

California State Senate

SENATOR BRIAN W. JONES
THIRTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT



July 11, 2022

The Honorable Theodore M. Weathers
Judge of the Superior Court of San Diego County
Department 1702
1100 Union Street
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Placement of Sexually Violent Predator Douglas Badger

Dear Judge Weathers,

I have received a number of concerns from my constituents regarding the placement of a sexually violent predator (SVP), Douglas Badger, at 1619 Zuni Trail in Borrego Springs, CA. I share the concerns expressed by my constituents regarding the threat Mr. Badger poses to the health and safety of our community given his criminal history.

As a designated sexually violent predator in the State of California, Mr. Badger has been diagnosed with both schizoaffective disorder and sexual sadism disorder, making him capable of striking at any time. From 1959 to 1991, Mr. Badger was convicted of child molestation, kidnapping, and forcible oral copulation. He has served five separate prison terms and has had three parole violations between 1975 and 1991.

In addition to his prior offenses, Mr. Badger has a long history of having his petitions for release denied or withdrawn for multiple reasons. His first petition for release was rescinded in 2005 when it was found that one of his psychologists had an affair with another sexually violent predator. In 2006, Mr. Badger was released and placed in a trailer at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility until he was returned once more to a state hospital in 2007 due to a medical condition. As a result, Mr. Badger was monitored at that state hospital for fourteen more years. In 2013, yet another petition for release was rescinded due to unspecified incidents, which occurred at the hospital where he was held. This clearly demonstrates a pattern of questionable behavior and raises concerns regarding his fitness to be reintegrated into society.

Much like Badger's earlier proposed placements in Mt. Helix and Rancho Bernardo, his proposed placement in Borrego Springs would pose a significant threat to the community. As a rural town, there are no medical, psychiatric, or social services facilities located in Borrego Springs, and only two deputy Sheriffs cover the entire Borrego Springs Valley. Combined with the lack of sufficient resources, as well as the proximity to children who fit the profile of Badger's previous victims, the placement of Badger in this community is wholly unacceptable.

My constituents deserve better than to be repeatedly faced with the threat of having such unrepentant violent criminals placed in their communities. Earlier in the legislative session, I introduced SB 841, the SAFE Act, to call for geographic equity and increased transparency in the SVP placement process. I will continue to advocate for reforms to the SVP placement process, so that Californians will no longer have to fear continued efforts to place SVPs in their neighborhoods and it is my hope that your decision reflects your commitment to public safety.

For these reasons, I join with my constituents in opposing the placement of Douglas Badger in Borrego Springs. It is past time to stop this game of "hide the predator." With such a heinous criminal history, it is clear that he should remain in the custody of the Department of State Hospitals. Thank you for considering the safety of my constituents and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Jones".

Brian W. Jones
Senator, District 38