



**DATE:** May 1, 2025

**TO:** Clerk of the County of Ventura Planning Commission and Planning Commissioners

**FROM:** Kristina Boero, Case Planner, Planning Division  
Dave Ward, Planning Director

**SUBJECT:** Errata to the May 1, 2025, Planning Commission Agenda Item No. 6A, Public Hearing to consider approval of a Major Modification and Variance to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 3048 (Case Nos. PL18-0052 and PL23-0002), Camp Ramah

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Additional public comments were received by staff between April 28, 2025, and April 30, 2025. These attached comments have been included in the administrative record and posted to the Agenda for the May 1, 2025, Planning Commission hearing.

**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR THE CAMP RAMAH MAJOR  
MODIFICATION TO CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 3048 AND DISCRETIONARY  
TREE PERMIT CASE NOS. PL18-0052 AND PL23-0002**

The table below presents a list of public comments received between April 28, 2025, and April 30, 2025.

<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Commenter</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comment Summary</b>
1	Rabbi Stuart Kelman	4-28-25	Project Support
2	Robert Tallyn	4-28-25	Noise, Onsite populations, traffic safety and circulation
3	Gail Kogen	4-28-25	Project Support
4	Darin Arrasmith Rotary International	3-31-25 (received 4-28-25)	Project Support
5	Gina Braget Ojai Valley Baseball League	3-27-25 (received 4-28-25)	Project Support
6	Donna Golf Lawrence Smart Technology Enablers	3-31-25 (received 4-28-25)	Project Support
7	Jen Baron Amplify Arts Project	4-8-25 (received 4-28-25)	Project Support
8	Emily Mallin	4-28-25	Project Support
9	Randy Michaels	4-29-25	Project Support
10	Barry Verga	4-29-25	Noise concerns
11	David Kaplan	4-29-25	Project Support
12	Diane Bertoy	4-29-25	Emergency evacuation plan
13	Sheila Baran Spiwak	4-23-25 (received 4-29-25)	Project Support
14	Rochelle Cohen	4-22-25 (received 4-29-25)	Project Support
15	Julie Platt	4-17-25 (received 4-29-25)	Project Support
16	Rabbi Michelle Missaghieh	4-29-25	Project Support
17	Michael Alcheck	4-29-25	Project Support
18	Jan Key	4-29-25	Noise concerns
19	Jerry Marynuik	4-29-25	Noise, CUP Term concerns
20	Diana Nashban	4-29-25	Project Support
21	Chad Vick	4-29-25	Noise concerns
22	Marilyn Camp	4-29-25	Noise concerns

23	Nomi Morris	4-30-25	Project Support
24	Margalit Rosenthal	4-30-25	Project Support
25	William Brothers	4-30-25	Noise concerns
26	Susie Ault	4-30-25	Noise concerns
27	Valerie Levett	4-30-25	Project Support
28	Hattie Vail	4-30-25	Noise concerns
29	Deborah Musher	4-30-25	Project Support
30	Nancy Hanks Kroy	4-30-25	Noise concerns
31	Aaron and Alicia Moskowitz	4-30-25	Project Support

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** stuart.kelman <stuart.kelman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 4:08 PM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

1.

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tMay 1, 2025

It is my wish to speak for the proposals regarding Camp Ramah in Ojai's petition before this commission. As a community leader for many years both in LA County and Alameda County, I have been privileged to see the remarkable work of this camp with young campers and in particular, on the college age staff. I say this from experience as a leader in the Jewish communities around North America and as a camper, although at a northeastern Camp Ramah. I was privileged to direct the camp in Ojai for two years in the 1970's and have seen the impact that it has on my own 4 children and now, their children. Indeed, I even met my wife at camp Ramah! The proposed project simply reinforces the commitment of the camp to further impact on the lives of more than 100,00 children. It is my hope that this plan expands the dreams of those of us who worked there in the past.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Stuart Kelman  
Founding Rabbi Emeritus, Cong. Netivot Shalom, Berkeley Former Director of Camp Ramah in Ojai,  
1971-72



## Boero, Kristina

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**From:** Boero, Kristina  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:34 AM  
**To:** Ojai Birder  
**Subject:** RE: Cases PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

2.

Robert,

Thank you for your comment. It has been added to the administrative record. Please refer to Exhibit 4.A of the Planning Commission staff report. The County has prepared specific responses (MR-1, MR-5A and MR-7) that address your concerns regarding noise, onsite populations, and traffic safety and circulation.

Here is the website for the staff report: <https://ventura.primegov.com/portal/item?id=275237>

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

Ventura County Resource Management Agency | Planning Division  
800 S. Victoria Ave., L #1740 | Ventura, CA 93009-1740  
Visit the Planning Division website at [vcrma.org/planning](https://vcrma.org/planning)  
For online permits and property information, visit [VC Citizen Access](#)



**COUNTY of VENTURA**  
Resource Management Agency

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**From:** Ojai Birder <ojaibirder@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 4:32 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina <Kristina.Boero@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Cases PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

**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).

I am a resident at 1404 Foothill Rd, Ojai and have lived there since 1998. I object to the expansion of Camp Ramah for several reasons. The amplified noise from the Camp has been an issue since I have lived on Foothill Rd. I would like to join with my neighbors in requesting a stipulation that there be noise mitigation and some evenings of no amplification. As I understand there is a rule in the Ojai Valley that there should be no amplification after 10pm. This should definitely be the rule for the camp, its event center, and for any activities. This is a quiet residential neighborhood with abundant bird and other wildlife. A huge camp/event center for large groups is not good for our local environment or for the neighboring residences.

Over the years I have had issues while traveling on Fairview Rd with the very large busses that bring people to Camp Ramah. They are way too large for such a narrow road. Over the years I have almost been

run off the road several times. This is an issue that should be considered in the approval of this expansion of the Camp. I hope that the additional traffic this expansion will add to Hwy's 150 and 33 has also been looked at. The traffic in and out of the Ojai Valley is getting horrendous and we do not need more reasons for additional traffic in and out of our beautiful valley.

Regards, Robert Tallyn, 1404 Foothill Rd.

**From:** gail kogen <gkogen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 6:47 PM  
**To:** planning.pccoments@ventura.org; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** Camp Ramah

3.

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Dear Friends,

Camp Ramah has been a home for my family for so many years. We have been the lucky ones to have had four generations mark milestones and experiences that could never be duplicated anywhere else. I am hopeful that you will continue to allow Camp Ramah to provide the same involvement and exposure to lessons of love, spirituality, kindness, dignity, understanding of others, respect, and so much more. Camp Ramah was there when we had nowhere to go after the Northridge Earthquake. Camp Ramah was there when we needed a place to celebrate my son becoming a Bar Mitzvah. The Camp Ramah community was there when my mother passed away and my family was grieving. Camp Ramah has helped to teach our children the values of charity and helping others. They have been campers and counselors, participants, and leaders within the community. Camp Ramah has given our family and the community so very much. Please allow them the opportunity to continue this mission for the many generations who have yet to enter this sacred space.

Thank you for your consideration. Gail Kogen



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*Rotary International District 5240*

March 31, 2025

Camp Ramah  
385 Fairview Road  
Ojai, CA 93032

Re: Camp Ramah  
Community Support  
Facility & Program Enhancement

Dear Camp Ramah:

Please accept this letter as confirmation of support for your organization and plans to enhance your services to the community. Further, you have my consent to share this letter with anyone who has an interest or concerns with your project.

As you are aware, Rotary District 5240 has been hosting its annual Rotary Youth Leadership Awards at your facility for more than 30 years. I have personally been the Director of the program since 2007. Rotary District 5240 consists of almost 3,000 members in 68 Rotary Clubs spanning four counties in Central California - San Luis Obispo County, Santa Barbara County, Ventura County, and Kern County. Nearly 300 people make an annual trip to your facility for our program including people from all over the globe. We are proud to be a part of enhancing the lives of youth in our communities by providing effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders, encouraging leadership of youth by youth, and encouraging youth to have the mindset to make a difference in their communities through volunteer work and social responsibility wherever they are in the world.

Camp Ramah's venue has provided a safe environment for our students and staff for years and years. Being nestled in the hills away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life for those visiting or staying overnight, it is a "retreat" in the true sense of the word. We have found that our curriculum is consistently well served by the accommodation you provide us. Both indoor and outdoor on-campus activities help us create an experience that has literally changed the lives of hundreds, if

not thousands of people. Camp Ramah has made it possible for us to educate and motivate people over our 4-day event where our students sleep in your cabins, eat amazing food and enjoy the fields, facilities and the ever-popular ropes course. All we have to do is provide a curated experience with key-note speakers, events and leadership courses.

I have witnessed a high level of care and thoughtfulness from your management team over my 20-year history with the facility. I appreciate your emphasis on safety and the ability to handle our traffic, parking and visitor access. Many guests are surprised to find so many people on campus once they make it past your gates because there are no indications on the outside of the gates that there is a large event in progress. We have always honored your rules regarding safety, noise, emergency situations, traffic and contingency planning. We believe that they are fair, well thought out and meaningful. Each improvement you have made over the years has created a better environment for our guests' experiences.

To be clear, any further improvement to the facility would not only benefit the local community but it will continue to be a viable and meaningful benefit to people from all over the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darin Arrasmith', with a stylized, cursive script.

Darin Arrasmith  
Director – RYLA 5240

## Ojai Valley Baseball League

PO BOX 34  
Oak View, CA 93023  
[www.ojaivalleybaseball.com](http://www.ojaivalleybaseball.com)  
Tax ID# 77-0016823

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March 27, 2025

County of Ventura Planning Commission  
800 S. Victoria Ave.  
Ventura, CA, 93009

Subject: Support for Camp Ramah's Development Request – "Machon"

Dear Members of the County of Ventura Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for Camp Ramah's development request, known as the "Machon." Camp Ramah has been an integral part of our community, offering invaluable programs and resources that benefit residents of all ages. One particularly significant contribution is their continued support of our growing recreational youth baseball program, which serves players aged 3-14..

For years, Camp Ramah has graciously provided its facilities to ensure that children in our community have access to a safe, well-maintained, and welcoming environment to learn and play baseball. Their generosity has not only helped foster a love for the sport but has also contributed to the personal development of countless young athletes, instilling teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills.

The "Machon" project represents an important step forward in further enhancing the services and opportunities Camp Ramah provides to the community. Given their longstanding history of positive contributions and unwavering commitment to community enrichment, I firmly believe that their development request deserves approval. This project will allow them to continue and expand their support for youth programs, ensuring that future generations have access to meaningful recreational and educational experiences.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve Camp Ramah's development request, recognizing the profound impact this organization has on our community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,



Gina Braget  
Ojai Valley Baseball League  
*President*

Monday, March 31, 2025

Ventura County Planning Commission  
City of Ventura  
501 Poli Street  
Ventura, CA 93001

LETTER OF SUPPORT:

I am writing in support of the Camp Ramah CA, Fairview Rd. Ojai CA expansion project. As a neighbor and local business owner, I know Camp Ramah to be an exceptional organization and extraordinary assets to our community and globally. The expansion will increase their capacity to meet the needs of many, many more students, enhance their mission of youth development and benefit local business and Ventura County as a whole.

Camp demonstrates the qualities of community, leadership, ethics, wholesomeness, and respect for the neighboring properties that are welcome in our neighborhood and reward our town.

I have had the honor of not only working with Camp staff for over 17 years, but I also had the pleasure of residing one street over (Rancho Dr.) for all those years, and I cannot think of any reason Ojai, or Ventura County would not benefit from the contributions they bring to the table.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.



**Donna Goff-Lawrence**

Smart Technology Enablers, Inc.

**Phone:** 805-640-7979 ext 201

**Email:** [donnagoff-lawrence@enablers.com](mailto:donnagoff-lawrence@enablers.com)

1129 Maricopa Hwy.

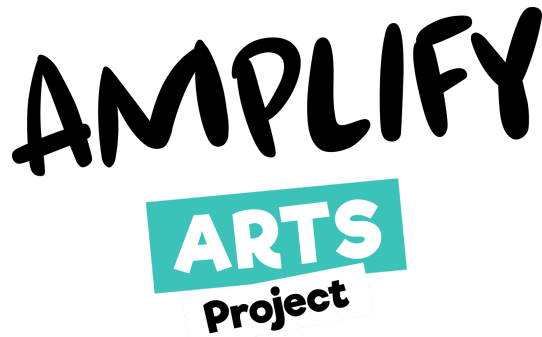
PMB B137

Ojai, CA 93023

[www.enablers.com](http://www.enablers.com)

SMART TECHNOLOGY ENABLERS, INC.

1129 MARICOPA HWY. PMB B137. OJAI, CA 93023 ■ TEL (805) 640-7979 ■ FACSIMILE (805) 640-3795 ■  
[WWW.ENABLERS.COM](http://WWW.ENABLERS.COM)



4/8/2025

Ventura County Planning Commission  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Re: Strong Support for the Machon Project at Camp Ramah**

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of **Amplify Arts Project** — a nonprofit dedicated to youth empowerment through music, creativity, and mental wellness — I am writing to express our strong support for the proposed Machon facility at Camp Ramah in Ojai.

For the past three years, Amplify has proudly hosted our **Teen Mental Wellness Retreat** at Camp Ramah. This sacred, serene space has allowed hundreds of teens to gather in nature, build resilience, and develop tools for emotional wellness in a world that is increasingly overwhelming. Camp Ramah has been an essential partner in making this transformative work possible.

Camp Ramah is not only a pillar in Ventura County's educational and cultural community — it is also a hub of inclusion, intergenerational tradition, and youth development. Their programming consistently demonstrates a deep commitment to accessibility, safety, and the emotional and spiritual growth of young people. The proposed **Machon indoor facility** would offer urgently needed programming space that would directly enhance these goals year-round.

As an organization that works directly with youth and families across California, we believe that investing in spaces like Ramah — spaces that hold emotional safety, community trust, and cultural importance — is vital to the future of our county and our state.

We respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve this project, recognizing both the integrity of Camp Ramah's proposal and the profound value it brings to Ventura County and beyond.



Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

**Jen Baron**

Executive Director

**Amplify Arts Project**

[jen@amplifyartsproject.org](mailto:jen@amplifyartsproject.org)

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jen Baron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The "J" is large and loops around the "en". The "Baron" is written in a similar cursive style, with the "B" being particularly large and looping.

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** Emily Mallin <emilymallin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 10:27 PM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

8.

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Dear Planning Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Camp Ramah and its request for an updated conditional use permit to be presented before your committee on May 1, 2025.

Three generations of my family have experienced summers in beautiful Ojai and Ventura County, at and around Camp Ramah, including the inaugural summer of 1955. I attended camp there for most of my childhood, including soon after a devastating wildfire in the area in the 1980s. I remember meaningful field trips to help clean and rebuild the surrounding area, while learning about our role in environmental protection. My children, one of whom will attend camp again this summer (and the other, too old to remain a camper, will apply to be a counselor next summer!), regard their experiences at Camp Ramah as *the most* formative of their lives, in the safety, comfort, and beauty of that special part of the world, so different from the desert of Phoenix, Arizona. Each time we visit the camp, we see the successful implementation of many thoughtful decisions over time about the use of the property, and also how deeply rooted in the greater community the campus truly is. Even more far-reaching, Camp Ramah has made it as a mainstream national brand, with references in movies, TV, and by celebrity alumni. It is no overstatement that Camp Ramah in California is a tremendous asset and treasured icon.

I urge you to vote to approve this updated conditional use permit, allowing Camp Ramah to continue to optimally serve its community, not only as a joyful home away from home for hundreds of children each summer, but also as an institution among the community of Ojai and a partner across the region.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if I can provide any additional information in support of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

Emily Mallin, MD

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** Randy Michaels <michaels237@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 6:39 AM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

9.

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Kristina, please accept this letter. I understand that the due date was yesterday, however, when I came into my office this am, I realized it was still in my out box.

THANK YOU and all the best, Randy

Ventura County Planning Division  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**RE: Public Comment in Support of Camp Ramah – PL18-0052 & PL23-0002**

**Dear Chair Kestly and members of the Commission,**

As a Ventura County resident for over 18 years, a former Camp Ramah employee, an alumni parent, and donor, I am writing to express my strong support for Camp Ramah's applications PL18-0052 and PL23-0002.

I am deeply dedicated and committed to the continued success of Camp Ramah in California, both as a summer camp and a year-round retreat center. For decades, Ramah has been a cherished institution that provides transformative educational, spiritual, and cultural experiences to thousands of youth and families from across the region and beyond.

Camp Ramah is not only a leader in Jewish camping and youth development—it is also a valuable asset to both Ventura County and the Ojai community. The camp brings positive economic, educational, and cultural benefits to the area while maintaining a long-standing commitment to responsible land management and community engagement.

Camp Ramah in California's summer and year-round programs have produced some of the world's leading educators, politicians, artists, as well as community, religious, and business leaders. I have seen firsthand the impact of Camp Ramah and I truly believe Ventura County and Ojai are better for having an institution like Camp Ramah as a partner.

The proposed improvements will allow Camp Ramah to update its infrastructure, enhance safety and accessibility, and ensure it can continue to meet the needs of its campers, staff, and retreat guests well into the future. These projects have been developed thoughtfully and responsibly, with care for the surrounding environment and in close coordination with County planning staff.

I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to approve these applications and allow Camp Ramah to continue its essential work in our community.

Thank you for your time, service, and consideration.

Sincerely,  
**Randy A. Michaels**

## Boero, Kristina

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**From:** Boero, Kristina  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:51 AM  
**To:** Barry Verga  
**Subject:** RE: Camp Ramah Case PL18-0052, PL23-0002

10.

Barry,

Thank you for your comment. It has been added to the administrative record. Please refer to Exhibit 4.A of the Planning Commission staff report. The County has prepared a specific response (MR-1) that address your noise concerns.

Here is the website for the staff report: <https://ventura.primegov.com/portal/item?id=275237>

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

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

**From:** Barry Verga <vergabarry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:12 AM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina <Kristina.Boero@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Camp Ramah Case PL18-0052, PL23-0002

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I am a neighbor of Camp Ramah in Ojai and am very concerned about the likely increase in noise due to their expansion. This has the potential to significantly impact our neighborhood and our quality of life. Please take this into account as you review their proposals.

Sincerely,  
Barry Verga  
Virginia Siegfried  
Sent from my iPhone

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** David Kaplan <David@kaplanreadvisors.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 11:43 AM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Cc:** David Kaplan  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 Planning Commission Public Comment - Camp Ramah

11.

**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 Chair Kestly and members of the Commission,

I write you today in full in full support of Camp Ramah in California and its updated conditional use permit. I urge you to support this updated conditional use permit submittal.

Camp Ramah's Ojai campsite is an irreplaceable asset for the Ramah community. Three generations of our Kaplan family have been uniquely touched by Camp Ramah as campers, parents, board members and private donors. To say that camp is part of the fabric of our lives would be an understatement. I started going to camp in 1978 along with my brothers. Some of our closest friends still today are part of the relationships formed at Camp Ramah over 45 years ago. My parents became leaders on the board of directors. They chaired and donated financially to several immersive programs and retreats at Ramah promoting educational and community over the past 40+ years.

My two daughters, the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation to attend Ramah, have gone to camp since they were 8 years old. They each have established their Jewish identities in Ojai and have made many lifelong friendships. The kids they are friends with share the same values of "giving back" to the larger community that was fostered by the programs at Camp Ramah. My older daughter (19 years old) used camp as a springboard to play in the 2022 Maccabiah Games in Israel in 2022 (the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest world sporting event) and won a gold medal as a volleyball player representing the USA. My younger daughter (18 years old) will be a counselor this coming summer and will work with the campers that are developmental challenged that attend Camp Ramah. She found this passion through her camper experience as she volunteered to work with the Amitzim program that helps mainstream these special campers.

As you can see, Camp Ramah and the City of Ojai has touched our lives in so many positive ways over the past 45 years. Please approve the CUP, so the camp may continue to provide valuable programming and facilities for the Ramah Community, the Ojai Valley, and the region.

Thank you

Best regards,

David Kaplan



9777 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 500  
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

T 310 274-0805

C 310 251-1477

E [david@kaplanreadvisors.com](mailto:david@kaplanreadvisors.com) (New Email Address/Please update your Address Book)

W [www.kaplanreadvisors.com](http://www.kaplanreadvisors.com)

## Boero, Kristina

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**From:** Boero, Kristina  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 12:20 PM  
**To:** dbertoy  
**Subject:** RE: Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

12.

Diane,

Staff relayed your concerns to the camp during the time periods you note in your email. I spoke to the applicant this morning and confirmed that the camp has and continues to actively address neighbors' concerns within a timely manner of receiving the complaints.

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

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**COUNTY of VENTURA**  
Resource Management Agency

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**From:** Diane Bertoy <[dbertoy@gmail.com](mailto:dbertoy@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:07 AM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina <[Kristina.Boero@ventura.org](mailto:Kristina.Boero@ventura.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

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I emailed you one complaint on 9-27-24 when there was no contact person for loud drumming at 10:32pm. Randy the CFO later denied there was drumming but I drove by the camp to verify. I complained to the camp about a spotlight on our house on 12-22-24 that they denied. Yelling at 10:53p on 8-23-24. Screaming that was scary at 10:29p, that they said was a basketball game. Lastly a disturbing female announcer on 6-21-24.

Do they report my complaints to you?

Diane

On Apr 30, 2025, at 9:18 AM, Boero, Kristina <[Kristina.Boero@ventura.org](mailto:Kristina.Boero@ventura.org)> wrote:

Diane,



No complaints were received.

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

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Visit the Planning Division website at [ycrma.org/planning](http://ycrma.org/planning)  
For online permits and property information, visit [VC Citizen Access](#)  
<image001.png>

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**From:** Diane Bertoy <[dbertoy@gmail.com](mailto:dbertoy@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 2:39 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina <[Kristina.Boero@ventura.org](mailto:Kristina.Boero@ventura.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

**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).

Hi Kristina, did you receive any complaints regarding Ramah in 2023 or 2024? Thanks.  
Diane

On Apr 29, 2025, at 1:37 PM, Boero, Kristina <[Kristina.Boero@ventura.org](mailto:Kristina.Boero@ventura.org)> wrote:

Diane,

Please refer to Exhibit 5, Condition of Approval No. 79 of the Planning Commission staff report. The camp is required to prepare and submit a public safety plan prior to use inauguration of the proposed permit. The plan must address evacuation protocols during an emergency. County Fire will have final review and approval of the plan.

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

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<image001.png>

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

From: Diane Bertoy <[dbertoy@gmail.com](mailto:dbertoy@gmail.com)>

Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2025 12:42 PM  
To: Boero, Kristina <[Kristina.Boero@ventura.org](mailto:Kristina.Boero@ventura.org)>  
Subject: Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

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Hi Kristina, another issue came up today. We were discussing the recent LA fires and how unexpected the devastation was in Malibu, Palisades, and Altadena. As you may know Camp Ramah was allowed to close Farnham road to public use for the safety of their campers quite some time ago.

Today Edison is doing pole maintenance and our only road out of our neighborhood—Foothill road was closed. But the road crew told camp personnel that they must let neighbors and traffic servicing our neighborhood full access to Farnham road and let us exit out to Fairview road as it is our only road out if Foothill is closed. So, my question for you is in case of a devastating fire that threatens our neighborhood and also blocks our only exit Foothill road would Ramah be mandated to let us use Farnham road through their camp to evacuate out to Fairview road? I think this is the time to put that into the CUP. Thank you for this new consideration.

Diane Bertoy

**Boero, Kristina**

---

**From:** Jason Goldman <jason@ramah.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 2:30 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Cc:** Steve Welton; Brian Robinson  
**Subject:** FW: PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

13.

**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.

Hi Kristina,

This is one the letters we didn't see in the errata – want to make sure you have it for the record.

Thanks,  
Jason

--

**Jason G. Goldman, Ph.D.**

*Director of Business Strategy & Operations*

*Camp Ramah in California and The Zimmer Retreat & Conference Center*

[jason@ramah.org](mailto:jason@ramah.org) • 818.668.2939 • [www.ramah.org](http://www.ramah.org)



6505 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 440  
Los Angeles, CA 90048  
[www.ramah.org](http://www.ramah.org)

---

**From:** Joe Menashe <rabbijoe@ramah.org>  
**Date:** Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 9:14 AM  
**To:** Jason Goldman <jason@ramah.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

FYI  
Sent from mobile phone of Rabbi Joe Menashe

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Sheila <waks@earthlink.net>  
**Date:** April 23, 2025 at 9:32:33 PM PDT  
**To:** kristina.boero@ventura.org  
**Cc:** Joe Menashe <rabbijoe@ramah.org>  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

Dear Chair Kestly and members of the Commission

I have been associated with Camp Ramah since I was 10 years old. I attended camp, my 2 children also attended, and now three of my five grandchildren (the other two are too young at this point) are campers at Camp Ramah. It holds a very special place in my heart. Over the years I have gained life long friendships. Camp Ramah has given me the moral baseline of how I lead my life. I am currently a resident of Oxnard, California

I have been a board member for many years and now sit on the executive board.

My family has been very supportive financially to Camp Ramah over the years. We believe now more than ever, it's long term viability is critical. We want to continue to support the camp with our dollars so the length of the term that the county approves is crucial to our continued support. In the end, what we leave as a legacy for our children, grandchildren and beyond of paramount to us.

Many thanks for your consideration

Sheila Baran Spiwak

## Boero, Kristina

---

**From:** Jason Goldman <jason@ramah.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 2:31 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Cc:** Steve Welton; Brian Robinson  
**Subject:** FW: PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

14.

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Hi Kristina,

This is another of the letters we didn't see in the errata – want to make sure you have it for the record.

Thanks,  
Jason

--

**Jason G. Goldman, Ph.D.**

*Director of Business Strategy & Operations*

*Camp Ramah in California and The Zimmer Retreat & Conference Center*

[jason@ramah.org](mailto:jason@ramah.org) • 818.668.2939 • [www.ramah.org](http://www.ramah.org)



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Los Angeles, CA 90048  
[www.ramah.org](http://www.ramah.org)

Type text here

---

**From:** Beitcohen <beitcohen@aol.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 2:59 PM  
**To:** Planning.PCComments@ventura.org <planning.pccomments@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

Dear Chair Kestly and members of the Commission:

As a resident of Oxnard, California, I am writing to support Camp Ramah in Ojai. Our family is now in its 4<sup>th</sup> generation of campers, staff, parents, grandparents and great-grandparents of Camp Ramah. I have served on the Board of Directors and am currently a Lifetime Trustee of the camp. My parents, Jake (deceased) and Janet Farber gave the naming philanthropic gift for the campus, and we continue to financially support Camp Ramah every year.

We do so because we have seen firsthand how important being in camp is to each of the individuals (campers and staff alike) who are able to be there each summer. They get a firsthand feel for the freedom to live Jewishly and the independence involved in being away from home for an extended period of time. Besides the Jewish component it teaches resiliency, teamwork, leadership, comradery, problem-solving and so much more – all in the backdrop of a fun, healthy and warm environment. These life encompassing skills not only foster our Ramah children's time at camp: they are then able to translate these attributes later in their college years, in the workforce, and onward throughout their lives. Our campers have become not only the leaders of our Conservative Jewish community, but they are also out in so many other realms using the skills learned at Ramah to better our world.

One of our Ramah songs says, "There no other place like Camp Ramah". For the hundreds of children who pass through the gates every summer, that is a true statement. It is where their Jewishness gets solidified. The friendships they make last a lifetime. And, the skills to become positive members of our society are forged.

Please vote in favor of Camp Ramah in California.

Rochelle Cohen

3951 Ocean Drive

Oxnard, CA 93035

818-613-3981

## Boero, Kristina

---

**From:** Jason Goldman <jason@ramah.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 3:12 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Cc:** Steve Welton; Brian Robinson  
**Subject:** FW: PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 - Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

15.

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Hi Kristina,

This is another of the letters we didn't see in the errata – want to make sure you have it for the record.

Thanks,  
Jason

--

**Jason G. Goldman, Ph.D.**

*Director of Business Strategy & Operations*

*Camp Ramah in California and The Zimmer Retreat & Conference Center*

[jason@ramah.org](mailto:jason@ramah.org) • 818.668.2939 • [www.ramah.org](http://www.ramah.org)



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Los Angeles, CA 90048  
[www.ramah.org](http://www.ramah.org)

---

**From:** Julie Platt <juliebplatt@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at 3:10 PM  
**To:** Jason Goldman <jason@ramah.org>, Joe Menashe <rabbijoe@ramah.org>  
**Subject:** Fwd: PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 - Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Boero, Kristina** <[Kristina.Boero@ventura.org](mailto:Kristina.Boero@ventura.org)>

Date: Wed, Apr 23, 2025 at 7:14 AM

Subject: RE: PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 - Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

To: PC Hearing Comments <[Planning.PCComments@ventura.org](mailto:Planning.PCComments@ventura.org)>, [juliebplatt@gmail.com](mailto:juliebplatt@gmail.com)  
<[juliebplatt@gmail.com](mailto:juliebplatt@gmail.com)>

Julie,

Thank you for your comment. It has been added to the administrative record.

18.

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner

Residential Permits Section

[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)

P. 805.654.2467

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**From:** PC Hearing Comments <[Planning.PCComments@ventura.org](mailto:Planning.PCComments@ventura.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 4:51 PM

**To:** Boero, Kristina <[Kristina.Boero@ventura.org](mailto:Kristina.Boero@ventura.org)>

**Subject:** FW: PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 - Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

---

**From:** Julie Platt <[juliebplatt@gmail.com](mailto:juliebplatt@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 10:07 PM

**To:** PC Hearing Comments <[Planning.PCComments@ventura.org](mailto:Planning.PCComments@ventura.org)>

**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 - Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

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Dear Chair Kestly and Members of the Commission,

As a long-time supporter of Camp Ramah in California, I write to express my strong support for their proposed major modification to their Conditional Use Permit. My family's connection to Camp Ramah spans multiple generations, and over the decades we have made significant philanthropic investments to help build and sustain the campus and its programming. These contributions have supported the construction of critical infrastructure, enhanced educational and recreational spaces, and expanded access to transformative Jewish experiences for thousands of campers and staff. Our ongoing commitment reflects not only a deep personal connection, but also a firm belief in Ramah's essential role as a leader in Jewish education and as a responsible, contributing member of the broader Ventura County community.

In addition to my family's involvement, I have had the privilege of serving as Board Chair of Camp Ramah in California and of the Foundation for Jewish Camp, and I currently serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Jewish Federations of North America. My long career of service in the Jewish community began as a young camper at Ramah, and I'm deeply proud to see how the Ramah experience has positively shaped the lives of my children—and now, my grandchildren. These lifelong values, friendships, and commitments are nurtured on the Ramah campus and extend far beyond it. I support Camp Ramah in California. Please approve their updated conditional use permit.

Thank you,

Julie Platt

**From:** Michelle Missaghieh <rmichelle@tioh.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 1:41 PM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

16.

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Dear Chair Kestly and members of the Commission,

I have been a rabbi at Temple Israel of Hollywood in Los Angeles for 29 years. I have sent all three of my children (who are now young adults) to Camp Ramah in Ojai. Two my children have also worked on staff at Camp Ramah, and we send kids from our synagogue to Ramah as well.

I write you today in full support of Camp Ramah in California and its updated conditional use permit.

I urge you to vote to approve this updated conditional use permit.

Ramah is not just a great camp, with beautiful values of building community and deepening communication among campers and staff, but it is also a place that successfully sends their campers back home to make the world a better place.

During the academic year, it is also a place that communities gather for weekend and week-long retreats. Our own synagogue has rented the camp for Women's Retreat weekends.

I fully support Camp Ramah in California and the proposed conditional use permit. Please approve the CUP so the camp may continue to provide valuable programming and facilities for the Ramah community, the Ojai Valley, and the region.

Thank you for your time and care,  
Rabbi Michelle Missaghieh



**Rabbi Michelle Missaghieh**  
Temple Israel of Hollywood

7300 Hollywood Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90046  
(323) 876-8330 ext. 1000  
[www.tioh.org](http://www.tioh.org)

[Follow Me on Facebook](#)

[Listen to a podcast with me on the topic: What is a Jew](#)

**Boero, Kristina**

---

**From:** Michael Alcheck <malcheck@gmail.com> 17.  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 12:52 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

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Hello Chair Kestly and members of the Commission

I write to you today to fully support Camp Ramah in California and its updated conditional use permit.

As a Camp Ramah in California alumni who has 3 current campers (ages 10, 12 and 14) I have first hand knowledge of the value camp provides for thousands of kids, teens and young adults both within and outside the Jewish community in California and beyond.

My 10 years of experience on the Palo Alto City Planning Commission also gives me a unique perspective on CUP's and I empathetically believe their careful planning and fundraising, which my family has financially participated in, will allow Camp Ramah to continue to provide programing like summer camps, learning workshops, outdoor education for public and private schools and spiritual retreats for all faiths.

Please approve the CUP so our camp can continue to thrive as an organization, for the benefit of the Ojai valley and the entire region.

Sincerely

Michael Alcheck

## Boero, Kristina

---

**From:** Boero, Kristina  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 9:30 AM  
**To:** Jan Key  
**Subject:** RE: Camp Ramah - PL18-0052 / PL23-0002

18.

Jan,

Thank you for your comment. It has been added to the administrative record. Please refer to Exhibit 5 (Condition Nos. 29, 41 to 44) of the Planning Commission staff report. The County has prepared specific mitigation measures that will reduce noise from amplified sound to below County General Plan noise thresholds. In addition, testing of the noise mitigation measures will be required prior to use inauguration.

Here is the website for the staff report: <https://ventura.primegov.com/portal/item?id=275237>

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

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---

**From:** Jan Key <jkatojai@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 4:32 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina <Kristina.Boero@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Camp Ramah - PL18-0052 / PL23-0002

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An addition of 300 acres to build new structures at Camp Ramah would have many negative impacts on neighbors (and the environment) but one of the biggest issues is NOISE!

The noise issue has been a problem for 25 years. Amplified noise until 10pm every night of the year until 10pm?? Really?? Noise control has been proposed but has it been tested?? And this policy would stand for 50 years?? Unbelievable to me.

PLEASE review the noise mitigation issues and LISTEN and RESPECT input from neighbors that your actions will affect.

Jan C. Key

(805) 766-9925

## Boero, Kristina

---

**From:** Boero, Kristina  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 9:59 AM  
**To:** jerry@maryniuk.com  
**Subject:** RE: Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

19.

Jerry,

Thank you for your comment. It has been added to the administrative record. The County has prepared specific noise mitigation measures that will reduce noise impacts to a less than significant level in compliance with the County's General Plan noise thresholds. Please refer to Exhibit 5, Conditions Nos. 41-44 for the mitigation measures. In addition, Section A.10 of the Planning Commission staff report provides a detailed discussion for the CUP term and why staff is recommending a 50-year term.

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

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**COUNTY of VENTURA**  
Resource Management Agency

---

**From:** Jerry Maryniuk <jerry@maryniuk.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 4:54 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina <Kristina.Boero@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

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Dear Kristina Boero and Ventura County Planning Commissioners,

Thank you for doing an excellent job keeping us updated on the progression of the Camp Ramah CUP modification process.

As our neighborhood group has said in the past, there are multiple issues in the proposed modification that concern us. However, if we were to distill it to one issue, that issue is **NOISE**. This letter will focus exclusively on noise and noise related issues.

### 1. DURATION OF NOISE

a. **The modified CUP will allow noise until 10 PM, seven days a week** (with an extension to 11 PM one night a week for Café Ezra). No other venues in the city of Ojai (Libbey Bowl, Ojai Valley Inn) or in Ventura County in the Ojai Valley area are allowed to create noise this late. None are allowed to be noisy every day of the week. **Why should Camp Ramah be given a privilege that has been deemed unacceptable for every other venue?**

b. **The Ventura County Noise Ordinance states it should be quiet in residential zones 9 PM – 7 AM:** “No person shall create within any residential zone of the County of Ventura any loud or raucous noise which is audible to the human ear during the hours of 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. of the following day, at a distance of 50 feet from the property line of the noise source or 50 feet from any such noise source if the noise source is in a public right-of-way.” **As supported by the documentation from our attorney Jason Sanders** (please refer to the letter sent to Kristina Boero 12-22-2022), **Camp Ramah should not be able to ignore this ordinance & the County of Ventura should enforce it.**

## 2. FREQUENCY OF NOISE

a. Though already mentioned above, being allowed to create noise every night of the year is not logical if the county is concerned about the surrounding residents’ quality of life. Camp Ramah is in use 271/365 days and 48/52 weekends. A more reasonable approach: **please consider allowing noise 5 days a week and have one weekend a month (with the exception of summer camp) be a “noise free” time.**

## 3. CUP DURATION

- a. **50 years is too long.** How many other 50-year CUPs has the county approved?
- b. If the noise issue was resolved, a CUP longer than 10-15 years could be appropriate. However, **with proposed noise decreasing mitigations that have never been tested in a real-life situation, we have no idea if they will work.**
- c. **A reliable CUP complaint review and enforcement is not in place.** To date, the Ventura County system has not done its job in enforcing the CUP. The same problems that motivated Camp Ramah neighbors to organize and complain in the 1980s still exist today. Why should we trust that this will change?
- i. An example of the county not paying attention to Camp Ramah CUP violations is the allowed overnight population at the camp. The formula that delineates how many people can stay at the camp overnight calculates the max number as 872. Despite this, Camp Ramah exceeded this limit numerous times, with many instances of more than 1,000 people staying overnight. Not only that, the camp *advertises* that they have lodging for more than 1,000 people. The county has never looked into this. Not only that, the CUP modification rewards the Camp with an *increase* to the number of people they are allowed to have!
- d. The duration of the CUP itself is not our issue. **The possibility of being locked into a mitigation that doesn’t work, with an untested new enforcement system (for 50 years) causes us to lose sleep.** Please forgive us for not trusting the current CUP enforcement system, but historically that has been a problem. **My proposal: allow a longer duration CUP, but mandate a noise review every 2-3 years for a total of 6 – 9 years, with a mandate that significant issues will be dealt with (as is being done for this CUP modification).**

Unfortunately, because I’m having surgery tomorrow, I won’t be able to personally attend the meeting and share my opinions on May 1.

Thank you,





**Boero, Kristina**

---

**From:** Diana Nashban <diananashban19@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 8:33 PM  
**Cc:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002- Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

20.

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Dear Chair Kestly and members of the Commission:

I am a resident of Scottsdale, Arizona. I am a Conservative Jew of almost 80 years of age. Preparing for Passover had become too taxing and difficult for me. Therefore, three years ago, I began looking for a place where I could observe and celebrate Passover in the Conservative fashion I was accustomed to. Arizona had no such offering. The Conservative Movement had two places- Camp Ramah in Darom, Georgia and Camp Ramah in Ojai, California. My search was over!

Camp Ramah in Ojai, CA has answered all my needs. I am able to attend religious services, go to lectures, have strictly kosher for Passover meals, exercise by walking mountain trails and various paths within the camp, meet people from all over the country, and not have to be the one preparing and serving for eight days!

Camp Ramah has given me the opportunity to observe my rituals in an idyllic setting without feeling pressure or fatigue. I plan to return for Passover in 2026.

Knowing how important Camp Ramah is to me and how it has enriched my life, I am asking that you approve the updated conditional use permit.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Diana Nashban  
9341 N. 87th Way  
Scottsdale, AZ 85258

**Boero, Kristina**

---

**From:** Chad Vick <drccvick@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 9:01 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Cc:** ovmac; dbertoy  
**Subject:** Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

21.

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Dear Kristina,

Please add my name to the list of Ojai residents who are AGAINST granting Camp Ramah the 20 YEAR Major Modification of CUP 3048 Case PL 18-0052.

My concern is that the crowd noise from their group activities will disrupt the peace and quiet and natural setting of my residential neighborhood.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chad C. Vick  
1608 Foothill Road  
Ojai, CA 93023  
(805) 646-8894



Virus-free. [www.avast.com](https://www.avast.com)

## Boero, Kristina

---

**From:** Marilyn Camp <campojai@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:18 AM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** Re: Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

22.

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Kristina,

The BIG problem is giving Camp Ramah a 50 year conditional use permit which is absolutely insane. It's very hard to take back what you give someone. Please DO NOT let this happen in our neighborhood! We've been neighbors for with Camp Ramah 36 years. I have enjoyed watching the kids walking through the neighborhood and trails having fun. The night noise that they are trying to get approved is unacceptable! We hear concerts from Libbey Bowl but they stop at 10. Keep the quiet of Ojai nights. Thank you , Marilyn Camp

On Apr 30, 2025, at 10:10 AM, Boero, Kristina <Kristina.Boero@ventura.org> wrote:

Marilyn,

Following implementation of the required noise attenuation mitigation measures, the camp will be required to retain a qualified noised consultant to test the sound system equipment to ensure that the system is properly programed (Exhibit 5, Condition No. 29). During testing, if amplified noise measurements at the above addresses exceeds Leq1H of 50dB(A) or ambient noise level plus 3dB(A) after 7:00 pm, whichever is greater, the qualified noise consultant in consultation with the Planning Director will determine additional noise attenuation to be installed.

**Kristina Roodsari Boero, M.P.P.A.** | Senior Planner  
Residential Permits Section  
[kristina.boero@ventura.org](mailto:kristina.boero@ventura.org)  
P. 805.654.2467

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<image001.png>

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**From:** Marilyn Camp <campojai@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 29, 2025 9:31 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina <Kristina.Boero@ventura.org>  
**Subject:** Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

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Noise has been documented as problematic since 1988. We have lived at our residence for 36 years. The Camp is asking for approval for amplified sound until 10pm every night of the year and we are asking for some quiet nights.

The new mitigation proposals to control the loud noise have not been tested. We hope they work, but without testing the Camp is asking for a Conditional Use Permit for 50 years of noise! This is also a year round event center.

We hope you will support a review of their noise mitigation with the input of neighbors of Fairview, Foothill and Farnham Roads in one or two years after approval and implementation.

We also hope you will support us in asking for no amplified sound at all after 10 pm because that is not allowed anywhere in the Ojai Valley.

Please keep our neighborhood quiet. Thank you, Marilyn & Allen Camp 1116 Foothill Rd. Ojai

**Boero, Kristina**

---

**From:** Nomi Morris <nmorris62@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 8:15 AM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** Camp Ramah - Ojai

23.

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Dear Chair Kestly and members of the Planning Commission,

I moved to the Ojai Valley in 2001 and have raised my son here, who is now 30 years old and has two sons of his own. Currently, I am a faculty member at UC Santa Barbara.

As a Jewish person arriving in a rural area, it was gratifying for me to find Camp Ramah in our community, an educational organization that has an excellent reputation throughout North America. Indeed, in the 24 years since I moved to Ojai, I have met many people who attended Camp Ramah in Ojai -- going back to the 1950s -- including one who met his wife there and got married there.

I would like to add my voice to those who support the improvement of Camp Ramah so that it remains a strong and vital part of our local Ojai Valley community. This is especially important to the local Jewish community, which is facing a rise in antisemitism made worse by events half way around the world. At a time when Jewish people in Ojai feel vulnerable, the presence of Camp Ramah is a source of pride. It has even quietly provided a healing and retreat space for surviving victims of the massacre of Oct. 7, 2023 in which nearly 1200 Jews and other non-Jewish residents of southern Israel were murdered and hundreds kidnapped.

Please support the development plans of Camp Ramah so that it can continue its ongoing work educating young people in the summer and providing programs for other worthy communal and humanitarian organizations throughout the year. Whatever objections may have arisen in a town that understandably resists development, I can only imagine that they would be more than outweighed by the benefits to the Ojai Valley that Camp Ramah provides and has provided for generations.

I urge the Commissioners to grant Camp Ramah its request so it may remain and thrive in the Ojai Valley into the future.

Nomi Morris  
12124 Chumash Rd.  
Ojai CA 93023

**From:** Margalit C. Rosenthal <margalit.rosenthal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:41 AM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

24.

**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.

Chair Kestly and members of the Commission,

My name is Margalit Rosenthal, I am writing in strong support of the Camp Ramah project. Not only do I have the professional privilege of working with Ramah and many other camps on the West Coast, I am a lifelong “Ramahnik” and part of a multi-generational Ramah family starting with my father and currently with my 6 nieces and nephews who are campers and staff. From a professional and personal perspective, Camp Ramah is a community like no other and helps develop resilient, responsible, values-driven future leaders for our American civic, corporate, and Jewish communities. At a time where loneliness is an epidemic, Camp Ramah provides an environment to create unbreakable bonds and lifelong friendships. I have lived all over the country, and everywhere I have been, I have immediately connected with others with a Ramah background, knowing that these new friends have shared values, experiences, and a language. Additionally, the physical space of Camp Ramah is a home away from home for thousands, and returning to the pink sunsets of Ojai brings joy to so many of us. The space serves as a home not only to the Camp Ramah summer program, but to so many other non-profit and non-Jewish groups who come together to learn and grow while enjoying the beauty of Ojai. Ojai is such a special place, and Camp Ramah infuses the town with life each summer, creating lifelong Ojai fans like myself who come multiple times each year to stay at local hotels, frequent locally owned stores and restaurants, and give back to the Ojai economy. Camp Ramah has also served as a base camp for firefighters and front line workers battling wildfires in the Ojai area over the years, with camp staff taking care of these critical workers to enable them to do their jobs more effectively.

This particular project is critical for Ramah to continue to provide excellent service and accommodations to outside groups and high quality summer educational experiences to youth and teens. Facilities such as these are built to weather current and future climate threats, provide more sustainability, and critically, to provide more highly accessible spaces for youth, teens, and adults of ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We are grateful for your potential approval to move forward with these exciting and critical plans.

Best,

Margalit

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Margalit C. Rosenthal  
<http://linkedin.com/in/margalitrosenthal>

**MARGALIT C. ROSENTHAL** (She • Her)  
DIRECTOR, WEST COAST REGION  
FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMP

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** bill@hsiforanimals.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:49 AM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052, PL23-0002

25.

**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).

To: Ventura County Planning Commission

As a neighbor to Camp Ramah in Ojai, I wish to offer comments on its application for a Major Modification to their CUP No. 3048:

I support Camp Ramah's right to exist and to their mission of bringing together members of the Jewish faith and culture. But Camp Ramah exists within the context of a community and a neighborhood and, as such, they must seek to preserve and protect the values of the community and neighborhood.

We in the immediate neighborhood of Camp Ramah are impacted by the significant noise levels created by their activities.

We simply ask that their noise levels be minimal and be limited to daytime and evening hours with no noise emanating after 10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Brothers  
1476 Foothill Rd.  
Ojai, CA 93023



**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** susie@hsiforanimals.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:56 AM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** Case number PL18-0052 PL23-0002

26.

**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).

To: Ventura County Planning Commission

As a neighbor to Camp Ramah in Ojai, I wish to offer comments on its application for a Major Modification to their CUP No. 3048:

I support Camp Ramah's right to exist and to their mission of bringing together members of the Jewish faith and culture. But Camp Ramah exists within the context of a community and a neighborhood and, as such, they must seek to preserve and protect the values of the community and neighborhood.

We in the immediate neighborhood of Camp Ramah are impacted by the significant noise levels created by their activities.

We simply ask that their noise levels be minimal and be limited to daytime and evening hours with no noise emanating after 10pm.

We also respectfully ask that when doing activities, such as offsite hiking in the surrounding hills in the late evening hours, that there is a level of respect shown for noise when hiking past and/or through our neighborhood.

Respectfully submitted,

Susie Ault  
1476 Foothill Rd  
Ojai, CA 93023

## Boero, Kristina

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**From:** Valerie Levett <vallevett@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:59 AM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** Camp Ramah

27.

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"Chair Kestly and members of the Commission,

I understand that Camp Ramah is facing challenges concerning its place in the Ojai Valley. Let me state unequivocally that I am in support of this wonderful camp and its mission. I have been living in the Ojai community for 34 years and moved here primarily because of its spiritual heritage- because of its many schools and institutions dedicated to exploring the meaning and purpose of our lives. Camp Ramah is one such institution that has been here for many, many years. Please see to it that it remains.

Thank you,  
Valerie Levett

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** Hattie Vail <hattievail@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 12:21 PM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** CASE NUMBERS PL 18-0052 and PL 23-0002

28.

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I am writing to support a review of Camp Ramah's noise mitigation with the input of neighbors of Fairview, Foothill and Farnham roads in one to two years after approval and implementation. I also support no amplified sound after 10pm because that is not allowed anywhere in the Ojai Valley.. Harriet Vail.

**From:** damusher <damusher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 12:33 PM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah  
**Attachments:** Letter for Planning Commission.pdf

29.

**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 Chair Kestley and Members of the Commission,

My journey as a special educator began at Camp Ramah in Ojai during the summer of 1995, when I was 19. Twenty eight years and three degrees later - including a Masters Degree in Autism and a PhD in Special Education - I attribute the Tikvah ("hope") program at Camp Ramah as having lit my passion for working with individuals with special needs.

The Tikvah program at Ramah is a hallmark component of Camp Ramah and a beacon of excellence for inclusion programs throughout the world. Founded in the 1970's, when including people with special needs was a foreign concept, Tikvah provides Jewish children and young adults with a variety of special needs meaningful, inclusive residential camp experiences. In doing so, the program also exposes neurotypical children and counselors to people who are different from themselves, opening minds to the importance of diversity and the benefits of living in a community with people who experience the world differently. (In fact, my doctorate focused on the impact of the Tikvah program in Ojai on the attitudes of neurotypical teenagers since I can count over 20 people whose careers have been molded by their experience with Tikvah.)

Every summer, I return to Ojai to work in the Tikvah community. For several years, I have served as the Vocational Director of our young adult program, where our participants hold different jobs in the camp community including delivering mail, setting tables in the dining room, and taking pictures for our website. Pre-Covid, our participants volunteered in Ojai at Rains, the Ojai public library, the Humane Society of Ventura County, Noah's Ark Preschool, and more. (We hope to start this up again this summer.) While I work as a special educator all year in the school system, the highlight of my year, professionally, is always the summer. Learning with and from the Tikvah participants - guiding them as they become more confident, independent, and self-aware - and helping young counselors fall in love with the work that I fell in love with 28 years ago - is one of the greatest privileges of my life.

I do not know of another program as profoundly impactful as the Tikvah program at Camp Ramah in Ojai. I invite you to visit over the summer to see the magical contributions that our participants make, every day, to the entire camp community. In the meantime, please vote to approve this updated conditional use permit so that the Tikvah community continues to thrive at Camp Ramah for this summer and for generations to come.

With gratitude for your consideration,  
Deborah A Musher

Deborah Musher,  
PhD Special Education

--

Deborah Musher, PhD  
Special Education  
[everystep.help](http://everystep.help)

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** Nancy Hanks Kroy <nancykroy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 11:09 AM  
**To:** Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** Camp Ramah Case Numbers PL18-0052 and PL23-0002

30.

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Dear Kristina and County Planners

There are multiple issues within the 124-page report, but we are asking you to support us in ONE of them-- NOISE. Noise has been documented as problematic since 1988. The Camp is asking for approval for amplified sound until 10pm every night of the year and we are asking for some quiet nights. Remember that this camp is used as a year round event center for up to 1,000 people.

The new mitigation proposals to control the loud noise have not been tested yet. We hope they work.

We hope you will support a review of their noise mitigation with the input of neighbors of Fairview, Foothill and Farnham Roads without looking only at decibel ratings. There are also after hour yells and chants that are difficult for camp personnel to monitor. We also hope you will support us in asking for no amplified sound at all after 10 pm because that is not allowed anywhere in the Ojai Valley.

We also hope that in the case of a devastating wildfire (as just happened in LA) you will mandate Farnham road through the camp will be opened for our evacuation if Foothill road is burning and blocked.

We would really appreciate your consideration to these important issues.

Thank you.

Nancy Hanks Kroy

1464 Foothill Rd.

Ojai, CA 93023

**Boero, Kristina**

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**From:** Aaron J. Moskowitz <ajmoskowitz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 30, 2025 2:37 PM  
**To:** PC Hearing Comments; Boero, Kristina  
**Subject:** PL18-0052 & PL23-0002 – Planning Commission Public Comment for Camp Ramah

31.

**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 Honorable Members of the Ventura County Planning Commission:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to express our opinion on the issue of whether to approve the requested project of Camp Ramah.

We strongly support the requested project. Our family here in Phoenix, Arizona sends our two children, Samuel and Eliana, to Ojai every summer for Camp Ramah. They consistently love the experience. They speak very strongly about the environment.

For us, Camp Ramah has really placed Ojai "on the map."

In our experience, the Camp Ramah people are extremely gracious, supremely ethical, and truly contribute to the State of California.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider our view of the requested project. Please vote yes!

Sincerely,

Aaron and Alicia Moskowitz  
Samuel Moskowitz (age 12)  
Eliana Moskowitz (age 11)