



Catherine Palmer <council@babnc.org>

Objection to EF's proposal from a long time Angelino

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Committee members,

Let me first begin by reiterating my prior comments during your last meeting and thank you for your services on a likely time consuming (and unpaid!) board.

I grew up in Los Angeles, attending public schools and met my wife at UC Santa Barbara right before we graduated in 2004. We settled into West Los Angeles and for the sake of brevity will skip the next 17 years! We rented in Santa Monica and Brentwood before finally buying our first house in June '21 where we moved in with our two year old daughter. Since buying our house we've added our second child, another girl, and settled into finding the right schools and local sports league. Our oldest has now enrolled in Roscamare Elementary for TK starting in August. We love our neighborhood and the small town feel that the various "mini" communities offer along Mulholland.

For the past 75 years, there have been a growing number of primary and secondary schools, including Roscamare Elementary (LAUSD) that our daughter will be attending. Our neighborhood of about 100 homes was built around the same time (early 1970's) as American Jewish University ("AJU") also opened and continued to operate for the last 50 years. They operated with a couple hundred students, a good portion who boarded most of the year. AJU was the same in both size (100-400 students) and focus (non-profit education) to the dozen or so other schools right along the Mulholland road.

In Fall 2022, the school decided it wasn't using the campus and had moved a lot of educating online. They put the land up for sale and the highest bidder was a global, for-profit business that planned to take the CUP and try to expand enrollment from the several hundred to nearly 1,400 (plus staff). This would literally mean a school 3-4x larger than the next largest and enroll, not primary or secondary students but 16-26 year olds with no ties to the community. Issues range from access for emergency services in a high fire area, to safety, to daily congestion on a two lane road that is the only gateway to the 405 for thousands of homes.

We love the idea of a more vibrant school there. During this last school year the campus was actually used by a downtown Los Angeles STEM program for elementary children who lived on campus Mon-Fri. We're simply looking for it to be used within the CUP as well as an educational group with a relationship to Los Angeles, for students in Los Angeles. It was a disappointment because the runner up bid was a school down the street looking to expand. Appreciate you

reading and I'll be speaking (2nd time!) at the Beverly Crest Neighborhood Land Use Committee meeting tomorrow night.

Change is good, we welcome it but the school that takes ownership of the AJU land should have goals and objectives aligned with the numerous other schools on either side of them. And that goal is (and should be) developing the students and fostering the best educational environment. Not maximizing enrollment and the most money possible.

-Sandy Ryan