

From: [Alice Kim](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Luis](#); [Feliciano, Michelle](#); [Toomey, Paul](#)
Subject: ATTN: Local Joshua Tree Resident Support for PROJ-2023-00023 / RE: Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 2:46:07 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from alice_kim@tjx.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Rodriguez,

My name is Alice Kim, and I am a local Joshua Tree resident writing in strong support of PROJ-2023-00023, the Mercury Dry Campground project at 62076 Mercury Drive. I understand this project is now the subject of an appeal before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, and I wanted to formally express my continued and wholehearted support for Joseph Milburn, David Lee, and their vision for Mercury Dry Campground.

I have known Joseph Milburn and David Lee personally for over five years, and I have had the privilege of watching them work on this project from the very beginning. From my vantage point it seems as though the permitting journey they have undertaken has been long, complex, and at times extremely challenging. I have watched them navigate obstacle after obstacle with patience, perseverance, and professionalism. In my honest opinion, most people pursuing a project of this nature would have given up long ago! The fact that Joseph and David have stayed the course — working collaboratively with San Bernardino County for nearly three full years to do things the right way — speaks volumes about the kind of people they are and the kind of operators they will be.

I have the deepest respect for both of them. They are men of exceptional character — hardworking, honest, and genuinely committed to being positive contributors to this community. Their dedication to this project is not just about building a business. It is about creating something meaningful and valuable for Joshua Tree, and I have no doubt they will run Mercury Dry Campground with the same care and integrity they have brought to every step of getting here.

I also want to speak to the real community need this project addresses. Friends and family regularly ask me if I can recommend a good, safe, and simple campground in the Joshua Tree area where they can come and enjoy the high desert. Time and again, I find myself without a great answer. Campsites within Joshua Tree National Park are limited and frequently unavailable — especially during peak seasons — leaving many visitors without a quality local option. Mercury Dry Campground would fill that gap beautifully. It is the kind of quiet, low-key, thoughtfully managed campground that our area genuinely needs and currently lacks.

I wholeheartedly support the approval of PROJ-2023-00023 and sincerely hope the County will continue to stand behind this project. Joseph and David have earned it.

From: [Owen Ingram](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Luis](#); [Feliciano, Michelle](#); [Toomey, Paul](#)
Subject: ATTN: Neighbor Support for PROJ-2023-00023 — Mercury Dry Camp Campground
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 11:30:08 AM

You don't often get email from oweningram1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Rodriguez, Ms. Feliciano, Mr. Toomey.

My name is Owen Ingram. I own property at 63854 Orion Drive in Joshua Tree, and I am writing to express my support for PROJ-2023-00023, the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project.

I came to know Joseph Milburn through mutual friends, and what began as a casual introduction has grown into a genuine friendship. The foundation of it, I think, is a shared appreciation for this place. There is something about the high desert that draws a particular kind of person — someone who values stillness, wide open space, and the kind of beauty that reveals itself slowly. The sunrises out here. The quality of the silence in the evenings. The feeling of being somewhere that hasn't been overly touched. Joseph understands all of that, and it is the common ground on which our friendship has been built.

I am also in the middle of my own property project here in Joshua Tree, and having a neighbor I can ring up with a question or think through a problem with has been genuinely useful. Joseph has been that person for me on more than one occasion. He engages with these things thoughtfully and generously, and I have come to trust his judgment.

That trust extends to how I view the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project. From everything I have seen and heard, this is a careful, considered venture — small in scale, modest in its footprint, and run by someone with a real understanding of and respect for this landscape. The kind of guests a campground like this will attract are, I suspect, people not unlike those of us who chose to plant roots out here. People looking for something quiet and genuine.

I support this project and I hope the County will see it through to

approval.

Best regards

Owen Ingram (+1 310 4317050)

07/13/2026

ATTN: Continued Support from Local Business Owner for PROJ-2023-00023 — Mercury Dry Camp Campground

Dear Mr. Rodriguez and Team,

My name is Michael Henson, and I am the owner of \$5 Pizza Place in Yucca Valley, CA. I previously submitted a letter of support for PROJ-2023-00023 in November 2024, and I am writing again today because I believe strongly in what Joseph Milburn and David Lee are building with the Mercury Dry Camp Campground — and I want to make sure that support is on the record as this project moves to its appeal hearing before the Board of Supervisors.

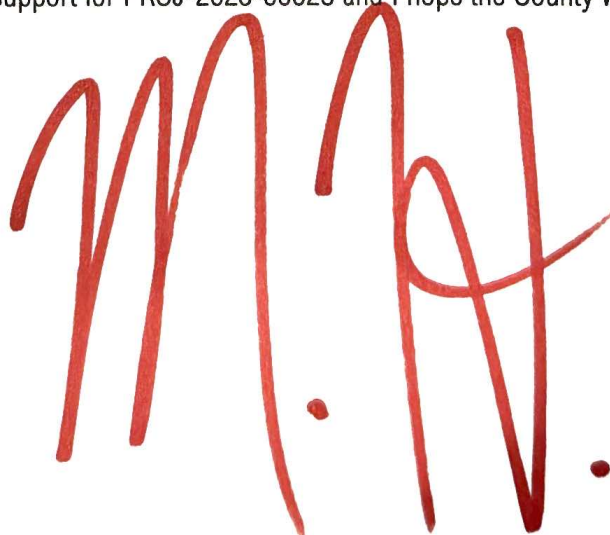
I have gotten to know Joseph and David over the last few years through their work on this project, and I can tell you firsthand that they are hardworking, dedicated guys who are doing things the right way. They have also been terrific and loyal customers of \$5 Pizza Place, ordering frequently throughout the course of their project. That kind of consistent local business patronage makes a real difference for a small business owner like me, and it speaks to who they are — people who show up and support the community they are working in.

From a local business and economic perspective, I want to be direct about what I believe this campground will mean for our area. The Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley region draws visitors from all over the country, and the guests that a campground like Mercury Dry Camp will attract are exactly the kind of travelers who explore local shops, eat at local restaurants, and spend their money in the community. These are not guests who are locked away in a resort — they are out and about, discovering what the area has to offer. I fully expect them to become customers of mine, and I know other local businesses feel the same way. This project is a genuine economic asset for our community.

I am truly looking forward to the day Mercury Dry Camp Campground opens its doors. I will be proud to recommend it to every visitor who comes through my shop looking for a great place to stay near Joshua Tree National Park.

I am reaffirming my wholehearted support for PROJ-2023-00023 and I hope the County will continue to support this project.

Michael Henson
Owner, \$5 Pizza Place
282 Old Woman Springs Road
Yucca Valley, CA 92284

A large, stylized handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read 'M.H.', is positioned to the right of the typed name and address.

July 27, 2026

Jeff Johnson
Yucaipa, CA
(909) 855-2746
feffy1965@gmail.com

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

ATTN: SUPPORT FOR PROJ-2023-00023 – APPEAL NO. PAPL-2026-00003

Board,

Please accept this correspondence into the official public record for Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003. My name is Jeff Johnson. I am a recently retired Environmental Health Department Director; having served in that capacity for Riverside County for many years. I am also a lifelong outdoorsman — an avid camper and devoted lover of the desert who has spent decades exploring and appreciating wild and open landscapes across the American Southwest. I write today from both of those vantage points, and I write in firm and unqualified support of the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project (PROJ-2023-00023).

I should also note that I plan to attend the August Board of Supervisors hearing in person and intend to speak during the public comment period in support of this project.

Joseph Milburn and David Lee are close friends of mine. I have visited their property at 62076 Mercury Drive on multiple occasions over the course of this project — walking the land with them, watching the vision take shape, and lending whatever perspective I could from my background in environmental health and safety. Those site visits were not casual drop-ins. I went out there with real interest in understanding what they were building and how they were approaching the environmental dimensions of the project. What I observed gave me confidence, not concern.

I want to be straightforward about why my perspective carries a particular kind of weight here. Spent a career inside county government evaluating land use and environmental impact questions. I know what a thorough environmental review process looks like. I know what genuine mitigation measures accomplish and how to distinguish them from superficial ones. And I know what it looks like when an applicant is truly committed to responsible development versus simply doing the minimum to clear a regulatory bar. Joseph and David fall squarely in the former category.

The Mercury Dry Camp Campground is, by any serious environmental assessment, a low-impact project. Twelve primitive campsites. No utility hookups, no generators, no campfires, no amplified sound. Native plant screening, dark-sky compliant lighting, defined quiet hours, and biological mitigations developed in coordination with state wildlife agencies covering desert tortoise, Western Joshua Trees, and nesting bird species. This is a project that was designed with the landscape and immediate community in mind — not in spite of it.

As someone who has camped in the desert his entire adult life, I can also speak to the other side of this. The high desert around Joshua Tree is a remarkable and irreplaceable environment. The kind of quiet, dark-sky, leave-no-trace camping experience that Mercury Dry Camp will offer is exactly what draws thoughtful, nature-respecting visitors to places like this. These are not people who come to impose on a landscape. They come because they love it. That matters — both for the visitor experience and for the long-term stewardship of the surrounding desert.

Joseph and David did not take shortcuts to get here. They engaged every step of the County's process with seriousness and good faith, sought guidance where it was needed — including from people like me — and earned a unanimous 5-0 vote from the Planning Commission. That outcome reflects the quality of what they put together. Lastly, I plan to be present at the August hearing and look forward to the opportunity to address the Board directly. In the meantime, I respectfully and without reservation urge the Board of Supervisors to uphold the approval of PROJ-2023-00023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Johnson
Retired Environmental Health Department Director, Riverside County
Yucaipa, CA

From: [Espino, Alcelma](#)
To: [Feliciano, Michelle](#)
Subject: FW: Public Comment in Support of PROJ-2023-00023 / Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003
Date: Monday, July 20, 2026 10:14:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI

From: COB - Internet E-Mail <COB@sbcounty.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 11:11 AM
To: Rowe, Dawn <Dawn.Rowe@bos.sbcounty.gov>; BOS District Secretaries <BOSDistrictSecs@cob.sbcounty.gov>
Cc: Snoke, Luther <Luther.Snoke@cao.sbcounty.gov>; Feingold, Laura <Laura.Feingold@cc.sbcounty.gov>; Nottingham, Chad <Chad.Nottingham@cao.sbcounty.gov>; Jimenez, Michael <Michael.Jimenez@cao.sbcounty.gov>; Shea, Stephenie <Stephenie.Shea@cao.sbcounty.gov>; Figueroa, Miguel <Miguel.Figueroa@lus.sbcounty.gov>; Martin, Abi <Abi.Martin@cao.sbcounty.gov>; Anglin, Josie <Josie.Anglin@cc.sbcounty.gov>; King, Kristina <Kristina.King@cao.sbcounty.gov>; Espino, Alcelma <Alcelma.Espino@lus.sbcounty.gov>; Monell, Lynna <lmonell@cob.sbcounty.gov>; Tealer, Danette <Danette.Tealer@cob.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: FW: Public Comment in Support of PROJ-2023-00023 / Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003

Good morning,

Included below, please find correspondence received by the Clerk of the Board on July 17, 2026.

Thank you,

Jessica Mellinger
Board Services Supervisor
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Phone: (909) 387-4265
Fax: (909) 387-4554



Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.
www.SBCounty.gov

County of San Bernardino Confidentiality Notice: This communication contains confidential information sent solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication, you are not authorized to use it in any manner, except to immediately destroy it and notify the sender.

From: Calvin Valdovinos <contact@gdncnursery.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 8:50 AM
To: Board Meeting Comments <BoardMeetingComments@cob.sbcounty.gov>
Subject: RE: Public Comment in Support of PROJ-2023-00023 / Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Clerk of the Board,

Please enter this letter into the public record in connection with Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003.

My name is Calvin Valdovinos, and I am the Nursery Manager at GDNC Cactus & Desert Plant Nursery, a specialty desert and California native plant nursery located in Desert Hot Springs,

California. I am submitting this letter in support of PROJ-2023-00023 and to respectfully urge

the Board of Supervisors to uphold the Planning Commission's approval of the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project..

I am not writing as a neighbor or a community observer. I am writing as a local business operator with a direct and documented economic relationship to this project, and I want the

Board to have that perspective on the record.

In Spring 2026, GDNC fulfilled a delivery order of native, drought-tolerant screening plants for

the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project at 62076 Mercury Drive in Joshua Tree. The plants

were selected in consultation with our nursery to satisfy specific landscaping conditions associated with the project. Conditional Use Permit native species appropriate to the high

desert environment and suited for screening along the property's new fence line. This was a

substantive commercial transaction that represented real revenue for our business and real

dollars invested in the local supply chain.

That transaction, however, is only part of the picture. Additional orders of native screening

plants are already in discussion for the remainder of the fence line installation. Those

orders are directly tied to the project's ability to move forward. If the Board were to uphold this appeal and halt the project, those planned purchases would not be rerouted to another vendor or deferred to another date — they would be canceled. The economic activity would simply not occur. I want the Board to understand that, in concrete terms, a decision against this project is a decision that eliminates documented, planned, local business revenue.

I would also ask the Board to consider the broader pattern this represents. Development projects like Mercury Dry Camp Campground generate sustained demand across multiple local business sectors, nurseries, contractors, suppliers, maintenance providers throughout the life of the project, not just at opening. The cumulative economic contribution of a well-managed small campground to the surrounding desert communities is meaningful and ongoing.

I support the approval of PROJ-2023-00023 and urge the Board to allow this project to proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

--

Calvin Valdovinos

Nursery Manager

GDNC Cactus & Desert Plant Nursery

17655 Zeta Rd

Desert Hot Springs, CA 92241

O. 760.699.1574

C. 760.899.4529

www.gdncnursery.com

July 13th, 2026

Murad Eissa
4235 Center Avenue
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Luis Rodriguez, Contract Planner
San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department
385 N. Arrowhead Ave., First Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

ATTN: Continued Local Joshua Tree Resident Support for PROJ-2023-00023

Dear Mr. Rodriguez,

My name is Murad Eissa, and I am a local Joshua Tree resident who owns property in close proximity to PROJ-2023-00023. I previously wrote a letter of support for this project in December 2024, and I am writing again today to reaffirm that support as the project moves to an appeal hearing before the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors.

I have known David Lee and Joseph Milburn for approximately four years now. I met them right when they bought their land and started this project, and I could tell right away they were good, honest, and hard-working men. In that time, I have come to genuinely respect them both and consider them valued members of our local community. I have visited their property many times over the years and have watched them approach every step of this project with care, integrity, and a real commitment to doing things right.

I want to be clear that I wholeheartedly support this campground project and I believe it will be a wonderful addition to our area. Our community needs a quiet, thoughtfully managed campground close to Joshua Tree National Park and all the other attractions that bring visitors to our area. David and Joseph's vision for a simple, beautiful, low-key camping experience is exactly what is needed here. In fact, friends of mine regularly ask me where a good nearby place to camp is, and I look forward to finally being able to send them down the road to Mercury Dry Camp Campground.

I would also add a personal note: my own children love visiting their property. My son has already been asking when they will be open for guests because he wants to have his birthday there with his friends. That says a great deal about the kind of welcoming, family-friendly environment David and Joseph have created.

As this project proceeds to the appeal hearing, I want to be on the record once again voicing my wholehearted support for PROJ-2023-00023. I believe David Lee and Joseph Milburn will do everything in

their power to ensure this campground is a positive and respectful addition to the Joshua Tree community, and I hope the County will continue to support their vision.

Sincerely,



Murad Eissa
4235 Center Avenue
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
(310) 863-6812

To the clerk of the board of supervisors
Regarding Project 2023-00023
my name is Zach Koharik and I am
the manager at KK Rents in Yucca
valley CA. The project Joseph and David
have been working on is not only great
for the community but for all the small
businesses he is using along the way.
I approve of the project and hope
you respect the 5-0 vote that was
already made

Zach Koharik
manager 7/17/26

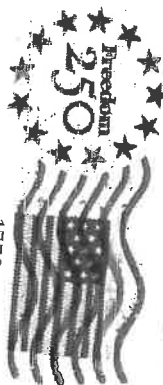
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 JUL 20 PM 12:20
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Zach Koharik
KKR

560 29 Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley, CA
92284

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SAN DIEGO CA 920
18 JUL 2026 PM 5 L



2026 JUL 20 AM 8:49
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Clerk of Board of Sup.
SB County Board of Sup.
385 N. Arrowhead 2nd
SB, CA 922415

ATTN: Appeal No. PAPL 2626-00003

July 13th, 2026

Murad Eissa
4235 Center Avenue
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors
385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, Second Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 JUL 20 PM 4:34
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

**ATTN: APPEAL NO. PAPL-2026-00003 – PLEASE ADD THIS SUPPORT LETTER FOR THE
UPCOMING APPEAL HEARING**

Board of Supervisors-

My name is Murad Eissa, and I am a local Joshua Tree resident and property owner. My property is located in close proximity to PROJ-2023-00023, the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project. I am writing to formally submit this letter of support into the public record in connection with the appeal hearing PAPL-2026-00003.

I want to be unequivocally clear: I am a neighbor to this project, I am familiar with its owners, I have visited the property many times, and I am in full and wholehearted support of this campground.

I have known David Lee and Joseph Milburn for approximately four years. I met them right when they purchased their land and began this project. From the very beginning, I could tell they were good, honest, and hardworking people. Over the years I have watched them pursue this project with patience, integrity, and a genuine desire to do things the right way. I have great respect for them both and consider them true assets to our local community.

As a neighboring property owner, I believe this campground will be a positive and thoughtful addition to our area. Joshua Tree draws visitors from all over the world, and our community genuinely needs a quiet, well-managed place for people to camp near JT National Park. Mercury Dry Camp Campground will offer exactly that — a simple, beautiful, low-impact experience that fits the spirit of the high desert. I regularly have friends ask me where a good place to camp nearby is, and I look forward to finally being able to send them to David and Joseph's campground.

I would also share that my own children love visiting their property, and my son has been eagerly asking when the campground will be open because he wants to celebrate his birthday there with his friends. I believe that reflects the kind of warm, welcoming, and family-friendly environment that David and Joseph are committed to creating.

I respectfully urge the Board of Supervisors to uphold the Planning Commission's approval of PROJ-2023-00023. I am confident that David Lee and Joseph Milburn will operate Mercury Dry Camp Campground as a responsible, community-minded business that reflects well on Joshua Tree and San Bernardino County.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments into the record.

Sincerely,



Murad Eissa
4235 Center Avenue
Joshua Tree, CA 92252
(310) 863-6812

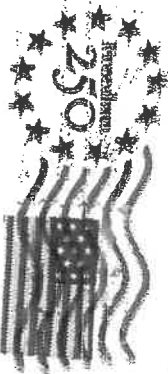
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 JUL 20 PM 4:34
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

M. Eissa
4235 Center Ave
STREE, CA 92252

ATTN: Appeal No:
PARL-2026-00003

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
18 JUL 2026 PM 3 L
2026 JUL 20 PM 4:34

SAN DIEGO CA 920



1776 * 2026
USA FOREVER

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

~~Clerk of Court~~ THE BOARD

San Bernardino County Board of Super
San Bernardino County Board of Super
385 N. Arrowhead 2nd Floor
San Bernardino CA 92415

To Whom It may Concern,
I've known Joe and Dave for a few
years now. Really nice guys, whom really
love and respect our community.
They represent the kind of people that
we love moving into our desert.

Risa Huggins
P.S. I'm local server that's 7-17-26
been working/living in this
area for 22 years now. I
strongly support their Camp ground
project.

JT Country Kitchen

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2028 JUL 20 PM 14
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

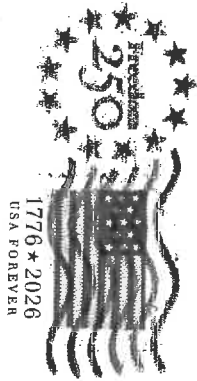
L.H.

5T Country Kitchen

61768 29 Palms Hwy.

Joshea Tree, CA 92252

SAN DIEGO CA 920
18 JUL 2026 PM 1 L



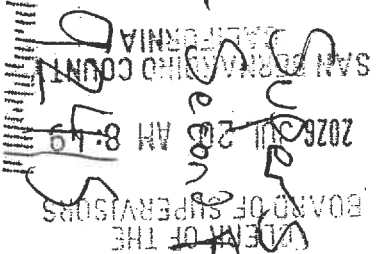
ATTN: Appeal No.

PAPL-2026-

00003

Clerk of The Board
SB City Board of
385 N. Arrowhead -
San Bernardino, CA
Superior
Second Floor

92415-



Dear Board I Charles Hanson
Stand By Joe for his Camp Ground
Project Because we need more stuff
like this up here for the Locals I have
known him since the start of this Project
Cause I work for the Company that he
rented the post hole digger and he has
been a really respectful and honest
customer for us and I support him
100%. I've been up here for 43 years as
a resident of Yucca Valley.

Charles Hanson

Driver

7/17/26

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 JUL 20 PM 12:16
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

CHASSON
560 29 Palms Hwy
Yucca Valley, CA
92284

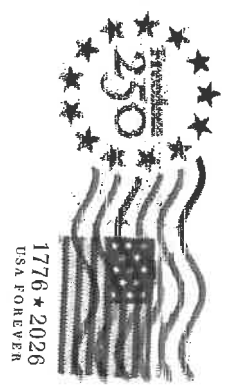
CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2026 JUL 20 AM 8:49

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

Clerk of the Board
SB Cty Board of Supervisors
385 N. Arrowhead - 2nd FL
SB, CA 92415

SAN DIEGO CA 920
18 JUL 2026 PM 1 L



ATTN: APPEAL NO. PADL-2026-00003

7/16/26

TO The Board of Supervisors

I am a local to this Area since 1990's, I meet
 Joe & David on this property after my wife
 suggested I go this Site. After meeting them
 I was motivated to help them with this
 vision of a real Campground Not just
 a place to park your Bus or large Motorhome
 I have always enjoyed TENT Camping and
 am glad to be part of a project that is
 fun by hands on Working to Make a low
 impact Campground. ^{NGTO} I have been
 helping Dave & Joe now for over 3 yrs.
 Their Motivation & Concerns for this Desert
 are still the same as they were when
 we first meet. This is a Great location for
 Campings.

~~Sam~~ Ron Ducky

Ron Ducky
 (760) 444-2917
 57761 Sun Mesa Dr.
 Yucca Valley, CA

CLERK OF THE
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
 2026 JUL 20 PM 12:18
 SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
 CALIFORNIA

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

2026 JUL 20 AM 8:49

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

57761 Sun Mesa Dr.
Yucca Valley CA

HTN: Appeal No. P4PL-2026-00003

92415

Clerk of the Board
SB County Board of Supervisors
385 N. Arrowhead, 2nd Floor
SB CA 92415

SAN DIEGO CA 920
18 JUL 2026 PM 1 L



07/16/2026

ATTN: Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003 - Continued Support from Local Business Owner for
PROJ-2023-00023 — Mercury Dry Camp Campground

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please enter this letter into the public record in connection with Appeal No. PAPL-2026-00003. My name is Michael Henson, and I am the owner of \$5 Pizza Place, a local small business located at 282 Old Woman Springs Road in Yucca Valley, CA. I am writing in strong support of the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project (PROJ-2023-00023).

This is not the first time I have put my support on record for this project. I submitted a letter of support to the San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department in November 2024. I am writing again today because I genuinely believe in what Joseph Milburn and David Lee are building, and I feel it is important that the Board hears from the local business community on this one.

I have known Joseph and David for several years now. They have been loyal, frequent customers of \$5 Pizza Place throughout the course of their work on this project. As a small business owner, I notice and appreciate customers like that — people who invest in the local economy while they are building something of their own. It reflects well on their character, and it tells me a great deal about how they will operate their campground.

From a broader economic standpoint, I want the Board to understand what a project like this means for businesses like mine. The visitors this campground will attract are independent travelers — people who explore their surroundings, eat at local restaurants, shop at local stores, and spend their dollars in the communities they visit. That is the kind of tourism that directly benefits small businesses throughout the Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley area. I fully anticipate that Mercury Dry Camp guests will become my customers, and I know I am not alone in that view.

I am genuinely excited for the day this campground opens. It is the right project, in the right place, run by the right people. I urge the Board to stand behind it.

Michael Henson
Owner, \$5 Pizza Place
282 Old Woman Springs Road
Yucca Valley, CA 92284



CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 JUL 20 PM 12:18
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

M. Henson

\$5 Pizza P

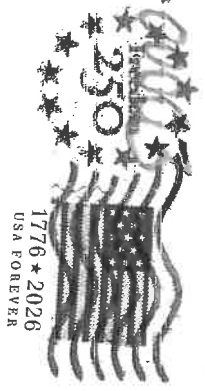
282 Old Woman Springs Rd

Yuba City, CA

CLERK OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
2026 JUL 20 AM 8:49
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
CALIFORNIA

ATTN: Appeal No. ~~SA 2415~~ - 2026-0000

18 JUL 2026 PM 1 L



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
SB County Board of Supervisors
385 N. Arrowhead Ave 2nd Floor

San Bernardino, CA 92415

92415-



CA

From: [Skor Personal](#)
To: [Rodriguez, Luis](#)
Cc: [Feliciano, Michelle](#)
Subject: PROJ-2023-00023, the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project in Joshua Tree.
Date: Wednesday, July 15, 2026 7:19:08 AM

[You don't often get email from shawnskor@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mr. Rodriguez and LUS Team,

My name is Shawn Kormondy. I am a Pioneertown resident, a real estate entrepreneur, and the owner of Road House Ranch in Oregon and Desert Drifter RV Resort in Yucca Valley, California. I write this letter to you from a perspective of having 20+ years of experience in Real Estate. I am writing to offer my strong and informed support for PROJ-2023-00023, the Mercury Dry Camp Campground project in Joshua Tree.

I came to know the project's co-owners, Joseph Milburn and David Lee, through mutual acquaintances, and over time we have developed a close friendship. Beyond friendship, I have had the privilege of serving as something of a mentor to them as they have navigated the Conditional Use Permit process and prepared to open their business. Having personally gone through a similar permitting and development process with Road House Ranch in Oregon, I have been able to offer firsthand guidance on what to expect, how to think through challenges, and what it actually takes to open and operate this type of business responsibly. Joseph and David have approached every conversation with openness, seriousness, and a genuine commitment to doing things right. I have great confidence in them.

But I want to go beyond a personal endorsement here, because I believe the case for this project is also a strong one on the merits of the market.

The hospitality industry is in the middle of a significant and well-documented shift toward what is broadly called Experiential Hospitality — travel experiences defined not by luxury amenities or cookie-cutter accommodations, but by authentic connection to a place, its landscape, and its character. Travelers today, particularly younger demographics, are actively seeking out destinations and accommodations that offer something real and immersive. A dry campground in the high desert, under dark skies, surrounded by the natural beauty of Joshua Tree — that is not a niche offering. That is exactly what a large and growing segment of the travel market is looking for.

From a community and economic standpoint, this matters enormously. The visitors that Mercury Dry Camp Campground will attract are engaged, curious travelers with spending power who will eat at local restaurants, shop at local businesses, explore the area, and contribute meaningfully to the local economy. These are the visitors Joshua Tree should want. By contrast, if our area does not offer the kind of thoughtful, experience-driven accommodations these travelers are seeking, they will simply go somewhere else — and take their spending with them. That is a real and ongoing cost to our community that often goes unacknowledged.

I have built and operated businesses in this space. I understand what a well-run experiential hospitality project can do for a local economy, and I understand what it takes to run one responsibly. Mercury Dry Camp Campground, as Joseph and David have designed and planned it, is the right project. It will serve visitors well, support neighboring businesses, and reflect positively on the Joshua Tree community.

I wholeheartedly support the approval of PROJ-2023-00023.

Sincerely,
Shawn Kormondy
PO Box 291
Pioneertown 92268