

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Making Conservation
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February 06 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

February 14, 2024

Gioconda Padilla
El Rancho Unified School District
8910 Slauson Avenue
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

RE: El Rancho High School Baseball Field
Lighting Project - Mitigated Negative
Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2024010280
GTS # 07-LA-2023-04425
Vic. LA-605/12.404

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. El Rancho Unified School District proposes to relocate the existing baseball field at the El Rancho High School and implement new permanent lighting surrounding the baseball field. The existing baseball field does not currently have lights for evening use. The El Rancho Unified School District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The closest state facility is SR-605. After reviewing the project's MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

- The city's determination that this project is presumed to have less than significant VMT impact is consistent with the OPR SB 743 Technical Advisory's recommendation. Caltrans is in support of this project that helps achieve state planning priorities contained in state law and meets state policy goals on transportation, VMT reduction, GHG emissions reduction, and/or betterment of the environment and human health.
- Caltrans aims to reach zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries by 2050 as there is a direct link between impact speeds and the likelihood of fatality or serious injury. To reach this goal, Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to improve pedestrian and bicyclist amenities to and from the new baseball field. The most effective methods to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist exposure to vehicles are through physical design and geometrics.
 - These methods include the construction of physically separated facilities such as Class IV bikeways, wide sidewalks, curb extensions, pedestrian

refuge islands, landscaping, street furniture, and reductions in crossing distances through roadway narrowing.

- Visual indicators such as pedestrian and bicyclist warning signage, flashing beacons, crosswalks, signage, and striping should be used in addition to physical design improvements to indicate to motorists that they can expect to see and yield to people walking or riding bikes.
- Caltrans recommends the following during the construction stage:
 - Work with Caltrans Office of Permits, Multi-Modal Unit, for a designated truck route for construction trucks to transport construction equipment to and from the construction sites.
 - Construction vehicles/equipment should use alternative routes to avoid congested state facilities, especially during peak hours.
 - Cover construction trucks with tarpaulin to avoid debris spillage onto State facilities.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the use of oversized transport vehicles on State Highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2024-04425.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong

FRANCES DUONG
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief (Acting)

cc: State Clearinghouse