



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

TO: Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

FROM: El Rancho Unified School District (Lead Agency)

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed El Rancho High School Baseball Field Lighting Project

Project Title: El Rancho High School Baseball Field Lighting Project

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the El Rancho Unified School District (ERUSD or District), as lead agency, proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). An Initial Study (IS) was prepared in support of an MND, compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of this notice is to serve as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for a 30-day public comment period pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15073.

PROJECT LOCATION: El Rancho High School (El Rancho HS or Campus) is at 6501 Passons Boulevard (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 6378-009-900), in the City of Pico Rivera, Los Angeles County (project site). El Rancho HS is bound by Passons Boulevard to the east, Loch Alene Avenue to the west, Homebrook Street to the south, and single-family residences to the north.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The District proposes to relocate the existing baseball field at the El Rancho HS and implement new permanent lighting surrounding the baseball field (proposed project). The existing baseball field does not currently have lights for evening use.

Baseball Field

The proposed project would relocate the baseball field from the center of the Campus to the northern boundary of the Campus, adjacent to the single-family residences that border the northern boundary of El Rancho HS. The proposed site of the new baseball field currently contains the school's softball fields. The proposed baseball field would be approximately 20 feet south of the nearest property line.

The renovated baseball field would include a natural grass outfield, home and visitor dugouts, home and visitor bullpens, new bleachers behind home plate, and new batting cages near the southeast boundary of the baseball field. The proposed project would not increase capacity for spectators, compared to the existing baseball field.

The proposed project would include a 65-foot tension netting backstop behind home plate, and along the entire northern boundary of the baseball field to prevent foul balls from entering the adjacent properties; and the western edge of the baseball field would include 40-foot netting. The outfield would be enclosed by an 8-foot-tall chain-link fence.

Proposed Baseball Field Lighting

The proposed project would include eight new Musco lighting structures around the new baseball field with two lighting structures along the northern boundary of the field, two along the western boundary, and four along the outfield. Each proposed structure would contain light-emitting diode (LED) lights and would be between 70 and 80 feet tall. The IS/MND illustrates example views of similar lighting and netting that would be implemented under the proposed project.

The proposed maximum field illumination level would be approximately 64 foot-candles (fc) for the two poles in the infield of the proposed baseball field, with an average illumination of 50.2 fc. The light poles along the left field foul line and right field foul line would have a maximum illumination of 15 and 44 fc, respectively; with an average illumination of 12.3 fc and 41.2 fc, respectively. And the four light poles in the outfield would have a maximum illumination of 46 fc, with an average illumination of 32.3 fc.

Proposed Lighting Schedule

The proposed activities for the El Rancho HS baseball field would occur between 3:15 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., including games and practices. All El Rancho HS baseball activities are scheduled to end by 8:00 p.m.

Project Construction

Construction activities would occur over approximately 14 months between winter 2024 and spring 2025. Once construction begins, all construction equipment and workers would be within the boundaries of the project site and contractors would adhere to construction noise regulations to avoid disruption to campus operations.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Wednesday, February 14, 2024

RESPONSES AND COMMENTS: Responsible public agencies, trustee agencies, the Office of Planning and Research, the Los Angeles County Clerk, organizations, and members of the public are invited to review and comment on the IS/MND. Your complete and detailed response should be sent at the earliest possible date, but not later than 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Please include the name, phone number, and email address of a contact person in all responses submitted. There will be no consideration of, or responses to, untimely comments.

Please send your response to the IS/MND, in writing, with the subject heading **El Rancho High School Baseball Field Lighting Project** to:

Mail: Gioconda Padilla, Chief Business Officer
El Rancho Unified School District
8910 Slauson Avenue
Pico Rivera CA 90660

E-mail: G.padilla@erUSD.org

Environmental Determination: An IS was prepared for the proposed project and concluded that there will be less than significant impacts on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures; a MND has therefore been prepared. Possible impacts on Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, and Mandatory Findings of Significance were identified in the IS and will be mitigated to a less than significant level.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The IS/MND and NOI for the proposed project are available for public review at the following locations (physical locations during normal business hours):

- **El Rancho Unified School District**, 9333 Loch Lomond Drive, Pico Rivera, CA 90660
- **El Rancho High School**, 6501 South Passons Blvd., Pico Rivera, CA 90660
- **ERUSD website:** <https://www.erUSD.org>

If you require additional information, please contact Gioconda Padilla at (562) 801-7400.