to mention plummeting property values. Would you want a serious offenders prison feet from your home?
9. Who on this committee have actually toured the existing camps and the neighborhoods that surround it. I urge you to consider other locations to house and rehabilitate these inmates. Putting it in an established family neighborhood make no sense.

15. Sue Ellen Hussung

Sending these youths right BACK into the homes/neighborhoods/gangs that fostered their criminal behavior would not allow them to receive the training in life skills and trades that are necessary for permanently ESCAPING that lifestyle. Group facilities in RURAL environments with caring counsellors and some form of accountable tracking such as GPS would offer a view of a non institutional future. Other probation departments already use this technology.

Secondly, with Amber Alert and Citizen systems currently in use,it is possible to NOTIFY the surrounding neighborhood if a resident removed the device and left..

Lastly, a minimal security service IS required on site for the wellbeing of BOTH staff and residents. That service would also discourage unauthorized absences.

I respectfully thank you for taking my suggestions into consideration.

16. Bob

Sitting though these JJCC meetings, there are a few point I want to comment on.

The state imposed this on our county to figure out.

Through the Board of Supervisors website, I reviewed old minutes. In one meeting, during a motion on this subject, 300 written verbatim identical comments that praising the board members for their

willingness to change juvenile justice. That cannot be a coincidence, and that was not the only meeting.

I am in favor of providing a safe environment to help violent offenders. However, I feel it should be in a secure environment for the staff, and especially surrounding neighborhoods.

I also learned that the Board of Supervisors asked for the Burns Institute a report. That was only One view point on juvenile justice change. Where was their community outreach, why didn't they ask for community input on their proposal?

Read the Burn's report, you'll find less than a page about victims, and virtually nothing concerning our communities.

Why is this happening, why didn't the board of supervisors ask for input or questions from the communities they're supposed to be serving?

We should not be putting youth that commit violent offenses in our community without accountability.

Why isn't Barry J Nighdorf is the choice. It's the right choice, it is secure.

In prior meetings, I've heard previously incarcerated youth, saying it wasn't the right choice. They dislike Barry J Nidorf, they say it did not help to be in a secure facility, if that's true, change the programs offered within that facility.

In a secure facility they no longer in the community committing their crimes. We need to hold youths accountable for their murders, attempted murders, and other violent crimes.

The purpose of the Justice System is to keep our communities safe, find justice for victims and their families, not provide a safe haven for violent offenders.

Let's start with making the Board of Supervisors accountable.

Move these youths to a secure facility for their safety, staff safety, and primarily community safety.

I bet other counties will use secure facilities. I bet they are not trying to place them in non-secure settings.

Why are we?