

August 2, 2021

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

Subject: Comments on Proposed Annual Plan and Opposition that Camps Scott and Scudder Serve as Long Term Facilities for DJJ Population

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

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council, I am writing to respectfully express our concerns and opposition that Camps Joseph Scott (Scott) and Kenyon Scudder (Scudder) serve as the long-term County facility for male Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) youth and urge you to consider environmental impacts and conduct community engagement meetings with officials and community members in Santa Clarita.

We were encouraged to see the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approve a motion at their July 27, 2021, regular meeting that instructed the Los Angeles County Probation Department, in consultation with this committee, assess all licensed probation facilities to identify and rank the feasibility of the use of each campus to serve the DJJ population.

In addition to concerns outlined in our letter to this committee on July 20, 2021, I want to highlight the dangers and vulnerabilities in the site location of Camps Scott and Scudder with respect to Bouquet Dam.

Camps Scott and Scudder are located approximately 12-miles downstream from Bouquet Dam (Dam), within the Dam's blue-line stream. Built in the early 1930's, the Dam can hold up to 45 million cubic meters or almost 12 billion gallons of water. Bouquet Dam was the replacement structure for the St. Francis Dam which collapsed in March of 1928, killing over 400 people and resulting in millions of dollars in property damage.

As indicated in the attached Los Angeles Department of Water and Power flood maps, in the event of a breach in Bouquet Dam, it is likely that the safety and wellbeing of those inside of Camps Scott and Scudder could be in severe danger. Specifically,

Camp Scott is projected to be inundated with approximately 26 ft. of water within 50 minutes of a breach in Bouquet Dam.

Furthermore, due to historical mining and wildfires in the area, failure of the Dam could result in an enormous amount of debris flow causing further damage within the flood path. It is critical that a proper environmental review, including the potential dangers with respect to the facilities' proximity to Bouquet Dam, and public outreach be conducted and incorporated in the development of the DJJ Plan and assessment of suitable facilities.

Had a proper environmental document been performed, many of these issues would have surfaced as part of a larger analysis of the appropriate use of this location and would clearly indicate that Camps Scott and Scudder are unsafe and unsuitable for the proposed use included in the DJJ Plan.

It is imperative that the DJJ Plan incorporate an environmental review and community input, especially from communities that will be directly impacted with the recommendations adopted in the DJJ Plan. Therefore, we respectfully urge this committee consider environmental impacts and conduct community engagement meetings with officials and community members in Santa Clarita and identify alternative facilities suitable to serve the intended DJJ population.

A final plan is not due to the state until January 1, 2022, and it is critical that this committee utilize the balance of the remaining time, prior to the deadline, to ensure that the decisions made on the transition of DJJ youth is in the best interest of the youth served in the facilities and surrounding communities near the facilities.

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

Sincerely,

William A. Miranda  
Mayor

BM:MH:sk  
s:\ms\masis\letters\DJJ Plan\_8.2.21

Juvenile Justice Realignment  
Block Grant Subcommittee  
August 2, 2021  
Page 3

Attachment

cc: Members of the City Council  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Department of Youth and Community Restoration, California Health and  
Human Services Agency  
Los Angeles County Youth Justice Work Group  
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 Analyst  
Jennifer Quan, League of California Cities  
California Contract Cities Association