

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - Group 6

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**From:** K RS <stillekr@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 8:31 AM  
**To:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; sbcob  
**Subject:** Sending on behalf of Eric W Stille, In support of John Sanford's Appeal of the Music Academy's CUP

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

November 5, 2024

County Board of Supervisors:

I am here to speak in favor of John Sanford's Appeal to the Music Academy's CUP.

My name is Eric Stille and I have lived in the neighborhood for 26 years. My first residence was the second house next to the Biltmore on Channel Drive. That brings up the topic of wedding noise. I can't tell you how many weddings my family has endured. There is one simple fact of almost any wedding. They get loader as the night goes on. It seems that every wedding there is "that guy" or "that couple" that seems they must be the life of the party and the noisiest! The only difference between the Biltmore and the Academy is in 1998 we moved into our home next to the Biltmore, we knew what we were signing up for. On the other hand, a 2003CUP on the Academy was to protect our neighborhood from excess noise and traffic. Now it looks like the rules and conditions, and noise level might be changing with serious consequences to the neighborhood that we all are currently protected from.

This simply is not fair to our neighborhood. The proposed CUP is totally against the spirit and intent of the Academy's 2003 CUP. I ask you, as supervisors, to vote in favor of the Appeal! If you don't, you are about to become very busy with other venues lining up to change their CUPs. Lotus Land has already written a letter in favor of this project. Why? Because they too want to change their CUP.

Another very distinct difference between the Academy and the Biltmore or Lotus Land is that we are surrounded by homes. Homes that we, the residents, believe are protected from excessive noise from weddings and large events, and from the subsequent traffic. It is absolutely crazy that change in the CUP is even being considered.

A major concern is the late night existing of partying guests leaving on a very dark residential street that is also confusing to navigate.

Please, County Board of Supervisors, I ask you to protect our neighborhood and support John Sanford's Appeal.

Sincerely,

Eric Stille

1155 Hill Road, Santa Barbara; 530-304-5802

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** Sarah Gorman <sarahpgorman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 8:38 AM  
**To:** sbcob; Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino  
**Subject:** Public comment for 11/5 item: HEARING - Consider recommendations regarding John Sandford's Appeal, Case No. 23APL-00021, of the Montecito Planning Commission's approval of the Music Academy of the West Revised Conditional Use Permit (Case No. 21RVP-000...

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I'm writing as a parent of a child enrolled in the Music Academy's terrific Sing! program. More importantly, I'm writing as a grateful member of the Music Academy's supportive, kind, and equity-based community.

My child has been learning music from the Sing! program since 2019. The Music Academy has created a loving and inclusive world of learning with the Sing! program. Music Academy staff work incredibly hard to make music - hard music, opera in German, music from disparate cultures, so many types of music - accessible to kids of all socio-economic levels throughout Santa Barbara County. Sing! choral instructors travel to these Title 1 schools to provide high level music education to these kids - for free! The learning takes place at the actual schools so the parents don't need to take time off of work to drive their kids to the lessons. It's terrific.

Then, the kids perform in these wonderful locations - the Granada, the Lobero, the Music Academy concert halls. And they sing with incredible groups, like the London Symphony Orchestra.

It's a fantastic educational opportunity for these kids, and it is free.

But the best thing about this program is the kids' sense of community with fellow choirsters. Music, and singing together, especially, creates connections with individuals.

I highly support the Music Academy's CUP application, and am very thankful for their support of our kids.

Sarah Gorman  
626-399-4502  
[sarahpgorman@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpgorman@gmail.com)

## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** dean@jubaeaestate.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 8:56 AM  
**To:** Supervisor Das Williams; Laura Capps; Joan Hartmann; Supervisor Nelson; Steve Lavagnino; sbcob  
**Subject:** MAW - Please consider appeal to expanded use permit

**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors:

I am a resident of the community neighboring the Music Academy of the West ("MAW") in Montecito, California. I am writing you today to as a concerned neighbor, hoping that you strongly consider the appeal to the proposed revised use permit for the Music Academy of the West. Aside from year-round traffic problems related to MAW, including excessive cut-through traffic, congestion on community roads, hazardous driving conditions, and parking on community streets, we hope you strongly consider the following suggestions:

- Refrain from hosting political or religious events.
- Public count of vehicles, not just attendees.
- Conduct a comprehensive external audit of the 2004 CUP.
- Undertake an environmental study for the 2023 CUP with the coastal commission.
- Appoint a neighborhood coordinator for improved communication.
- Implement full-time staff parking supervision.
- Provide advance notice to neighbors regarding events and operational hours.
- Contain amplified music indoors with closed windows and doors.
- Collaborate with the city on managing bicycle traffic.
- Avoid using outdoor amplified speakers.
- Prohibit diesel generators in violation of the 2004 CUP.
- Limit transportation to smaller vehicles and prohibit large diesel buses.
- Stop idling engines of waiting buses or limousines.
- Prohibit non-musical events such as religious ceremonies and political fundraisers.
- Allocate parking spaces for electric vehicles.
- Construct a bicycle garage.
- Encourage public transportation and bicycle use for events.
- Connect MAW to existing bicycle path networks.
- Promote alternative transportation methods.
- Keep windows and doors closed during indoor amplified music events.
- Install signage for MAW near the bike path.
- Prohibit outdoor food parties and BBQ cooking to prevent attracting wildlife.
- Regularly trim hazardous eucalyptus trees near the neighborhood properties.
- Enforce a comprehensive no-smoking policy throughout MAW premises.
- Educate all guests about local customs, community etiquette, and environmental respect.
- Emphasize the importance of proper disposal of cigarettes to prevent littering neighboring properties or public areas.
- Encourage respectful interactions with neighbors, emphasizing that mutual respect and cleanliness are vital for harmonious community relations.

Unfortunately, MAW's post-2004 actions have exceeded these negotiated provisions, and the proposed revisions threaten to intensify the disruptions to our peaceful enjoyment of this neighborhood.

Thank you for time, service, and consideration on this important matter.

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## Katherine Douglas

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**From:** AliCia EliZa STAR <alicia.eliza.8@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 5, 2024 9:09 AM  
**To:** Conner, Steve; sbcob; John Sanford  
**Subject:** support for the appeal of the Music Academy 2023 CUP

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Santa Barbara County Supervisors  
Clerk of the Board  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Fourth Floor, Santa Barbara, CA. 93101 sbcob@countyofsb.org

November 5, 2024

RE: Supporting the Appeal of the Music Academy of the West, 2023 CUP

To whom it may concern,

Santa Barbara County Supervisors  
Clerk of the Board  
and  
Steve Conner,  
Santa Barbara County Planner  
conners@countyofsb.org

I am in support of the appeal regarding the 2023 MAW CUP.

Our neighborhood standing together as a whole, practicing kindness, compassion and positive communication is essential in maintaining a peaceful, safe and healthy relationship within our community. The Music Academy of the West has been a wonderful, inspiring and peaceful environment and I am in favor of continuing to enjoy the experience of the beautiful, classical music and graceful events at the Music Academy of the West. However, as the years go by and ideas are privately being implemented, there has been quite a disruption in the original meaning to what the Music Academy is intended for.

It went from sweet ballet classes for local children, classical musical education, training highly talented musicians and wonderful opportunities and experiences in the field of performing arts, to the possibility of creating a commercialized environment in a residential community. There is a sense of uniqueness within this space that holds a special piece in my heart and in my memories.

As the years grow, it has come to my understanding that there has been quite an attempt, on their behalf, to cause a change to the originally classic and unique atmosphere that holds such beauty in our community. The attempt to create a more commercial environment within our beloved residential neighborhood would be a huge disservice to the fresh coastal air and surroundings. This would displace the quality we have all come to know.

I am requesting the acknowledgment in how this proposed CUP could negatively affect our neighborhood in the years to come.

I believe there are many other preferred available solutions in raising funds for the Music Academy that could benefit in keeping the environment peaceful, enjoyable, original and unique.

There is much gratitude in your consideration of this appeal. Overall, it should be acknowledged that the Music Academy's 2023 CUP has vague terminology with no specific solutions in maintaining a collectively content relationship with honesty and transparency throughout our residential community. I am sure I can speak for many, in stating that we would like to be insured that our quaint beach community will not become industrialized. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Kindly,  
Alicia Elizabeth Morgan