

JJRBG Meeting September 7, 2021
Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail
Agenda Item V

1. Ms. Mercado

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of Saugus within close proximity to camp Scudder and camp Scott. The area proposed is not appropriate for topography of the land. Bouquet Canyon is prone to fires, floods, power outages and is often being evacuated. Bouquet Canyon is already congested and there is only one road going in and out. This puts residents in a tight position already and adding to the population is a disaster waiting to happen. Then there is also the fact that there are houses within feet of the proposed area. This is not safe keeping for either the criminals or residents. The type of environment you must accommodate the criminals is not feasible at the existing location, as now you would have to alter it to be a jailhouse. This violates the topography. Please explore other land further out from existing residential homes.

2. Kimberly M. Zamlich

I OPPOSE the placing violent offenders in Camp Scott and Camp Scudder.

This is a community where people move to because of the schools and to raise families. Blending violent criminals with our kids *do not* mix. This is a BAD idea.

3. Ruth Tyson

Hello, I am Ruth Tyson and I speak on behalf of Bargaining Unit 702. I would like to request information on the score card and dates for site visits as well. We would like to be invited to all locations being considered.

4. Laurence Hodson

This letter to address the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council on the question of where to place young violent criminals. Researching the question of rehabilitation, the answer is NOT IN THE LOCATION OF THE FACILITY. The answer is not in Santa Clarita.

In their book, "What Happened To You" Oprah Winfrey and Bruce Perry discuss what helps to change a person who has behavioral issues. Though it is a long process, the first step is a nurturing and safe environment where the person can self regulate. This means they need a place to not be triggered back into their limbic brain. Perry also discusses some methods of self-regulation: rocking, singing, chewing gum, playing drums and exercise. He speaks about healthy disassociation through reading books. Oprah talks about "walking in nature" as extremely regulating. It is also important for the individual to feel seen and heard and to understand what caused them to act the way they did. Only once they are regulated, can troubled individuals understand reason. They can start thinking about their behavior and actions. Before that, they are acting from a fight/flight response. They are living in fear.

WILDERNESS THERAPY has been proven to be lower cost and more affective than most therapy treatments according to the University of New Hampshire.

From Psychology Today, "The OBHC has also conducted studies on the emotional and behavioral outcomes of clients from participating programs. They have found that significant improvements were made during wilderness program treatment and that clients maintained these positive changes 1 year after discharge. Interviews with a random selection of participants revealed that 83

percent reported to be doing better, 58 percent said they were doing well or very well, 81 percent rated OBH treatment as effective and 17 percent were still struggling.

A recent meta-analysis, reviewing 197 studies related to adventure therapy (inclusive of wilderness therapy), reports that the short-term effect of adventure therapy is greater than that of alternative and no treatment comparison groups. Follow up studies indicate that for a substantial percentage of “graduates” of wilderness programs, including those with clinically significant levels of emotional and behavioral dysfunction (including substance abuse) the short-term growth is maintained.”

While Santa Clarita residences want the felony criminals to be rehabilitated and able to rejoin society, we do not believe that violent felons currently in “fight or flight” mode need to be housed across from small children and families. People living in fear are a danger to those around them. We encourage the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council to find a place in nature like Camp Kilpatrick where the troubled youth can safely get regulated, get exercise and begin the process of moving out of fear.