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## POWAY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

# NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Date: February 24, 2022

**TO:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**PROJECT TITLE:** Del Norte High School Baseball and Softball Fields Lighting Project

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Poway Unified School District (District), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIR) for the Del Norte High School Baseball and Softball Fields Lighting Project. The purpose of this notice is to (1) serve as a public notice of an EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, (2) advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the SEIR to be prepared, and (3) notice the public scoping meeting.

**Notice of Preparation:** The Poway Unified School District, as lead agency, requests that responsible and trustee agencies respond in a manner consistent with Section 15082(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(d) and 15082, the District will not prepare an initial study but will begin work directly on the Draft SEIR. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 21080.4, responsible agencies must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt. The public review period will commence on February 24, 2022 and will close on March 25, 2022. A copy of the NOP can be viewed electronically on the District's webpage at: <https://www.powayusd.com> and <https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Business-Support/Planning/Contacts>

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** We ask that any person wishing to comment on the NOP provide written comments by the end of the public review period at 5:00 pm, March 25, 2022, to:

[ralschbach@powayusd.com](mailto:ralschbach@powayusd.com)

**Rheia Alschbach, Assistant Director, Planning**  
(Please include "CEQA Del Norte High School" in the subject line)

or by U.S. mail to:

**Poway Unified School District, 15250 Avenue of Science, San Diego, CA 92128**  
**Attn: Rheia Alschbach, Assistant Director, Planning**

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:** The District will hold a virtual scoping meeting in conjunction with this NOP in order to present the project and the EIR process, and to provide an opportunity for agency representatives and the public to assist the lead agency in determining the scope and content of the environmental analysis for the SEIR. For instructions on how the public may view and participate in the public scoping meeting, please visit the following link: <https://www.powayusd.com/en-US/Departments/Business-Support/Planning/Contacts>

**Scoping Meeting Date:** March 14, 2022 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Del Norte High School (DNHS) is at 16601 Nighthawk Lane in San Diego, San Diego County, California (APNs 678-23-040 and 678-23-012). The DNHS campus totals 62 acres and is bounded by Nighthawk Lane to the northwest, Del Sur Ridge Road and Lone Quail Road to the north, Deer Ridge Road to the east, and Camino San Bernardo to the south. The western 40 acres of the campus (APN 678-23-040) is in the City of San Diego, and the eastern 22 acres (APN 678-23-012) is in the unincorporated County of San Diego (Figure 1, *Local Vicinity*). The existing varsity baseball and softball fields to be lighted are in the eastern part of the campus (Figure 2, *Aerial Photograph*).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The District proposes to add competitive sports lighting to the existing varsity baseball and softball fields (ballfields) at Del Norte High School. Sports lighting would consist of eight galvanized steel poles between 70 ft to 90 ft tall on the varsity baseball field and six 60-ft- and 70-ft-tall poles on the softball field, with LED luminaires mounted at various heights (see Figure 3, *Proposed Sports Lighting Locations*). The proposed sports lighting project would allow extended use of the ballfields into evening hours by both students and the general public. Both ballfields are currently being used by the students from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm for practices and games, with up to 35 participants during practices and 60 participants and 80 spectators for games. The proposed sports lighting project is not anticipated to change the number of practices and games but would extend the hours of use until 8:00 pm on weekdays for practices from February to June, and 9:00 pm on weekdays from August to December. Weekend use of the ballfields would not change from the existing conditions except for special occasions pursuant to the District’s facilities-use policy. The number of participants and spectators at any given day are not anticipated to change. The proposed project would require limited ground disturbance to install light poles. No structural demolition would be required.

The current access to the ballfields is through the campus, with main vehicular access from Nighthawk Lane and Del Sur Ridge. However, a maintenance- and emergency-only vehicular access is currently being constructed on Deer Ridge Road, which would provide direct access to the ballfields for maintenance and emergency purposes—without being routed through the campus. A pedestrian gate would be available from Deer Ridge Road, which would allow the public to park on Deer Ridge Road to access the ballfields instead of parking on campus.

The District certified the Final EIR for Del Norte High School (State Clearinghouse No. 2006021013) (2006 EIR) on June 26, 2006, analyzing the potential impacts of construction and operation of Del Norte High School. The proposed sports lighting on the varsity baseball and softball fields was not included in the 2006 EIR. However, installation of sports lighting on the existing ballfields would qualify as minor additions or changes to the existing operation of the high school; therefore, it meets the criteria for preparing a Supplemental EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15163. Preparation of this Draft SEIR will use the 2006 EIR in its analysis and analyze the environmental effects of the proposed project to the degree of specificity required by Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Draft SEIR will contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:** In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the District has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide agencies, organizations, and interested parties with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects. As authorized by the CEQA Guidelines, the District determined, based on preliminary review, that it would prepare an SEIR for the proposed project. Therefore, it is beginning work directly on the EIR process and will focus on potentially significant effects of the project in the SEIR; it will also briefly explain why the other effects will not be potentially significant. An Initial Study is not required to determine that an EIR will be prepared and is therefore not attached. The Draft SEIR will analyze potential environmental effects of the proposed project related to Aesthetics (visual/light and glare), Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Noise, and Transportation. The project site is not on a list compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5.

If you require additional information, please contact Rheia Alschbach, Assistant Director, at [ralschbach@powayusd.com](mailto:ralschbach@powayusd.com) or (858) 521-2800 (ext. 2447).

Attachments:

Figure 1. Local Vicinity

Figure 2. Aerial Photograph

Figure 3. Proposed Sports Lighting Locations