



Catherine Palmer <council@babnc.org>

Opposition to Education First proposal

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April 11, 2023

Dear Members of the Land Use Committee of Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council,

Many of us were either born in Los Angeles, grew up here or have made this our permanent home as adults. What binds all of us is our deep understanding and awareness of the risk to life and property from the far too frequent wildfires. In late 2017, our community was forced to evacuate, more correctly flee, our homes as the fast-moving fires raced up the Sepulveda corridor. What we were reminded of and quite evident was how approximately 500 residents trying to escape a single lane road onto and already congested major thoroughfare, Mulholland Drive, was a daunting task.

My grave concern now is how the expansion of a school that for a half century had typically housed only several hundred to grow to 3-4x the size of our existing neighborhood, exposes the broader neighborhood and their very own students to an even greater risk of harm. If a fire broke out at 2am on one of the hillsides and the community only had minutes to evacuate, adding 1,000 students **and** faculty/services with the existing infrastructure from 50 years ago would result in an even more difficult transition to safety than we faced five years ago. Additional roads and exits are not planned and the school only plans to add to the congestion at our neighborhood's only (single lane) entrance and exit.

I ask that this committee consider the safety of our longstanding community, the lives of the students on campus and the broader Mulholland area when considering whether this plan, as currently proposed, aids the safety of the community in times of fire danger, or more clearly, adds further obstacles to evacuations, first responders and a greater chance of loss of life.

Attached please see a photo of one of the many fires that have occurred in our neighborhood in close view of my home.

I respectfully request, the Land Use Committee deny the current proposal for the elevated number of students to ensure the safety of all.

Sincerely,

Felicia Waldman

