
By Dora Schriro and Melody Currey

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State commissioners: Gun range noise would be minimal

The Connecticut State Police unquestionably need a functioning, suitably sized range where they can receive the essential training they need to keep our state safe. The existing range is no longer viable due to a myriad of structural and operational deficiencies. Furthermore, the site physically cannot be expanded and there is no other facility in the state available for regular use that is capable of meeting the CSP's training needs.

We have listened to the feedback constituents have provided, reviewed more than 1,000 properties, many of them state-owned parcels, and identified a site in Griswold that has no residential neighbors and is surrounded by heavily forested state land which would provide significant sight and sound separation from the community.

We have done an initial noise assessment using noise modeling software developed by the U.S. military and the U.S. Forest Service. This assessment shows that, in a worst-case scenario, the nearest residents, about two-thirds of a mile away, would hear sounds in a moderate noise range — no louder than existing neighborhood noise.

The vast majority of people in town and the surrounding towns would not hear noise that could be attributed to this facility. Additionally, shooting at the CSP range will take place fewer than two hours a day, Monday through Friday. Much of the day is spent in instruction.

We have heard concerns about the roads and forest trail network. The state would improve and maintain Breakneck Hill Road. The trail that passes onto the property would be rerouted and acknowledged, for the first time, by a conservation easement.

We understand resident concerns, and we strive to be good neighbors.

The state will not buy or build any property without fully exploring and addressing environmental impacts, as well as issues such as noise, traffic and property values, in a lengthy and rigorous review process that we hope to commence later this year. There will be several more meetings in the town, formal and informal, where the public will have ample opportunity to bring forward questions and concerns, all of which we will be required to be addressed or mitigated in our development plan.

We invite everyone to visit our website, ct.gov/CSPrange. We will be continuously updating the site with information to answer constituents' questions and will follow up with individuals who have specific questions.

We hope that everyone will take the time to learn the facts about this proposal. We are committed to listening to constituent concerns, and will do our best to answer any questions that will help inform the decision-making process for this critical public safety facility.

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