

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED FOR THE OCTOBER 17, 2024  
PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CASE  
NUMBER PL17-0012 AND DISCRETIONARY TREE PERMIT CASE NO. PL23-0040**

The table below presents the list of public comments received on October 15, 2024, and October 16, 2024. Attachment 1 includes the public comments.

<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Bill Loehr	October 15, 2024
2	Suzanne Harvey	October 15, 2024
3	Ann Hester	October 16, 2024
4	Nina Barlow	October 16, 2024
5	Chris Collins	October 16, 2024
6	Kathy Riordan	October 16, 2024
7	Christine Steiner	October 16, 2024
8	Matt Sommer	October 16, 2024

**From:** [Bill Loehr](#)  
**To:** [Boero, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** Case Number PL17-0012 and PL23-0040  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 4:32:50 PM

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1

**WARNING:** If you believe this message may be malicious use the Phish Alert Button to report it or forward the message to [Email.Security@ventura.org](mailto:Email.Security@ventura.org).

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

**I am strongly opposed due to the irreversible damage to our neighborhood .**

The KFA project will irreparably damage the unique character of our neighborhood. Ours is a residential neighborhood. The KFA proposal is a commercial/business one

**The expansion is completely antithetical to Krishnamurti's view of Ojai as a "sacred place".**

Krishnamurti once described Ojai as a "sacred place"—a haven that needed to be protected from external disruptions. The proposed KFA expansion, which will bring increased traffic, noise, and environmental disruption, stands in direct opposition to Krishnamurti's philosophy.

**Traffic will increase.**

Increased traffic will turn our peaceful neighborhood into a more hazardous space, threatening the well-being of children and families in the area.

**This project will further the replacement of Ojai's serenity with disruptive commercialism.**

This KFA expansion violates the very essence of what makes Ojai special: its calm, its character, and its history as a refuge from the fast pace of urban life. I came to Ojai over forty years ago for these qualities. This expansion will further the erosion of these qualities, replacing them with an ever-increasingly commercial, industrial atmosphere that is inconsistent with the values of the community.

I urge the commission to reject the KFA-proposed development and to preserve the integrity of Ojai's unique character for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bill Loehr  
1365 Shippee Lane

Ojai, CA 93023  
(805) 804-7615

October 15, 2024

2

Planning Commission Members  
County of Ventura Resource Management Agency  
Planning Division  
800 So. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, California 93009

Re. Krishnamurti Foundation of America CUP #3697 (Case No. Pl.17-0012 & Pl. 23-0040)

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed expansion of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America's (KFA) facility at 1098 McAndrew Rd, Ojai, California. An expansion runs counter to the best interests of the neighborhood community, the natural environment, public safety, future precedence, and Krishnamurti's "philosophy". The concept of "Build it and they will come" is not always best or the right thing to do.

The long-standing harmony between the KFA and the surrounding community and natural environment, must be preserved. An expansion, as currently proposed, would jeopardize that harmony and risk changing the relationship between the community and KFA, and KFA's overnight paying customers, and event participants. We want, Krishnamurti would want, to ensure that the site's small, intimate, calm, quiet and peaceful environment remains for future generations. Krishnamurti spent the last years of his life struggling against efforts to "institutionalize" his teachings and his name, please help us do the same by rejecting KFA's ambitious expansion request.

As a neighbor for over 70 years, I also believe this expansion will be harmful to our community in many practical ways including, *to name just a few*:

- Increased Traffic, Noise & People: The expansion will bring many more vehicles including an ongoing stream of heavy delivery trucks, leading to higher traffic congestion and noise pollution.
- Environmental Impact: The project will pose risks to local air and water quality, especially since the expansion involves the construction and operation of new commercial facilities such as a restaurant.
- Increased Safety Risks: More traffic and construction activity will create safety risks, especially for children and pedestrians, increasing the potential for accidents. The site is located in the center of a residential area. It is not designed for large public events and significant numbers of overnight guests.
- Strain on Local Infrastructure: The project will put added pressure on our roads, utilities (especially water), and emergency services (especially fire), thereby reducing service quality and increasing costs for our community and the County.

This proposed expansion is just one more step down the slippery slope of non-residential development that began years ago when KFA was awarded permission to open what was tantamount to a commercial bed and breakfast, in addition to a library, research center and business office. This Major Modification to CUP No. 3697, opens the door significantly wider to further commercial encroachment and expansion in the coming years. If nothing else, it is terrible precedence.

**Please consider the short and long-term implications of this development and its impact on our community and reject the proposed expansion. The KFA has other options, other sites, we do not.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Suzanne Harvey  
4275 Grand Ave.  
Ojai, California 93023

**From:** [cmorley@ashfin.com](mailto:cmorley@ashfin.com)  
**To:** [Boero, Kristina](#)  
**Cc:** [Ann Hester](#)  
**Subject:** Krishnamurti zoning change request  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 15, 2024 10:22:40 PM

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Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

We live a few houses down from the Krishnamurti property on McAndrew. We are writing because we are concerned about the proposed expansion and permit modification for the Krishnamurti Foundation property. We moved here several years ago because we love how the people of Ojai have made sure that property development is kept to a minimum so that the valley will remain unchanged from when Krishnamurti himself walked these streets. He was not a disruptive neighbor, but this change in zoning has the potential in years to come to greatly disrupt our neighborhood, increasing traffic, noise, and activity far beyond what our local infrastructure can handle. The streets around here do not have sidewalks and the neighbors walk the streets for exercise and to enjoy the beauty and quietude of our environment. It will not be safe to walk these roads with increased car, shuttle and bus traffic.

We kindly request that the Commission help us protect the integrity of our neighborhood in the way that Krishnamurti himself and the people of Ojai have done for over a century. We need zoning that limits this organization from creating a destination as the world headquarters, bringing in short term visitors from around the globe. This kind of business should remain in the commercial areas of Ojai, not in the neighborhoods.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ann Hester and Cornelius Morley

**From:** [Nina Barlow](#)  
**To:** [Boero, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** Case Number PL17-0012 and PL23-0040  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 10:13:12 AM

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Hi Kristina,

I am writing with concerns about the Kristnamurti expansion plans being discussed tomorrow. As nearby neighbors on McAndrew (I live at 1288 McAndrew Road), we are concerned about this expansion. We choose to live in a quiet, rural neighborhood for a reason, as opposed to living right in downtown Ojai.

As it stands, there are Krishnamurti visitors walking or driving up our dirt driveway often. If it were to increase, that would become a nuisance. Some seem as though they are high.

The potential of having up to 227 people on their property feels like too large of an increase. We are concerned about more traffic, both on foot and vehicles, especially as they tend to pour into our driveway.

If there are more, larger events, there would likely be an increase in noise, lights, cars, and all of this is upsetting to our peaceful ecosystem.

Please count our votes against this expansion. The neighborhood may never recover from such an increase in visitors.

Thank you,  
Nina Barlow and John Damato  
716-572-4435

**From:** [Chris Collins](#)  
**To:** [Boero, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** Case Number PL17-0012 and PL23-0040  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 11:25:44 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Christopher Collins and I live at 401 McAndrew Road in Ojai. I live there full time with my wife and two young children. I'm writing to express my concern and opposition to the Krishnamurti Center changing their status to camp.

Sincerely,  
Christopher collins  
805-758-7171

**From:** [ninekitties@aol.com](mailto:ninekitties@aol.com)  
**To:** [Boero, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** Case Number PL17-0012 and PL23-0040  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 12:53:06 PM

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Dear Ms Boero,

My name is Kathy Riordan and I live at 3622 Reeves Road.

I am requesting you reconsider requiring an EIR for this project. I'm strongly opposed to this becoming a camp and/or expanding further in any way.

My property spans Reeves from Boccalis' east boundary to McNell on both sides of the street. I utilize organic methods to tend to the orchards and land. I donate a large portion of my yield to the food banks. I strive to protect the environment and 'am blessed to give back.

My mailboxes are across the street from the houses. We also tend to trees across the street and those, in turn, abut the creek.

Presently, traffic is a safety issue. Reeves tends to be the thoroughfare to many places east of me. It's already a high traffic zone. Just crossing the street is a challenge.

This can make it a busy highway and negatively impact our safety.

We are blessed with a variety and abundance of wildlife. Wild (and domestic) animals have already been hit by cars. This includes raptors, other birds, a bear, foxes and smaller mammals.

I fear such an expansion of Krishnamurti will increase such tragedies.

People often stop, park and trespass on the creek side of the property. They throw trash on the grounds and into the creek. Whether intentional or unintentional, people damage my fences by backing or crashing into them. Trash in the creek can end up in our ocean.

My concerns include increases in litter, pollution, damage to personal and state property (our creek) if you approve this expansion.

The impact on water and potential increase of waste is of great concern. We are, presently, all conserving our water usage due to past and future droughts. This is a very serious (and legal) matter. The last thing we need is anything



that actually  
increases the demand and consumption of water. Ojai cannot risk this for just that  
reason.

I realize these issues have been reported on. This was during a time when most folks  
were  
likely less attentive to changes occurring in the area. Now with proposals to have  
housing projects  
west of us and this camp east of us, it seems an EIR is in order.

While it's not ideal, I can live with how Krishnamurti operates now. I am deeply  
concerned about any expansion.  
Please reconsider requiring an EIR to address the issues as well as others the MND  
had mentioned.

Thank you--Kathy

**From:** [Christine Steiner](#)  
**To:** [Boero, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to Krishnamurti Foundation application Case Number PL17-0012 and PL23-0040  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 1:16:52 PM

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Dear Ms Boero and  
Honorable Commissioners of the Ventura County Planning Commission:

I am a resident of the East End of Ojai and have lived here for over a decade. In this time, I have experienced a catastrophic wildfire requiring evacuation, rainstorms with flooding warnings and flood watches, earthquakes of significant magnitude.

In the best of times, our small, rural community of two-lane roads is not capable of supporting hundreds of people for daily activities and more than a hundred people for overnight accommodations. (Though the applicant avers these limits would not be reached under the present administration, a zoning designation permitting these limits opens such uses in the future.)

In the worst of times, it potentially adds hundreds of persons evacuating this tight area...such congestion in an area with a number of private schools, with elderly residents, with farm animals—all not easily evacuated in a timely manner during an emergency—is simply unacceptable. Additional traffic of this magnitude would certainly exacerbate an already terrifying scenario and this public safety concern cannot be discounted or ignored.

In short, this community simply cannot accept a “camp” in our community given our geography, infrastructure and resources. I urge you to:

- (1) reject the conclusions contained in the Staff Report;
- (2) disallow this major modification of the Foundation’s CUP; and
- (3) advise the Krishnamurti Foundation to continue its operations within its current zoning designation.

Thank you for your consideration. I join my neighbors in opposing this major modification; it adversely affects the character of our community and presents substantial public safety risks.

Sincerely—Christine Steiner

**Christine Steiner**  
**2560 Ladera Road**  
**Ojai, CA 93023**

**From:** [Matt Sommer](#)  
**To:** [Boero, Kristina](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Opposition for Agenda Number 6.B. CASE NUMBERS: PL17-0012 & PL23-0040  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 16, 2024 2:55:54 PM

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October 16, 2014

County of Ventura  
Resource Management Agency  
Planning Division  
800 S. Victoria Ave  
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

We are strongly opposed to the proposed expansion of the Krishnamurti Foundation of America's (KFA) facility at 1098 McAndrew Rd, Ojai, CA (Case Numbers PL17-0012 & PL23-0040). Here's why:

**KFA has demonstrated a blatant disregard for county rules.** Per the Staff Report the Planning Division has received multiple complaints re: operation with an expired CUP, allowing overnight guests that exceed the applicant's conditions of approval and operating an illegal commercial use Airbnb.

**KFA has brought visitors to our neighborhood that have no regard for the private homeowners.**

KFA visitors have discarded liquor bottles (despite a prohibition against alcohol at KFA) and cigarettes on the surrounding private property. They have wandered on neighbors' property and picked fruit as if it were their own. One visitor was issuing primal screams, three days in a row. The farmers have had to put up fences around agricultural land that used to be simply open acreage. KFA visitors have walked harmful fungus from the KFA site onto the surrounding organic fields.

**The proposed CUP would dramatically and dangerously expand street traffic.** Per the Staff Report the proposed project would mean 96 average daily trips. That's 35,040 vehicles per year. Not only does this increase noise and congestion, it's dangerous. There are a large number of people who walk and ride bikes on the east end, including young parents with their babies in strollers, elderly people just out for a daily stroll, people walking their dogs, etc. We vehemently disagree with the so-called traffic study that doesn't understand and completely disregards the nature of our quiet east-end neighborhood. Common sense says there will be a huge increase in traffic and danger.

**There is no way of enforcing the restrictions on KFA visitors or other restrictions, except by them self-reporting.** The CUP can set limitations on the number of visitors. However, as a community we can't monitor how many people come and go. Per the complaints listed in the Staff Report, KFA has violated restrictions numerous times in the past. What compels the county to think they won't in the future? If you give a mouse a cookie...

**Non-profits by nature require income to exist and this expansion is a commercial money-maker.**

1. Non-profit building programs offer a tremendous opportunity to do fundraising with donors. A great money-maker.
2. More visitors means KFA can solicit donors re: how they are influencing more people. A great money-maker.
3. Allowing more structures means more paying visitors. A great money-maker.

In other words, they are fundamentally motivated to bring the maximum amount of people to their property. Please don't approve this CUP. In essence, it creates an expanded commercial entity in a residential community. Please don't allow KFA to open Pandora's box!

**Living on McAndrew for 23 years, we've had zero problems with any of our neighbors, except for KFA.** This is a peaceful neighborhood that joins together for pi walks, neighborhood gatherings, helped each other during the Thomas fire and other emergencies, etc. The homeowners are vested in this neighborhood and are committed to being there for each other. By definition, KFA exists to bring in people from all over the U.S. and the world. These outsiders have no long-term or even short-term interest in the good of our neighborhood. Some have proven to take advantage of our serene setting. They can come, do whatever they want and leave. No amount of "vetting" by KFA will insure against the transient nature of their visitors.

**This CUP would force many of us to put up more security cameras and fences on our properties.**

No amount of KFA vetting will remove the threat of KFA actively recruiting and bringing 100's if not 1000's of strangers to the east end.

**This CUP opens the door for KFA to eventually increase their number of visitors to take full advantage of a Camp designation: 114 overnight guests and staff and a maximum of 228 daily onsite guests and staff.**

**THE SOLUTION: retain the current Retreat designation, put limits on the number of visitors under that designation and approve very minor repairs and construction.**

The neighbors on the east end have no official organization. We don't do community fundraising to pay for an attorney to advocate for us. You, the Planning Commission, are our only advocates. We're humbly asking you to do just that... be our advocates, protect us and preserve the serenity, character and peace of the east end.

As Krishnamurti himself said, "Save this Valley."

Sincerely,

Matt & Jan Sommer

For the record, we object and disagree with the ENTIRE Staff Report, especially C. D. E.1, E.2, E.3, E.4, E.5, E.6, E.7, E.8, F.

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Whisperstone

Ojai, CA

805-443-0106