



Catherine Palmer <council@babnc.org>

Fwd: objection to EF's proposal for changing the CUP of the AJU property

Travis Longcore <tlongcore@babnc.org>
To: Catherine Palmer <council@babnc.org>

Mon, May 15, 2023 at 8:24 PM

Please post.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda Resnick <lindaresnick@gmail.com>
Subject: objection to EF's proposal for changing the CUP of the AJU property
Date: May 15, 2023 at 7:55:43 PM PDT
To: tlongcore@babnc.org

Dear Mr. Longcore,

We are writing to you in regards to case number **CPC-2023-153-CU-DRB-SPP-MSP**.

We have lived in Bel Air Park for 39 years where we have raised our four children. We love our neighborhood. Our children and grandchildren love our neighborhood. It is quiet and safe and peaceful. We strongly object to the plans that EF has for the AJU property, which will forever change the safety of our neighborhood. Please read the attached statement that lists our objections. We were also very disturbed by the negative reviews and comments from people who have experienced EF and its programs first hand. Also disturbing was the fact that EF has an F rating by the Better Business Bureau because of the many complaints against the company. Thank you for taking the time to read our objections.

Linda and Jeffrey Resnick

 **EF and our neighborhood.pdf**
23K

EF is a **For Profit** School - It plans to change AJU's CUP, which specifies a non profit school, for 200 residents plus 250 other part time non resident students, with a total enrollment at any one time of 450, to a CUP which allows 700-1000 residents and an additional 200-400 day students living with host families, which will grow to 500 in the summer. In addition there will be 100 residential faculty, with an additional 50 faculty members during the day, plus auxiliary staff.

EF has no plans for improving the infrastructure. Adding 1400 plus people, to the Bel Air community of 450 residents, and the 600 students and staff from Wise Temple, with out changing the infrastructure, will put a tremendous strain on our community's local resources such as water, electricity, and public services, which can lead to additional costs and shortages.

EF has received an exemption for doing the required environmental impact report, because they are not building more than 10 new dorm buildings. They are putting 4 students in each dorm room that was meant for two students. These students are NOT children. They are 16 to 26 year old young adults. They will then be converting some of the existing buildings to dorms.

The increased traffic this will cause on Casiano Road will lead to congestion and safety issues. The tuition cost of the school is \$2,000 per week. It is a school for wealthy individuals. These students, who are young adults, will constantly be calling Ubers, and Lifts, Door Dash, Grub Hub etc. EF says it will run shuttle buses, which in itself will be a problem, adding even more congestion. These wealthy students will not be inclined to ride shuttle buses, when they have the money to call an Uber or Lift to take them directly to where they want to go.

This is a high fire danger area. We have experienced evacuations in the last few years which has made us realize the extent of the danger we face, when a fire is close by. Adding 1400 more individuals to an area that has one, two lane road (Casiano Rd.) leading to another two lane road (Mulholland Dr), as an evacuation route for Bel-Air Crest, Mountain Gate, Bel Air Park, and Wise Temple, is a reckless and dangerous thing to do. The Fire danger in our neighborhood is real. These 1400 young adults are mostly European. There is a much higher percentage of young European adults who smoke than American young adults. It will be hard to instill in these transient young adults, who come mostly from urban European areas, the damage a lit cigarette tossed carelessly into the dry bushes can do to our neighborhood. When EF was asked what fire evacuation plans they have, they said they would shelter in place. We pointed out that would be dangerous if there was a fire, and they said they would go to the Soccer field. They have no understanding of the devastating effects of a fire.

The AJU property is not in a location that is conducive for a residential school where the students do not drive. The other locations EF has in California, advertise the ability of the students to walk to restaurants, bars, coffee shops to meet friends etc., as part of their selling points for the school. The AJU property is completely isolated. There is no bus service, and no ability to walk to any commercial district. A large percentage of the students at the other EF locations purchase bikes for their time at the school. This is not a safe bike riding area. We do not have bike lanes, and riding down Mulholland will be dangerous both for the bikers and for cars.

The students will be staying on the average from 3 to 6 months. Visas are not required. These young adults will be coming from all over Europe, and will be completely unvetted. Members of our home owners association visited EF campuses in Santa Barbara, San Diego, Pasadena and Boston. The security guards they spoke with told them about the many problems they face, with students smoking, drinking, using drugs, and fighting. The neighbors of these campuses report constant noise, constant food delivery and ride share cars in and out of the neighborhood, and waking up to beer bottles and cigarette buds all over their lawns.