

City Council Meeting May 18, 2005

Correspondence (Email, Facsimile, Letters)
by the Public in Opposition
to the Heschel West School Project

The Attached Documents were Received
after the Agenda Packet was Prepared and Distributed

May 9, 2005

Daryl Koutnik, Head, Impact Analysis
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, Room 1348
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Sir:

This letter is in reference to Project: Heschel West Day School.

As residents of Agoura we are very concerned about the Heschel West Day School proposal in our beautiful, rural community. This site chosen by the Heschel West Day School is not a suitable site for this project. We enjoy a rural, peaceful atmosphere and we are concerned about the traffic on Driver and the Chesebro offramp plus the massive grading, commercial type buildings and noise generated by a school.

This project will have significant and devastating impacts on our community.

We are opposed to this project at this site.

Please honor the North Area Plan (NAP) which is designed to prevent such detrimental impacts in environmentally sensitive areas and in existing communities. Please consider the residents of Agoura when making a decision on this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Bill Duelle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

cc: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, City of Agoura Hills, Old Agoura Homeowners Association

5/10/05

TO: CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
ATTN: GREG RAMIREZ CITY MANAGER
AGOURA HILLS CITY HALL
30001 LADYFACE COURT
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301
FAX 818-597-7352

AS VISITORS OF THE AGOURA HILLS AREA, WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE HESHEL SCHOOL PROJECT, PROPOSAL 98-062. THE BEAUTIFUL CHESEBRO SPACE KEEPS OUR HEARTS AND SOULS WARMED AS WE VISIT WEEKLY TO ENJOY THE WILDLIFE AND THE AREA IN THE CHARMING COMMUNITY. ANY SCHOOL PROJECT, ESPECIALLY THIS ONE WOULD CERTAINLY DESTROY THIS PLEASURE THAT WE AND MANY OTHERS COME TO ENJOY EACH WEEKEND. IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE, THESE OTHER FACTORS ARE SIGNIFICANT REASONS TO CONSIDER:

- TRAFFIC AND ACCESS PROBLEMS
- WILDFIRES AND PUBLIC SAFETY
- INTOLERABLE NOISE
- POLLUTION
- EXCESSIVE DENSITY AND POPULATION
- TEMPORARY BUILDINGS RUIN THE BEAUTY OF THE AREA
- DRASTIC CHANGE TO QUALITY OF LIFE
- ALREADY ENOUGH SCHOOLS IN THE AREA
- A NEGATIVE IMPACT IN THIS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA

WE STRONGLY OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL AND URGE YOU TO DO THE SAME.



GENE BERG
DE DE HARMAN BERG
9211 Nightingale Dr
LA Ca 90069

Faxed
5-10-05

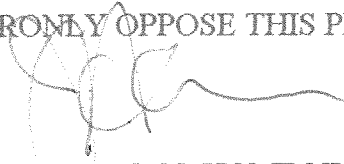
5/10/05

TO: CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
ATTN GREG RAMIREZ CITY MANAGER
AGOURA HILLS CITY HALL
30001 LADYFACE COURT
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301

RE: HESCHEL WEST DAY SCHOOL: PROPOSAL 98-062

THIS LETTER IS TO EXPRESS MY OPINION AGAINST THE HESCHEL SCHOOL PROJECT AND REQUEST THAT YOU REJECT PROPOSAL 98-062. THIS PROJECT WOULD HAVE A HUGE NEGATIVE IMPACT ON ME PERSONALLY, THE COMMUNITY, THE ENVIRONMENT, THE TRAFFIC, AND THE BEAUTIFUL "WAY OF LIFE" IN MY SPECIAL COMMUNITY. IT HAS TAKEN DECADES TO CREATE, POLISH, AND MAINTAIN THIS BEAUTIFUL HORSE-FRIENDLY, ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY, NEIGHBOR-FRIENDLY CHARMING COMMUNITY. IF A PROJECT SUCH AS THE HESCHEL PROPOSAL IS ALLOWED, IT WOULD CREATE AN IMMEDIATE ENORMOUS NEGATIVE IMPACT. AS IT IS, WE RESIDENTS STRUGGLE TO MAINTAIN WHAT WE HAVE. VISITORS TO THE BIKE TRAILS AND WORKERS IN THE AREA LEAVE WATER BOTTLES, CIGARETTE BUTTS, AND OTHER ASSORTED TRASH ON THE ROADS AND TRAILS. I MYSELF AND OTHER VOLUNTEERS ATTEMPT TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN. A SCHOOL WOULD CREATE MORE TRASH. ON ANOTHER NOTE, ALREADY WE HAVE TOO MUCH TRAFFIC FROM LOCAL SCHOOLS, WORKERS IN THE AREA, AND MOTORISTS ATTEMPTING SHORT-CUTS OFF THE ALREADY TOO CROWDED 101 FREEWAY. FURTHER NEGATIVE IMPACT WOULD INCLUDE THE DECREASE OF BEAUTIFUL OPEN SPACE, IN DIRECT CONFLICT OF THE "NORTH AREA PLAN". DON'T FORGET. . . WE NEED THIS SPACE FOR YOUR OWN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS. OTHER ISSUES INCLUDE EXCESSIVE NOISE, EXCESSIVE DENSITY, UGLY BUILDINGS DESTROYING THE OPEN SPACE, AND TRAFFIC.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS PROJECT AND URGE YOU TO AS WELL.



JULEE HARMAN, HOMEOWNER
28008 BALKINS DRIVE
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301

5/10/05

TO: CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
ATTN CITY MANAGER GREG RAMIREZ
AGOURA HILLS CITY HALL
30001 LADYFACE COURT
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301
818-597-7352

AS A RESIDENT OF "OLD AGOURA", I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE HESHEL SCHOOL PROJECT, PROPOSAL 98-062. THE BEAUTIFUL CHESEBRO SPACE KEEPS MY HEART AND SOUL WARMED AS I MOVED HERE TO ENJOY THE WILDLIFE AND THE AREA IN THIS CHARMING COMMUNITY. ANY SCHOOL PROJECT, ESPECIALLY THIS ONE WOULD CERTAINLY DESTROY THIS PLEASURE THAT I AND MANY OTHERS COME TO ENJOY. IN ADDITION TO THE LOSS OF QUALITY OF LIFE, THESE OTHER FACTORS ARE SIGNIFICANT REASONS TO CONSIDER: TRAFFIC AND ACCESS PROBLEMS, WILDFIRES AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTOLERABLE NOISE, POLLUTION, EXCESSIVE DENSITY AND POPULATION, TEMPORARY BUILDINGS RUIN THE BEAUTY OF THE AREA, DRASTIC CHANGE TO QUALITY OF LIFE, ALREADY ENOUGH SCHOOLS IN THE AREA, A NEGATIVE IMPACT IN THIS ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA

I STONGLY OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL AND URGE YOU TO DO THE SAME.



THERESA PORTO
28008 BALKINS DRIVE
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301

Ken and Barbara Leonard
5835 Fairview Place
Agoura, CA 91301

Greg Ramirez, City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
3001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

May 12, 2005

Dear Mr. Ramirez:

We are writing you regarding the Heschel West Day School, Proposal 98-062. We oppose the construction of the school on this site primarily because of the substantial increase in traffic (an estimated 2600 trips per day) and the resulting impact that traffic would have on our community. This fundamental flaw in their in their latest DEIR has not been dealt with adequately.

If the roads and freeway bridges in the immediate vicinity of the proposed school could be widened to 4 lane, if there were traffic lights at the Chesebro/Palo Comado intersections rather than stop signs, and if there were alternate emergency routes for school evacuation, we would welcome construction.

Twice a day traffic on the 101 Freeway backs up at both the Chesebro and Kanan exits. It's a dangerous situation as drivers slow and try to maneuver into the slow lane. Twice a day traffic clogs Driver Avenue and Palo Comado, making it next to merge from Chesebro, Colodny, Fairview Place, Lewis or Foothill Adding 750 student-filled cars will only add to the congestion and increase the likelihood of serious accidents.

However, the most important thing to consider is the ever present threat of wild fires in Old Agoura. We vividly remember the fire that roared through Old Agoura in 1981. It traveled from the Pony Club at the North end of Chesebro Canyon to the freeway in less than 45 minutes and blackened the very site where the Heschel School is to be built. When a fire like that occurs, evacuation of the residents and their horses is a big enough problem. Add to that the vehicles of the Heschel faculty, staff, students and their parents and you have the formula for a horrible disaster.

Once again we implore you not to approve the Heschel West Day School project until the traffic problems have been solved.

Very Sincerely,



Kenneth J. Leonard and Barbara B. Leonard

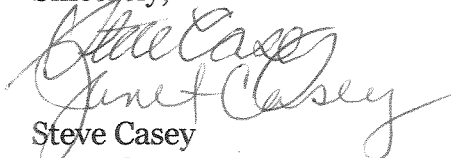
Greg Ramierz, City Manager
City of Agoura Hills
Agoura Hills City Hall
30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301

May 14, 2005

Dear Mr. Ramierz

We are writing to you to express our opposition to the Heschel School project. We have lived in the unique community of Old Agoura since 1986 and of all the projects that have been proposed since then, we consider this one to be the biggest current threat to our quality of life if approved. The idea that Los Angeles County can approve this project and the City of Agoura Hills has to deal with the consequences, demands that you listen well to the citizens most negatively affected by it. The residents of Old Agoura obviously will bear the brunt of this large-scale commercial use in our rural community. We will mention some the major negatives, as you must understand that they are a real threat to the special quality of life we moved here for and have fought to protect since we arrived. Our biggest concern with this project is *dramatically increased traffic, noise, safety during an emergency, pollution from more cars, and especially the lack of planning and guaranteed funding of the applicant to complete on the project.* The applicants, although paying lip service to Old Agoura Homeowners Association, have never had the interests of anyone but themselves at heart. Their argument is that Heschel School is good for the entire community and on that merit alone we should welcome them and their project should be approved. The fact is it will be a private school for a small number of financially fortunate people most of whom do not live in Old Agoura. If approved this project will in fact improve the quality of life for this small group of non-residents at the expense of an entire unique rural neighborhood. For once in our lifetime we would like to see government officials and politicians give weight to the arguments of the people most negatively affected by a project such as this. We urge you to listen to us and the other residents that actually live here. **Vote no on this project.** Thank you.

Sincerely,



Steve Casey

Janet Casey

5560 Fairview Place
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Cc:

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Board of Supervisors
Daryl Koutnik, Impact Analysis Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
Old Agoura Homeowners Association

Jean-Luc Nouzille
6085 Chesebro Road
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

May 14, 2005

Daryl Koutnik, Head, Impact Analysis
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, Room 1348
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Koutnik,

Re: Heschel West Day School Project - Proposal 98-062

I am writing to express a specific concern regarding the Heschel West Day School development project. Although I am not opposed to the idea of another school being built in our community, the size of this project – 750 students in the first stage – raises some serious safety issues for the residents living in the Palo Comado canyon along Chesebro road.

As you may know, Palo Comado and Cheeseboro canyons are documented wildfire corridors, connecting open spaces on the North and South sides. According to residents who lived in the neighborhood during previous wildfires, such fires travel very fast and the only escape route is Chesebro road, a very narrow winding road at times. Due to increased residential development since the last wildfires, swift evacuation is already a major concern to residents. Additionally, the neighborhood harbors many horses (there is a pony club at the end of the road) and other livestock. Evacuating these animals can be challenging, especially when they smell smoke, and require trailers that are not easy to maneuver through traffic.

The area that the Heschel Day School projects to develop is exactly at the exit of the canyon, where Chesebro road meets Driver and the access to the 101 freeway. If a wildfire breaks out on a school day, we will have the parents of 750 students coming to pick up their kids in a panic. This will create a giant traffic jam on our only exit. How will anybody be able to evacuate safely?

I applaud the Heschel West parents' efforts to provide a quality education to their children, but I question the location considering the size of their project. I feel that an industrial or commercial area with multi-lane and wide access roads (comparable to the Oak Christian school location) would be more appropriate. This is a well intended project but in the wrong neighborhood.

Regards,



Jean-Luc Nouzille

Cc: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Greg Ramirez, City Manager ✓
Old Agoura Homeowners Association

- 11 July 12, 2012 -

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to strongly oppose the the proposed Henschel School Complex (750+ students - 2600 vehicle trips per day. - Proposal 98-062.

This project is totally inappropriate & ill conceived for this rural property and will have a substantial negative impact on our communities character & lifestyle.

It would/will adjoin Protected Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Land - Destroy a natural wide size corridor - abutt against existing residential homes - will be within 1 mile of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.

Traffic will exit onto Chasebro Road - Chasebro/Driver Intersection is already being impacted by traffic from 3 existing schools, normal area residential traffic, traffic feeding into the intersection from existing business on Canwood (also approved projects now under construction.) It is already gridlock at peak hours.

Do not imagine that Henschel planners could even suggest this is an appropriate site for their project is unbelievable - and could not be more inaccurate. See Sanborn home owner

Nadja Myers
6037 Lapworth Dr.
Agoura, CA. 91301
May 15, 2005


Dear Mr. Ramierz,

I am writing to protest the building of the Heschel school in my home town of Old Agoura. I have lived here since 1974 and have seen developments built here in Old Agoura, and in the "newer" part of Agoura such as the shopping mall area near Kanan road. The new apartment buildings that took out our Denny's recently, has already added more people, cars, and congestion. I have often felt that this area will become another San Fernando Valley.

The unique quality of Old Agoura where neighbors actually know each other, and the western flavor of riding our horses into the sunset is highly valued here. The building of the Herschel School within the Old Agoura area will surely take the word home out of the area and replace it with gridlock.

Surely there must be another area that the school could be built. Please, please do not allow this to take place.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nadja Myers
and family.

Dr. Debbie Gallinot
6014 North Fairview Place
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
(818) 597-0921

May 16, 2005

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisor Yaroslavsky:

I am writing to you in opposition to the Heschel School Project in Agoura.

There are a number of reasons why this project should be denied. As you know this project is in LA County and not Agoura Hills; however, it is situated in such a manner that it impacts the residents of Old Agoura in the City of Agoura Hills. Old Agoura is one of the last rural equestrian locations in the area adjacent to the park where people can ride horses, bicycles, walk and hike and enjoy nature's best. I would like to underscore the ideology that this beautiful piece of land is available to not only the residents, but weekenders who come in to enjoy from outside locations. It truly represents the last local open space of the West.

The zoning change will have a drastic impact on the area resident's quality of life and the character of our rural community. Not to mention, wildfires and public safety issues pertaining to a school site in the middle of a historic wildfire path, intolerable noise impacts, pollution, excessive density, and more than our fair share of school impacts. As you are aware that our neighborhood is home to Agoura High School and two preschools. At present, we have over 2300 students utilizing schools that border our community. Heschel plans to add in excess of 2600 vehicle trips per day of new school traffic. The vehicle trips per day only refer to school traffic, not the additional traffic and parking associated with special events. Our local two lane roads are already overburdened by the existing traffic from three surrounding schools and the 101 freeway. Clearly, our road ways are already over congested! Our local intersections are controlled by stop signs which back traffic up for miles, preventing local residents from getting out of their neighborhood. What is one to do in time of crisis and/or emergency?

Please honor the North Area Plan that was originally designed to prevent such detrimental impacts to environmentally sensitive areas and to an existing community which prides itself in rural charm.

Sincerely,


Dr. Debbie Gallinot

**Gary F. Gallinot
Captain of Police
6014 North Fairview Place
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
(818) 597-0921**

May 16, 2005

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Board of Supervisors
500 W. Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

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As a Captain of Police of a local police department, I am extremely concerned about traffic mitigation issues and the crime impact associated with additional non area residents who will frequent our rural community. Residents who have

elected to reside in this community did not purchase their property expecting to have to dodge the influx of cars or navigate around the psychological aspects associated with an over crowded neighborhood.

Please honor the North Area Plan that was originally designed to prevent such detrimental impacts to environmentally sensitive areas and to an existing community which prides itself in rural charm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Gallinot". The signature is fluid and includes a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Gary Gallinot,
Captain of Police

May 16, 2005

Daryl Koutnik, Head Impack Analysis
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street Room 1348
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: HESCHEL WEST DAY SCHOOL; PROPOSAL 98-062

Dear Mr. Koutnik:

I am writing you as a very concerned homeowner (28453 Driver Avenue, AH) in Old Agoura regarding the Heschel Project. We have lived in Old Agoura 19 years and have raised 8 children, 4 still in elementary school (Sumac), one at AE Wright Middle School. Since we live on Driver Avenue, I am well aware of the traffic problems caused by Agoura High School and the two preschools on Driver Avenue. I am basically trapped at certain times of the day, and I am unable to get to my children while they are at school. If the 101 freeway is closed, as happened just this past week due to a carnival ride which fell off a truck, I cannot go anywhere. Heschel School would just multiply the problems many fold. Having a major school at the Chesebro entrance to Old Agoura would just eliminate the ability to easily enter or leave Old Agoura.

This issue, for the same reasons I listed above, causes me great concern in cases of emergency, such as fire or earthquake.

I implore you to consider the needs of the many residents of Old Agoura, especially those with children, who must be able to transport their children on a daily basis and get to them in emergencies.

Thank You

Nina Hull, Homeowner Old Agoura



CC: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Greg Ramierz, City Manager AH

Robert and Elsa Michitsch
6012 Colodny Drive
Agoura Hilla, Ca 91301

May 16, 2005

Daryl Koutnik, Head, Impact Analysis
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, Room 1348
Los Angeles, CA 90012 fax: (213)626-0434
email: dkoutnik@planning.co.la.ca.us

Re: Heschel West Day School PROPOSAL 98-062

Dear Mr. Koutnik;

I am a member of the Old Agoura community and I am writing to state my strong opposition to the granting of a CUP to the Heschel Day School. I believe in the fundamental right of a landowner to develop their property but only if the impacts to the environment and the surrounding community are not overwhelmingly detrimental. I believe this to be the case with the proposed Heschel Day School. This development will begin a landslide of irreversible devastation to our way of life.

The site borders a semi-rural residential neighborhood in the City of Agoura Hills with a local history of ranching and agriculture. It also adjoins a natural wildlife corridor that runs through National Park Lands. Our neighborhood is a rarity in the county of Los Angeles, as it is zoned low-density residential and permits horse and livestock keeping. There are precious few places in Los Angeles County which allow for equestrian activities. Many people have come here for the tranquility that this type of environment brings.

Wild fires and flooding creeks are a potential risk in Cheeseboro Canyon. I am concerned for human and animal lives if such an emergency should occur. This project will create unbearable traffic and access burdens. Emergency response time to our community will also be severely impaired. This massive and dense development will destroy a natural wildlife corridor and view shed. Increased noise and air pollution, and severely graded hills dotted with ugly temporary modular buildings will haunt us for many years.

With development pressures so intense in Southern California, it is imperative that we guard our lifestyle and our community with constant vigilance. Each new development seeks to encroach on us little by little. The cumulative effect is a way of life that is gone forever. I urge you to review this project with diligence and awareness that, as one small group benefits, an entire community is degraded.

Sincerely,



cc.:Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (fax 213 625 7360)
City of Agoura Hills, Attn. Greg Ramirez, City Manager (fax 818 597 7352)
Old Agoura Homeowners Association

May 16, 2005

Greg Ramierz
LA County Dept of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street Room 1348
Los Angeles, Ca 90012

Re Heschel West Day School: Proposal 98-062

Please be advised this school will directly impose serious traffic problems on Driver Ave in Agoura Hills. I have been a resident on Driver Ave for 27 years, and am already faced with being unable to exit my own driveway during certain hours of the day because of the traffic the existing schools have created. You must have been informed that there are three schools already on this street, adding another school will make it absolutely impossible to ever make a safe exit from my driveway.

I would also like to add that this is also a horse community. People DO NOT obey the 30mph speed limit on this street. All of this traffic makes it very difficult to ride your horse as it is, let alone adding to it by adding more disrespectful traffic.

I thank you for your time.



Susan Nims
28430 Driver Ave
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Opposition to Proposal 98-062, Heschel West Day School

Daryl Koutnik
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, Room 1348
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

May 16, 2005

Dear Mr. Koutnik,

I am a current resident of the "Old Agoura" area in northwest Los Angeles County. My husband and I have been residents of the City of Agoura Hills for nearly 20 years, the last three of which, we have had the pleasure of residing in Old Agoura. I have been a horse owner most of my life and our move to Old Agoura allowed me to keep my horse at home for the first time in my life. Old Agoura represents a way of life that is animal friendly and rural in nature.

We are very concerned about Proposal 98-062, the Heschel West Day School project. We have a number of specific concerns regarding which I will elaborate below:

1. Heschel estimates that there will be approximately 2600 automobile trips per day added to the local traffic pattern. Agoura Hills High School is located near the Heschel site and traffic at peak school times is horrific. From the area of our home, one must exit to Driver Street to leave the area. We have major concerns that this additional traffic will make leaving the area extremely difficult for residents. In the event of a natural disaster, the only road out may not be passable for residents.
2. The proposed location of the school is in a natural wildfire path. I ride my horse in the area and can see evidence of past fires. Although the school proposes to "shelter in place" in case of fire, I do not believe that frightened parents will honor that plan. As a parent myself, I would do whatever it took to reach my child. This additional traffic in the event of a fire could prevent the students from Agoura High School, two preschools, and the proposed Heschel West Day School from safely exiting the area as well as preventing home owners egress with animals, etc.
3. Excessive noise created by students at the school would not be appreciated by residents or animals. Additionally, the air quality in the community from the estimated 2600 additional automobile trips per day is undesirable. The school plans to host "specific events" with up to 1500 people. That will disrupt the quiet community of Old Agoura.
4. The original "north area plan" for growth in the area of the proposed school was for one single family home per five acres; the entire project site would have supported fourteen homes. That development would be in keeping with the rural nature of the area while a school for 750 students (preschool - ninth

- grade), evening activities with special events, and a nine building complex with a high school sized athletic field and swimming pool would not.
5. The proposed school will initially utilize temporary buildings for twelve years. Temporary building would not be as fire safe for the planned "shelter in place" in the event of a wildfire. As fund raising will need to occur before permanent buildings are possible, there is no guarantee that the temporary buildings will be replaced by permanent buildings.

My husband and I moved to Old Agoura to be part of a rural, family centered, animal friendly community. The proposed Heschel West Day School development will jeopardize our quality of life and create safety hazards for both residents of the area and the students at the school. If further development of the area is desirable, the original north area plan should be implemented, not the proposed day school.

As Old Agoura homeowners and tax payers of the County of Los Angeles, we hope that you will consider our concerns carefully and deny Proposal 98-062, the Heschel West Day School. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Nancy Seck



Terry Seck

6135 Colodny Drive
Agoura Hills, Ca. 91301
(818) 706-2109

CC Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Greg Rameriz, City Manager, Agoura Hills

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Greg Ramirez
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:55 AM
To: Kimberly Rodrigues
Subject: FW: Heschel West Day School - 98-062

Greg Ramirez
City manager

City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills CA 91301
(818) 597-7311
(818) 597-7341
Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

-----Original Message-----

From: MCKconsul@aol.com [mailto:MCKconsul@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 7:06 PM
To: Greg Ramirez
Subject: Heschel West Day School - 98-062

copy of letter sent to Daryl Koutnik -

16 May 2005

Daryl Koutnik, Head Impact Analysis
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple Street, Room 1348
Los Angeles, Ca. 90012

Reference: Heschel West Day School: Proposal 98-062

Dear Mr. Kounik,

Please do not approve the proposed Heschel Project as it would adversely affect the semi-rural lifestyle which lends itself to housing animals-- particularly horses. The wildlife in the area would also suffer as a result of building on a site where currently deer, bobcats, hawks, rattlesnakes, coyotes, and heron dwell.

Once this pristine land is developed---there is no turning back. Additionally, fire is a threat to our community and we need escape routes in the case of such a disaster to get our families and animals to safety. Such a high-density project would impede the safe and efficient passage.

This project does not belong in Old Agoura---we have

3 schools in our small community---a public park, baseball field---and also withstand traffic to the National Recreational area.

Please **DO NOT ALLOW THIS PROJECT TO BE DEVELOPED**
---Old Agoura residents shouldn't have to sacrifice their life dreams for the development of a school that could be built elsewhere....please help keep the community intact.

Best regards,

Mary C. Keenan
5374 Chesebro Road
Agoura Hills, Ca. 91301
818.707.1311

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Greg Ramirez
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:54 AM
To: Kimberly Rodrigues
Subject: FW: (no subject)

Greg Ramirez
City manager

City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills CA 91301
(818) 597-7311
(818) 597-7341
Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

-----Original Message-----

From: SUBRAGS01@aol.com [mailto:SUBRAGS01@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2005 9:02 PM
To: Greg Ramirez
Cc: zev@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: (no subject)

Dear Gentlemen...

I have lived in Old Agoura for the last 10 years. I am a Jewish parent of two boys who attended L. V. schools, and a horse owner. The thought of another school in this area is unsafe as far as the traffic it will create. Have you ever tried to drive down Driver Ave as the high school gets out at the end of the day? I truly doubt it or you would realize that more cars would only make matters worse. If we had an emergency in the area and an added school, I doubt that anyone or animal would be able to get out of the area safely. I am sure Heschel School could find another area where there would be less of an impact on safety than Old Agoura. I am concerned about my family's safety and the safety of my animals. I DO NOT WANT the traffic, cars, congestion, and worry that Heschel School will bring to my community. I DO NOT WANT HESCHEL SCHOOL!

Sincerely, Mindy Levine

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Greg Ramirez
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 7:54 AM
To: Kimberly Rodrigues
Subject: FW: No Heschel

*Greg Ramirez
City manager*

City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills CA 91301
(818) 597-7311
(818) 597-7341
Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

-----Original Message-----

From: VinceVtv@aol.com [mailto:VinceVtv@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 3:39 AM
To: zev@bos.co.la.ca.us; Greg Ramirez; directors@oldagoura.org
Cc: VinceVtv@aol.com
Subject: No Heschel

Below is a letter written to Daryl Koutnik AGAINST building the Heschel West Day School, this is a bad idea.

To: Daryl Koutnik, Head, Impact Analysis

RE: Heschel West Day School, Proposal 98-062

Date: May 16, 2005

I am a 35 year resident of Old Agoura and have been paying Los Angeles County Taxes, not Ventura's. Although the proposed school will not be in Agoura itself, the impact to our community would be devastating. Old Agoura backs up to the Santa Monica Conservatory and is one of the last areas still populated with equestrian property. The traffic at Driver and Cheseboro is already as congested as can be. The addition of this school will make traffic impossible and jeopardize the safety of the horses using the ring on the corner and surrounding areas. Please DO NOT allow them to build this school, this area just cannot handle it. Thank you.

Vince Vignolle
5754 Colodny Drive
Agoura, CA 91301

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Greg Ramirez
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 1:49 PM
To: Kimberly Rodrigues
Subject: FW: Heschel School

*Greg Ramirez
City manager*

City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills CA 91301
(818) 597-7311
(818) 597-7341
Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

-----Original Message-----

From: SUBRAGS@aol.com [mailto:SUBRAGS@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 1:46 PM
To: Greg Ramirez
Subject: Fwd: Heschel School

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: SUBRAGS@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 1:39 PM
To: zev@bos.co.la.ca.us
Subject: Re: Heschel School

Dear Sirs: I am a resident of Old Agoura and have been for 10 years. I am an open minded person not opposed to progress nor the obvious growth that is necessary for communities. I am resistant to this particular idea to okay a school to be built on the site proposed. The issue is not that we do not want a school in our area but rather the fact there is a High School within a 1/4 mile and utilizing the same street for access. There is also 2 pre schools on the same block. Traffic congestion in the morning and afternoon is already beyond peak allowance. There are many safety issues related to this, access for emergency personnel is on one street and one street only which is already overcrowded. We have many animals which is how our area is zoned and why we live here and more traffic will hamper their safety as well. I am also a Jewish parent and have resented the sentiment that Old Agoura does not want a Jewish school. In fact at the last meeting of the city at the Las Virgenes Water District headquarters I was quite alarmed to hear my Rabbi say those very words and when I questioned him about it he said this was imperative to improve the surrounding Jewish community. Since then my old temple has relocated to Ladyface mountain in Agoura and surprising our Jewish community has not suffered due to temple relocating a couple of miles away. The reason they relocated is due to the fact there was no suitable buildable sites closer and the area they chose is better for a school. Trying to change zoning and bringing in a school to an area already overcrowded is both wrong and unfair for you to support. The area Heschel purchased to build was a poor choice then and has gotten worse with the advent of almost every kid in the area driving to school. The amount of trips to and from Agoura High has increased in the years since they purchased the property. Their property was not intended to be used the way they want to and they never should have purchased the land knowing about these problems. I know how important this issue is to a politician but please understand we are also voters who want you to do your job which is to enforce the rules governing zoning and not to through your clout behind a project that affects the safety of an area. The last issue is the fact they want to build a school in a Fire corridor which will affect the possible safety of hundreds of children.

Thank you
Darryl Levine
5521 Fairview Pl
Agoura, Cal.

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Greg Ramirez
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 12:47 PM
To: Kimberly Rodrigues
Subject: FW: Please oppose the building of Heshel school.

Greg Ramirez
City manager

City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills CA 91301
(818) 597-7311
(818) 597-7341
Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

-----Original Message-----

From: Amazonbeergirl@aol.com [mailto:Amazonbeergirl@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 17, 2005 11:53 AM
To: Greg Ramirez
Subject: Please oppose the building of Heshel school.

Dear Mr. Ramirez, Please read the attached letter. Thank-you, Nancy Gold

Nancy Gold
5562 Lewis Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

May 17, 2005

Daryl Koutnik, Head, Impact Analysis
Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, Room 1348
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Reference Project: Heschel West Day School: Proposal 98-062

Mr. Koutnik;

I am opposed to the Heschel school project being constructed in our neighborhood for the following reasons:

Traffic & Access Problems: Heschel plans to add in excess of 2600 vehicle trips per day of new school traffic. The vehicle trips per day only refer to school traffic, not the additional traffic and parking from "special events." Our local roads are already overburdened by traffic from 3 schools and the 101 freeway is clearly over congested.

Wildfires & Public Safety: The school site is in the middle of a historic wildfire path. Although the school proposes a "shelter in place" plan, there is no certainty that this will prevent frantic parents from rushing to "rescue" their children, thereby impacting evacuations from our community and emergency response times.

Intolerable Noise Impacts in Residentially Zoned Neighborhood: Twelve years of heavy construction equipment and building is unacceptable in our quiet community that is home to families and a myriad of livestock. 750 preschool, elementary and middle school students playing outside, together with school bells and buzzers, are not uses commensurate with a semi-rural area. Nor are special events for up to 1500 people.

Pollution: Exhaust fumes from the hundreds of cars in long lines, idling for student drop off and pick up, will cause noxious fumes for the residents and will adversely impact the environment.

Excessive Density. Heschel estimates enrollment at 750 students for preschool through ninth grade, evening activities approximately every other week for up to 150 people, and special events approximately four times a year for up to 1500 people. How would the number of events and people be controlled? The proposal is for a nine-building complex, with a high school size athletic field and swimming pool. The NAP only permits 1 single family home per 5 acres on this site, that is no more than 14 homes.

Temporary Buildings: Heschel wants to have use of temporary classrooms for 12 years while they attempt to finance their permanent campus, but there is no guarantee the project will be finalized in 12 years. This would never be allowed on any other commercial project where an indefinite temporary operation was allowed without adequate financing at the start. We are concerned that there will be massive grading, the placement of modular buildings and then the project will not be completed.

Drastic Change to our Quality of Life. Increased traffic, delays, congestion, noise, pollution and twelve years of construction are all substantial negative impacts that will change our quality of life and the character of our rural community.

We bear more than our Fair Share of School Impacts. Old Agoura is already home to a high school and 2 preschools. At present, we have over 2300 students utilizing the schools that border our community, and we currently suffer the consequences of traffic delays and back ups. We already shoulder more students per household than any of the other local communities.

Honor the North Area Plan. The NAP is designed to prevent such detrimental impacts in environmentally sensitive areas and in existing communities.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gold

Cc:
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky Board of Supervisors
City of Agoura Hills, Greg Ramierz, City Manager
Old Agoura Homeowners Association

Kimberly Rodrigues

From: Greg Ramirez
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 12:35 PM
To: Kimberly Rodrigues
Subject: FW: (no subject)

fyi

Greg Ramirez
City Manager

City of Agoura Hills
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills CA 91301
(818) 597-7311
(818) 597-7341
Greg@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us

-----Original Message-----

From: landercon1@aol.com [mailto:landercon1@aol.com]
Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2005 11:00 AM
To: Greg Ramirez
Cc: zev@bos.co.la.ca.us; directors@oldagoura.org
Subject: (no subject)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My family and I reside at 5918 Chesebro Road and my name is Larry Anderson. I have been extremely busy running my business and don't have a lot of time but I wanted it to be known that my family and I **STRONGLY OPPOSE the HESCHEL SCHOOL PROJECT.** We have written about our concerns before and nothing has changed. We share the same concerns about traffic, safety, noise, pollution, density, and environmental sensitivity that our neighbors have. This is a quiet rural residential neighborhood which is a great place for our kids to be raised and I'm not willing to allow this major change in our way of life and such a drastic impact on our environment. Please do not allow this project to move forward. My phone number should you wish to contact me is 818-879-1121

Sincerely, Larry R. Anderson

Kirk A. ALLEGRO

28312 Driver Avenue
Agoura Hills, California 91301-2614
Telephone: 818-707-0008 Fax: 818-707-9470

May 18, 2005

To the Members of the
AGOURA HILLS CITY COUNCIL
30001 Ladyface Court
Agoura Hills, California 91301

Re: Proposed Heschel West School Project
Increased Security Costs Funded By the City Of Agoura Hills

Dear City Council Members:

Having experience in facilities property management, I respectfully direct your attention to the serious matter of extraordinary campus safety and operational security mandated when considering the proposed Heschel West School Project. It is incumbent upon City Council Members to diligently address any and all matters causing Agoura Hills municipal financial support, unique and specifically benefiting this private school development project to be located in the County of Los Angeles, being adjacent to and outside the City of Agoura Hills.

Issues to consider with copies of references attached herewith:

In an article from the Washington Post dated September 22, 2004, Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich, Jr. in an address to 1,500 students at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville stated, "religious institutions present a soft target for terrorists...unfortunately, this is a function of the era we live in," announcing the state will spend \$100,000 on additional security measures at the school.

In an article dated June 4, 2004 of The Jewish Journal Of Greater Los Angeles, Security Consultant David Rosenberg with Centurion Security Inc. noted over half of his clients are non-profit organizations conceivably at risk from international terrorism...expressing "I personally am more concerned about domestic terrorism than international terrorism." In the same article, Spokeswoman Julia Massimino for Representative Howard Berman stated "Any time the nation goes to Orange Alert, we hear estimates that in large urban areas like Los Angeles it can cost law enforcement up to a million dollars per day to comply with additional security measurements."

Acknowledging need security and emergency plans, The Anti-Defamation League has prepared the Online Edition "Keeping Your Jewish Institution Safe"

(www.adl.org) calling for direct involvement by local police agencies to respond and protect such facilities.

The United Jewish Communities press release dated September 14, 2004 lauded U.S. Senate approval of the FY 2005 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill which includes \$50 million to non-profit organizations to be at high-risk of international terrorist attacks. Per UJC Human Services and Social Policy Pillar Chair Michael Gelman, "Intelligence reports and the recent 9/11 Commission Report indicate some non-profits are among the most vulnerable, highest risk institutions." The assistance would be available to 501(c)(3) organizations – including Jewish federations, agencies, synagogues and day schools – determined to be at high risk of attack.

Recognizing extraordinary security matters set forth above, specific and for the proposed Heschel West School - including its considerable number of school and community related activities and events, the City of Agoura Hills must fiscally consider and allocate accordingly, additional policing manpower and overtime costs which the City contracts from the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department as well as all other affected municipal services. To which, I doubt there has been any definitive study conducted by the City of Agoura Hills to assess such financial burdens for its Proposed FY 2005-2006 Budget Priorities, and to subsequent fiscal years thereafter.

Therefore, notwithstanding the myriad of issues brought forth by many others of the subject development project as to negative impacts to the rural neighborhood and site limitations at its proposed location within the County of Los Angeles, due to future financial costs which may be forecasted or those which are unpredictable, I sincerely request the City of Agoura Hills and/or its Council Members decline any support and formally reject to the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning the Proposed Heschel West School Project as set forth in Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report of Project No. 98-062 SCH No. 1998101060.

Thank you for your attention and diligent concern to these critical matters.

Very truly yours,



Kirk A. Allegro

CC: Greg Ramirez – City Manager

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Advertisement

Ehrlich Pledges Funds to Secure Jewish Schools

By Matthew Mosk
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, September 22, 2004; Page B01

Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. announced yesterday that Maryland will be the first state to spend a portion of its federal homeland security allotment safeguarding Jewish schools, saying the religious institutions present a soft target for terrorists.

"Unfortunately, this is a function of the era we live in," Ehrlich said after addressing high school students gathered in the gym at the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville. "This is a very nontraditional war. Projects such as this will make us safer."

Ehrlich (R) said the state will spend \$100,000 on security measures at the school. Its sizable student body -- there are 1,500 students in kindergarten through 12th grade on two campuses in Rockville -- and proximity to Washington placed it high on his list of priorities, he said. School officials said the money would be spent on "external security" but would not elaborate.

"We are very grateful for the support," said Nancy Hamburger, president of the school's board of directors. "This is something that has parents concerned, and we need to make a special effort to make them feel comfortable that their children are safe."

The governor's decision came after aggressive lobbying from the school and local and national Jewish groups that have been urging Congress to allocate a special pool of homeland security money for nonprofit groups.

The U.S. Senate passed an appropriations bill this month that included \$50 million in homeland security funding for nonprofits, but the funding was missing from the House version. The proposal is now before a conference committee.

Robyn G. Judelsohn, a spokeswoman for the United Jewish Committee, said the group has argued that the special allotment is needed because nonprofits have been unable to compete with fire and police agencies for the homeland security funds being distributed by state leaders.

"Maryland is the only exception that I'm aware of," she said.

One factor giving Maryland Jewish leaders an edge in obtaining the funds has been Ehrlich's visible efforts to court Jewish voters. His first overseas trip as governor was to Israel, and his schedule over the past two years has been loaded with appearances before Jewish groups.

While he has not been shy about his interest in forging strong ties with Baltimore and Washington area Jewish groups, Ehrlich rejected the idea that yesterday's funding announcement was part of a broader strategy for his reelection campaign.

"Anyone who makes that statement makes it out of ignorance," he said, responding to a reporter's question.

Ehrlich's aides said concerns about security for religious groups, including not only Jews but also

washingtonpost.com: Ehrlich Pledges Funds to Secure Jewish Schools

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Muslims, helped spur the initiative. They cited the 1999 shooting at the North Valley Jewish Community Center outside Los Angeles, in which three boys and two center workers were wounded, as an example of the threat. Last month, Ehrlich briefed Jewish leaders from Baltimore on homeland security issues, and pledged \$97,900 in homeland security money to pay for bulletproof glass, security cameras and an alarm system at a Baltimore Jewish community center.

Ronald J. Halber, executive director of the Jewish Community Council, said the Rockville organization has made security a priority since Sept. 11, 2001.

"I don't think it's politics," Halber said. "I think it's extraordinarily practical. Security has become the highest priority to the Jewish community."

Still, politics lurked at yesterday's event. While Ehrlich's marketing specialist helped orchestrate an event that would be appealing to television news cameras, Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan's top political aide watched from the back of the gymnasium.

Jerry Pasternak, who attended in his capacity as a member of the board of the Charles E. Smith school, noted that Ehrlich was not the first official in Maryland to direct public funds to security for Jewish institutions. Pasternak said Duncan (D) has approved more than \$2.5 million in grants since 2001 to bulk up security at facilities run by Jewish groups, and has directed some homeland security money to a Catholic school for increased security. Duncan is weighing a run for governor in 2006.

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