



Catherine Palmer <council@babcnc.org>

Regarding Case #: CPC-2025-3449-CU3-SPPC-DRB-MSP ENV-2025-3450-CE

Arlene Bush <abush@bushholdings.net>

Tue, Jan 13, 2026 at 9:20 AM

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Dear Bel Air -Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Members,

I am a long-time resident of Bel Air Park writing about Agenda item #6 regarding the Miliken East Campus. Our community has a very serious and well documented concern: **life safety and evacuation during emergencies.**

Here are the facts we cannot ignore:

- On December 6, 20178 during the Skirball Fire, residents evacuating from Casiano Road were stuck in **standstill traffic for over an hour** just to reach Ventura Blvd. More recently, during the Palisades Fire, similar evacuation gridlock occurred, highlighting that our single corridor remains dangerously constrained under real emergency conditions.

Miliken's proposal would change the historical use of the site from roughly **100-200 AJU students with staggered attendance** to - **900 high school students** arriving and departing **during peak traffic hours**, plus **300 middle school students** at the North Campus. This is not a minor shift - it is a **massive increase in peak-hour vehicle volume** into the exact bottleneck that failed during a real emergency.

Miliken is also attempting to claim a **Class 1 CEQA "minor alteration" exemption**, which avoids studying traffic, evacuation, and emergency access - despite the operational intensification. CEQA makes evacuation and fire access core considerations, and this proposal squarely raises those issues.

But the most urgent issue is procedural:

At the last BABCNC meeting, the Council made it clear that Miliken must **take mitigation measures to address our safety and traffic concerns**. To date:

- **No concrete mitigation proposal exists**
- **No evacuation plan has been presented**
- **No improvements to emergency access have been proposed**
- **No internal queuing solution beyond a 10-car reservoir has been offered for nearly 1,000 students**

Given the stakes, this is unacceptable. Our safety concerns are real and ongoing and they must be addressed before any expansion proceeds.

Our Request

We respectfully ask that BABCNC

1. **Decline to support the CUP increase** at this time, and
2. Require Miliken to produce **specific, measurable mitigation plans** addressing:
 - Fire evacuation and emergency access,
 - Peak-hour traffic impacts, and
 - Internal queuing to prevent blockage.

We are not opposed to education or Miliken as a neighbor - We are opposed to moving forward **without a plan that keeps our community safe during the next emergency.**

Thank you for your time and continuing to prioritize the safety of hillside communities.

Sincerely,
Arlene Bush
Bel-Air Park Resident