

JJCC-CAC Meeting (November 16, 2021) Written Public Comments (Agenda Item V)

1. Rosalie Annison

I am strongly opposed to using Camps Scott and Scudder as lock-ups for violent juvenile offenders. These camps are literally within 600' of hundreds of family homes to say nothing of 2 elementary schools!

It is also located in a high fire and flood area. This would put the inmates safety at risk. After surviving several fires in this area, I can attest to how difficult it is to exit the area and get to safety. Bouquet Canyon was jammed with cars, large animal carriers. Your own report documents this fact yet somehow the camps are still on your "short list."

Violent criminals should not be housed in a residential neighborhood that is in a flood and fire zone that is on a two lane road. Violent criminals regardless of their age should not be housed next to children and families and schools.

To summarize:

1. Camp Scott/Scudder is closer to multiple residential neighborhoods and schools, than Page/Afferlerbaugh and Los Padrino.
2. Camp Scott/Scudder is farther in proximity to Family and Urban Centers, than Page/Afferlerbaugh and Los Padrinos.
3. Camp Scott/Scudder is in a high Fire/Flood fire zone, with active wildfires every fire season and only one road in and out of the local area.
4. Camp Scott/Scudder are within the City of Santa Clarita which lacks mental health resources and has only one hospital which is full most of the year.
5. Camp Scott/Scudder is within LA County Sherriff jurisdiction. The Sherriff recently declared an imminent threat to the public due to lack of resources.

Your own studies show that Page/Afferbaugh and Los Padrinos are more suitable locations for this population.

OR the County owns large tracts of land in Castaic by the Pitches Detention Center. This would be a perfect spot to detain the violent juvenile offenders.

Rosalie Annison

Saugus, CA

2. Julie Hunter

Camp Scott [and Camp Scudder] is an unsuitable facility to house LA County's violent youth offenders. What are the clear and compelling reasons to use this facility other than it's currently empty? There are so many more reasons why this location is an unsuitable choice and should be removed from consideration. Some of the reasons Camp Scott [and Scudder] should not be used to house the County's violent youth offenders include:

1. Close proximity of Camp Scott to residences and schools.

2. Local community concerns and overwhelming objections over the proposed use of Camp Scott, including Santa Clarita Mayor Miranda and Mayor Pro Tem Weste, made clear at the Community Listening Session on November 10, 2021.
3. Potential trauma to local Saugus youth and families recovering from the Saugus High School shooting on November 14, 2019.
4. Located in a high flood and fire zone, Camp Scott received the worst score possible for resiliency for potential fire and flood hazards, which was the only life-threatening category included on the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Subcommittee Scorecard.
5. Increased likelihood of evacuation at Camp Scott not conducive to providing a safe and secure environment to those housed there.
6. Potential liability and even negligence on part of the County for selecting Camp Scott, a location in a known flood and fire zone increasing risk to those housed there in the imminent event of natural disaster.
7. CEQA applies to discretionary actions taken by a local agency that may cause a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change to the environment.
8. Local 685 does not find Camp Scott proper facility to house this population.
9. Dorm-like setting at Camp Scott contradictory to what youth asking for: their own rooms.
10. Far proximity of Camp Scott from security services and supports (police, fire, etc.)
11. Camp Scott, located on a remote canyon road far away from most parts of LA County, may create issues of access due to distance from freeways and other possible transportation barriers.
12. Camp Scott was designed and originally intended as a facility to house nonviolent offenders. The facility, built in the 1950s, is outdated and requires improvements to bring it up to minimum standards. Is this proper use of taxpayer dollars when more modern facilities are available in the County which are in better alignment with current treatment models?
13. More appropriate open facilities that received higher scores than Camp Scott were subjectively removed from the "short list" of recommended sites.

In placing Camp Scott on the "short list" the LA County Probation Department is not true to its trifold mission "to enhance public safety, ensure victims' rights and effect positive probationer behavioral change." For the reasons above, none of these elements are supported by the use of Camp Scott [and Scudder] to house violent youth offenders.

3. Mandy Christensen

To whom it may concern,
I adamantly oppose turning the probation center on Bouquet Canyon in Santa Clarita, CA. into a juvenile maximum security prison. I live on Shadow Valley Lane, directly across from the proposed prison. This action would endanger my family and affect my property value. The prison would also be way too close to multiple elementary schools. Maximum security prisons do not belong in residential areas. I ask you, would you want this next to your home and family? I beg you to reconsider. - Mandy Christensen