



# VICTOR VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

*SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE*

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*Carl Coles, Superintendent*

January 13, 2026

## **Open Letter to the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors**

### **Re: Department of Behavioral Health Comprehensive Treatment Campus Expansion — Request for Immediate Action on Location**

Dear San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors and Mr. Snoke,

On behalf of the Victor Valley Union High School District, I am writing to restate our position of opposition regarding the comprehensive substance abuse treatment center expansion project at 13333 Palmdale Road in Victorville, and to request immediate action by County leadership.

### **Our position is clear: The location of this project is detrimental to schools**

VVUHSD supports behavioral health and substance abuse services in the High Desert. We recognize the need and we respect the mission. Our concern is not whether services are needed; it is that a project of this scale and scope is not appropriate, immediately adjacent to active school campuses.

The County's project site is a 29.47-acre County-owned parcel near the intersection of Palmdale Road and Cobalt Road. The County's own project documents identify Larrea Middle School directly bordering the site and Silverado High School across the street. The project is also within a short distance of Cobalt Institute of Math & Science, with over 4,000 students and over 1,000 staff members attending these three schools daily.

Because this location creates unresolved safety, traffic, operational, and emergency-response concerns for school communities, the VVUHSD Board of Trustees formally [adopted a resolution opposing the project](#) on December 22, 2025.

### **The scale and operational footprint are not minor**

County materials describe an expansion of residential and outpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs that includes several new buildings, new gates and perimeter fencing, and a new access road off Cobalt Road, with primary ingress/egress shifting to Cobalt Road and the existing Palmdale Road access being discontinued. In addition, the County proposed 24-hour 7 days a week security. The project also includes a major parking expansion which directly intersects with already congested school traffic patterns on Cobalt Road.

*BOARD OF TRUSTEES*

*Jose Berrios ♦ Kent Crosby ♦ Penny Edmiston ♦ Rosie Hinojos ♦ Ken Larson*

This project would expand a 66-bed facility to more than 200 beds, rivaling the size of any hospital in our area, and add more than 250 parking spaces. After the expansion, the facility's borders will be within less than 100 feet of our students at Larrea Middle School and directly across the street from Silverado High.

## **Communication with the District, city and community has been inadequate**

The District has stated that we were not meaningfully engaged in a dialogue with the County at any time prior to the beginning of construction in November 2025. The City of Victorville expressed similar concerns as it [adopted a resolution formally joining VVUHSD](#) in opposing the project's location. The County has claimed that 20 community forums were held in advance of this project, yet it was unable to confirm how many — if any — were held in Victorville.

County staff chose not to conduct an impact study but preemptively indicated there was “no impact” on schools. How can this be a responsible position by the County if no study has been conducted?

VVUHSD leadership has attempted to engage County leadership several times, asking for alternative sites to be considered. One suggestion was to expand in the opposite direction from our schools, thereby minimizing impacts on our students and staff with ingress and egress on Palmdale Road.

It seems these suggestions have fallen on deaf ears, as construction continues without any meaningful updates on the alternatives considered. County officials have stated that changes of this scope would cost money in the form of liquidated damages. However, as a reminder, we are all in this position because the County failed to involve the school district and city as partners in the first place.

## **Community opposition is growing**

After our District publicized this project in December 2025, Associated Student Body leaders at Silverado High School asked their teachers how they could get involved. Students led the way in establishing [a petition with more than 3,700 signatures and growing](#) (see attachments for more data), [composed an official statement opposing the project](#), and organized a two-day protest, during which students volunteered their time before school to picket and protest the project's location.

The story has also been picked up by multiple news outlets, including the San Bernardino County Sun (TBD), the [Victorville Daily Press](#) and [Victor Valley News Group](#). The community reaction has been overwhelming, and their message is clear: they support addiction treatment services, but this is not the right location for this project.

## What we are asking the Board of Supervisors to do now

We are requesting decisive, public action at the January 27, 2026, Board of Supervisors Public Meeting:

- 1) **Direct an immediate pause in further construction activity at this site** while the County engages in a deliberate, transparent process that includes the school community and City partners.
- 2) **Order a meaningful, publicly released impact evaluation focused on schools**, including:
  - school-day traffic and circulation on Cobalt Road,
  - emergency response coordination and incident planning,
  - campus safety implications created by adjacency,
  - operational disruption risk (including lockdown and reunification impacts)
- 3) **Direct staff to evaluate alternative sites** that can meet service needs **without placing this burden on adjacent school campuses**.
- 4) **Convene structured community input before any irreversible decisions are finalized**, including a town hall in Victorville with participation from County leadership, DBH, Project & Facilities Management, City leadership, school administrators, parents, staff, and students.
- 5) **Commit to an interagency collaborative process going forward** so public entities serving the same community do not operate in isolation, especially when the daily environment of thousands of students is affected.

## A responsible path forward exists

The District is prepared to work with the County in good faith. But continued construction without meaningful engagement and without addressing school-centered impacts leaves our families, staff, and community feeling unheard while trust continues to erode.

Please see the attached images and embedded links for further information. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**Carl Coles**  
Superintendent  
Victor Valley Union High School District

**IMAGES BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE**



1. This image shows the proximity of the expansion project to three of our schools. The facility's new boundaries will share a fence line with Larrea Middle School and will lie directly across Cobalt Road from Silverado High School, one block from Cobalt Institute of Math & Science.



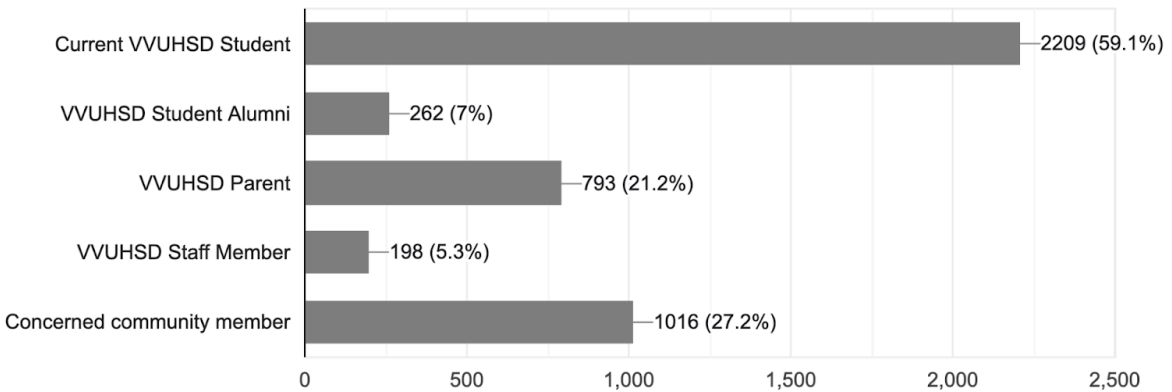
2. This image shows just a portion of the traffic on Cobalt Road as students arrive at Silverado High School. The project would add a large parking lot intersecting with this already-congested road.



- Students gathered outside both schools before classes began on consecutive days this week, protesting the location of the treatment center expansion.

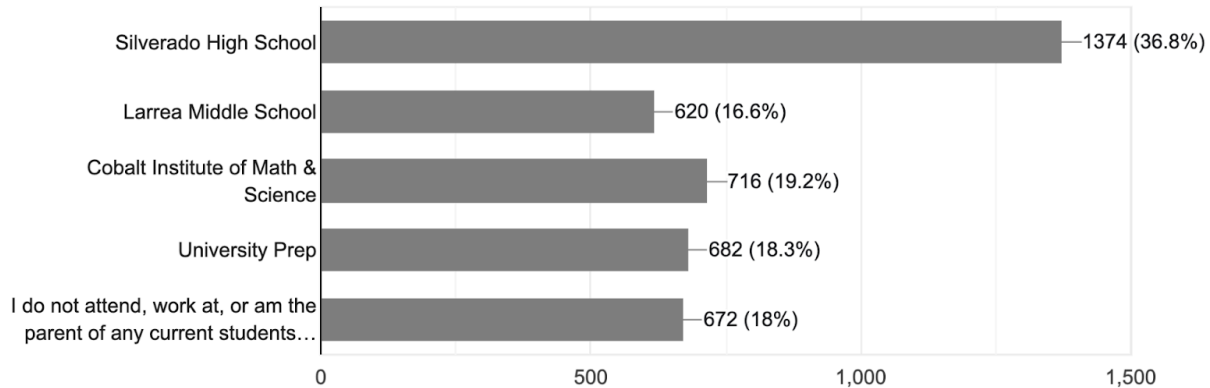
**STAKEHOLDER ROLE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)**

3,736 responses



Direct Campus Impact - please select the current campus you attend, work at, or are a parent of (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

3,736 responses



4. These charts show a breakdown of the 3,736 responses to the student petition that had been submitted as of Tuesday, January 13 at 3 p.m. The overwhelming majority of the petitioners are students and their parents/guardians from the affected schools.

## LINKS

[VVUHSD Board Resolution](#)

[Victorville City Council Resolution \(agenda link\)](#)

[Silverado High School Associated Student Body Statement](#)

[Silverado High School Associated Student Body Petition](#)

**Victorville Daily Press articles:**

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2026/01/13/students-protest-addiction-treatment-facility-near-schools-in-victorville/88155667007/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z115145p115350c115350d00----v115145d--51--b--51--&gca-ft=99&gca-ds=sophi>

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2026/01/09/victorville-city-leaders-oppose-addiction-treatment-center-near-schools/88110412007/>

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/story/news/2025/12/24/victor-valley-school-district-opposes-treatment-center-near-schools/87889909007/?gnt-cfr=1&gca-cat=p&gca-uir=true&gca-epti=z11xx50p116350c116350d00----v11xx50d--70--b--70--&gca-ft=160&gca-ds=sophi>

**Victor Valley News Group articles:**

<https://www.vvng.com/students-protest-addiction-treatment-facility-adjacent-to-schools-in-victorville/>

<https://www.vvng.com/vvuhsd-board-opposes-location-of-drug-alcohol-treatment-center-near-schools/>