

JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee Meeting August 17, 2022
Written Public Comments Submitted Via E-Mail
Agenda Item III A

1. Dr. Randye Kay

Regarding high risk juvenile offenders to be housed at Camp Scott.

Not a good idea.

1) Out in a severely high fire risk residential area. One way in and one way out. Any fire would pose a major problem. Olive View is a better choice when considering freeway access in the event of a fire or need for evacuation.

2) Camp Scott would be a great distance away from any mental health and health care resources.

There is only one private hospital in Santa Clarita, Henry Mayo. It already serves a population of over 250,000. Any juveniles who are acutely ill would have to be taken there since Olive View in Sylmar is so far away (Sylmar would be a better choice for this camp even if only in addition to access to medical care, there is also access to psychiatric care). In addition, there is more security at Olive View than at Henry Mayo in the event it is needed. Henry Mayo is definitely not equipped to handle these juveniles.

3) The closest large mental health county clinic is in the San Fernando Valley should individuals need psychiatric care and follow up or court ordered substance abuse treatment.

4) Any time juveniles would need to be transported, they would have to go through the City.

It is very difficult to be ill and next to a high risk offender who is handcuffed to a bed with a Sheriff beside him.

It is very difficult for ordinary people who have medical problems (and their families) to have no choice other than to be in a room with someone in handcuffs with a Sheriff in attendance. It can be very frightening as well.

It would be totally inappropriate to house a high risk juvenile offender on the psychiatric unit at Henry Mayo. Any offender who is homicidal, suicidal or gravely disabled and put on a 5150 would need to be taken to another facility (likely Olive View anyway).

It is difficult for people to have to deal with the language and behavior of some of these juveniles.

Taxpayers would be paying a private hospital for care when juveniles could access less expensive care at a public hospital if the camp was located in Sylmar.

After working in mental health for 40 years with children, adolescents and adults in clinics, hospitals and on the streets in Canada and the United States and having experiences with offenders being in both hospitals and mental health clinics, it is my opinion that it is better idea to locate this camp elsewhere. I believe that the closest setting that would provide considerably more resources for this group and less risk to the public is in Sylmar.

Thank you,

Dr Randye Kay (PhD, PMHNP, NP, MSN, RN)

Since I have identity theft (the OPM breach of 2015) and safety issues (since I worked in mental health), I would appreciate your not making this letter public with my name on it. Thank you.

2. Ms. McElmurray

Agenda Item: August 17, 2022 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

III. Old Business

A. Feedback on presentation on Feasibility Study on Adaptive Use of Camp Joseph Scott as a Secure Youth Treatment Facility by DLR Group

I am writing again to express my strong remonstrance to the consideration of altering Camp Scudder and Scott into a secure youth treatment facility. The reference to "youth" is completely misleading as are the attempts to underplay the severity of crimes that are proposed to be treated here. While I have no argument with rehabilitation efforts towards these "youth", I take issue with their needs being placed above the needs of the lawful citizens who will be directly impacted by such a misguided consideration.

Multiple times by multiple people and the City of Santa Clarita the points have been made as to why this "solution" is NOT only NOT the best solution, but why this proposal is dangerous to Santa Clarita residents as well as the proposed "juveniles":

- It's within 300 feet of hundreds of existing RESIDENTIAL homes, as well as a recently approved 375 home development to be located next door to the facility
- It's in a flood and fire zone with a two-way ingress/egress street for hundreds of people during evacuations such as those that have occurred previously.
- It's location and proximity to 2 elementary schools and 1 high school is unacceptable
- The traffic of incoming visitors would be intolerable given the access and use of Bouquet as it is used from Lancaster, Palmdale, and Acton, as well as Santa Clarita
- The negative impact to the value of existing homes and the potential threat to their safety would unfairly impact current residents
- The Board is IGNORING the other facility which is clearly the better, fairer, and safer option
- Placing the needs of criminals, no matter their age, above the needs and safety of citizens is an unconscionable betrayal to the law-abiding.

Please stand up for the citizens you serve and protect our family neighborhoods, our elementary and high schools, our evacuation routes, our home's values, etc., and most importantly stand up, in good faith, for the best interests of those who are paying the bills – the citizens – not the unlawful. FIND ANOTHER SOLUTION.

Respectfully,

3. Larry Forman

We are against change Camp Scott and Scudder into max security prison in Santa Clarita.

Lawrence and Susan Forman

4. David Goldstein

Regarding Item III Camp Scott location;

The recent presentation by the JJCC, JJBRG amounted to an indictment of the decision to consider Camp Scott for housing County Youth as part of the County Juvenile Justice reimagined plan. In the report, it is clear that Camp Scott is ill suited for this purpose and would require extensive rehabilitation at significant time (50-60 months) and cost (\$37.6m). This does not take into account the Camp's very poor location. Since May 1, during very mild weather conditions, over 20 fires have broken out within proximity of this remote brush-laden facility. Tens of millions of dollars and years of rehab are needed to bring this camp anywhere near the standards expressed in the plan, and this will not address how remote it is and how it is in a fire zone.

As indicated by a panelist, all efforts should be refocused to the more modern, central and park-like setting of Los Padrinos which has higher capacity, better configuration and more centrally located for workers and visitors. The data is clear. It is time to abandon Camp Scott for this purpose and focus on more suitable locations for these Youth.

Despite numerous documented warnings about the fire danger in the TX canyon area where Camp Scott/Scudder is located, since the very mild month of May, the following fires (20+ below) have broken out in the area. One very close by, and several upwind in the same canyon, one that reached 50 acres. Had there been any wind, it would have been another disaster. Several residents nearby also shoot fireworks off over the camp and they are never stopped. Camp Scott is a disaster waiting to happen. Fire season is not even here and there have been over 20 local fires. Neighborhoods are arming up and training in preparation for the eventual escapees and visitor break-ins. Either way, someone is going to be hurt if this goes through and it is on record who made this choice. If you truly care about the well-being of these youth, end the consideration of Camp Scott. In contrast, Los Padrinos in Downey has far more modern buildings as recognized by the committee, much higher capacity, and is not in a fire and flood zone, and is far more centrally located for workers and family support. I urge you to remove Camp Scott from further consideration and focus on the far more favorable choice of Los Padrinos.

Santa Clarita Area fires From May 1

- Vasquez Cyn, 1 acre
- Spunky Cyn 50 acres
- Saugus, Tree fire, .1 acre
- Bouquet Junction, .25 acre
- Saugus, .1 acre
- Newhall Ave. Tree fire, .1 acre
- Canyon Country, Structure fire, .1 acre
- Ft. Tejon, Wildfire,
- Bouquet Cyn Rd, 5 acres
- Golden Valley Rd, 5 acres
- Castaic, Lightening strike, .5 acre
- Sylmar, 25 acres
- Telegraph Fire 1.5 acres
- Circle J Ranch, .25 acre
- Owen Fire, .25 acre
- Golden fire, .125 acre
- Castaic, 2 acres
- Castaic, .12 acre
- Sand Canyon, 2.5 acres
- Vista Fire, Castaic, .25 acre
- Railroad Fire (off Bouquet Cyn Rd), 20 acres
- Sam Fire, 50 acres
- Agua Dulce, .25 acre

- Mulch Fire, Canyon Country, <.1 acre
- Rock Fire, Castaic 5 acres

regards,

Dave Goldstein

dginfosys@yahoo.com