

We are writing to voice our opposition to the Camps Scott and Scudder, former juvenile probation camps, being transitioned from housing juveniles convicted of crimes such as shoplifting, drug use or drug possession, into a permanent, maximum security facility to house serious male offenders. Offenders ranging in age from 12 to 25 years old who have been convicted of serious crimes, to include murder, arson, rape and robbery. We have lived in our home that is located within walking distance from this facility for 32 years. We have raised our family here and 2 of our 3 children have made their homes here in Santa Clarita. This facility would be in close proximity to elementary schools, a high school, parks, trails and residential housing. We feel we have not been given adequate time to evaluate and voice our opinions on this matter. It is our understanding that an additional 400 new homes have been approved for construction adjacent to Camps Scudder and Scott. We are also concerned about the efficacy of this this facility being in a fire zone. Several times over the years, we have had to evacuate our home due to approaching fires, even to the point of our backyard being sprayed with fire retardant. The fire situation was made abundantly clear 2 years ago when we received notice that AAA was cancelling our homeowners insurance, after approximately 30 years without a claim, due to the fact that our home was in a fire zone. As we rushed to secure coverage, we found only one major insurance company that would provide coverage in this area. It is a major concern as to how the entire facility would be safely evacuated in the event of a fire. My family has enjoyed a safe and secure lifestyle since moving to Saugus 32 years ago. We have been active in our community, being involved in AYSO Soccer and Hart Baseball. We are very disappointed that this type of facility could be placed across the road from our home without notification to and input from the people impacted the most. Thank you for your attention to our observations.

Denis and Deborah Marxen  
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Saugus