

**JJRBG Meeting December 15, 2021**  
**Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail**  
**Agenda Item IV a.**

1. Karen Widman

I am a resident of LA Co, and live in the Saugus area of Santa Clarita for 22 yrs. During the last Santa Clarita City Council, I learned of the County's plan to move serious juvenile offenders to the Camp Scott and Camp Scudder locations in Bouquet Canyon. I cannot overstate how opposed I am to this decision. I can only think that no one from the Board of Supervisors or any of the subcommittees has actually stepped foot onto these camps to see for themselves how inappropriate this decision is. The two camps, which currently house a small number of non-violent juvenile offenders, is tucked directly next to several residential neighborhoods. There are approved plans to add yet another residential community in the area. The people that live in that area are fully aware of the risks involved in living in such a location. The road into this neighborhood is a small, two lane road. The residents of this neighborhood know that brush fires are a real risk on an annual basis. Evacuation of families and horses is already a challenge with the existing roads. The evacuation of hundreds of juvenile inmates would certainly make evacuations from the area much more complex. In addition to fires, the area has also been subject to flooding during rainy winters. This would be another situation that would present evacuation challenges. Even if we are fortunate and do not have a brush fire or flooding in the area, the existing roads are not sufficient for the amount of traffic that would come with visitors to these camp locations.

The County's plans to put ALL serious juvenile offenders at this location would also mean that the camp grounds would need to be significantly modified to detain violent offenders, which is very different to the appearance of the low security camps that are there now. Residential driveways are just feet away from the camp entrances. No one wants security fences and guard towers next door to their home. I seriously doubt any of you would be ok with a high security detention facility next door to your family home.

The residents of Santa Clarita, including myself, are very upset that this decision was made, without any community input. This proposal will present as a significant change to our City and it is unconscionable that the Board of Supervisors would make this decision without consulting with our City Council and the residents of the area. Our opinions matter.

I implore you to take some time, listen to your constituents, look at all options that are available. I firmly believe when the plan is reviewed you will see that Camp Scott and Camp Scudder are not appropriate locations for the violent juvenile offender relocation plan.

2. Tim

How will you guarantee the safety of the La Verne Families from escaped convicted felonies from the camps located in the city limits?

How many convicted felonies at maximum number will be imprisoned in the 2 La Verne location?

What is the plan and time table to convert the 2 La Verne locations to convicted felonies?

3. Megan Gregorovic

Good evening, my name is Megan. I am a La Verne resident. I am writing to you regarding Item 4.A on the Agenda, the proposed Secure Youth Treatment Facility at Camps Paige and Afflerbaugh in the City of La Verne. I am deeply opposed to this proposition. These locations are in extremely close proximity to single family residences, schools and businesses. This type of facility is a better fit for a more rural environment. A (SYTF) would be a danger to this community. Thank you.

3. Julie Hunter

Camp Scott should not be recommended as a SYTF to the Board of Supervisors. Keeping the site as a proposed location is irresponsible on part of the JJRBG Subcommittee and the County. Proposing this location is a disservice to both the local community and the youth to be housed there. Violent offenders should not be housed within neighborhoods and close to local schools. Camp Scott is also located in a flood area and fire zone, bringing risk to those housed there and liability for the County. LA County needs to do better by its residents and the youth to be housed at the SYTF. Given there are other locations that better fit the LA Model and requirements for site selection, it makes no sense to propose Camp Scott as the permanent SYTF for Los Angeles County. I respectfully ask each member of the JJRBG Subcommittee to NOT recommend Camp Scott as the permanent SYTF location. Thank you for your consideration.

4. Tim and Joy Ory

The Santa Clarita community has remained consistent in submitting opposition to the repurposing of Camps Scott and Scudder in Santa Clarita since becoming aware of the County's intent in mid-June 2021. Continued opposition remains justified based on validated flood and fire hazards, the realistic long locational distances for criteria of the rehabilitation programs, the lack of local emergency medical services, and lack of remoteness to nearby family homes.

We urge you to determine a permanent SYTF location to best serve the needs for the rehabilitative efforts for serious offenders and their families, and balance this with those of both existing and planned communities while bearing in mind the greater good for Los Angeles County.

While a "Listening Session" was held November 10, 2021 and community residents were allocated "one" minute to be heard, this was insufficient. During this time, residents of Saugus were in a state of remembrance of the shooting event at Saugus High School just two years ago. Many families and residents continue to suffer trauma due to this tragedy, and live in the neighborhood directly across the street from Camps Scott and Scudder.

We remain opposed to placing an SYTF in Santa Clarita within 600 feet of our family neighborhood. There are more suitable locations available within the County where the daily lives of nearby residents will not be adversely affected, or their safety jeopardized.

5. Jeanette Mercado

My name is Jeannette Mercado and I am a resident of Saugus. I am within close proximity to your proposed site of housing criminals. This is a grave concern for me and my family. I do not see the topography allowing the certain accommodations and safety measures needed to implement this setting. I feel threatened by your poor decision to bring criminals such as rapists and murderers into our community. This is not the place. You are proposing to bring them within 600 feet from homes, and schools. Homes which house families and children who deserve the peace we currently

have. The county is huge and I respectfully request you house them in a isolated area away from residents.

6. Pamela Berry

I am writing this to convey my deep concern and firm opposition to the use of Paige-Afflerbaugh youth camps for the proposed transfer to house the DJJ detainees with 707 (b) offenses. The site was built in 1959 when La Verne had about 6000 residents and the nearest neighborhood was miles away. Now the city has more than 5 times the population with more than 32,000 residents and thousands of homes have been built with numerous established neighborhoods, parks and schools filling the gap. The closest neighborhood is only a half mile away, along with parks, school bus stops, and very busy recreational trails used by hikers, bikers and horse owners. The proposed population of serious violent offenders need to be placed in high security in a more remote area such as Challenger Memorial Youth Camp where there is a high barrier and more of a gap to reduce the risk to members of the community.

The fire hazard in N La Verne is extremely high and most insurers are either cancelling homeowners or raising rates extremely high. The evacuation routes, in case of wildfire, would be heavily congested with thousands of homeowners trying to get down the two main roads as fire personnel try to get up to the foothills. The camp area is also in an extremely risky position, blocked in by all of the aforementioned, making evacuation difficult for detainees, staff, and residents. There is also a higher risk, being in a brush area, for detainees to start fires as a distraction to escape. That could be catastrophic as well.

There are far better facilities already available. The "LA model" should not be overlooked as it was built for that purpose. Challenger is a very secure place, built with taxpayer dollars as such and this use should be prioritized over any other re-imagined or re-purposed projects. La Verne has a large population of elderly in our town (Hillcrest, mobile home parks, etc) and a lot of families with small children. We are a small town already hosting similar youth and family agencies, such as David & Margaret, or Leroy Hayes. Please do not add to the risk by bringing serious violent offenders to La Verne. Since the Sheriff report in June 2021 assessed security, lack of lighting, cameras, the chain link fencing and found it inadequate, please see to it that not one more 707 offender is placed there even in the interim. Escapes have happened and we the people are the ones whose lives are altered. Please use a more suitable facility in a remote location, not these that are less than a mile from neighborhoods, recreation visitors, nor backed up in a brushy area with a high fire risk, pressed against the mountains with minimal evacuation routes.

7. Julie Van Loo

I would like an update on the proposed housing of the juveniles at Camp Scott Location on Bouquet Canyon. I operate a Riding Academy and training facility 300 feet from the proposed facilities location. The majority of my business involves minors under the age of sixteen. I have been operating at this location since 1990. I lived and worked by the camp when the non violent offenders resided there. I witnessed the taunting of my students, the jail breaks of the inmates.

I would like to see the environment impact report on the proposal as my business will be directly impacted by the proposed housing of juveniles at the Camp Scott facility. Bouquet canyon Road is a two lane road with significant traffic, limited lighting and a history of serious accidents. How are the environmental issues going to be resolved? Again, I would like to see a proposal in writing.

In 1990, a propane truck flipped on the road, creating a significant disaster risk to the residents. When such an incident occurs again, what is the emergency evacuation plan for the prison and the community. In 2008, the fires burned down Bouquet canyon and created an

evacuation nightmare for the residents trying to escape the canyon. The law enforcement brought in to maintain order, created more chaos, and put residents and animals at risk. Houses and lives were lost. In 2005, the reservoir gates were released to prevent the dam from breaking and causing major catastrophe to Santa Clarita. The residents of Bouquet Canyon were not given warning and were flooded out. How is the probation department going to deal with a repeat of this scenario. This canyon has had major areas of risk that must be addressed before Violent juveniles are housed at Camp Scott.

When I renewed my business license with the city of Santa Clarita, I asked about a disaster plan for the Bouquet Canyon area as I have 25 horses on site to manage. I was told "You are on Your own"

How am I to manage disasters "on my own" three hundred feet from a jail. This site needs an updated environmental and community impact report done with definite solutions. This site also needs a disaster plan which involves the residents on how to deal with violent offenders housed in their community in the event of a major disaster.

Business owners and community residents will be impacted by the housing of violent offenders in their communities. The community deserves to know the plans in place to keep them and their communities safe. We deserve a written response.

8. Debbie Ford

I am writing to you to express my vehement opposition to your consideration of La Verne as being a possible site to house the 707(b) offenders that are needing to be replaced as a result of the closure of juvenile detention centers.

La Verne is a small community of 33,000 residents. In addition to the Camp Afflerbaugh, we also have the David and Margaret Home as well as the Haynes Center. La Verne has its share of facilities that house young adults who have been placed in these home for various reasons, including many illegal offenses.

With the growth of La Verne over the years, Camp Afflerbaugh now has residences and playgrounds very close to their facility. I feel this camp, even in its current state, is inappropriate to house the young men who are currently there. I'd like to see the camp completed closed down. Changing this camp into a prison is absolutely unacceptable and puts us residents, including our elderly and children, in harm's way. Who are we kidding? It puts ALL OF US in harm's way. I do not choose to watch family members of these offenders drive past my home as they make their way to visit their imprisoned friend. I'm sure there are rural areas you can find to house these young men/adults. Escapes have happened at this camp in the past. These escapees can easily hide in our back yards and cause us great harm.

I'm also not interested in seeing my property value decrease with the addition of a prison being built in La Verne. Put them in your city if you're so convinced that they're good kids who are anxious to reform and want be a productive member of society. I work in the legal field and see these kids, over and over and over and over, return into the courtroom with yet another offense added to the list of crimes they've already committed.

**FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO HOUSE THEM, PLEASE!!!!**

Thank you for allowing me to voice my strong opposition.