



City of
SANTA CLARITA

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August 17, 2022

Laurene Weste
Mayor

Juvenile Justice Realignment
Block Grant Subcommittee
9050 East Imperial Highway
Downey, CA 90242

Jason Gibbs
Mayor Pro Tem

Dear Chair Bettino and Members of the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant Subcommittee:

Marsha McLean
Councilmember

Subject: Opposition That Camp Joseph Scott Serve as a Long-Term Facility for DJJ Populations and Support for Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall

Bill Miranda
Councilmember

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council and in light of the feasibility study on the adaptive use of Camp Joseph Scott (Camp Scott), I am writing to respectfully reaffirm our concerns and opposition that Camp Scott be adopted as a long-term County facility for juvenile male serious offenders. Additionally, I would like to express our support for the consideration and designation of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to serve as a long-term County facility for juvenile male serious offenders, as recommended by the County Probation Oversight Commission.

Cameron Smyth
Councilmember

In recent findings included in the feasibility study, the base construction and associated projected costs to renovate Camp Scott to a state-of-good repair was estimated to cost approximately \$37.7 million. This exorbitant cost is made worse given that the feasibility study estimates the improvements would take between 50-60 months.

A nearly \$40 million price tag coupled with a 5-year construction timeline offers little to no immediate benefit to those dispositioned to the County Probation Department's supervision and County taxpayers. The feasibility study reinforces the City's original concerns and comments made to you and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors that Camp Scott's dilapidated conditions, location, and historical use make it infeasible to be adapted to serve juvenile male serious offenders. Additionally, the delay in the readiness of Camp Scott directly contradicts the original intent and goals of the Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) Subcommittee to identify facilities for the immediate relocation of those formerly under the supervision of the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).



As the County Probation Oversight Commission has recommended reconsideration of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall, it is important to emphasize that this facility remains a highly feasible option for the long-term housing and rehabilitation of those formerly under DJJ supervision. With its centralized location to Downtown Los Angeles and its vast inventory of existing resources and capacity, Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall represents a substantial cost savings alternative to Camp Scott.

Additionally, it is critical to highlight that Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall was the highest ranked facility among juvenile facilities when it was assessed as part of the County Probation Department facility assessment, which originates from a directive included in an approved motion from the July 27, 2021, regular Board of Supervisors meeting. Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall ranked the strongest in 21 of the 31 categories included in the facilities assessment, including housing capacity, perimeter security, and land use compatibility. Camp Scott scored lower in all of the aforementioned categories in comparison to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall.

Furthermore, with no direct proximity to homes, Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall does not impose the same incompatibility on neighboring residents that Camp Scott would. Lastly, in terms of its resiliency to potential fire and flood hazards, Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall ranked within the most responsive category, which is a stark contrast to Camp Scott, which scored the worst among juvenile facilities in this category and possesses severe complications with regard to its historical vulnerability to wildfires and floods. The significant contrast between Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and Camp Scott is even more exacerbated given Camp Scott's poor infrastructure to accommodate emergency evacuation procedures.

It is imperative that the feasibility study and facilities assessment are taken under serious consideration, along with the comments we have made in this letter, and that Camp Scott is ultimately determined to be an unsuitable option to house juvenile male serious offenders. Furthermore, we urge you to accept the County Probation Commission's recommendations to consider and designate Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall as a permanent facility for juvenile male serious offenders.

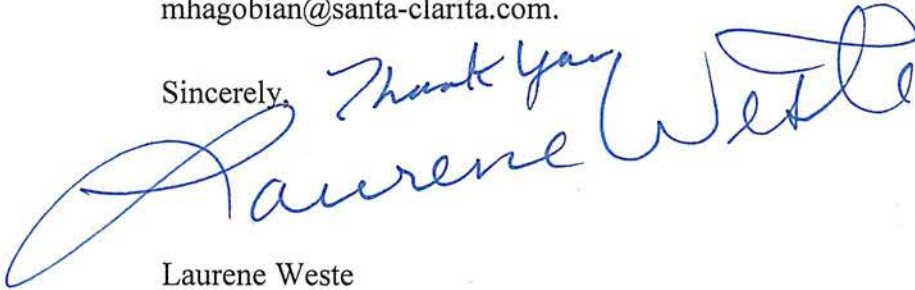
Thank you for your consideration on this grave matter. We look forward to working with each of you in securing the most adequate resources and suitable facilities for the transition of the DJJ population. Should you require any additional information

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regarding our comments and requests included in this letter, please contact Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Officer, at (661) 286-4057 or mhagobian@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,

Thank You


Laurene Weste
Mayor

LW:MH:vd

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cc: Members of the City Council
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
County Probation Oversight Commission
Department of Youth and Community Restoration, California Health and
Human Services Agency
Fesia Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer
Justice Deputies, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager
Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager
Leadership Team
Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Officer