

**Merced Union High School District**  
**Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the**  
**El Capitan High School Stadium Project**  
(SCH No. 2022120060)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN:**

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the Merced Union High School District has prepared an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed El Capitan High School Stadium (“project”). Based on the Initial Study, the District has determined that although the project could have a significant effect on the environment, there would not be a significant effect because the District has incorporated mitigation measures into the project that would avoid any significant effects or reduce the effects to a less than significant level.

The Board of Trustees of the Merced Union High School District will consider adopting the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approving the project at its meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible in the Golden Valley High School Library, 2121 E. Childs Avenue, Merced, California. All interested persons are invited to attend this meeting and present testimony regarding the project.

**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.

**Public Review and Comment:**

Members of the public and interested agencies may review and submit written comments on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study. The documents are available for review at the Merced Union High School District Facilities and Planning Office (see address and phone number below) and on the District Facilities webpage: <https://www.muhsd.org/departments/district-operations/facilities>

The public review period will begin on Friday, September 22, 2023, and end on Monday, October 23, 2023. Please submit your written comments no later than October 23, 2023, to Melissa Miller, Facilities Planning Manager, 2130 Spacecraft Drive, Atwater, CA 95301, email: [mmiller@muhsd.org](mailto:mmiller@muhsd.org), (209) 325-2243.