

August 3, 2022

Adam Bettino, Chair
Voting Members JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee

RE: August 3, 2022 JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee Meeting
Submitted Comments Items III. A. and IV. A.

We've been following the County's site selection for a suitable SYTF since it began last year. Monitoring various meetings, submitting written communications and calling to share our view, our position has not changed. We remain extremely concerned and opposed to the County moving forward with the outdated Camps in Santa Clarita.

Commissioner Sam Lewis of the Probation Oversight Commission (POC) surprisingly stepped up to the plate to address location during the Commission's July 14, 2022 meeting. He coined himself as a "broker of honesty and truth". I strongly encourage each member of the JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee to review this meeting and pay close attention to the words of Sam Lewis which begin at 2:00:08 in the transcript available on the POC website. His words should resonate with each of you in regard to your mission to recommend the most suitable location. Notably, Sam Lewis is in the trenches working with the incarcerated population. His key points include:

- Challenger is too far for parents to come see their family
- Barry J - the issue is public transportation - the walk is about 1/4 mile through homeless encampments for mothers to visit their sons, then back again

Commissioner Lewis stated the obvious: **"The best juvenile hall facility would actually be Los Padrinos. That's the truth people don't want to hear..."** He then spoke as to why:

- Located near public transportation with no homeless places to walk through
- You can actually get there
- Closer for probation staff coming from all directions
- Closer for stakeholders that offer programs
- Closer for families to see their kids because family unification is important
- It feels more like a campus, like a school

It's far beyond time to set aside the politics and move forward for those incarcerated and their families while ensuring the safety of the public for the greater good. If Los Padrinos is truly out of contention, the only alternative is Barry J Nidorf. Provide shuttle transportation between Barry J and the nearby public transit to alleviate the recent concern of walking through homeless encampments. It still stands that renovating Barry J Nidorf is the most fiscally prudent approach and this follows suit with other California Counties using their Juvenile Halls.

Tim and Joy Ory
Santa Clarita Residents