

Merced Union High School District
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
El Capitan High School Stadium Project

Project Title: El Capitan High School Stadium Project

Lead Agency and Project Sponsor: Merced Union High School District

Contact Person:

Melissa Miller
Facilities Planning Manager
2130 Spacecraft Drive
Atwater, CA 95301
Telephone: (209) 325-2243
Email: mmiller@muhsd.org

Project Location and Description:

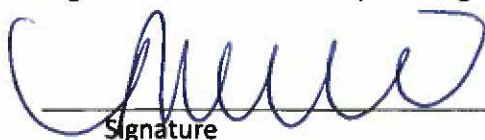
The project is proposed to be constructed on the western portion of the existing El Capitan High School campus, located on the west side of G Street between Farmland and Bellevue Road in the City of Merced, California. The project site is currently occupied by existing campus athletic facilities (a football field and running track). The project includes construction and operation of a 3,000-seat athletic stadium which would serve El Capitan High School's athletic programs. Facilities planned as part of the project include bleacher seating, a natural turf competition field, a rubberized running track, a scoreboard, PA system, lights, concessions, and restrooms. The stadium lighting would consist of state-of-the-art LED light fixtures mounted on four 90-foot-tall poles. The lighting would be designed and oriented to light the field and project areas adjacent to the field that need to be lighted with little or no light trespass on non-project areas. Additionally, the project includes landscaping features and new concrete-paved areas within the campus.

The project would operate year-round, with most activity occurring during the fall sports season. Games and practices would be scheduled on weekdays and weekends, and events would be scheduled during daytime and evening hours (not to exceed 10:00 p.m.). The project may also be utilized for hosting occasional non-athletic special events, such as pep rallies and graduation ceremonies.

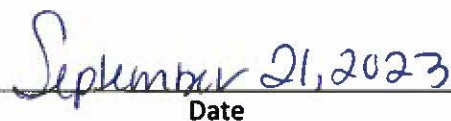
If approved, the project is anticipated to begin construction in fall 2023 and begin operation in fall 2024.

Mitigation Measures: The District has incorporated mitigation measures into the project for potentially significant impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hydrology/water quality, and noise. The mitigation measures are included in the Initial Study.

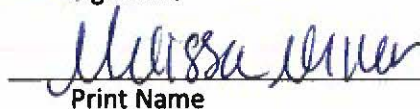
Finding: As required by the California Environmental Quality Act, the District prepared an Initial Study for the project. Based on the Initial Study, the District determined that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect in this case because the District has incorporated mitigation measures into the project that would avoid any significant effects of the project or reduce the effects to a less than significant level. Therefore, it is the intent of Merced Union High School District to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.



Signature



Date



Print Name



Title