

JJRBG Meeting December 15, 2021
Written Public Comments Submitted via E-mail
Agenda Item V

1. Elizabeth Eskildsen

I am a resident of Santa Clarita and I am adamantly opposed of using Camps Scott and Scudder for juvenile offenders. The camps are within walking distance of my home and a stone's throw away from safe family neighborhoods with children. This is not an acceptable location at all and will ruin our community. Please do not move forward with implementing in such an inappropriate location that is opposed by those that live here. The location for these offenders is more suitable in areas that are not surrounded by family homes and at facilities that are already built with necessary security.

2. Sheri Dickerson

I'd like to go on record that I am adamantly opposed to housing juvenile offenders here at the proposed rehousing facilities here in Santa Clarita.

There are too many homes located in the immediate area housing families & young children. It's a BAD idea and other locations should be considered where there far more open space away from homes and schools.

3. Joseph Hailey

I am completely opposed to utilizing Camps Scudder & Scott to house violent felony offenders here in Santa Clarita!! These types of dangerous felons should be housed so close to homes and schools here in Santa Clarita! We don't need to destroy property values and turn our area into a deplorable location.

Vote NO!

4. Donald and Linette Molina

We are residents of La Verne (91750) and have heard that facilities are under consideration underway regarding Senate Bill 823. Even though we do not have children that attend Oak Mesa, I was dumbfounded when I heard that Camp Afflerbaugh/Paige are being considered as a destination for level four prisoners. These are former juvenile detention facilities that are being looked at to house violent criminals and many not what one would deem as a legal minor. Yes, a minor when the crime was committed but what I would call "aged out" and rather than sending such criminals to an adult prison that can't hold them due to capacity issues, we may be forced to house them near residents. Two miles away from an elementary school! There are tougher laws on dispensaries, which I am glad are not in our city but somehow a prison with violent offenders is okay?

Crime has already risen in our state in all areas and with the amount of schools in the vicinity and houses, it is not logical to put at risk the people who moved into this community for safety. That paid a market value for their homes to reside in an area that does not carry such risks. Beyond the financial impact this would cause to the area, we would have more traffic to provide services to the

facility, employees, and even visitors to the area. The facilities are in a high fire zone area so if we do experience such a risk during what is an all year around "fire season", how will evacuating inmates be done with one way in and out? The logistics are just not favorable for these aging camps that would need to be pretty much rebuilt. You're talking about how this will impact the environment because this is an area where residents enjoy nature. We have hiking trails and wildlife. Will a restricted perimeter then come into play that is wider than it is now due to the fact of having such inmates in our area? Is this going to eat away at the nature areas residents already visit and enjoy? Also, will a CEQA initial study be completed?

We already had juveniles escape from the current camps before and building new facilities will require a tear down of the old ones and again more impact to our town. The city of La Verne already houses youth at risk via David and Margaret and LeRoy Haynes. Just when kids run away and escape, it is not even easy to get them back due to the terrain at LeRoy Haynes. I understand no one wants these places in their city and very few can see the favorable part when it comes to one under consideration. Right smack in the middle of a residential community is a risk factor too high. Homes where convicts (reformed or not) will have easy access to because of plain distance. I urge you to please consider another area. An area where you do not have schools and homes not even one mile away. Time to stop gambling and waiting for something to happen and then acting, when we have the chance to act now BEFORE the city of La Verne becomes another city with a dark event that could have and should have been prevented.

5. Dale Coleman

I am a resident of North La Verne. It is beyond my imagination that anyone with even a cursory understanding of this area would think it appropriate to place that facility here. Immediately adjacent to that property are numerous parks, a municipal golf course, two elementary schools and approximately 2500 single family homes. The use you are contemplating is entirely inappropriate. La Verne is a quiet, diverse and relatively safe bedroom community. Surely there are more appropriate locations for your purposes somewhere within the (4700 square mile) boundaries of Los Angeles County. I (along with virtually every other resident of this city) am adamantly opposed to this entirely inappropriate and ill conceived initiative. We are prepared do everything in our power to prevent it from happening.

6. Jeanna Williams

I strongly oppose the proposed modification to the Joseph Paige Camp located in LaVerne CA. Please do not fill our quaint bedroom community with murderers, arsonists and rapists.

Please reconsider modifying Joseph Paige Camp. It would deteriorate quality of life and residents safety in LaVerne.

7. Donald Molina

Crime, especially violent crime, is on the rise. Law enforcement is increasingly stretched too thin, to the point of breaking. People are increasingly feeling less safe in their homes and home cities. Less secure in their own communities. Feeling victimized by circumstance. The news is filled, nightly, with reports of people followed home, assaulted and/or robbed. And the state of California suddenly thinks housing violent, aged-out offenders in Camp Afflerbaugh/Paige, which is barely fit to securely hold minors, is a good idea?! In the middle of a densely populated small community,

within spitting distance of multiple elementary schools, with limited access and multiple incidents of children defeating the "security" of said facility?

This will have a detrimental affect on all aspects of life in the city of La Verne. Financial. Home & property values. Congestion. Safety. Security. Tax revenue. Has anyone even considered the wildfire risk of the area or did you just think you'd hide this debacle in the woods and no one would be the wiser? Think again.

How would this seem like a good idea? I wonder how the people who have decided this is a viable solution under SB823 would like Level 4 offenders **LITERALLY** housed in their back yards? It's not only a bad idea, it's a horrible one with potentially catastrophic consequences for the residents of La Verne. In a time when people on the 10 o'clock news are wondering aloud how a horrible tragedy happened without someone having the foresight to say "...Maybe this is a bad idea..." before it all went south, we have an opportunity to ward off being another cautionary tale for other cities. *This is a decision that could cost people and/or children their lives.* Which people's lives are worth so little to you, I wonder, that you've deemed these risks "acceptable"? Who's next on the "acceptable potential losses" list? I don't want this in my community. No one I know wants this in our community. To my knowledge we weren't **EVEN ASKED** if we wanted this in our community. There are other, better solutions if someone would just take the time to explore them. For once, do not take the easy way out, because when (not if) this ends badly, the people who pushed this through WILL be held accountable by the voting residents of La Verne and other small suburban communities you'd put this blight into. Actions taken here will be long remembered, so I'd advise you all to act accordingly.

8. Brenda Scheibe

It has come to my attention that the probation camp in North LaVerne is currently housing severe offenders with offenses such as murder and assault. This not acceptable to the members of this bedroom community. The proximity to residents, schools and open hiking/biking paths makes this location absolutely unacceptable. The county needs to find a different location away from private residents and school-age children

9. Sue Fischer

Let it be known that we the residents of Santa Clarita are not dumb. Work continues to be completed on the sites. Water is being wasted as it flows down the road. We never had a voice in this decision and you wonder why the public at large feels a great disappointment and sometimes animosity towards government. Most officials appear to be self-serving not public serving. Personally I can only hope that the up and coming generation find a way to nominate, support and elect people who serve for the right reasons.

It appears that a tragedy will have to happen to have those of you scratch your heads and think 'maybe this was a bad idea.' Or is it, make the decision now and apologize later?

10. Sue Von Theiss

Do not put the DJJ Site Location anywhere in or near La Verne.

11. Victor L Cardinali

Please send the criminals at least 50 miles into the desert and away from family homes, schools and the law abiding working class. Thales the scum away from here. You are putting everyone at risk in our community. Have you no decency. If you want to save money then lower your wages. We do not pay the highest taxes to live next to filth. Or keep them in your neighborhood.

12. Rose Wooley

I attended a meeting a month or so ago In order for the public to have a chance to speak their mind. I honestly was unaware that I was going to have a chance to speak in front of your counsel. I am terrified of public speaking and I got up there and I find I did not make a lot of sense because I was so nervous. The subject is near and dear to my heart and I am so upset at what you are proposing to do to this city and the small neighborhood at the top of Saugus. I tried to explain myself at the last meeting that through a family member I have been dealing with the justice system for over 10 years and while I understand that these kids and young adults need a way to change their lives once they are released and to help prepare for the release, that cannot happen in a neighborhood surrounded by residential homes and children families moms and dad's grandparents it's terrible. This is still something that I have to deal with every day in my life and I think why are they not helping him why are they not doing anything so that he can find a way to start a new life once he's released but you know what you don't do anything. none of you Do Don't try to lie to everybody that you're trying to help these kids OK because you're not. The only reason that you're even having these meetings is because the public found out. we all know you plan to do this in the first place. You don't care you just want somewhere to put them far away from everyone so it doesn't bother you and your lovely little house. Why don't you put us in the middle of Westridge or in the middle of Porter Ranch or Beverly Hills for that matter then let's see what happens. I cannot even get the news to report this because you're probably blocking it

13. Cinda Staley

I too am opposed to the relocation of "Juvenile" criminal offenders to the location in LaVerne California. As stated in a multitude of reasons by many of my fellow residents the prison will be a dangerous as well as an unwanted addition to our neighborhood. I urge you to rethink the placement of this facility in our safe and quiet city.

14. Christopher Northup

I am a 30 plus year resident of the city of La Verne. La Verne is a small bedroom community tucked in the foothills of San Gabriel Valley, which I hope does to need to be mentioned. I am 62 years old and active in the community. I recently attended a "town hall" meeting focused on the subject line.

What must be addressed is what Los Angeles county employee or public department can conceive of rebuilding an aged camp for disadvantaged youth into a facility for the purpose of housing felons. A prison that is or a "camp" as described. Felons who are not "kids" as frequently referred to during the town hall meeting nor are they lightweight criminals. They are hard core criminals. Proposed to be in a facility where the staff are not armed nor allowed to carry pepper spray.

The proposed facility is a few yards away from public access areas, homes, golf courses public trails and parks where children and families enjoy safe open spaces. There are but 2 roads to access the camp, which in itself reeks of issues with visitors and if there is a need for local law enforcement and or fire department. In other words did someone from the probation department or county drive up there with eyes open?

The dismissive approach and dialogue to building a prison for felons was a kin to an insult to ones basic intellect. It took a representative from Bergers office to clear the air and define in plain English the purpose of the prison and the meeting. The probation department staff are paid by tax dollars from citizens, meaning residents of La Verne and should be consulted on approach, regardless of the thought subject matter. In all fairness, many in the room from La Verne where either not prepared or equipped to handle the information or format of the meeting. For that I apologize. But many who worked in the probation department currently or prior, or in law enforcement spoke clearly to the issues from a pragmatic and very real standpoint. No one was an advocate in any sense of the word.

Obviously, I strongly object to the proposed use of the current facility, especially considering the number of much better facility possibilities which would in the abstract be prepared to handle the felons with less need for infrastructure building and spend, much a more desirable less populated location. No one is suggesting this is a easy or pleasant subject, but the callous approach and logic lacking reasons for the North La Verne camp as a possible site just make little sense. Unless of course there are other objectives at work that are hidden from the general resident.

La Verne is not a good choice nor even the best choice given the other 4 possible considerations. This is not the only message on the matter and will be consistent message from our community. No prison in La Verne.

15. Steve Bedolla

My name is Steve Bedolla I live in the city of La Verne, I'm against having more juvenile inmates in La Verne, due to that La Verne has done its fair share, they should be sent to another city preferably rural.

16. Sue and Mike Hart

As 43 year residents of the City of LaVerne, we are strongly opposed to the DJJ site location which is less then two miles from our family home. So many reasons that we feel another location would be more suitable. At the time this facility was built, there were very few homes and now there are thousands of homes surrounding this area. There have been many escapees over the years and since this is county area, it takes much longer for the L.A. Sheriffs to arrive on the scene if there should be a riot or escape. Since the security guards aren't even able to have guns on the premises, they would be in our neighborhoods in no time.

Please consider a better suited location for these criminals.

17. Phil and Mary Herrera

We are north La Verne city residents for over forty years. Mary and I moved here to raise our children in a safe community. Our daughters are now raising their six children in North La Verne for the same reason. The county idea to reclassify two camps near our homes to house violent criminals (not juveniles) whose convictions range from rape, murder, assault, molestation and other serious felony offenses is shocking! Our city certainly deserves the best protection from these criminals especially since these facilities are antiquated and meant to house very low level juvenile offenders. Please refer to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department security assessment.

The camps are located north of us in the hills where we enjoy hiking with our grandchildren and it appears that may be jeopardized. An elementary school is within walking distance of the camps. Many elderly and families live near the camps. Local law enforcement lack sufficient numbers to

patrol the area in the event of an escape. It is not safe or ethical to endanger the lives of our community citizens. Would you do this in your community?

We trust you will make the right decision for our safety and keep the felons out.

18. Otto Leon

We need to know WHY they have decided to close the Department of Juvenile Justice in the first place. That is not supposed to happen at all.

Now we, the Residents, must deal with the consequences in all the State. They should have fixed the problem, not just pass the snowball to Probation Camps.

In our case the Detention Center is TOO CLOSE to a residential area (1/3 of a Mile) and probably there are many other cases like this. In any case, this can't happen. It will bring violence and probably death to people that aren't even allowed to defend themselves because legally you can't.

19. Keith Jacobs

Camps Scott/Scudder are not appropriate for the proposed use. The location is directly adjacent to homes along a 2 lane winding road within a high fire danger area inside the inundation zone of the Bouquet Reservoir dam.

Current security lighting shines directly into homes all night, every night. Proposed upgrades would exacerbate this ongoing problem.

The alarm system is not sufficient for the setting as sirens blare all day and night on windy days. (We get a lot of those) On a recent windy day sirens blared for hours and into the night. After repeated calls to the local non-emergency line and an attempt to contact any on site staff, the local sheriff's office resorted to calling the local fire department who were finally able to shut down the siren.

These issues might seem minor annoyances if they were not ongoing regular occurrences directly in our neighborhood. They are also only a small sample of the many reasons this location is not appropriate for the proposed use.

The fire danger, poor ingress and egress, dam safety concerns all outweigh the quality of life concerns and should immediately disqualify these facilities. The upcoming relocation of the only access road must be the final straw in any plan to repurpose these facilities as proposed.

20. Walter Schreck

As a resident of La Verne, I am extremely concerned and opposed to housing 707 B juvenile offenders in our city, and in our residential neighborhoods.

The surrounding area is a residential neighborhood with lots of children, playing, hiking and enjoying the safety of our city.

We strongly oppose any increase or changes to these locations in housing serious juvenile offenders.

This is not appropriate for a majority residential community.

Our family and neighbors appreciate your effort in stopping this plan and using more appropriate facilities within LA County.

Crime in California is rising rapidly, and this only has the potential of increasing incarceration populations in this location. We are extremely concerned of the safety of our children in our city, this is why we moved here to La Verne. Chasing more law abiding citizens who care for our communities out of California won't solve these problems and will only make them worse.

La Verne has done it's part over the years, now it's time for other community's to step up.

We are strongly opposed to any action to house violent offenders within our residential neighborhoods.