January 2024 | Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

EL RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD LIGHTING PROJECT

El Rancho Unified School District

Prepared for:

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

°C	degrees Celsius
AAQS	ambient air quality standards
AB	Assembly Bill
ADT	average daily trips/traffic
AFY	acre-feet per year
APN	Assessor's Parcel Number
AQMP	air quality management plan
BMP	best management practice
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CALGreen	California Green Building Standards Code
Cal/OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CDE	California Department of Education
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Survey
CH_4	methane
CIF	California Interscholastic Federation
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DOC	Department of Conservation
DSA	Division of the State Architect
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	environmental impact report
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
ERUSD	El Rancho Unified School District
FC	foot-candle

Abbreviations and Acronyms

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GHG	greenhouse gas
HS	High School
I-	Interstate
IEPR	Integrated Energy Policy Report
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LACFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
LACSD	Los Angeles County Sanitation District
LASD	Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
L_{dn}	day-night noise level
L_{eq}	equivalent continuous noise level
LED	light-emitting diode
LOS	level of service
LRA	local responsibility area
LST	localized significance thresholds
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mgd	million gallons per day
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MND	mitigated negative declaration
MT	metric ton
N_2O	Nitrous oxide
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
ND	Negative Declaration
NO_X	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
O_3	ozone
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PM	particulate matter
PRMC	Pico Rivera Municipal Code

Abbreviations and Acronyms

PWD	Pico Water District
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SoCAB	South Coast Air Basin
SoCalGas	Southern California Gas Company
SO_X	sulfur oxides
SR-	State Route
SRA	source receptor area [or state responsibility area]
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	toxic air contaminant
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDOT	United States Department of Transportation
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UWMP	urban water management plan
VdB	velocity decibels
VHFHSZ	very high fire hazard severity zone
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
WRD	Water Replenishment District of Southern California

1. Introduction

1.1 OVERVIEW

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

In compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the ERUSD, as lead agency, is preparing the environmental documentation for the proposed project to determine if approval of the requested discretionary actions and subsequent development would have a significant impact on the environment. As defined by Section 15063 of the CEQA Guidelines, an initial study is prepared primarily to provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for determining whether an environmental impact report (EIR), negative declaration (ND), or mitigated negative declaration (MND) would provide the necessary environmental documentation and clearance for the proposed project. This initial study has been prepared to support the adoption of an MND.

1.1.1 Background

In May 2023, the District approved a project to renovate the athletic facilities at El Rancho HS, which would replace and relocate the existing pool and pool building; relocate the existing softball field; replace field lighting, bleachers, and press box for the football stadium; add a new concession stands building and a field house; add new synthetic turf for the football/soccer field and synthetic material for the track and field; relocate four outdoor basketball courts; add a new multipurpose practice field; and relocate one parking lot. Construction of this project is anticipated to occur over approximately 18 months between fall 2023 and spring 2025.

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

El Rancho HS is at 6501 Passons Boulevard (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 6378-009-900), in the City of Pico Rivera, Los Angeles County (project site). The City of Pico Rivera is surrounded by the City of Montebello to the west, the City of Downey to the south, the City of Santa Fe Springs to the southeast, and the City of Whittier to the east, and unincorporated Los Angeles County to the east and north (see Figure 1, *Regional Location*). The project site is approximately 0.65 mile west of Interstate 605 (I-605), approximately 2.2 miles north of Interstate 5 (I-5), and approximately 3.6 miles south of State Route 60 (SR-60).

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 (see Figure 2, *Local Vicinity*, and Figure 3, *Aerial View*).

1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

1.3.1 Existing Development and Use

El Rancho HS campus is approximately 36 acres in size. The eastern and southern portion of the campus is configured with one- to two-story permanent buildings that house classrooms, a multipurpose room, library, gymnasiums, and school administration offices that form the campus core. The western and northern portion of the campus is developed with athletic facilities, which include 12 tennis courts, basketball courts, a baseball and two softball fields, batting cages, track/field event areas, long jump area, a multipurpose grass field, a natural grass football field, bleachers, a concession/bathroom building, and other associated athletic structures. The campus also contains outdoor paved walkways and landscaping throughout. The campus is enclosed with a chain-link fence and gates that control access to the campus.

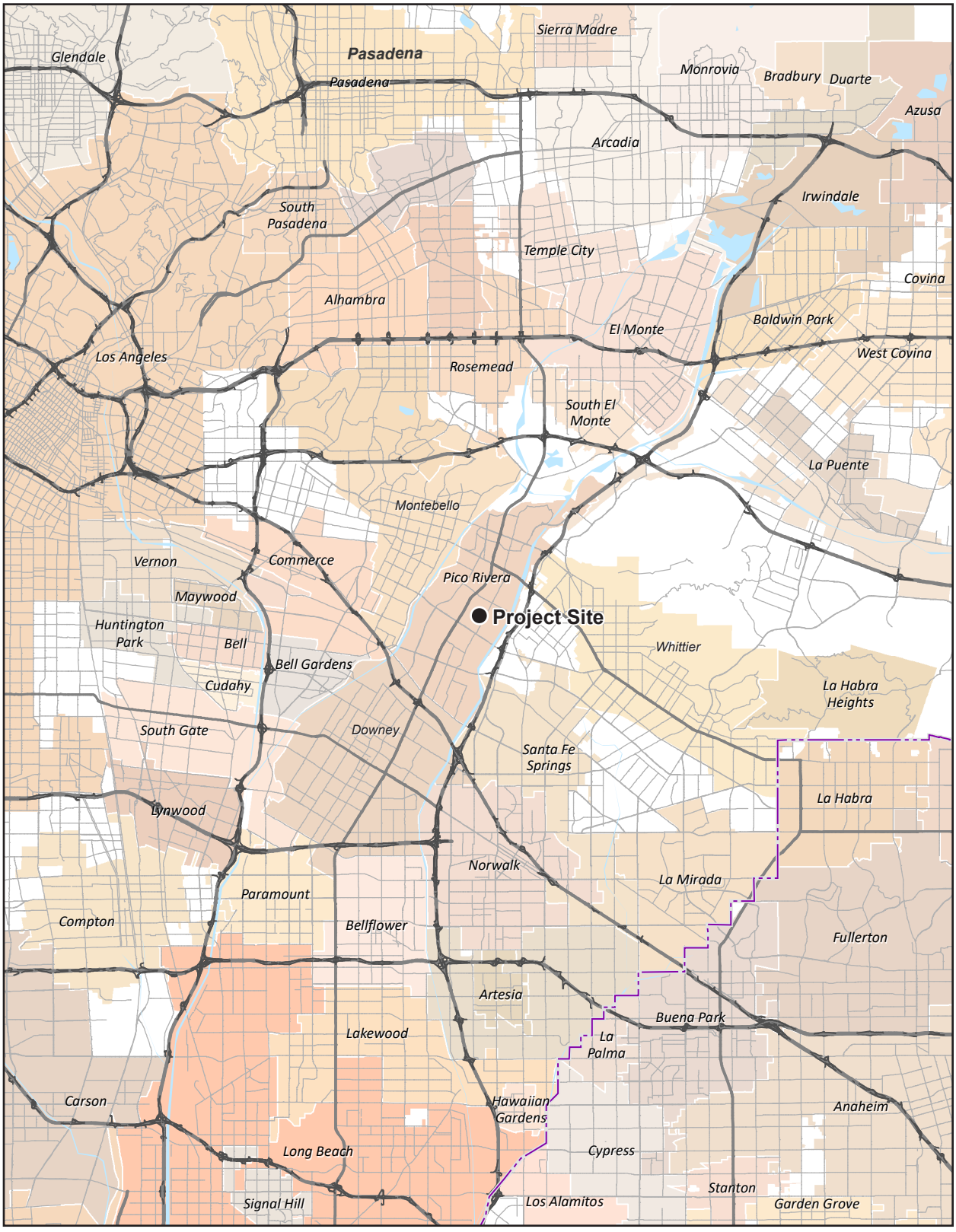
1.3.2 General Plan Land Use and Zoning

The campus is zoned Public Facilities (P-F), which is intended for continued use and future development of public and quasi-public uses, including schools, government administrative facilities, police/sheriff stations, and libraries. The campus is surrounded by properties zoned Single-Family Residential (S-F) on all sides, with additional properties zoned P-F and C-Z to the south and east (SCAG 2019).

1.3.3 Surrounding Land Use

The campus is in a residential neighborhood of Pico Rivera. El Rancho HS is one of two high schools within the District that serves the City of Pico Rivera. El Rancho HS provides its educational facilities and services for grades 9-12. The project site is surrounded by single-family residences immediately to the north, east, south, and west. The campus is north of the Pico Rivera City Hall and Sheriff's Station, and southeast of Ruben Salazar Continuation High School, which is also an ERUSD property.

Figure 1 - Regional Location



Source: Generated using ArcMap 2023.

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Figure 2 - Local Vicinity

El Rancho High School Boundary

Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in white.

Source: Generated using ArcMap 2023.

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Figure 3 - Aerial Photograph

El Rancho High School Boundary
Proposed Baseball Field
Existing Baseball Field

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Source: Nearmap 2023.

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1.4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

1.4.1 Student Enrollment

El Rancho High School was built in 1952 and has a total capacity of 3,270 students. As shown in Table 1, *El Rancho High School Student Enrollment*, El Rancho HS had a 2022-2023 enrollment of approximately 2,244 students in grades 9 through 12.

Table 1 El Rancho High School Student Enrollment

	Total Enrollment				
Grade	**2018-2019**	**2019-2020**	**2020-2021**	**2021-2022**	**2022-2023**
9th grade	634	608	615	601	571
10th grade	590	609	609	584	604
11th grade	548	537	553	564	534
12th grade	592	543	528	506	535
Total	**2,364**	**2,297**	**2,305**	**2,255**	**2,244**

Source: California Department of Education, 2023.

1.4.2 School Schedule

Students with a zero period start school Tuesday through Friday at 7:20 a.m., with no zero period on Monday. All other students arrive at 8:20 a.m. and remain until 3:20 p.m. on Monday and Friday, and 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday, with a 10-minute nutrition period and a 40-minute lunch period every day. Additionally, there is a 45-minute teacher collaboration period on Monday and Friday beginning at 7:40 a.m.

The school schedule does have alternative schedules for specific days, including minimum days and final exams, in which zero period begins at 7:25 a.m. and the day ends at 12:30 p.m. Afterschool activities currently conclude as late as 7:00 p.m., which includes the use of the sports fields on the northern half of campus.

1.4.3 Baseball Field

During the school year, the athletic fields are regularly used by the high school students and staff to conduct athletic practices, physical education classes, and a variety of other scholastic-related events and games.

The existing baseball field encompasses approximately 2.8 acres near the center of the El Rancho HS campus and is east of the tennis courts and south of the football stadium. As shown in Figure 3, the existing baseball field is generally oriented from north to south, with the batter's box in the northwestern portion of the field and the outfield in the southeastern portion of the field.

The baseball field is used by the boys' varsity and junior varsity baseball teams. The baseball season begins in February and ends in April, with the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) playoffs in May. The varsity and junior varsity baseball teams play as early as 10:00 a.m. and as late as 3:30 p.m., as there are no lights on the field and the game must be completed before sundown, from February to May. During the 2022-2023 school

year, the varsity baseball field hosted 15 regular-season baseball games, including league and non-league games; and one CIF playoff game (CIF 2023).

The existing baseball field is currently used for scheduled El Rancho HS baseball team games and practices. The baseball teams use the field in the winter and spring from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The existing baseball field currently includes four bleachers along the northern boundary of the field, which can accommodate 40 to 50 spectators.

1.4.4 Parking and Access

Vehicular access to the campus is currently provided via parking lots along Homebrook Street, Loch Alene Avenue, Passons Boulevard, and at the intersection of Loch Alene Avenue and Balfour Street; with the parking lot on Loch Alene Avenue providing the nearest available parking to the existing baseball field. The campus has a total of seven parking lots, providing a total of 303 parking spaces, including 16 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-accessible stalls. An internal service road intersects the campus beginning at Passons Boulevard in the north and terminating at Homebrook Street in the south.

1.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

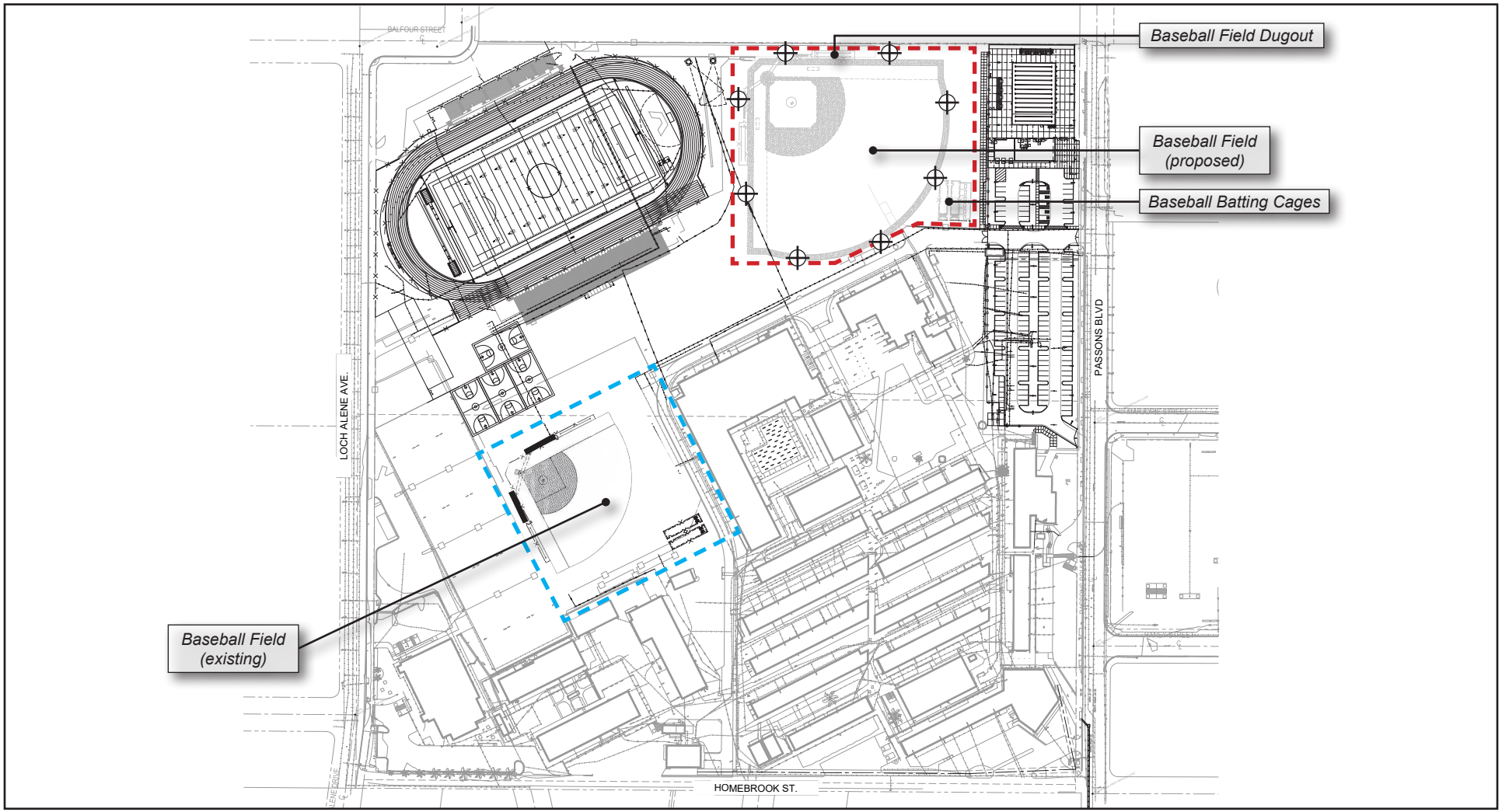
1.5.1 Baseball Field

The District proposes to relocate and renovate the baseball field at El Rancho HS. The proposed project would relocate the baseball field from the center of the campus to the northern boundary of the campus (see Figure 3), 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 (see Figure 4, *Area of Improvement*). 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 (see Figure 5a, *Proposed Netting Along West Side of Baseball Field,* and Figure 5b, *Proposed Netting Along North Side of Baseball Field*). The outfield would be enclosed by an 8-foot-tall chain-link fence.

Figure 4 - Area of Improvement



Source: LPA Design Studios 2022.

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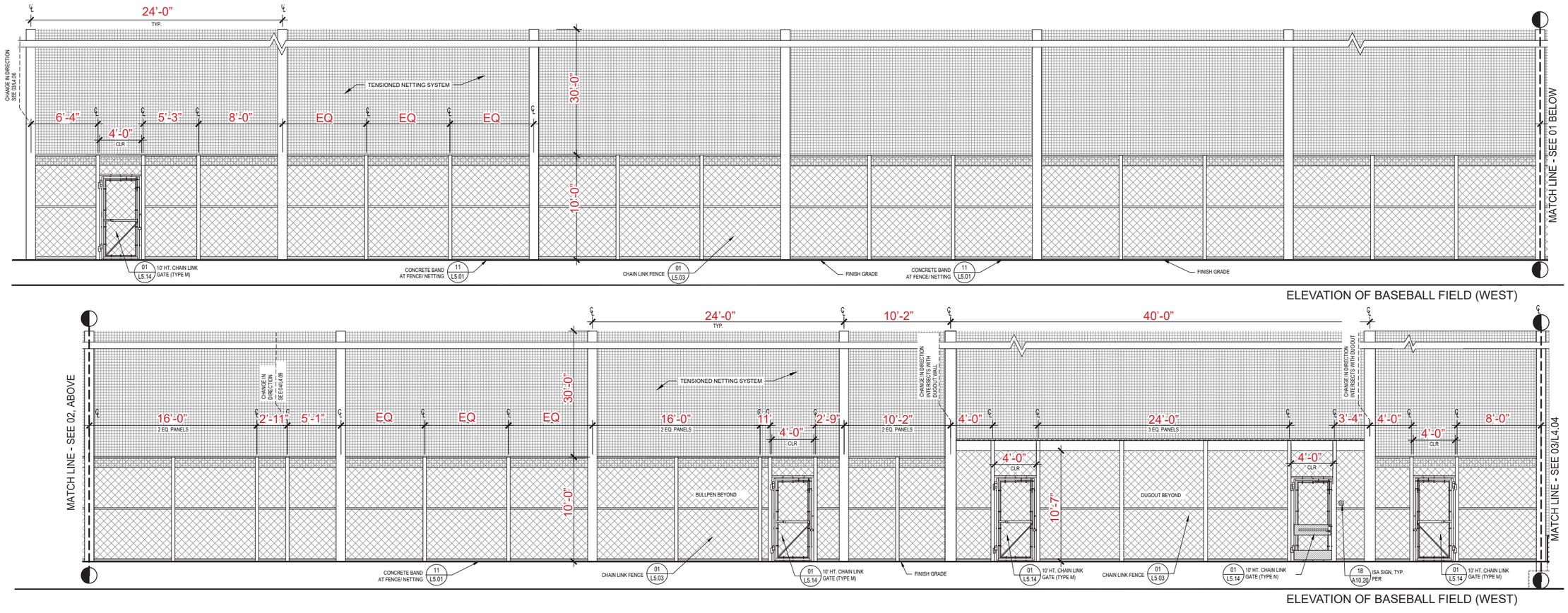
Figure 5a - Proposed Netting along West Side of Baseball Field



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Source: LPA 2022.

1. Introduction

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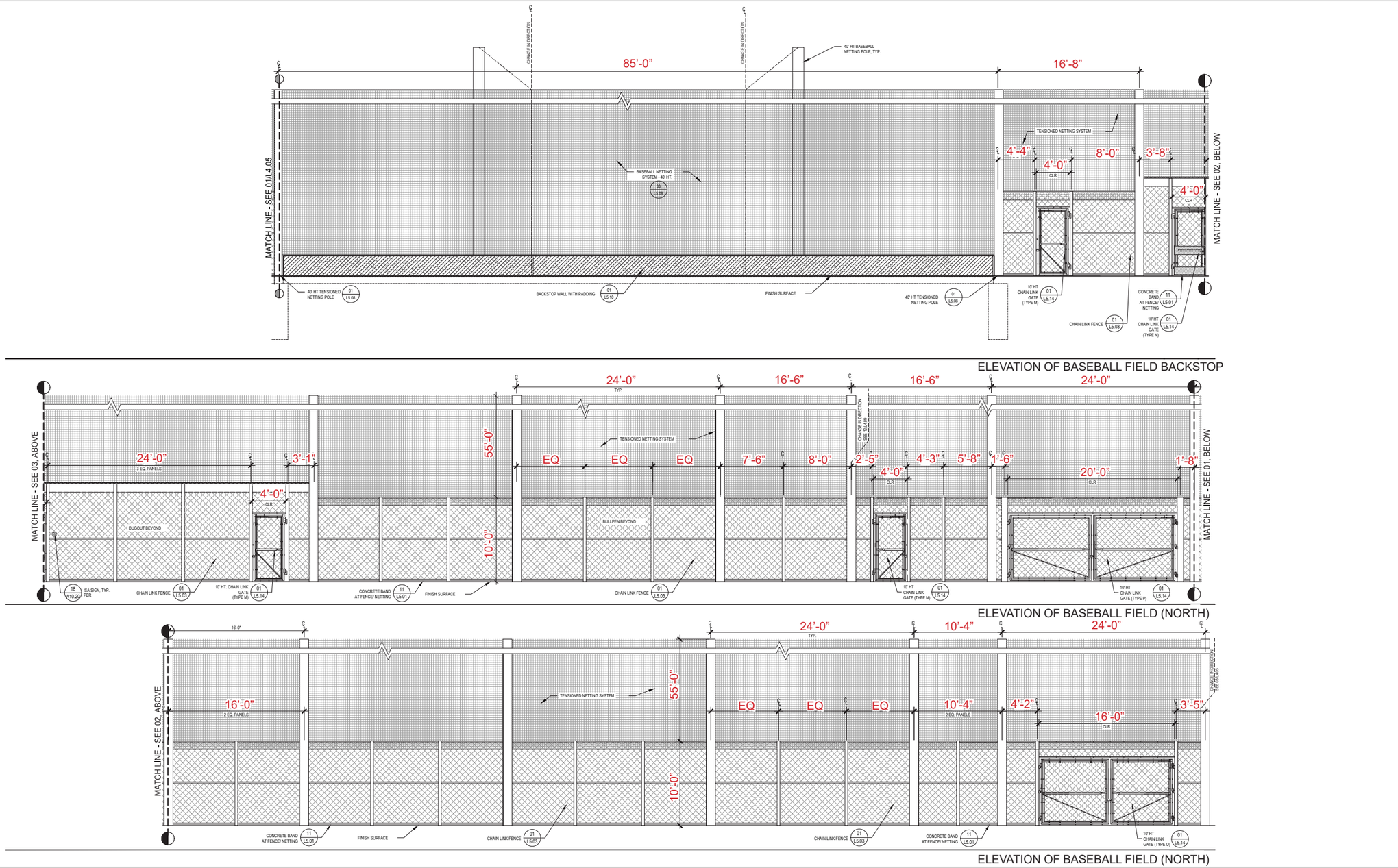
Figure 5b - Proposed Netting along North Side of Baseball Field



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Source: LPA 2022.

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1.5.2 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 (see Figure 6, *Conceptual Site Plan*). Each proposed structure would contain light-emitting diode (LED) lights and would be between 70 and 80 feet tall (see Figure 7a, *Proposed Lighting Elevations Along West Side of Baseball Field*, and Figure 7b, *Proposed Lighting Along North Side of Baseball Field*). Additionally, Figure 8, *Proposed Lighting and Netting Examples*, illustrates example views of similar lighting and netting that would be implemented under the proposed project.

As shown in Table 2, *Proposed Baseball Field Lighting*, 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.

Table 2 Proposed Baseball Field Lighting

ID Number	Height	Location	Illumination (foot-candle)		
			Minimum	Maximum	Average
A1	70 feet	Between home plate and 3rd base	34	64	50.2
A2	70 feet	Between home plate and 1st base	34	64	50.2
B1	80 feet	3rd base foul line	11	15	12.3
B2	80 feet	1st base foul line	36	44	41.2
C1	70 feet	Left field	22	46	32.3
C2	70 feet	Right field	22	46	32.3
D1	70 feet	Left center field	22	46	32.3
D2	70 feet	Right center field	22	46	32.3

Source: Musco Lighting, 2023.

1.5.3 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.

1.5.4 Site Access and Circulation

1.5.4.1 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Pedestrian access to the proposed project would be provided along the southwestern portion of the project site via a paved pedestrian walkway from the El Rancho HS campus to the proposed bleachers behind home

plate. Access to the field would be provided via single-person chain-link pedestrians gates at the dugouts and in right field.

1.5.4.2 VEHICULAR ACCESS

The proposed project does not include changes to the existing driveways or circulation systems around the campus. Parking for school employees, students, and visitors would be provided on-site in the existing parking lots along Passons Boulevard, Homebrook Street, and Loch Alene Avenue; with the parking lots on Loch Alene Avenue and Passons Boulevard providing the nearest available parking to the proposed baseball field.

1.5.4.3 EMERGENCY ACCESS

Emergency access to the proposed project would be provided along the southern portion of the baseball field via an emergency fire line; and access to the field would be provided via a chain-link vehicular gate in left field.

1.5.5 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.

1.6 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

1.6.1 Lead Agency

ERUSD is the lead agency under CEQA and is carrying out the proposed project. To approve the proposed project, the ERUSD Board of Education must first adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and, as applicable, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP). The Board will consider the information in the IS/MND when making its decision to approve or deny the proposed project, or in directing modifications to the proposed project in response to the IS/MND's findings and mitigation measures. The IS/MND is intended to disclose to the public the proposed project's details, analyses of the proposed project's potential environment impacts, and identification of feasible mitigation that would lessen or reduce significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

1.6.2 Other Agency Action Requested

ERUSD is the lead agency under CEQA and has approval authority over the proposed project. The District would require approval and/or coordination from the following responsible agencies to implement the proposed project.

Lead Agency	Action
El Rancho Unified School District	• Approve the proposed project • Adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration • Adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
Responsible Agencies	**Action**
Department of General Services, Division of State Architect	• Approval of construction drawings
Los Angeles County Fire Department	• Approval of emergency site access

1. Introduction

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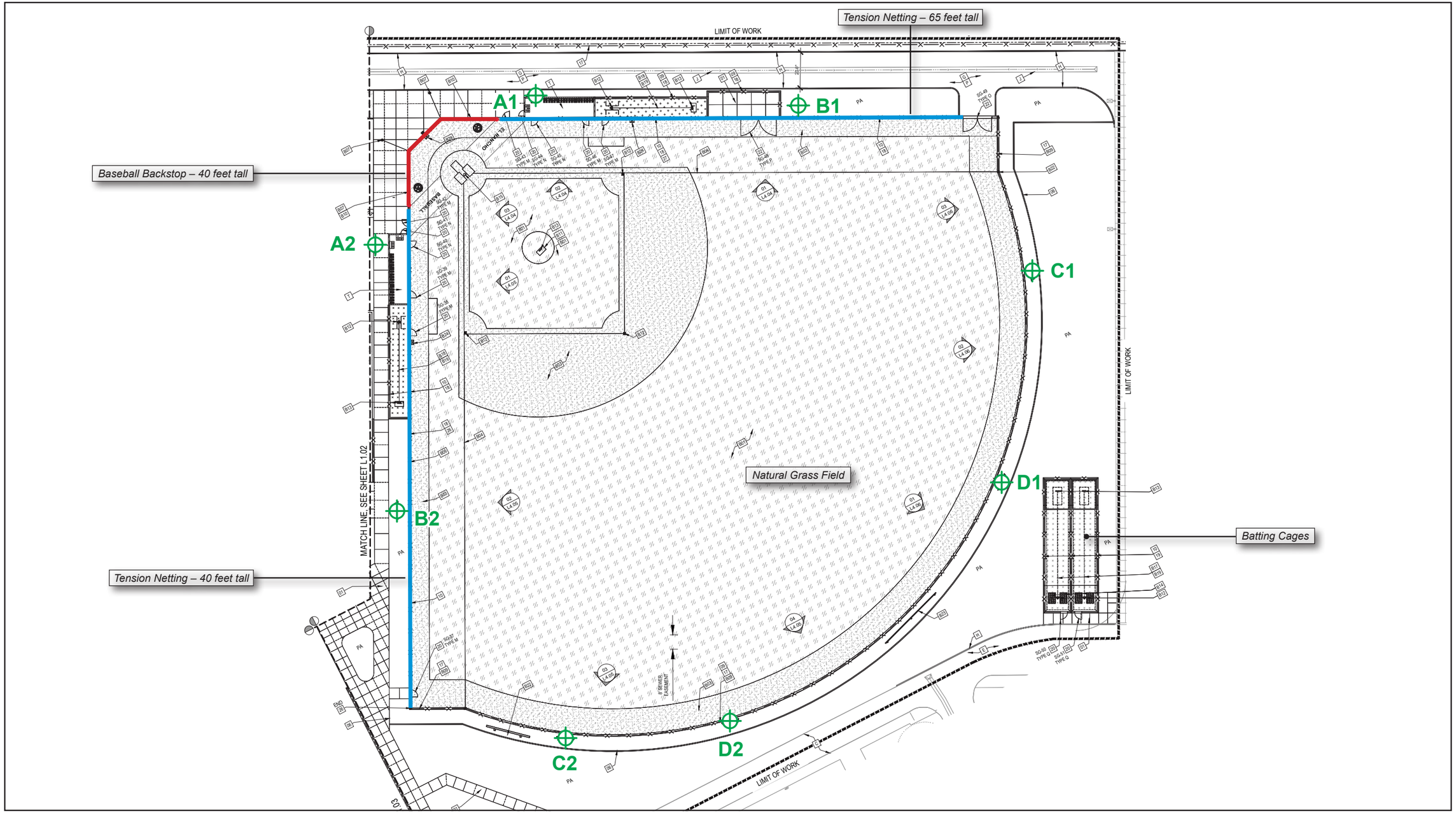
Figure 6 - Conceptual Site Plan



Source: LPA 2022.

1. Introduction

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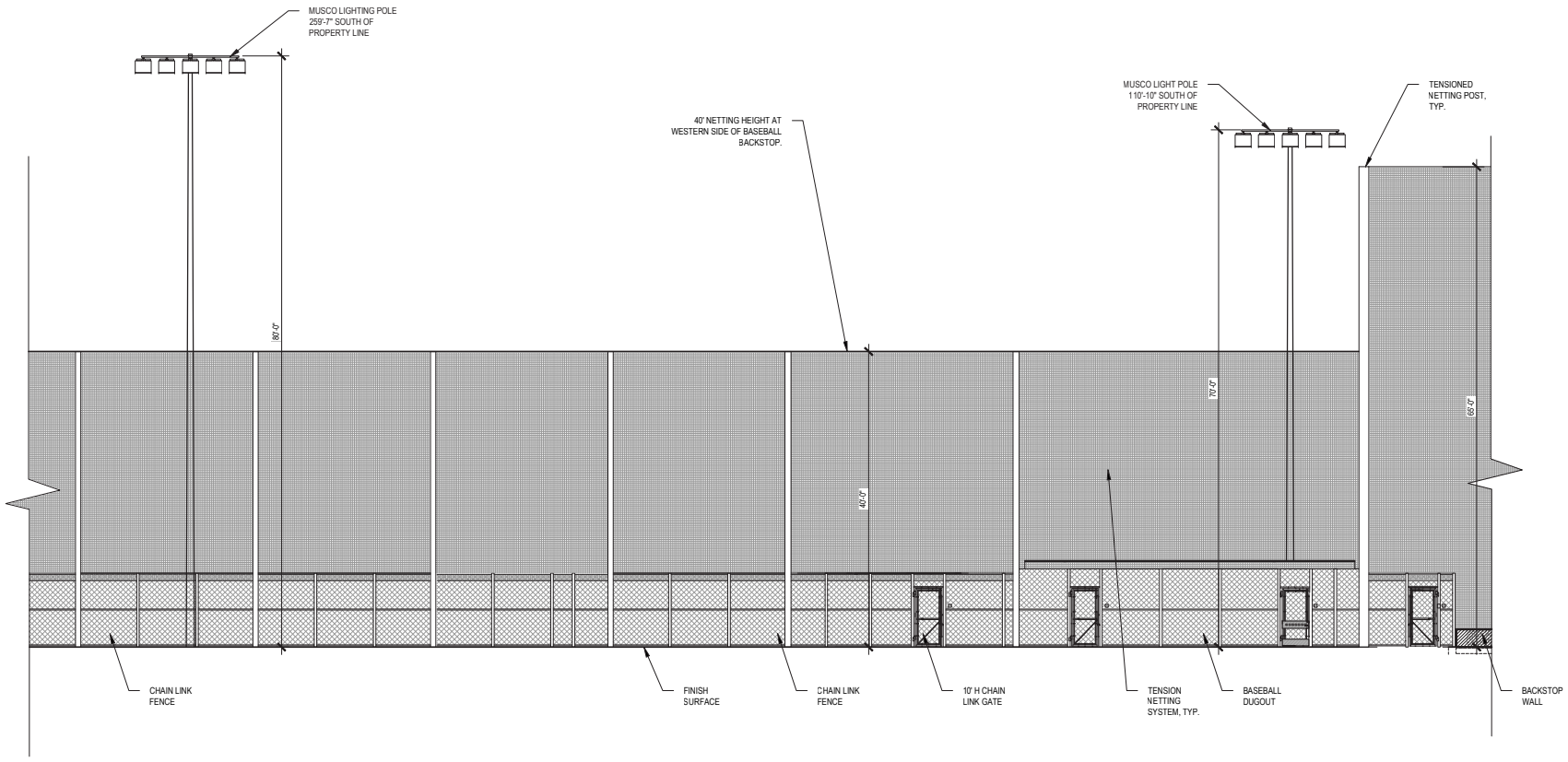
Figure 7a - Proposed Lighting Elevations Along West Side of Baseball Field



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Source: LPA Design Studios 2023.

1. Introduction

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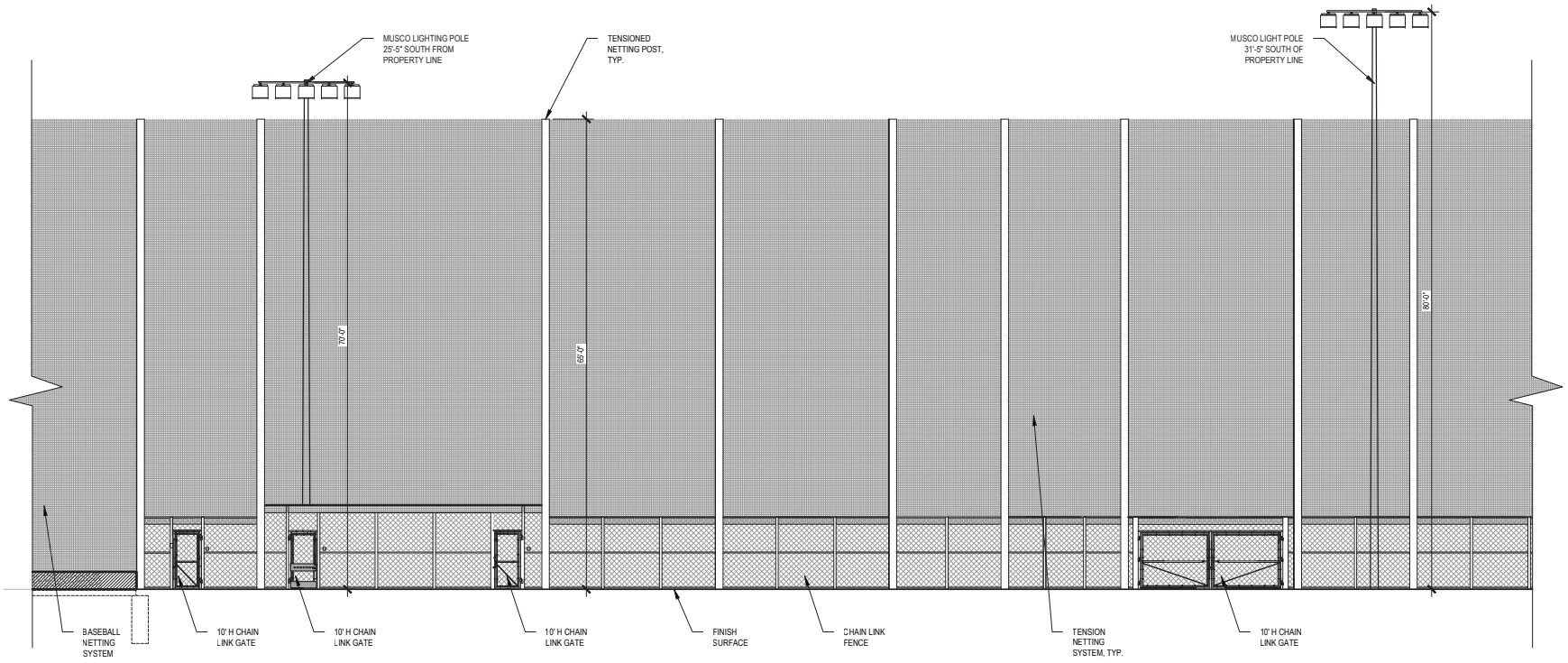
Figure 7b - Proposed Lighting Along North Side of Baseball Field



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Source: LPA Design Studios 2023.

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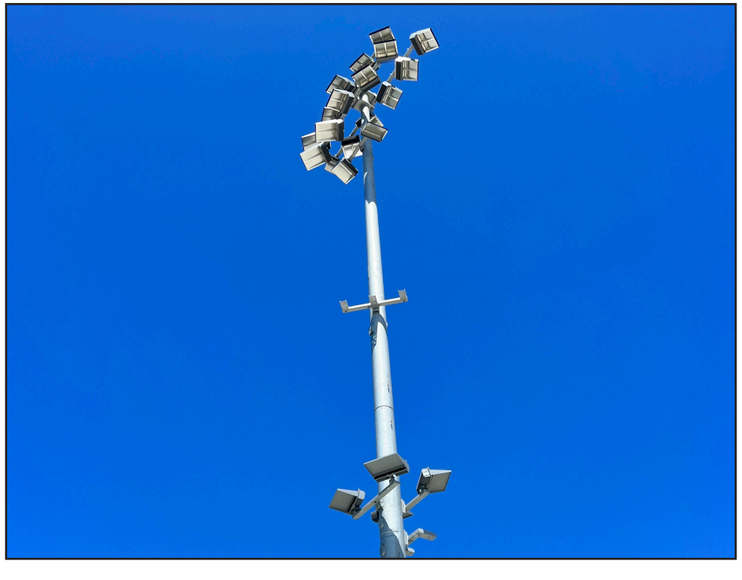
Figure 8 - Potential Lighting and Netting Examples



Source: LPA Design Studios 2023.

1. Introduction

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2. Environmental Checklist

2.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** El Rancho High School Baseball Field Lighting Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
   El Rancho Unified School District
   9333 Loch Lomond Drive
   Pico Rivera, CA 90660

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**
   Luis Torres, Facilities Project Manager
   562.801.7400

4. **Project Location:**
   6501 Passons Boulevard
   Pico Rivera, CA 90660

5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
   El Rancho Unified School District
   9333 Loch Lomond Drive
   Pico Rivera, CA 90660

6. **General Plan Designation:** Public Facilities (P-F)

7. **Zoning:** Public Facilities (P-F)

8. **Description of 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.

9. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**
   The project site is surrounded by single-family residences immediately to the north, east, south, and west. The campus is north of the Pico Rivera City Hall and Sheriff's Station, and southeast of Ruben Salazar Continuation High School, which is also an El Rancho Unified School District property.

10. **Other Public Agencies Whose Approval Is Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participating agreement):**

    - State Agencies
      - Division of the State Architect (DSA) (for approval of construction drawings)
    - Local Agencies
      - Los Angeles County Fire Department (for emergency site access review)

2. Environmental Checklist

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (see Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code Section 5097.94 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code Section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

No California Native American tribes have contacted the District to request consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. As such, the requirements under this section do not apply and consultation is not required.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact," as indicated by the checklist in Section 2.4.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture/Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

2.3 DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Mario A Villegas — *Signature*

1-11-24 — *Date*

2.4 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) **Earlier Analyses Used.** Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b) I**mpacts Adequately Addressed.** Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   c) **Mitigation Measures.** For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9. The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	
II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X

2. Environmental Checklist

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X	
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				X
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		X		
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5?		X		

2. Environmental Checklist

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?			X	
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			X	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			X	
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.			X	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?			X	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?			X	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				X
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		X		
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?				X
IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	

2. Environmental Checklist

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				X
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			X	
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			X	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:			X	
i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			X	
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;			X	
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			X	
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?				X
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				X

2. Environmental Checklist

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				X
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				X
XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:			X	
Fire protection?			X	
Police protection?			X	
Schools?			X	
Parks?				X
Other public facilities?				X

2. Environmental Checklist

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. RECREATION.				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			X	
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X	
XVII. TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?			X	
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				X
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.				
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or			X	
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			X	
XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?			X	

Issues	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X	
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?			X	
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X	
XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?			X	
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				X
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?			X	
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X		
b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?			X	
c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)			X	
d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X	

2. Environmental Checklist

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3. Environmental Analysis

Section 2.4 provided a checklist of environmental impacts. This section provides an evaluation of the impact categories and questions contained in the checklist and identifies mitigation measures, if applicable.

3.1 AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. The proposed project is in a developed urban area and is not along a scenic vista. The nearest scenic vista as identified by the Pico Rivera General Plan as "open space" is the San Gabriel River, approximately 0.5 mile east of the project site. Other nearby scenic vistas/open space include the Rio Honda Flats and Spreading Grounds to the northwest of the campus, as well as the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area to the north (Pico Rivera 2014). El Rancho High School, including the project site, is in an urbanized area, and views surrounding the project site are largely constrained by residential and institutional development.

The proposed baseball field lights would have a total height of approximately 70 to 80 feet, and the proposed backstop and tension netting would be between 40 and 65 feet tall (see Figures 5a, 5b, 7a, and 7b) and would be towards the northeast portion of the campus. Since the project site is not along a view corridor, the proposed project would not have an adverse effect on scenic vistas. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. The nearest officially State-designated state scenic highway to the project site is a portion of State Route 91 (SR-91) near the City of Anaheim, approximately 17 miles southeast of the project site (Caltrans 2023). Due to the distance, topography, and intervening development, El Rancho High School campus is not visible from SR-91. Thus, no scenic resources within a state scenic highway would be damaged with the implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. For an incorporated city, "urbanized area" means the city that either by itself or, in combination with two contiguous incorporated cities, has a population of at least 100,000 persons. The City of Pico Rivera has an estimated population of 59,781 persons (US Census 2022). However, the City of Montebello shares the western border of the City of Pico Rivera and has an estimated population of 61,204

persons (US Census 2022). Therefore, the project site is within an urbanized area defined by Public Resources Code Section 21071 as both cities are incorporated within the County of Los Angeles and have a total combined population of more than 100,000 persons.

The proposed project would relocate the existing baseball field in the center of the campus to the northeast portion of the campus, which currently contains the school's softball fields. 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 directly east of the baseball field. Additionally, 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 (see Figures 5a, 5b, 7a, and 7b).

The renovated baseball field would be similar to the existing baseball field and would support existing student athletic uses on the El Rancho HS campus. The proposed vertical elements that would be visible from the residential areas to the north include the lights that would surround the baseball field and tension netting that would run along the northern portion of the field; however, the proposed light poles and tension netting would not interfere with public views from the neighboring residences. The proposed project would not change the existing zoning or land us designation of the campus and would not conflict with the zoning and land use designation of P-F (Public Facilities), since the proposed project supports the existing uses on the project site. The proposed project would be consistent with applicable General Plan goals and policies related to aesthetics, including Policy 3.10-3, which encourages school districts and other government and independent agencies that may be exempt from City land use control and approval, to plan and improve their properties and design improvements to achieve a high level of visual and architectural quality that maintains the character of the neighborhoods or district in which they are located (Pico Rivera 2014). Additionally, although the Pico Rivera Municipal Code (PRMC) does not contain any specific regulations regarding sports field lighting, implementation of the proposed project would comply with the Section 15.08.190 of the PRMC, which regulates pool lighting, and states that any lights shall be so arranged and shaded as to reflect light away from any adjoining premises (Pico Rivera 2023a).

The proposed project would not conflict with the zoning designation on site, would be consistent with regulations governing scenic quality, and would not obstruct existing views from any adjacent properties. Therefore, impacts from the proposed project would be less than significant.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less Than Significant Impact. Existing sources of lighting on the project site and surrounding area include security lighting from outdoor residential lights, indoor home lights emanating from windows, streetlights, parking lights, and vehicle headlights. Glare can occur when a light source reflects off a reflective/light-colored surface. Existing sources of glare include light reflecting off of vehicles traveling on the public rights-of-way, parked in parking lots and along public rights-of-way, and light-colored building materials.

Terminology

Foot-candle (fc) is a unit based on English measurements. Although foot-candles are considered obsolete in some scientific circles, they are nevertheless used because many existing light meters are calibrated in foot-candles. Moonlight produces approximately 0.01 fc, and sunlight can produce up to 10,000 fc. The general benchmarks for light levels are shown in Table 3, *General Light Levels Benchmark*.

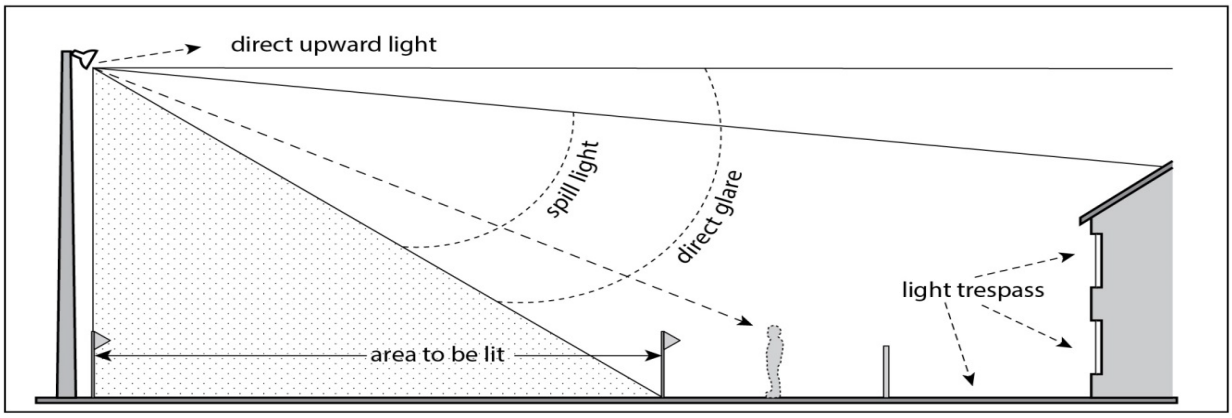
Table 3 General Light Levels Benchmark

Outdoor Light	Foot-Candles
Direct Sunlight	10,000
Full Daylight	1,000
Overcast Day	100
Dusk	10
Twilight	1
Deep Twilight	0.1
Full Moon	0.01
Quarter Moon	0.001
Moonless Night	0.0001
Overcast Night	0.00001
Gas station canopies	25–30
Typical neighborhood streetlight and parking garage	1.0–5.0

- **Horizontal foot-candle.** The amount of light received on a horizontal surface, such as a roadway or parking lot pavement.
- **Vertical foot-candle.** The amount of light received on a vertical surface, such as a billboard or building façade.
- **Glare.** Lighting entering the eye directly from a light fixture or indirectly from reflective surfaces that causes visual discomfort or reduced visibility. Glare can be generated by building-exterior materials, surface-paving materials, vehicles traveling or parked on roads and driveways, and sports lights. Any highly reflective façade material is a concern because buildings can reflect bright sunrays. The concepts of spill light, direct glare, and light trespass are illustrated in Exhibit A, *Spill Light, Direct Glare, and Light Trespass*, adapted from the Institution of Lighting Engineers (ILE 2003).

3. Environmental Analysis

Exhibit A: Spill Light, Direct Glare, and Light Trespass



- **Direct glare** is caused by looking at an unshielded lamp or a light at maximum candlepower. Direct glare is dependent on the brightness of the light source, the contrast in brightness between the light source and the surrounding environment, the size of the light source, and its position.

- **Illuminance** is the amount of light on a surface or plane, typically expressed in a horizontal plane (e.g., on the ground) or in a vertical plane (e.g., on the side of a building).

- **Lumen** means the unit of measure used to quantify the amount of visible light produced by a light source or emitted from a luminaire (as distinct from "watt," a measure of power consumption).

- **Luminaire** means outdoor electrically powered illuminating devices that include a light source, outdoor reflective or refractive surfaces, lenses, electrical connectors and components, and all parts used to mount the assembly, distribute the light, and/or protect the light source, whether permanently installed or portable. An important component of luminaires is their shielding:

  - **Fully shielded.** A luminaire emitting no light above the horizontal plane.
  - **Shielded.** A luminaire emitting less than 2 percent of its light above the horizontal plane.
  - **Partly shielded.** A luminaire emitting less than 10 percent of its light above the horizontal plane.
  - **Unshielded.** A luminaire that may emit light in any direction.

- **Light trespass.** Spill light that, because of quantitative, directional, or type of light, causes annoyance, discomfort, or loss in visual performance and visibility. Light trespass is light cast where it is not wanted or needed, such as light from a streetlight or a floodlight that illuminates someone's bedroom at night, making it difficult to sleep. As a general rule, taller poles allow fixtures to be aimed more directly on the playing surface, which reduces the amount of light spilling into surrounding areas. Proper fixture angles ensure even light distribution across the playing area and reduce spill light, as shown in Exhibit A, *Spill Light, Direct Glare, and Light Trespass.*

- **Sky Glow** is light that reflects into the night sky and reduces visibility of the sky and stars. It is a concern in many jurisdictions, especially those with observatories.
- **Spill light** is caused by misdirected light that illuminates areas outside the area intended to be lit. Spill light can contribute to light pollution.

Pico Rivera Municipal Code

PRMC does not have any specific spill light threshold levels. For the purposes of this analysis, an industry standard of 0.8 fc was used for a significance determination because 0.8 fc is just below twilight light levels. Additionally, as described previously, although the PRMC does not contain any specific regulations regarding sports field lighting, implementation of the proposed project would comply with Section 15.08.190 of the PRMC, which regulates pool lighting, and states that any lights shall be so arranged and shaded as to reflect light away from any adjoining premises (Pico Rivera 2023a).

Baseball Field Lighting

Figure 6 shows the location of the proposed baseball field lighting system. Implementation of eight new Musco permanent field light poles with LED light fixtures includes 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 LED lights and would be between 70 and 80 feet tall (see Figures 7a, 7b, and 8). The field lights would be focused on the baseball field.

The proximity of the proposed lights to the residential areas presents the potential for light spillover and glare. As shown previously in Table 2, the proposed maximum field illumination level would be approximately 64 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.

The nearest sensitive receptor are single-family residences to the north of the campus boundary. As shown in Figure 9, *Potential Lighting Spillover,* light spill from the proposed lights would not exceed the 0.8 threshold at the nearest property line and would be even lower at the residences since they are further back from the campus boundary. The existing trees and landscaping on the project site and on the residential properties would further reduce spill light from the project site to the residences to the north.

There are also residences to the east and west of the project site. The residences to the east and west are approximately 225 and 674 feet from the nearest proposed location of the field lighting, respectively. Given that these distances are more than double the distance of the foot-candle measurements in Table 2, light levels at the residential properties would be well below the 0.8 FC threshold. Further, these residential properties are further shielded by trees, landscaping, structures, and fencing.

Light levels would continue to decrease as the distance increases from the light source. The LED luminaires would be directed downward and away from the adjacent sensitive uses and public rights-of-way so that glare

impacts are minimized. As part of the proposed project, the lighting engineer would ensure that the lights are properly adjusted and maintained so that glare would not impact the surrounding community. In general, all activities on the proposed baseball field are scheduled to end by 8:00 p.m. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a substantial source of new lighting that would affect nighttime views. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project, and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?

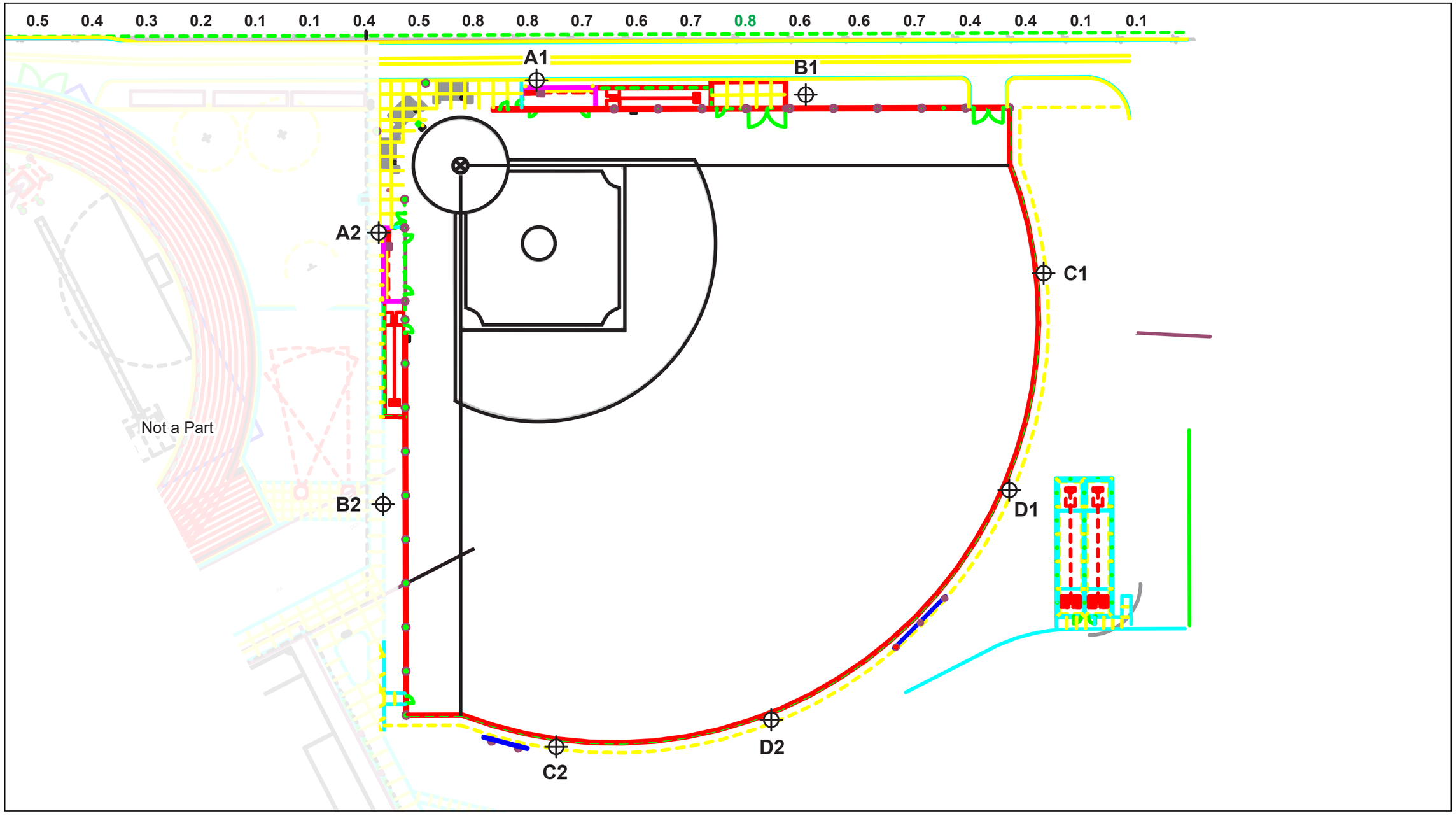
No Impact. The project site is within a residential neighborhood and is surrounded by single-family residences on all sides. There are no agricultural uses surrounding El Rancho HS. The Department of Conservation (DOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) maps California's agricultural resources and determines the suitability of land throughout the state for agriculture purposes. The DOC's FMMP identifies the project site as "Urban and Built-Up Land" (DOC 2022a).

The project site is zoned Public Facilities (P-F), which is intended for continued use and future development of public uses, including schools, government administrative facilities, police/sheriff stations, and libraries (Pico Rivera 2014). It is not zoned for agriculture uses. Therefore, development of the proposed project would not convert prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance to a nonagricultural use and no impact would occur.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. The project site is currently developed with existing athletic facilities and structures that are part of the El Rancho HS campus. The project site is zoned Public Facilities (P-F) and is not zoned for any agricultural uses. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with an existing zoning designation for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract and no impact would occur.

Figure 9 - Potential Lighting Spillover



Source: LPA 2022.

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c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

No Impact. The City of Pico Rivera is an urban developed city and there are no forest lands or timberland in the city limits. The project site is zoned Public Facilities (P-F) and is not zoned for nor used as forest land or timberland (Pico Rivera 2014). The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning or cause the rezoning of forest or timberland. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The project site is within a residential neighborhood in Pico Rivera. The project site is currently developed with existing athletic fields and structures and does not contain forest land and development of the proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or the conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, no impact would occur.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. The proposed project includes the relocation of the existing baseball field and implementation of new lighting structures at El Rancho HS. The project site is developed with existing athletic fields and structures and is in an area completely developed for public facility uses and there is no farmland and forest land within or surrounding the project site. The FMMP identifies the project site as "Urban and Built-Up Land." The development of the proposed project would not result in the conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses or the conversion of forest land to non-forest uses. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

This section is based in part on the following technical study:

- *El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment*, ECORP Consulting Inc., 2023 (Appendix A)

This section addresses the impacts of the proposed project on ambient air quality and the exposure of people, especially sensitive individuals, to unhealthy pollutant concentrations.

The primary air pollutants of concern for which ambient air quality standard (AAQS) have been established are ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), coarse inhalable particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine inhalable particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and lead (Pb). Areas are classified under the federal and California Clean Air Act as either in attainment or nonattainment for each criteria pollutant based on whether the AAQS have been achieved. The South Coast Air Basin (SoCAB), which is managed by the South Coast Air Quality Management (South Coast AQMD), is designated nonattainment for O_3 and $PM_{2.5}$ under the

3. Environmental Analysis

California and National AAQS, nonattainment for PM_{10} under the California AAQS, and nonattainment for lead (Los Angeles County only) under the National AAQS (CARB 2023).

Furthermore, the South Coast AQMD has identified regional thresholds of significance for criteria pollutant emission and criteria air pollutant precursors, including volatile organic compounds (VOCs), CO, nitrogen oxides (NOx), sulfur oxides (SOx), PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. Development projects below the regional significance thresholds are not expected to generate sufficient criteria pollutant emissions to violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The South Coast AQMD adopted the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) on December 2, 2022. Regional growth projections are used by South Coast AQMD to forecast future emission levels in SoCAB. For southern California, these regional growth projections are provided by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and are partially based on land use designations in city/county general plans. Typically, only large, regionally significant projects have the potential to affect regional growth projections. In addition, the consistency analysis with the 2022 AQMP is generally only required in connection with the adoption of general plans, specific plans, and significant projects. Changes in population, housing, or employment growth projections have the potential to affect SCAG's demographic projections and therefore the assumptions in South Coast AQMD's AQMP. These demographic trends are incorporated into SCAG's 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS) to determine priority transportation projects and vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the SCAG region.

The Air Quality Assessment (Appendix A) determined that the proposed project would result in emissions that would be below the SCAQMD regional and localized thresholds during construction. Operation of the proposed project would also not result in the generation of emissions beyond existing conditions. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in an increase in the frequency or severity of existing air quality violations and would not have the potential to cause or affect a violation of the ambient air quality standards. The proposed project would also result in less-than-significant regional emission impacts and would not delay the timely attainment of air quality standards or AQMP emissions reductions. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less Than Significant Impact. This section analyzes project-related regional impacts from short-term construction activities and long-term operation of the proposed project.

Regional Short-Term Construction Impacts

Construction activities would result in the generation of air pollutants. The sources of short-term emissions generated through construction include operation of construction vehicles (i.e., excavators, trenchers, dump trucks), the creation of fugitive dust during clearing and grading, and the use of asphalt or other oil-based substances during paving activities.

The proposed project would involve site preparation, rough grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to begin in winter 2024. Construction emissions were estimated using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), version 2022.1. Predicted maximum daily construction-generated emissions for the proposed project are summarized in Table 4. Construction-generated emissions are short-term and of temporary duration, lasting only as long as construction activities occur.

Table 4 Construction-Related Emissions (Regional Significance Analysis)

Construction Year	Pollutant (pounds per day)					
	ROG	NO_X	CO	SO_2	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Construction Year One	1.73	17.40	16.20	0.03	3.03	1.70
Construction Year Two	1.34	11.70	14.20	0.02	0.58	0.47
SCAQMD Regional Significance Threshold	*75*	*100*	*550*	*150*	*150*	*55*
Exceed SCAQMD Regional Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Attachment A for Model Data Outputs.
Notes: Emissions taken from the season (summer or winter) with the highest output. Emission reduction/credits for construction emissions are applied based on the required implementation of SCAQMD Rule 403. The specific Rule 403 measures applied in CalEEMod include the following: sweeping/cleaning adjacent roadway access areas daily; washing equipment tires before leaving the construction site; water exposed surfaces three times daily; and limit speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour. Building construction, paving, and painting assumed to occur simultaneously.

As shown in Table 4, emissions generated during project construction would not exceed the SCAQMD's regional thresholds of significance. Therefore, criteria pollutant emissions generated during project construction would not result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard. Impacts would be less than significant.

Long-Term Operation-Related Air Quality Impacts

Typical long-term air pollutant emissions are generated by area sources (e.g., landscape fuel use, aerosols, architectural coatings, and asphalt pavement), energy use (natural gas), and mobile sources (i.e., on-road vehicles). The proposed project consists of improvements to the existing baseball field at El Rancho High School. The improvements of the baseball field, addition of batting cages, field lighting, and foul ball betting would not have an effect on student population, no additional school sports programs would be added, and there would be no increase in the number of participants or spectators. According to the traffic study (Appendix D) conducted for the proposed project, the average daily trips (ADT) would not change from existing conditions with the baseball field and would have a negligible contribution to existing conditions. There are no

stationary sources associated with the operations of the proposed project, nor would the project attract additional mobile sources that spend long periods queuing and idling at the site. Therefore, the proposed project would not generate quantifiable criteria emissions from the proposed project's operation. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project could expose sensitive receptors to elevated pollutant concentrations if it causes or significantly contributes to elevated pollutant concentration levels. Unlike regional emissions, localized emissions are typically evaluated in terms of air concentration rather than mass so they can be more readily correlated to potential health effects.

Localized Construction Significance Analysis

Localized significance thresholds (LST) are based on the California AAQS, which are the most stringent AAQS to provide a margin of safety in the protection of public health and welfare. They are designed to protect sensitive receptors most susceptible to further respiratory distress. The nearest sensitive receptors to the project site are several single-family residences fronting Balfour Street, located directly adjacent to the project site's northern boundary.

For the proposed project, the appropriate Source Receptor Area (SRA) for the localized significance thresholds is Southeast Los Angeles County, SRA 5. As previously described, the SCAQMD has produced lookup tables for projects that disturb less than or equal to five acres daily. The SCAQMD has also issued guidance on applying the CalEEMod emissions software to LSTs for projects greater than five acres. Since CalEEMod calculates construction emissions based on the number of equipment hours and the maximum daily soil disturbance activity possible for each piece of equipment, Table 5, *Equipment-Specific Grading Rates*, is used to determine the maximum daily disturbed acreage for comparison to LSTs. All construction years have the same equipment, as such, only phases are shown in the table.

Table 5 Equipment-Specific Grading Rates

Construction Phase	Equipment Type	Acres Graded/ Disturbed per 8-Hour Day	Equipment Quantity	Operating Hours per Day	Acres Graded per Day
Site Preparation	Rubber Tired Dozers	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.5	1	8	0.5
				Site Preparation Total	**1.0**
Grading	Excavators	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Graders	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Rubber Tired Dozers	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.5	1	8	0.5
				Grading Total	**1.5**

Table 5 Equipment-Specific Grading Rates

Construction Phase	Equipment Type	Acres Graded/ Disturbed per 8-Hour Day	Equipment Quantity	Operating Hours per Day	Acres Graded per Day
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting	Air Compressors	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Cranes	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Forklifts	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Generator Sets	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Pavers	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Paving Equipment	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Rollers	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Tractors/Loaders/Backhoes	0.5	1	8	0.5
	Welders	0.0	1	8	0.0
	Building Construction, Paving, and Painting Total				**0.5**

As shown in Table 5, project implementation could potentially disturb a total maximum of 1.0 acres during site preparation; 1.5 acres during site grading; and 0.5 acres during the combined building construction, paving, and painting phases. As described, the SCAQMD has produced lookup tables for projects that disturb one, two, and five acres. Since the project site could potentially disturb over one acre during the site preparation and grading phase and less than an acre during the building construction, paving, and painting phases, the LST value for a one-acre site was employed from the LST lookup tables. LSTs are provided for distances to sensitive receptors of 25, 50, 100, 200, and 500 meters. The nearest sensitive receptors to construction activity as a result of the project are residences directly adjacent to the project site (less than 25 meters). Notwithstanding, the SCAQMD methodology explicitly states: "It is possible that a project may have receptors closer than 25 meters. Projects with boundaries located closer than 25 meters to the nearest receptor should use the LSTs for receptors located at 25 meters." Therefore, LSTs for receptors at 25 meters were used in this analysis. The SCAQMD's methodology clearly states that "off-site mobile emissions from a project should not be included in the emissions compared to LSTs." Therefore, for purposes of the construction LST analysis, only emissions included in the CalEEMod "on-site" emissions outputs were considered. Table 6, *Construction-Related Emissions (Localized Significance Analysis)*, presents the results of localized emissions from the most polluting activity for each year of construction.

Table 6 Construction-Related Emissions (Localized Significance Analysis)

Activity	Pollutant (pounds per day)			
	NO_X	CO	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Site Preparation	11.60	10.30	0.52	0.47
Grading	15.80	15.00	2.57	1.56
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting (Calander Year One)	12.35	13.83	0.53	0.50
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting (Calander Year Two)	11.65	13.75	0.48	0.45
SCAQMD Localized Significance Threshold (1.0 acre of disturbance)	80	571	4	3
Exceed SCAQMD Localized Threshold?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1 Refer to Attachment A for Model Data Outputs.
Notes: Emissions taken from the season (summer or winter) with the highest output. This modeling output accounts for 282 cubic yards of cut and 2,428 cubic yards of fill during the grading phase. Emission reduction/credits for construction emissions are applied based on the required implementation of SCAQMD Rule 403. The specific Rule 403 measures applied in CalEEMod include the following: sweeping/cleaning adjacent roadway access areas; water exposed surfaces; and limit speeds on unpaved roads. Building construction, paving, and painting are assumed to occur simultaneously.

Table 6 shows that the emissions of these pollutants on the peak day of construction would not result in significant concentrations of pollutants at nearby sensitive receptors. Therefore, significant impacts would not occur concerning LSTs during construction activities. LSTs were developed in response to SCAQMD Governing Board's Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative. The SCAQMD Environmental Justice Enhancement Initiative program seeks to ensure that everyone has the right to equal protection from air pollution. The Environmental Justice Program is divided into three categories, with the LST protocol promulgated under Category I: *Further-Reduced Health Risk*. Thus, the fact that on-site project construction emissions would be generated at rates below the LSTs for NOx, CO, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ demonstrates that the proposed project would not adversely impact the neighboring receptors in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. Typically, odors are regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. However, manifestations of a person's reaction to foul odors can range from psychological (e.g., irritation, anger, or anxiety) to physiological (e.g., circulatory and respiratory effects, nausea, vomiting, and headache). During construction, the proposed project presents the potential for generation of objectionable odors in the form of diesel exhaust in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, these emissions are short-term in nature and would rapidly dissipate and be diluted by the atmosphere downwind of emission sources. Additionally, odors would be localized and generally confined to the construction area. Therefore, construction odors would not adversely affect a substantial number of people to odor emissions. According to SCAQMD, land uses commonly considered to be potential sources of obnoxious odorous emissions include agriculture (farming and livestock), wastewater treatment plants, food processing plants, chemical plants, composting facilities,

refineries, landfills, dairies, and fiberglass molding. The proposed project does not include any uses identified by the SCAQMD as being associated with odors. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. Special-status species include those listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act, species otherwise given certain destinations by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and plant species listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society. The project site is in a highly urbanized area of the city of Pico Rivera and surrounded by various residential, institutional, and commercial uses. The project site is developed with existing athletic facilities and structures and does not contain any sensitive species or other sensitive natural community. Considering the existing development on the project site, the surrounding urbanized context, and current site conditions, the project site does not have capacity to support any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species. Therefore, no impacts related to special-status species would occur.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. The project site is developed with existing athletic fields and structures. The project site does not contain any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community, and no watercourse runs through or adjacent to the project site. No riparian habitat exists on-site (USFWS 2023). Therefore, no impacts to riparian or other sensitive natural communities would occur.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact. As discussed previously, the project site is developed with existing athletic fields and structures. No waterway runs through or adjacent to the project site. The nearest wetland to the project site is approximately 0.2 mile west of the project site. Therefore, no wetlands exist on the project site (USFWS 2023) and no impacts would occur.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The project site is in an urbanized area of Pico Rivera. The project site is in an area that is completely developed with residential, institutional, and

commercial uses. The project site does not contain any aquatic habitat that would support migratory fish and the urbanized surroundings do not contain an important wildlife corridor. However, the mature trees on and adjacent to the project site, including in the surrounding area, provide foraging and breeding opportunities for migratory birds.

The project site is currently developed in a highly urbanized area. However, there are currently six trees on the project site, and four mature trees would be removed as part of the proposed project. These trees could provide habitat for nesting birds, which are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The MBTA governs the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests (16 US Code Sections 703–712). The MBTA prohibits the take, possession, import, export, transport, sale, purchase, barter, or offering of these activities except under a valid permit or as permitted in the implementing regulations.

Compliance with the existing CDFW regulations and implementation of Mitigation Measure MM-BIO-1 would ensure that impacts to nesting and migratory birds are less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

MM-BIO-1. If construction activities occur within the bird nesting season (generally defined as February 15 through September 15), a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within three days prior to the proposed start date to identify any active nests (including Cooper's hawk) within 500 feet of the project site. If an active nest is found, the nest shall be avoided, and a suitable buffer zone shall be delineated in the field such that no impacts shall occur until the chicks have fledged the nest as determined by a qualified biologist. Construction buffers shall be 300 feet for passerines and up to 500 feet for any raptor species; however, avoidance buffers may be reduced at the discretion of the biologist, depending on the location of the nest, the species' tolerance to human presence, and construction-related noises and vibrations.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less Than Significant Impact. There are no local biological-related policies or ordinances, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance that is applicable to the proposed project. The proposed project would require the removal of four mature trees within the project site; however, the proposed project would not conflict with policies or ordinances; therefore, impact would be less than significant.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The project site is within an urbanized and highly developed area. The project site is not within the area of an adopted Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan (CDFW 2023). Thus, the proposed project would not affect the

Conservation Plan; Natural Community Conservation Plan; or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan and no impact would occur.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5?

No Impact. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 defines historic resources as resources listed or determined to be eligible for listing by the State Historical Resources Commission, a local register of historical resources, or the lead agency. Generally, a resource is considered "historically significant" if it meets one of the following criteria:

i) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;

ii) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

iii) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values;

iv) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Construction of the proposed project would only occur on the athletic fields of the existing El Rancho HS, and no structures on campus would be altered during construction of the proposed project. The campus is not listed as a historical resource in the National Register of Historic Places (National Parks Service 2023). Additionally, El Rancho HS is not listed in the California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or State Historic Structures (OHP 2023a, 2023b). Therefore, there are no historic resources on the project site or campus that would be considered historically significant pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5. No impact to historical resources would occur.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. Implementation of the proposed project would result in limited ground disturbance to install a new baseball field with associated structures.

Construction of the relocated baseball field would require some grading and limited excavation, with all disturbed soils balanced on-site. Although the potential for discovery of archaeological resources within the project site is minimal, implementation of Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 would address the treatment of cultural resources that may be inadvertently discovered during construction. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with Mitigation Measure MM-CUL-1 incorporated.

3. Environmental Analysis

Mitigation Measure

MM-CUL-1. Prior to the initiation of any earthmoving activity in which native soil is disturbed, the District shall be responsible for retaining a qualified archaeologist to observe grading activities and to salvage and catalogue archaeological resources, as necessary. If historical or unique archaeological resources are discovered during construction activities, all work shall stop, and a qualified archaeologist would be retained to make an evaluation of significance of the resource. If it is determined to be historical or a unique archaeological resource, or if the discovery is not historical or unique but the archaeologist determines the possibility of further discoveries, a monitoring program shall be prepared and implemented for the remainder of the earthwork activities.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Less Than Significant Impact. There are no cemeteries or known human burials at the campus, which was previously disturbed during construction of the existing school; however, limited ground-disturbance activities (i.e., grading, utility trenching, and drill holes) would have the potential to result in discovery of human remains.

If human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that disturbance of the site shall halt and remain halted. The Los Angeles County coroner shall investigate the circumstances, manner, and cause of any death and recommend the treatment and disposition of the human remains to the person responsible for the excavation or to his or her authorized representative, in the manner provided in Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code. The coroner is required to make a determination within two working days of being notified of the discovery of the human remains. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority or has reason to believe they are Native American, he or she shall contact, by telephone within 24 hours, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), who would contact the "most likely descendant." The most likely descendant shall receive access to the discovery and would provide recommendations or preferences for treatment of the remains within 48 hours of accessing the discovery site. Disposition of human remains and any associated grave goods, if encountered, shall be treated in accordance with procedures and requirements in Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code; Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code; and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

While unlikely, any accidental discovery of human remains during project construction and operation would be required to comply with all applicable laws and regulations establishing the proper handling of human remains. Compliance with these laws and regulations would ensure that the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

3.6 ENERGY

This section is based in part on the following technical study:

- *El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Energy Consumption Assessment*, ECORP Consulting Inc., 2023 (Appendix B)

This section addresses the impacts of the proposed project on any potential direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with energy consumption, including the depletion of nonrenewable resources (e.g., oil, natural gas, coal) during the construction and operational phases of the project.

Would the project:

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project consists of improvements to El Rancho HS's baseball field, including the installation of batting cages, field lighting, and foul ball netting. Construction of the proposed project would create temporary increased demands for electricity and vehicle fuels compared to existing conditions and would result in short-term transportation-related energy use. The proposed project would be required to meet the current California Building and Energy Efficiency Standards that are designed to reduce wasteful and unnecessary energy consumption in newly constructed and existing buildings (Title 24).

For the purpose of this analysis, the amount of operational electricity to be consumed by the proposed project is quantified and compared to that consumed by all nonresidential land uses in Los Angeles County. Energy consumption associated with the proposed project is summarized in Table 7, *Proposed Project Energy and Fuel Consumption*.

Table 7 Proposed Project Energy and Fuel Consumption

Energy Type	Annual Energy Consumption	Percentage Increase Countywide
Project Energy Consumption		
Electricity Consumption[1]	65,638 kilowatt-hours	0.00015 percent
Automotive Fuel Consumption		
Project Construction Calendar Year One[2]	28,276 gallons	0.00060 percent
Project Construction Calendar Year Two[2]	2,562 gallons	0.00005 percent
Project Operations**[3]	10,291 gallons	--

Source: [1]CalEEMod; [2]Climate Registry 2016; [3]EMFAC2021 (CARB 2022)
Notes: **The daily trips would not change from existing daily trip numbers. The operational fuel consumption is shown here for disclosure purposes and would not increase fuel consumption within the county as these trips are already occurring under existing conditions.
The project increases in electricity consumption are compared with all nonresidential uses in Los Angeles County in 2021, the latest data available. The project increases in construction fuel consumption are compared with the anticipated countywide fuel consumption in 2022, the most recent full year of data.

3. Environmental Analysis

Fuel necessary for project construction would be required for the operation and maintenance of construction equipment and the transportation of materials to the project site. The fuel expenditure necessary for the construction of the baseball field improvements would be temporary, lasting only as long as project construction. As indicated in Table 7, the proposed project's gasoline fuel consumption during the one-time construction period is estimated to be 28,276 gallons during the first calendar year of construction and 2,562 during the second year of construction. This would increase the annual countywide gasoline fuel use in the county by 0.00060 percent and 0.00005 percent, respectively. As such, project construction would have a nominal effect on local and regional energy supplies. No unusual proposed project characteristics would necessitate the use of construction equipment that would be less energy efficient than at comparable construction sites in the region or the state. Construction contractors would purchase their own gasoline and diesel fuel from local suppliers and would judiciously use fuel supplies to minimize costs due to waste and subsequently maximize profits. Additionally, construction equipment fleet turnover and increasingly stringent state and federal regulations on engine efficiency, combined with state regulations limiting engine idling times and requiring recycling of construction debris, would further reduce the amount of transportation fuel demand during project construction.

Operations of the proposed project's lighting system would include electricity usage. As shown in Table 7, the annual electricity consumption due to operations would be 65,638 kilowatt-hours resulting in an imperceivable increase (0.00015 percent) in the typical annual electricity consumption attributable to all nonresidential uses in Los Angeles County. However, this is potentially a conservative estimate. In September 2018, Governor Jerry Brown Signed Executive Order B-55-18, which established a new statewide goal "to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, and no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions thereafter." Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. This can be achieved by reducing or eliminating carbon emissions, balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal, or a combination of the two. This goal is in addition to existing statewide targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction. Governor Brown's Executive Order B-55-18 requires CARB to "work with relevant state agencies to ensure future Scoping Plans identify and recommend measures to achieve the carbon neutrality goal."

The proposed project is estimated to generate approximately 76 daily trips during practice days and 192 daily trips during game days. As indicated in Table 7, this would equate to a consumption of approximately 10,291 gallons of automotive fuel per year, which would not lead to any countywide percentage increase in fuels consumption as this fuel consumption is already occurring under existing conditions. As previously mentioned, the ADT would remain the same as existing daily trip numbers. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

The Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR) provides policy recommendations to be implemented by energy providers in California. Electricity would be provided to the project by Southern California Edison (SCE). The proposed project's operations would not require any natural gas consumption. SCE has various programs to

support cleaner and more sustainable power. For instance, SCE has expanded in developing their portfolio of solar, wind, and hydropower technology. Furthermore, SCE had developed its own Climate Adaptation Community Engagement Plan, along with several other plans to address climate change vulnerabilities, clean power initiatives, long-term upgrades to the grid, and reducing GHGs from electricity generation. Therefore, SCE is consistent with, and would not otherwise interfere with, nor obstruct implementation of the goals presented in the 2023 IEPR. Thus, because SCE is consistent with the 2023 IEPR, the proposed project is consistent with, and would not otherwise interfere with, nor obstruct implementation of the goals presented in the 2023 IEPR.

The proposed project would be designed in a manner that is consistent with relevant energy conservation plans designed to encourage development that results in the efficient use of energy resources. The City's General Plan Environmental Resource Element ensures that new development would be energy efficient and generally uphold all local and State energy-efficiency standards. The proposed project would be built to the Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings, as specified in Title 24, Part 6, of the California Code of Regulations (Title 24). Title 24 was established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. Title 24 is updated approximately every three years; the 2019 Title 24 updates went into effect on January 1, 2020. The 2022 standards went into effect January 1, 2023. The 2022 Energy Standards improve upon the 2019 Energy Standards for new construction of, and additions and alterations to, residential and nonresidential buildings. The 2022 update to the Energy Standards focuses on several key areas to improve the energy efficiency of newly constructed buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings, encouraging better energy efficiency, strengthening ventilation standards, and more. The 2022 Energy Standards are a major step toward meeting Zero Net Energy. Buildings permitted on or after January 1, 2023, must comply with the 2022 Energy Standards. Compliance with Title 24 is mandatory at the time new building permits are issued by City and County governments.

Additionally, in January 2010, the State of California adopted the California Green Building Standards Code (CalGreen), which establishes mandatory green building standards for all buildings in California. The code was subsequently updated in 2013. CalGreen covers five categories: planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resource efficiency, and indoor environmental quality. With these building standards in place, the proposed project would not obstruct any State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other

substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Less Than Significant Impact. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act requires the delineation of zones along active faults in California. An active fault, as defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Act, is one that has ruptured in the last 11,000 years. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones are the regulatory zones that include surface traces of active faults.

There are multiple faults near the El Rancho HS campus, which include the Whittier Fault, the East Montebello Fault, and an unnamed fault approximately 3.50 miles northeast, 3.70 miles north, and 4.50 miles northwest, respectively. The nearest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is the Elsinore Fault zone, specifically a portion of the Whittier Fault, which is approximately 5.40 miles east of the project site. However, no active faults with the potential for surface fault rupture are known to encroach on the boundaries of the site or cross the school property. Therefore, impacts associated with rupture due to a known Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault are less than significant.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. Similar to all areas in southern California, movement associated with the active faults could cause strong ground motion at the project site. The degree of ground shaking, and earthquake-induced damage is dependent on multiple factors, such as distances to causative faults, earthquake magnitudes, and expected ground accelerations. The closest active fault is a portion of the Whittier Fault (Elsinore Fault zone) approximately 5.40 miles east of the project site. The proposed project would be required to comply with the seismic design parameters of the California Building Code (CBC), which regulates all building and construction projects within the city and implements a minimum standard for building design and construction that includes specific requirements for seismic safety, evacuation, foundations, retaining walls, and site demolition. The proposed project design would be approved by the Department of the State Architect (DSA) and construction would be monitored by a DSA-approved inspector. The proposed project would comply with the legal requirements for school construction to reduce impacts associated with strong seismic ground shaking. Compliance with CBC and DSA measures would ensure that impacts are less than significant.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less Than Significant Impact. Liquefaction is the sudden decrease in the strength and stiffness of unconsolidated, saturated cohesionless soils typically resulting from seismic ground shaking. For soils to liquefy, the intensity and duration of the seismically induced cyclic loading must be sufficient to increase the excess pore water pressures to such an extent that the effective stresses on the soil particles reduces to zero. If liquefaction is initiated, the saturated soils behave temporarily as a viscous fluid and, consequently, lose their capacity to support the structures founded on them.

The California DOC maintains an interactive map that shows Liquefaction Zones. According to the Liquefaction Zones mapping tool, the City of Pico Rivera, including the proposed project site, is within a liquefiable zone (DOC 2019). Additionally, the proposed project site is on soils (Q: marine and nonmarine

[continental] sedimentary rocks) susceptible to liquefaction (DOC 1998, 2023). As previously described in Section 3.7(a)(ii), the proposed project would be required to comply with the most current CBC, and the DSA criteria for seismic activity, including from liquefaction impacts. Therefore, compliance with CBC and DSA standards would reduce potential impacts related to liquefaction to less than significant.

iv) Landslides?

No Impact. Significant landslides and erosion typically occur on steep slopes where stormwater and high winds can carry topsoil down hillsides. The project site is relatively flat and developed. The DOC landslide mapping tool illustrates that no past landslides at or in the immediate vicinity of the project site have occurred. The project site is relatively flat and developed. The proposed project has no potential to result in or be in the path of landslides. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause potentially substantial adverse effects related to slope and stability or seismically induced landslides and no impact would occur.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. Erosion is a normal and inevitable geologic process whereby earthen materials are loosened, worn away, decomposed, or dissolved and removed from one place and transported to another. The project site contains relatively flat terrain, which decreases the project's potential to accelerate erosion. The project site is developed within the existing El Rancho HS athletic facilities and associated structures. Implementation of the proposed project would require limited earthwork, which includes grading and drilling holes for installation of proposed light poles and utility trenching. Additionally, the proposed project does not contain any subterranean levels and would not require extensive excavation, which would mean that soils would not be exposed to erosion impacts. The construction contractor would be required to take all measures deemed necessary during grading to provide erosion-control devices to protect exposed soil and adjacent properties from storm damage and flood hazard originating on the proposed project.

In addition, because the proposed project encompasses an area of more than one acre, the proposed project would be subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, which is administered under the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The District would be required to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Monitoring Program for the proposed project. The SWPPP would describe minimum and advanced best management practices (BMPs) to address construction-related discharges. BMPs include, but are not limited to, the implementation of erosion and sediment controls. Additionally, adherence with existing State and local laws regulating construction activities would minimize soil erosion. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil, and a less-than-significant impact would occur.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is relatively flat, and as discussed above in Section 3.7(a)(iv), is not within an area subject to landslides. Ss discussed above in Section 3.7(a)(iii), although the proposed project

site is within a liquefiable zone, compliance with the most current CBC and DSA criteria reduce potential impacts related to liquefaction to less than significant.

Seismically induced lateral spreading involves primarily lateral movement of earth materials due to ground shaking. It differs from the slope failure in that complete ground failure involving large movement does not occur due to the relatively smaller gradient of the initial ground surface. Lateral spreading is demonstrated by near-vertical cracks with predominantly horizontal movement of the soil mass involved. Due to the relatively flat nature of the project site and compliance with the most current CBC and DSA criteria, impacts related to lateral spreading would be less than significant.

The major cause of ground subsidence is the excessive withdrawal of groundwater. Soils with high silt or clay content are particularly susceptible to subsidence. The proposed project soil content is primarily composed of sandy loam and does not contain any clays. The proposed project site's soil content does not contain clays and silt is not encountered until approximately 53 inches below the surface, primarily sandy loam would be found within the soil (USDA 2023). The proposed project would not include earthwork to such depths and would not result in excessive withdrawal of groundwater during construction. Therefore, impacts associated with subsidence would be less than significant.

Collapsible soils are typically geologically young, unconsolidated sediments of low density that may compress under the weight of structures. Based on the National Water Information System, the depth of groundwater in the vicinity of the project site ranges from approximately 45 to 70 feet below the surface, thus the risk of soil expansion and collapse are considered low (USGS 2023a). The proposed project would be developed in compliance with applicable laws pertaining to school construction (required by the DSA), including the CBC, and implement recommendations per the final engineering-level geotechnical report. Therefore, impacts associated with collapsible soils would be less than significant.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils contain certain types of clay minerals that shrink when they dry out and swell when soils become wet, resulting in the potential for cracking building foundations and in some cases, structural distress of the buildings themselves. Arid or semiarid areas with seasonal changes of soil moisture experiences, such as southern California, have a higher potential of expansive soils than areas with higher rainfall.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintains an interactive map that shows site-specific soil data. According to the United States Geological Survey's (USGS') Websoilsurvey, the proposed project soil content is primarily composed of sandy loam and does not contain any clays. Although unlikely, clay soils may exist beneath the proposed project site; however, as described previously in Section 3.7(a), compliance with the CBC and DSA would ensure adequate structural integrity. Therefore, expansive soils are expected to have a less-than-significant impact on direct or indirect risk to life or property.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. The proposed project does not propose the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. The proposed project is in an urbanized area of the City of Pico Rivera and the irrigation system for the proposed project would connect to the City's wastewater system. No impacts related to septic systems would occur.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation. Paleontological resources or fossils are remains of ancient plants and animals that can provide scientifically significant information about the history of life on earth. This sensitivity is determined by rock type, history of the geologic unit in producing significant fossils, and fossil localities that are recorded from that unit. The General Plan of Pico Rivera states the city contains paleontological resources that contribute to the city's identity and character. The project site has been previously developed for the existing El Rancho HS sports facilities and associated athletic structures, which used sill soil. Development activities would primarily impact fill soil. Nevertheless, while fossils are not expected to be discovered during project construction, it is possible that fossils could be discovered during grading activities. Unknown fossils encountered during excavation would have the potential to be unintentionally damaged.

Compliance with City Policy 8.7-4, *Resource Assessment*, and applicable programs would require a survey to ensure potential paleontological sites are identified and receive special treatment (Pico Rivera 2014). Additionally, implementation of Mitigation Measure MM-GEO-1 would ensure that impacts to unknown paleontological resources are less than significant.

Mitigation Measure

MM-GEO-1. In the event that fossils or fossil locality deposits are discovered during construction, excavation within 100 feet of the fossil locality shall be temporarily halted until removal of the fossil localities. The contractor shall notify a qualified paleontologist to investigate its significance. If the fossil locality is determined to be significant by the qualified paleontologist, the paleontologist shall work with the District to follow accepted professional standards, such as further testing for evaluation or data recovery, as necessary. The paleontologist shall notify the appropriate agencies to determine procedures that would be followed before construction is allowed to resume at the location of the find. If the project proponent determines that avoidance is not feasible, the paleontologist shall prepare an excavation plan for mitigating the effect of the project based on the qualities that make the resource important.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

This section is based in part on the following technical study:

- *El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment*, ECORP Consulting Inc., 2023 (Appendix A)

3. Environmental Analysis

Prominent GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are CO_2, methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O). Fluorinated gases also make up a small fraction of the GHGs that contribute to climate change. Fluorinated gases include chlorofluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride; however, it is noted that these gases are not associated with typical land use development. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are believed to be responsible for intensifying the greenhouse effect and leading to a trend of unnatural warming of the earth's climate, known as global climate change or global warming. More specifically, experts at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) agree that human activities, principally through emissions of GHGs, have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1 degrees Celsius (°C) above 1850–1900 in 2011–2020 (IPCC 2023).

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. Global climate change is not confined to a particular project area and is generally accepted as the consequence of global industrialization over the last 200 years. A typical project, even a very large one, does not generate enough GHG emissions on its own to influence global climate change significantly, hence the issue of global climate change is a cumulative environmental impact.

As shown in Table 8, *Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, project construction would result in the generation of approximately 313 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) over the course of two years of construction. Once construction is complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease.

Table 8 Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Emissions Source	CO_2e (Metric Tons/Year)
Year-One Construction Emissions	287
Year-Two Construction Emissions	26
Total	**313**
SCAQMD Significance Threshold	3,000
Exceeds SCAQMD Threshold?	**No**

Source: CalEEMod version 2022.1. Refer to Attachment B for Model Data Outputs.

The proposed project includes renovations to the existing baseball field on the campus. Specifically proposed improvements to the baseball field involve the relocation of an existing baseball diamond, as well as other related improvements, such as the installation of batting cages, field lighting, and foul ball netting. These improvements would not increase student population, would not add any school sports programs, and would not increase the number of participants or spectators for practice or games. The operational emissions associated with the proposed project would solely be generated from the energy consumption associated with the new field lighting. As such, the additional lighting system would result in the emission of approximately 16

metric tons of CO_2e per year. This estimation was made with the consideration of Musco Lighting Plans for the proposed project. This would not surpass the SCAQMD's numerical Brightline threshold of 3,000 metric tons of CO_2e annually. This threshold was developed based on substantial evidence and in accordance with the State's GHG reduction goals. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The City of Pico Rivera has not adopted a Climate Action Plan or any other plan for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. However, the State of California promulgates several mandates and goals to reduce statewide GHG emissions, including the goal to reduce statewide GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030 (Senate Bill [SB] 32) and 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050 (Executive Order S-3-05). The proposed project is subject to compliance with SB 32. As discussed previously, the GHG emissions generated by the proposed project would not surpass GHG significance thresholds, which were prepared with the purpose of complying with these requirements. The 3,000 metric tons of CO_2e threshold was prepared with the purpose of complying with statewide GHG-reduction efforts. Thus, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation related to the reduction in GHG emissions.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less Than Significant Impact. Construction of the proposed project would require small amounts of hazardous materials during construction, such as vehicle fuels, lubricants, grease and transmission fluids, paints, and coatings. The handling, use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials during the construction phase of the proposed project would comply with existing regulations of several agencies—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), US Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and US Department of Transportation (USDOT).

Operation of the proposed project would transport, use, store, and dispose of small amounts of hazardous materials typical of school facilities, such as cleaning and maintenance supplies (cleaners, gasoline, paint, and pesticides). The proposed project includes various athletic field improvements that would use cleaners and other chemicals in relatively small quantities, which are not typically considered hazardous materials that could result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment. No manufacturing, industrial, or other uses using large amounts of hazardous materials would occur within the campus. Compliance with applicable federal and State laws and regulations governing the use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials would ensure that all potentially hazardous materials are used and handled in an appropriate manner and would minimize the potential for safety impacts to occur. Therefore, the proposed project would not create substantial hazards to the public or the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is currently developed with the existing El Rancho HS athletic facilities. Five environmental lists were searched for hazardous materials on the project site and these are shown in Table 9, *Hazardous Waste Sites within 1,500-foot Radius of El Rancho High School*:

- **GeoTracker.** State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB 2023)
- **EnviroStor**. Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC 2023)
- **EJ Screen**. US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA 2023a)
- **EnviroMapper.**US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA 2023b)
- **Solid Waste Information System (SWIS).** California Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling (Cal Recycle 2023).

Table 9 Hazardous Waste Sites within 1,500-foot Radius of El Rancho High School

Site Address	Database	Identifier	Cleanup Status	Proximity to site
Pico Rivera Sheriff Station 6631 Passons Boulevard, CA 90660	GeoTracker	LUST Cleanup Site	Completed – Case Closed	1,000 feet
Pico Rivera Sheriff Station 6631 Passons Boulevard, CA 90660	EnviroMapper	Other Hazardous Waste Activities (Y) CAL000106458	Active	1,000 feet
El Rancho High School 6501 South Passons Boulevard, CA 90660	EnviroMapper	Unspecified Universe (N) CAL000205632	Active	On-Site (0 feet)
		Other Hazardous Waste Activities (Y) CAC003044867	Inactive	
Penske Truck Leasing Co., LP 6631 South Passons Boulevard	EnviroMapper	Unspecified Universe (N) CAL000317691	Inactive	1,000 feet
Dennis Lin 6555 Loch Alena Avenue Pico Rivera, CA 90660	EnviroMapper	Other Hazardous Waste Activities (Y) CAC003017046	Inactive	500 feet
Valencia Academy of the Arts 9241 E. Cosgrove Street Pico Rivera, CA 90660	EnviroMapper	VSQG (Y) CAR000099218	Inactive	850 feet

Sources: SWRCB 2023; USEPA 2023a.

As shown in Table 9, GeoTracker and EnviroMapper have identified six hazardous waste sites in the vicinity of the project site.

- **The Pico Rivera Sheriff's station was** identified by **GeoTracker** as a leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cleanup site with a status of completed – case closed. Additionally, the Pico Rivera Sheriff's station (CAL000106458) is identified as an active hazardous waste site by EnviroStor and DTSC's hazardous waste tracking system (DTSC 2023). The Pico Rivera Sheriff's station has lawfully disposed of 0.42 tons of Waste Flammable Liquids n.o.s (Gasoline/Diesel) in 2022. Such flammable liquids n.o.s (Gasoline/Diesel) was lawfully disposed of, following State and federal guidelines, and would not present a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

- **The El Rancho HS** site (CAC003044867) is identified as an inactive hazardous waste site, with no history of hazardous materials listed within the DTSC Hazardous Waste Tracking System search (DTSC 2023). However, El Rancho HS (CAL000205632) is identified as an active hazardous waste site, the campus has lawfully disposed of hazardous waste annually (DTSC 2023). In 2022, the campus lawfully disposed of 0.38 tons of asbestos-containing waste and trace amounts of liquids with mercury. Such hazardous materials are typical of old buildings and old thermostats. The District lawfully disposed of hazardous materials following State and federal guidelines, thus would not present a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

- **The Penske Truck Leasing Co.** (CAL000317691) is identified as an inactive hazardous waste site (DTSC 2023). The Penske Truck Leasing Co. site lawfully disposed of an aqueous solution with 10 percent or more total organic residue in 2018. The Penske Truck Leasing Co. followed State and federal guidelines to lawfully dispose of hazardous materials, thus would not present significant a hazard to the public or the environment.

- The Dennis Lin site (CAC003017046) is identified as an inactive hazardous waste site (DTSC 2023). T**he Dennis Lin** site lawfully disposed of 0.23 tons of asbestos in 2019, following State and federal guidelines, thus would not present a hazard to the public or the environment.

- **The Valencia Academy of the Arts** (CAR000099218) is identified as an inactive hazardous waste site (DTSC 2023). The Valencia Academy of the Arts campus lawfully disposed of 0.05 tons of other inorganic waste in 2017. The District followed State and federal guidelines for disposing of hazardous waste materials, thus would not present significant hazard to the public or the environment.

  These sites would not require additional hazardous waste cleanup or disposal; thus, impacts would be less than significant.

As discussed previously in Section 3.9(a), construction activities would require small amounts of hazardous materials, which include vehicle fuels, lubricants, grease and transmission fluids, as well as paints and coatings. The use, transportation, and disposal of hazardous materials would be in accordance with regulatory standards and manufacturers' specifications. Hazardous materials would be used in small quantities and stored so they do not pose significant safety hazards. Operation of the proposed project would transport, use, store, and dispose of small amounts of hazardous materials typical of school facilities, such as cleaning and maintenance supplies (cleaners, gasoline, paint, and pesticides). Operation of the proposed project would use cleaners and other chemicals in relatively small quantities, which is not typically considered hazardous materials that could result

in a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Compliance with applicable federal and State laws and regulations governing the use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials would ensure impacts would be less than significant.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would develop a baseball field on the existing El Rancho HS campus. Additionally, approximately 0.1 miles north is Ruben Salazar HS at 9115 Balfour Street and approximately 0.20 miles north is Valencia Academy of the Arts at 9241 Cosgrove Street.

As discussed in Section 3.9(a), construction and operation of the proposed project would handle small amounts of hazardous materials typical of construction activities and used in the operation of school facilities. The use, transportation, and storage of hazardous materials would be required to comply with all applicable State and federal regulations, which would ensure the proper handling of such materials. As discussed in Section 3.9(b), all hazardous materials sites disposed of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable federal and State laws; therefore, the potential for a hazardous materials release or threatened release at the project site or within a 1,500-foot radius of the project site is less than significant. No significant hazards from hazardous materials is expected at the project site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. California Government Code Section 65962.5 requires referencing a list of hazardous materials sites, hazardous waste discharges for which the State Water Control Board has issued certain types of orders, public drinking water wells collecting detectable levels of organic contaminants, underground storage tanks with reported unauthorized releases, and solid waste disposal facilities from which hazardous waste has migrated.

Five environmental lists were searched for hazardous materials on the project site:

- **GeoTracker.** State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB 2023)
- **EnviroStor.** Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC 2023)
- **EJ Screen.** US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA 2023a)
- **EnviroMapper.**US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA 2023b)
- **Solid Waste Information System (SWIS).** California Department of Resources Recovery and Recycling (Cal Recycle 2023).

As identified in Table 9, the project site is listed on EnviroStor twice as active (CAL000205632) and inactive (CAC003044867). As discussed in Section 3.9(b), the El Rancho HHS site ID CAC003044867 is an inactive

hazardous waste site, with no history of hazardous materials listed within the DTSC Hazardous Waste Tracking System search (DTSC 2023). However, the El Rancho HS site ID CAL000205632 is identified as an active hazardous waste site, although the campus has lawfully disposed of hazardous waste annually (DTSC 2023). In 2022, the campus lawfully disposed of 0.38 tons of asbestos-containing waste and trace amounts of liquids with mercury. Such hazardous materials are typical of old buildings and old thermostats. The proposed project would not require construction activities on campus classroom buildings where such hazardous materials are more likely to be found. Additionally, the District lawfully disposed of hazardous materials following State and federal guidelines, and no additional hazardous waste cleanup or disposal is required. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment, thus impacts would be less than significant.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles or a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The closest public airport to the project site is the San Gabriel Valley Airport approximately 7.3 miles northeast of the project site. The project site is not within the San Gabriel Valley Airport land use plan (San Gabriel Valley Airport 2015) and the project site is not within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. No impact would occur.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would have a significant impact if it would impair or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The City of Pico Rivera does not have an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The City is in the process of drafting an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP); however, no official documents have been released to the public. An EOP provides guidance for City response to extraordinary emergencies associated with localized events or catastrophic disasters (i.e., natural disasters). The EOP facilitates multijurisdictional and intergovernmental coordination into a structure to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services, and maintain critical infrastructure. The EOP aims to interface with applicable local, State, and federal contingency plans.

The City of Pico Rivera General Plan identifies roads such as Washington Boulevard, Rosemead Boulevard, and Passons Boulevard as local evacuation routes (Pico Rivera 2014). The El Rancho HS campus is bounded by Passons Boulevard to the east, yet the proposed project would be on the athletic fields in the northern portion of the campus. The proposed project would not alter the existing circulation or access on site. Any disruptions in access would be limited to the fire access/maintenance road during construction activity uses and would be temporary and short-term, no construction-related vehicles or materials would be staged on any public roads. The proposed project would comply with the California Department of Education (CDE) guidelines for site design and circulation and the Los Angeles County Fire Department's design standards for emergency access. The proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on the implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. As discussed further in Section 3.20, *Wildfire*, the project site is not within a very high fire hazard severity zone (VHFHSZ), nor is the project site adjacent to a VHFHSZ. The closest area designated as a VHFHSZ Local Responsibility Area (LRA) is 2.40 miles northeast of the project site (CAL FIRE 2023). Development of the proposed project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildfires. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is currently developed and has existing athletic fields and structures. The use of heavy equipment, machinery, and other materials during excavation and remediation of the project site could result in adverse water quality impacts if spills were to encounter stormwater and polluted runoff were to enter downstream receiving waters. The proposed project would be required to comply with all applicable federal, State, and local regulations concerning water quality. Soil-disturbing activities involving more than one acre require adherence to the NPDES permit for construction-related activities from the State Water Resources Control Board. The permit would require the preparation and implementation of a project-specific SWPPP that indicates which BMPs are intended to reduce erosion, sedimentation, and nonpermitted discharges of materials during construction. Since the proposed project consists of more than one acre, an NPDES permit is required, which would result in a less-than-significant impact.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would connect an eight-inch sewer easement to the main existing sewer line on Passons Boulevard. The proposed project's water supply would come from the Pico Water District. According to the Pico Water District, potable water supplies come from groundwater from the Central Basin, which underlies the entire San Gabriel Valley (Pico Water District 2021). The basin is replenished naturally by rainfall and river water, which can originate as snowmelt from the San Gabriel Mountains. The Water Replenishment District of Southern California (WRD) also replenishes the basin by spreading tertiary-treated recycled water purchased from the Los Angeles Sanitation District (Pico Water District 2023). According to the Pico Water District Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP), the groundwater can supply adequate water for the next 20 years. The project site is developed with existing athletic fields and structures. The proposed project would not result in substantial water demand. Therefore, impacts related to groundwater supplies and recharge would be less than significant.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) Result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would be required to comply with the NPDES, which would require the preparation of a SWPPP that includes BMPs to reduce erosion and siltation. Compliance with NDPES permit and implementation of the SWPPP would ensure that the construction of the proposed project would not result in adverse water quality impacts while the existing drainage pattern of the site is being altered.

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact. Stormwater runoff on the project site currently flows into existing city streets and drains. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the project site is within a Zone X, an area with reduced flood risk due to levee, and is outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplain (FEMA 2021). During construction, the proposed project would be required to comply with the NPDES permit, which would require the preparation of a SWPPP that would ensure construction of the proposed project would not result in flooding on- or off-site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 3.10(a), remediation activities of the proposed project may add a temporary source of polluted runoff. Construction activities would involve the use of heavy equipment, machinery, and other materials. There are potential sources of pollution that could contribute contaminated runoff to surrounding storm drains. However, with implementation of a SWPPP in compliance with the NPDES stormwater permit, the proposed project would not result in water quality impacts. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

No Impact. According to the FEMA map, the project site is not within a flood zone and is within a highly urbanized portion of the City of Pico Rivera with no close access to water bodies. The project site is in Flood Zone X, which is an area determined to be outside the 0.2-percent annual chance floodplain. The proposed project would include a storm drain system to collect, treat, and convey stormwater into the existing storm drain system in Passons Boulevard. Therefore, the project would not result in impeding or redirecting flood flows and impacts would be less than significant.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. A seiche is a surface wave created when a body of water is shaken, usually by earthquake activity. Seiches are of concern relative to water storage facilities because inundation from a seiche can occur if the wave overflows a containment wall, such as the wall of a reservoir, water storage tank, dam, or other artificial body of water. There are no large water tanks or dams in the area that could directly impact the proposed project site in the event of failure (DWR 2023). The nearest dam is the Garvey Reservoir, 6.8 miles north of the proposed project site; a potential inundation area from this reservoir flows to the north (DWR 2023).

The project site is not within a flood zone (FEMA 2021). The proposed project is in Flood Zone X, which is an area determined to be outside the 0.2-percent annual chance floodplain. Therefore, flood hazard is low. Additionally, the project site is approximately 20 miles from the Pacific Ocean and is not within a tsunami zone. No impact would occur since the proposed project site is outside of flood hazard, tsunamis, or seiche zones.

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. As previously mentioned, the proposed project would not affect groundwater and therefore would not obstruct implementation of a sustainable groundwater management plan. The proposed project would comply with existing local, regional, and State regulations and would not obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The proposed project site and surrounding area are fully developed with urban land uses, such as residential land uses. The proposed project would occur on the northern side of the established and currently operating high school campus. The proposed project would include the relocation of the high school's baseball field with lighting throughout the proposed project site. The proposed project improvements would be limited to the project site. The proposed project would not change any existing driveways leading to the campus. The proposed project would not create any new land use barriers, divide, or disrupt the physical arrangement of any surrounding communities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact. The General Plan Land Use designation for the school property is Public Facilities (P-F), which is the designation for the use and development of public facilities, including, but not limited to, federal agencies, special districts, public schools and associated administrative offices, and public and private utilities. The proposed project is consistent with the Public Facilities (P-F) land use designation. The proposed project would be developed within the boundaries of the El Rancho HS campus. The proposed project's development would not require modification to the site's General Plan land use and zoning designations. Development of the

proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?

No Impact. There are no known mineral resources on the project site that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. The project site is zoned Public Facilities (P-F) and has no history of mining. The project site is within a mineral resource zone where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data (CGS 2022). The project site is developed with existing athletic fields and structures and is in an urbanized area and is not currently used for mineral extraction. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

No Impact. There are no known mineral resources within the project site. The Pico Rivera General Plan Environmental Resources Element identifies that there are no commercially viable sand and gravel resources in the area (Pico Rivera 2014). The project site is in an urbanized area in the city of Pico Rivera and no mineral extraction operations currently occur within the vicinity of the project site. The proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.13 NOISE

This section is based in part on the following technical study:

- *El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Noise Assessment*, ECORP Consulting Inc., 2023 (Appendix C)

Would the project:

a) Generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan, noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Less Than Significant Impact.

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Construction Noise

On-site Construction Noise

Construction noise associated with the proposed project would be temporary and would vary depending on the specific nature of the activities being performed. Noise generated would primarily be associated with the operation of off-road equipment for on-site construction activities as well as construction vehicle traffic on area roadways. Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction (e.g., site preparation, excavation, paving). Noise generated by construction equipment, including earth movers, pile drivers, and portable generators, can reach high levels. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment may involve one or two minutes of full-power operation followed by three to four minutes at lower-power settings. Other primary sources of acoustical disturbance would be random incidents, which would last less than one minute (such as dropping large pieces of equipment or the hydraulic movement of machinery lifts). During construction, exterior noise levels could negatively affect sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the construction site.

The nearest existing noise-sensitive land uses to the campus include single-family residences north of the project site fronting Balfour Street, located 224 feet from where construction would be occurring. The Noise Element of the City's General Plan states that construction-related noise and vibration should be minimized by limiting construction activities within 500 feet of noise-sensitive uses from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. seven days a week. The proposed project would be subject to these limitations. The City does not promulgate a numeric threshold pertaining to the noise associated with construction. This is due to the fact that construction noise is temporary, short-term, intermittent in nature, and would cease on completion of the proposed project. Additionally, construction would occur throughout the project site and would not be concentrated at one point.

To estimate the worst-case on-site construction noise levels that may occur at the nearest noise-sensitive receptors and to evaluate the potential health-related effects (physical damage to the ear) from construction noise, the construction equipment noise levels were calculated using the Roadway Noise Construction Model and compared against the construction-related noise level threshold established in the Criteria for a Recommended Standard: Occupational Noise Exposure prepared in 1998 by NIOSH. A division of the US Department of Health and Human Services, NIOSH identifies a noise level threshold based on the duration of exposure to the source. The NIOSH construction-related noise level threshold starts at 85 A-weighted decibels (dBA) for more than 8 hours per day; for every 3 dBA increase, the exposure time is cut in half. This reduction results in noise level thresholds of 88 dBA for more than 4 hours per day, 92 dBA for more than 1 hour per day, 96 dBA for more than 30 minutes per day, and up to 100 dBA for more than 15 minutes per day. For the purposes of this analysis, the lowest, more conservative threshold of 85 dBA Leq is used as an acceptable threshold for construction noise at the nearby sensitive receptors.

It is acknowledged that the majority of construction equipment is not situated at any one location during construction activities, but rather spread throughout the project site and at various distances from sensitive receptors. Therefore, this analysis employs the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) guidance for calculating construction noise, that recommends measuring construction noise produced by all construction equipment from the center of the project site (FTA 2018), which, in this case is approximately 224 feet from the nearest sensitive receptor, the single-family residences north of the campus. The anticipated short-term construction

noise levels generated for the necessary equipment is presented in Table 10*, Construction Average (dBA) Noise Levels at Nearest Receptors*.

Table 10 Construction Average (dBA) Noise Levels at Nearest Receptors

Equipment	Peak Particle Velocity (in/sec)		
	Estimated Exterior Construction Noise Level @ Closest Noise Sensitive Receptor	Construction Noise Standard (dBA Leq)	Exceeds Standards
Site Preparation	70.3 dBA	85	No
Grading	72.9 dBA	85	No
Building Construction, Paving, and Painting	74.6 dBA	85	No

Source: Construction noise levels were calculated by ECORP Consulting using the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Roadway Noise Construction Model (FHWA 2006). Refer to Appendix C for Model Data Outputs.

Notes: Construction equipment used during construction derived from the California Emissions Estimator Model 2022.1.

The California Emissions Estimator Model is designed to calculate air pollutant emissions from construction activity and contains default construction equipment and usage parameters for typical construction projects based on several construction surveys conducted in order to identify such parameters. Consistent with FTA recommendations for calculating construction noise, construction noise was measured from the center of the project site (FTA 2018), which is 224 feet from the nearest receptor. Construction, paving and painting are assumed to occur simultaneously.

L_{eq} = The equivalent energy noise level, is the average acoustic energy content of noise for a stated period of time, the L_{eq} of a time-varying noise and that of a steady noise are the same if they deliver the same acoustic energy to the ear during exposure. For evaluating community impacts, this rating scale does not vary, regardless of whether the noise occurs during

As shown in Table 10, project construction does not have the potential to exceed the construction noise standard of 85 dBA during the site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, and architectural coating activities.

Off-site Construction Worker Traffic Noise

Project construction would result in additional traffic on adjacent roadways over the period that construction occurs. According to the California Emissions Estimator Model, which is used to predict the maximum number of construction-related vehicle trips traveling to and from the project site, the maximum number of construction-related trips traveling to and from the project site during a single construction phase would not be expected to exceed 27 trips in total. According to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') Technical Noise Supplement to the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol (2013), doubling of traffic on a roadway is required to result in an increase of 3 dB (outside of the laboratory, a 3 dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference). The project site would be accessible from Passons Boulevard. According to the City's General Plan Circulation Element, Passons Boulevard is classified as a collector, which has a capacity of up to 25,000 ADT depending on the number of lanes. As such, the project's 27 construction trips would not result in the doubling of traffic on Passons Boulevard, and therefore its contribution to existing traffic noise would not be perceptible. Additionally, it is noted that construction is temporary, and these trips would cease upon completion of the project.

Operational Noise

As previously described, noise-sensitive land uses are locations where people reside or where the presence of unwanted sound could adversely affect the use of the land. Residences, schools, hospitals, guest lodging,

3. Environmental Analysis

libraries, and some passive recreation areas would each be considered noise-sensitive uses and may warrant unique measures for protection from intruding noise. The nearest existing noise-sensitive land uses to the project are single-family residences north of the project site, fronting Balfour Street.

The proposed project would renovate the baseball field on the campus. Specifically, proposed improvements involve the reconfiguration of an existing baseball diamond, as well as other related improvements such as the installation of batting cages, field lighting, and foul ball netting.

With the exception of the batting cages, none of the proposed improvements would represent a new source of noise beyond current conditions. The improvements to the baseball diamond would not result in an increase of events, additional school sports programs or participants, or additional spectators beyond current conditions and thus can be expected to generate the same level of noise as currently generated. It is noted that the addition of field lighting would result in the capability for games to be held later into the evening. However, it is not expected for the field to be used past 8:00 p.m. Although the City does not have specific nighttime noise standards, the proposed project's operations would not influence the usual nighttime hours (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) ambient noise levels. Nevertheless, since the baseball diamond is proposed to be reconfigured and sound sources could be relocated nearer to noise-sensitive receptors, a change in the ambient noise environment could occur even though there would not be an increase of events, participants, or spectators beyond current conditions. Furthermore, the proposed batting cages would represent new sources of noise.

On-site project daytime noise associated with the proposed new batting cages and the reconfigured baseball field have been calculated using the SoundPLAN 3D noise model. The modeling scenario accounts for baseball and batting cage activities, as well as other spring sports that could potentially be played simultaneously with baseball, such as softball and water polo/swim contests. The project noise calculations used in this analysis are conservative in that they account for the active use of all these sources simultaneously, which is unlikely to occur. For instance, the predicted project noise levels account for a baseball game, a softball game, operation of all the batting cages, and use of the swimming pools all at the same time. As previously described, noise levels may also be reduced by intervening structures. The existing wall traversing the northeastern boundary, estimated at six feet in height, has been included in the SoundPLAN modeling calculations.

Table 11, *Modeled Operational Daytime Noise Levels*, shows the predicted project noise levels at 16 noise-sensitive locations in the project vicinity, as predicted by SoundPLAN. These 16 noise-sensitive locations represent nearby residences of the high school.

Table 11 Modeled Operational Daytime Noise Levels

Location	Modeled Operational Noise Attributed to Project (dBA Leq)	City Exterior Noise Standards (dBA Leq)	Exceed Exterior Standard?
1	53.3 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
2	54.3 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
3	54.9 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
4	54.2 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
5	52.8 dBA	65 dBA	**No**

Table 11 Modeled Operational Daytime Noise Levels

Location	Modeled Operational Noise Attributed to Project (dBA Leq)	City Exterior Noise Standards (dBA Leq)	Exceed Exterior Standard?
6	51.1 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
7	53.7 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
8	55.4 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
9	57.6 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
10	59.5 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
11	60.5 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
12	59.6 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
13	57.6 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
14	55.9 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
15	55.2 dBA	65 dBA	**No**
16	54.1 dBA	65 dBA	**No**

Source: ECORP Consulting Inc., 2023.

As shown in Table 11, project operational noise would not exceed any exterior noise standards at any of the nearest noise-sensitive residential receptors. Similarly, the project would not exceed interior noise standards at any of the nearest noise-sensitive receptors. As previously described, the manner in which older homes in California were constructed generally provides a reduction of exterior-to-interior noise levels of about 20 to 25 dBA with closed windows. The exterior-to-interior reduction of newer residential units is generally 30 dBA or more. The least-efficient exterior-to-interior noise attenuation of 20 dBA results in interior noise levels of 31.1 dBA to 40.5 dBA, which fall under the City's interior noise standard of 45 dBA for noise-sensitive residential receptors. It is assumed that all sports games would occur during usual daytime hours.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Vibration Annoyance

Excessive groundborne vibration impacts result from continuously occurring vibration levels. Increases in groundborne vibration levels attributable to the proposed project would be primarily associated with short-term construction-related activities. Construction on the project site would have the potential to result in varying degrees of temporary groundborne vibration, depending on the specific construction equipment used and the operations involved. Ground vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in magnitude with increases in distance.

Construction-related ground vibration is normally associated with impact equipment, such as pile drivers, jackhammers, and the operation of some heavy-duty construction equipment, such as dozers and trucks. It is not anticipated that pile drivers would be necessary during project construction. Vibration decreases rapidly

with distance, and it is acknowledged that construction activities would occur throughout the project site and would not be concentrated at the point closest to sensitive receptors. Groundborne vibration levels associated with construction equipment are summarized in Table 12, *Representative Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment*.

Table 12 Representative Vibration Source Levels for Construction Equipment

Equipment	Receiver Vibration Decibels (VdB)
Large Bulldozer	87
Cassion Drilling	87
Loaded Trucks	86
Rock Breaker	87
Jackhammer	79
Small Bulldozer/Tractor	58
Vibratory Roller	94

Source: FTA 2018; Caltrans 2020

The City of Pico Rivera's General Plan Noise Element includes Policy 11.3-2, *Vibration Standards*, which states that construction projects and new development anticipated to generate a significant amount of vibration are required to ensure acceptable interior vibration levels at nearby noise-sensitive uses based on FTA criteria, as outlined in Table 4-2 in Appendix C.

It is acknowledged that construction activities would occur throughout the project site and would not be concentrated at the point closest to the nearest structure. Consistent with FTA recommendations, construction vibration was measured from the center of the project site (FTA 2018). The nearest structure of concern to the construction site, with regard to groundborne vibration, is a residence on Balfour Street, approximately 224 feet from the center of the project site. In reference to Table 4-2 in Appendix C, the land uses surrounding the project site can be considered Category 2 land use because they are residential. It is noted that this can be classified as frequent because although the construction is temporary, the construction's vibrational impacts would be consistent and frequent throughout the construction period. With a Category 2 and frequent events classification, the impact events cannot exceed 72 VdB without exceeding the significance threshold.

Based on the representative vibration levels presented for various construction equipment types in Table 12 and the construction vibration assessment methodology published by the FTA (2018), it is possible to estimate the potential project construction vibration levels. The FTA provides the following equation:

$$[Lv.distance = Lvref - 30\log (D/25)]$$

Table 13, *Construction Vibration Levels at 224 Feet*, presents the expected project-related vibration levels at a distance of 224 feet.

Table 13 Construction Vibration Levels at 224 Feet

Equipment	Receiver Vdb Levels
Large Bulldozer	58.4
Caisson Drilling	58.4
Loaded Trucks	57.4
Rock Breaker	58.4
Jackhammer	50.4
Small Bulldozer	29.4
Vibratory Roller	65.4
Peak Vibration	65.4
Threshold	72
Threshold Exceeded?	No

Source: ECORP Consulting Inc., 2023.

As shown in Table 13, the peak vibration decibel level 224 feet away from construction equipment is 65.4 VdB. As previously mentioned, ground vibration generated by construction equipment spreads through the ground and diminishes in magnitude with increases in distance. As a result, the residence 224 feet away from the project site is calculated to experience vibrations below the City's threshold levels and therefore would not be negatively affected. Thus, project construction would not exceed the recommended threshold. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Operational Vibration

The project proposes improvements to the existing baseball field on campus. The improvements to the baseball field and the addition of batting cages, field lighting, and foul ball netting would not result in groundborne vibrations during operations. Additionally, project operations would not include the use of any large-scale stationary equipment that would result in excessive vibration levels. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The project site is approximately 7.3 miles southwest of the San Gabriel Valley Airport in El Monte and approximately 13 miles southeast of the Fullerton Municipal Airport, in Fullerton. According to the Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Commission and the Orange County Airport Land Use Commission, the project site is outside of the noise contours of both San Gabriel Valley Airport and the Fullerton Municipal Airport. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not result in increased exposure of people working at or visiting the project site to aircraft noise.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact. The campus is within a built-out, urbanized community, and no new roads or extensions of existing roads are proposed. The proposed project would be constructed within the existing campus, in the areas of the current developed softball fields.

The proposed project would serve the existing needs of the campus and would not increase student enrollment or student capacity. The proposed project would not create a significant number of new employment opportunities that could result in a greater demand for local housing. Additionally, the proposed project would continue to use the existing roads and infrastructure; no new roads, expanded utility lines, or housing are proposed. Thus, project development would not induce substantial population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. As discussed previously, the proposed project is within the existing campus. The proposed project would not involve the removal or relocation of any housing and would therefore not displace any people or necessitate the construction of any replacement housing. No existing residences would be displaced or removed as a result of the proposed project. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

a) Fire protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Pico Rivera are provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD). Services included fire suppression, emergency medical, rescue and fire prevention, and hazardous materials coordination services. There are three existing fire stations within two miles of the project site. The nearest fires station is Fire Station 103, at 7300 S. Paramount Boulevard, 1.8 miles west of the project site; Fire Station 25, at 9209 E. Slauson Avenue, 2 miles south from the project site; and Fire Station 40, at 4864 S. Durfee Avenue, 1.9 miles north of the project site. The proposed project would receive fire protection services from Fire Station 103, which has daily staffing of seven uniform personnel, including a three-person engine company, which is an engine company with some

limited paramedic capabilities, and four-person urban search and rescue (USAR) Task Force. The proposed project would be constructed pursuant to existing California Fire Code regulations and the proposed project would not result in the need for new or physically altered Fire Department facilities that could cause significant environmental impacts. The operation of the proposed project would contribute to property taxes and Special Tax that would help fund LACFD and hire more personnel, if needed. The proposed project consists of renovation and lighting improvements to an already existing athletic field on El Rancho HS campus. Development of the proposed project would not result in the need for construction associated with an expansion of existing or development of a new fire station. Therefore, the project would result in less-than-significant impacts related to fire protection services.

b) Police protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Pico Rivera policing services are provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD). The closest Sheriff's station is the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station 0.2 miles south of the project site. According to the LASD, the Pico Rivera Sheriff's Station typically has a daily staffing of between four and seven cars and one and three motorcycles. The LASD current response time within the service area is 34.5 minutes for routine calls, 9.3 minutes for priority calls, and 3.6 minutes for emergency calls, which is within policy standards. The proposed project includes the renovation of existing athletic fields and would not result in an increase in population. The proposed project would be required to pay all applicable impact fees and would contribute to applicable taxes to continue running the police station. Development of the project would not result in the need for construction associated with an expansion of existing or development of a new Sheriff's Station. The proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

c) Schools?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project includes renovations and lighting improvements to the existing baseball field at El Rancho HS. The District serves grades kindergarten through 12, with one elementary, one middle school, and two high schools. The proposed project would not involve construction of any dwelling units or an increase in population that would require the construction of new school facilities. Development of the proposed project would not substantially increase enrollment. Development of the project would not result in the need for construction associated with an expansion of existing or development of new schools such that environmental impacts would result. Therefore, project-related impacts to school facilities would be less than significant.

d) Parks?

No Impact. The City of Pico Rivera has approximately 102 acres of developed park and recreation facilities (Pico Rivera 2014) and there are approximately 1.22 acres of developed parkland within a two-mile radius of the project site. Rio Vista and Smith Park are the closest city parks to the project site and are approximately 1.6 miles north of the project site. Development of the proposed project would not result in the need for construction associated with an expansion of existing or development of new park facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur.

e) Other public facilities?

No Impact. The City of Pico Rivera is served by the Los Aneles County Public Library system. The Pico Rivera Library is at 9001 Mines Avenue one mile north of the project site. The proposed project would involve renovation and lighting improvements to an existing athletic field on the El Rancho HS campus. There would be no increase in population associated with the construction of the proposed project and the demand for public facilities would remain the same. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.16 RECREATION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Less Than Significant Impact. Typically, the demand for parks is created by the development of new housing and/or actions that generate additional population. The City of Pico Rivera's Department of Parks and Recreation operates over 120 acres of recreational facilities across the city (Pico Rivera 2023b). The closest park to the project site is William A. Smith Park, at 6016 Rosemead Boulevard, approximately 0.20 miles north of the project site. The Department of Parks and Recreation operates nine parks containing 21 athletic fields, 2 gymnasiums, and 4 community centers. Community centers and parks provide instructional classes, special or seasonal events, sports leagues, workshops, recreational programs, and community celebrations.

The proposed project would relocate the baseball field on an existing school campus, and it would not induce population growth nor increase student enrollment or capacity on campus.

The proposed project would serve the existing and future student population. Increased demand for off-site recreational resources, parks, or other facilities within the city is not anticipated as a result of the proposed project's implementation. Therefore, the proposed project would not generate an increased demand for existing neighborhood, regional, or other recreational facilities and would not result in substantial physical deterioration of such facilities nor cause deterioration to accelerate. The proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on recreation.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project is a baseball field improvement project on an existing school campus. The proposed project would serve the school's existing student population and would not change enrollment. Therefore, the proposed project would not include the development of recreational facilities nor require the expansion of existing recreational facilities since it does not affect student enrollment. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

This section is based in part on the following technical study:

- *El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Traffic Analysis*, Garland Associates, 2023 (Appendix D)

This section addresses any potential direct and indirect environmental impacts associated with traffic and transportation as a result of the proposed project. This section summarizes the results of a traffic/transportation analysis that was conducted for the proposed project.

Would the project:

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would provide the opportunity for the school to extend baseball-related activities into the evening hours. The varsity and junior varsity baseball teams play as early as 10:00 a.m. and as late as 3:30 p.m., as there are no lights on the field and the game must be completed before sundown. The proposed activities schedule for the El Rancho HS baseball field would occur between 3:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and between 5:30 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. Baseball season for the high school typically extends from February to May.

The proposed project is not anticipated to change the number of practices and games at the school and the total number of participants and spectators on any given day is not anticipated to change. Table 14, *Traffic Volumes at the Baseball Field*, shows the estimated number of participants and the traffic volumes generated by the baseball field during practices and games. These numbers represent existing conditions as well as the "with project" scenario as there would be no change in the participation levels. The primary impact is that the hours of traffic activity would be later in the day for the "with project" scenario.

Table 14 indicates that the baseball field (existing and proposed) generates an estimated 76 vehicle trips for practices and 192 vehicle trips for games. These traffic volumes represent players driving alone, players that are dropped off and picked up by parents, coaches, and spectators (on game days only).

The traffic volumes shown in Table 14 are based on the worst-case scenario that each of the baseball players would travel to and from the school campus in a single vehicle. It is highly likely that there would be multiple people traveling in many of the vehicles, which would reduce the traffic volumes shown in the table. Also, many of the student participants would already be at the school and would walk across campus to the field, which would further reduce the number of arrivals shown in the table. Therefore, the traffic volumes shown in the table represent a conservative (high-end) worst-case scenario.

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Table 14 Traffic Volumes at the Baseball Field

Number of People - Category	Traffic Volumes – Pre-Game		Traffic Volumes – End of Game		Total Daily Traffic
	Inbound	Outbound	Inbound	Outbound	
Practice Days					
20 Players					
5 Drive Alone	5	0	0	5	10
15 Dropped Off/Picked Up by Parents	15	15	15	15	60
3 Coaches	3	0	0	3	6
Total	**23**	**15**	**15**	**23**	**76**
Game Days					
40 Players					
10 Drive Alone	10	0	0	10	20
30 Dropped Off/Picked Up by Parents	30	30	30	30	120
6 Coaches	6	0	0	6	12
40 Spectators (2 per car)	20	0	0	20	40
Total	**66**	**30**	**30**	**66**	**192**

NOTE: These traffic volumes represent the "without project" (no field lights) and the "with project" (with field lights) scenarios.

As the new baseball field and lighting project would not result in an overall increase in the number of participants, practices, or games at the school but would instead just shift the hours of use at the baseball field, the project would not result in an increase in daily traffic volumes. The existing parking lots that are accessed from Passons Boulevard, Homebrook Street, and Loch Alene Avenue would continue to be used by participants of the proposed baseball field except that the parking lot at the northeast corner of the school site that is currently accessed from Passons Boulevard would be relocated to the south in conjunction with another school facilities renovation project. This would not result in a substantial change in traffic patterns.

The games and practices at the proposed baseball field would generate a demand for non-motorized travel as some event patrons would travel to and from the school as pedestrians or on bicycles. The streets adjacent to the school have sidewalks on one or both sides of the street and there are numerous school area (yellow) crosswalks in the area. In addition to the crosswalks shown in Table 14 that are adjacent to the school, the signalized intersections of Washington Boulevard at Passons Boulevard and Washington Boulevard at Loch Alene Avenue south of the campus have pedestrian WALK signals with pedestrian push buttons and painted crosswalks. The intersection of Passons Boulevard and Mines Avenue north of the school is a four-way stop with yellow crosswalks on all four legs of the intersection. In addition, there is a pedestrian bridge on Rosemead Boulevard north of Balfour Street. Although the proposed project would not result in an increase in the level of pedestrian activity, there are numerous pedestrian amenities in the area that would accommodate pedestrian travel to and from the new baseball field.

While there are no bike lanes on the streets in the vicinity of the school, bike racks are available for use on the school campus. The project would not, however, result in an increase in the number of bicycle trips to and from the school. There are several bus lines in the vicinity of the school that could potentially be used by

participants and spectators of the proposed baseball field. The project would not, however, result in an increase in ridership as compared to existing conditions.

In summary, the proposed project would not adversely affect traffic conditions on the study area street network or the performance of any transit or non-motorized transportation facilities. The project would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities and no mitigation measures would be required. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 (b)?

No Impact. Vehicle delays and levels of service (LOS) have historically been used as the basis for determining the significance of traffic impacts as standard practice in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents. On September 27, 2013, SB 743 was signed into law, starting a process that fundamentally changed transportation impact analyses as part of CEQA compliance. SB 743 eliminates auto delay, LOS, and other similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion as the sole basis for determining significant impacts under CEQA. As part of the new CEQA Guidelines, the new criteria "shall promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses" (Public Resources Code Section 21099(b)(1)). Pursuant to SB 743, the California Natural Resources Agency adopted revisions to the CEQA Guidelines on December 28, 2018, to implement SB 743. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 describes how transportation impacts are to be analyzed after SB 743. Under the new CEQA Guidelines, metrics related to "vehicle miles traveled" (VMT) are required beginning July 1, 2020, to evaluate the significance of transportation impacts under CEQA for development projects, land use plans, and transportation infrastructure projects. The State provided an "opt-in period" and did not require lead agencies to apply a VMT metric until July 1, 2020. However, in January 2020, State courts stated that under the Public Resources Code Section 21099 (b)(2), "automobile delay, as described solely by level of service or similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion shall not be considered a significant impact on the environment" under CEQA, except for roadway capacity projects.

As stated in the "Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA" (California Office of Planning and Research, December 2018) and the "Vehicle Miles Traveled – Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide" (Caltrans, May 20, 2020), projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than-significant transportation impact and can be screened from a CEQA VMT analysis because they fall into the small project category. The proposed project would not result in an increase in traffic volumes because the traffic associated with the proposed baseball field is already being generated by the existing baseball field and motorists would be traveling on the area's roadway network regardless of the status of this project. As there would be no increase in traffic volumes and as the project is well below the CEQA VMT threshold of 110 trips per day, this project can be screened from any further CEQA VMT analysis and would not result in a significant impact relative to VMT.

In addition to the State of California screening methodology outlined above, the "Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines" prepared by the Los Angeles County Public Works Department (July 23, 2020) state that a project can be screened from requiring a CEQA VMT analysis if the project would generate less than 110

daily vehicle trips. As this project falls into that category, it can be screened from any further VMT analysis in accordance with the Los Angeles County criteria. Thus, the proposed project would have no VMT impacts and no impacts would occur.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The proposed project would not provide any on- or off-site access or circulation features that would create or increase any design hazards or incompatible uses. Access to the school site for vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians would continue to occur via properly designed driveways, sidewalks, and on-site pedestrian pathways. Appropriate pathways, signs, and gates would be provided from the parking lots to the field for convenient access by the public. The streets, intersections, driveways, and on-site circulation system are designed to accommodate the anticipated levels of vehicular and pedestrian activity and have historically been accommodating school-related traffic on a daily basis as well as traffic generated by the existing baseball field. These facilities would continue to be compatible with the design and operation of a high school and its athletics fields.

As the proposed project would not result in any adverse changes to the access or circulation features at the school or on the surrounding streets, there would be no impacts involving increased hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The existing and proposed access and circulation features at the school, including the driveways, on-site circulation roads, parking lots, and fire lanes, would continue to accommodate emergency ingress and egress by fire trucks, police units, and ambulance/paramedic vehicles. The proposed baseball field and lights would not alter any emergency access features at the school. Emergency vehicles could easily access the baseball field and all other areas of the school via on-site travel corridors. The proposed project would not result in inadequate emergency access. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or

Less than Significant Impact. As discussed in Section 3.5(a), the project site is not listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, National Register of Historic Places, California State Historical Landmarks, or Points of Historical Interest or in a local register of historical resources (OHP 2023a, 2023b; NPS 2023). The project site does not meet any of the historic resource criteria and

does not meet the definition of a historic resource pursuant to CEQA. The project would not impact TCR listed on any of the registers of historic resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Less than Significant Impact. AB 52 requires meaningful consultation with California Native American tribes on potential impacts to tribal cultural resources, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074. Tribal cultural resources are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either eligible or listed in the California Register of Historical Resources or local register of historical resources.

As part of the AB 52 process, Native American tribes must have submitted a written request to ERUSD (lead agency) to be notified of projects within their traditionally and culturally affiliated area. ERUSD must provide written, formal notification to those tribes within 14 days of deciding to undertake a project. The tribe must respond to ERUSD within 30 days of receiving this notification if they want to engage in consultation on the proposed project, and ERUSD must begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving the tribe's request. Consultation concludes when either (1): the parties agree to mitigation measures to avoid a significant effect on a tribal cultural resource, or (2) a party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes mutual agreement cannot be reached.

No California Native American tribes have contacted the District to request consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. As such, the requirements under this section do not apply and consultation is not required. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would connect sewer, storm drains, and water lines to existing infrastructure.

Water Supply Facilities

The Pico Water District (PWD) provides water to the project site. PWD currently relies solely on groundwater and has a pumping capacity of 3,624 acre-feet per year (AFY) and has an average groundwater production of 2,780 AFY (Pico Water District 2021). PWD operates five wells with a combination pumping capacity of 7,500 gallons per minute, one booster pump station, and one reservoir with 1.25 million gallons of storage (Pico

Water District 2021). The project site is currently served by an existing water line along Passons Boulevard. The proposed project would connect to the existing water line.

Based on the CalEEMod model conducted as part of the Air Quality Analysis (see Appendix A), the proposed project, including indoor and outdoor water use, is anticipated to be approximately 249 gallons per year, which is within the PWD's groundwater pumping capacity. PWD's 2020 UWMP concludes there is an adequate and reliable supply of water to provide for existing demand and estimated growth through year 2040 (Pico Water District 2021). Therefore, there would be adequate water supply to provide for the operation of the proposed project. A less-than-significant impact would occur.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities

The City of Pico Rivera's Sewer Division is responsible for the collection of wastewater within the city's limits and delivery to the trunk sewer mains of Los Angeles County Sanitation District (LACSD) (Pico Rivera 2014). The City of Pico Rivera sewer system consists of 110 miles of sewer, 2,516 manholes and provided service to approximately 13,930 parcels. Existing sewer mains in the vicinity of the project site include an eight-inch sewer easement that connects to the main sewer line on Passons Boulevard. The collected wastewater flows towards the Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant of LACSD in the City of Cerritos. The LACSD is responsible for all trunk sewer line and treatment. The proposed project would not result in or require the construction of new or expanded wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

Stormwater Drainage Facilities

The project site is developed with existing athletic fields and structures. The project site includes an eight-inch sewer easement that connects to the main sewer line on Passons Boulevard. The proposed project would include a storm drain system to collect, treat, and convey stormwater into existing storm drain systems. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact and no mitigation measures are required.

Electricity Facilities

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity to the project site. The proposed project would connect to existing facilities. The proposed project would not require new or expanded electric power facilities other than connections to the existing electricity grid. The proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

Natural Gas Facilities

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) provides natural gas service to the City of Pico Rivera, including the project site. As a public utility, SoCalGas is under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission and federal regulatory agencies. Development of the proposed project would comply with regulations and standards pertaining to natural gas. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

Telecommunication Facilities

A variety of telecommunication facilities, including telephone, cable television, and high-speed internet services, exist in the City of Pico Rivera, and are provided by private service providers. The area is adequately served by telecommunication providers. The propped project would not result in or require the construction of new or expanded telecommunication facilities. The proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?

Less Than Significant Impact. PWD supplies water to the project site. PWD uses groundwater from the Central Basin Groundwater Basin. The basin is replenished by snowmelt in the Sierra Nevada and precipitation. The City of Pico Rivera adopted its UWMP in October 2021. The UWMP evaluates PWD's water supply and demand reliability for 25 years into the future (Pico Water District 2021). PWD's 2020 UWMP concluded that there is adequate and reliable supply water to provide for existing demand and estimated growth through year 2040. The UWMP determined that PWD is capable of meeting customer water demands during normal-year, single-dry-year, and multiple-dry-year conditions. The proposed project is expected to generate 249 gallons per year. PWD has a remaining groundwater pumping capacity of 844 AFY, and the proposed project's water demand is well within the remaining capacity. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact related to water supply.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Less Than Significant Impact. As discussed above, the City of Pico Rivera's Sewer Division is responsible for the collection of wastewater within the city's limits and delivery to the trunk sewer mains of LACSD (Pico Rivera 2014). The proposed project would provide sewer connection to the existing line on Passons Boulevard. The flows would be conveyed to the Los Coyotes Water Reclamation Plant in the city of Cerritos that is operated by the LACSD. The facility provides both primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment for approximately 37.5 million gallons per day (mgd) (LACSD 2023). The City's sewer collection system is operated under a State-issued permit and kept in compliance with federal and State water quality laws. Therefore, impacts related to wastewater treatment would be less than significant.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards. The City of Pico Rivera is served by NASA Services. NASA Services is responsible for collecting all trash, recyclables, and organic waste. The proposed project would be in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 341, which requires businesses, including schools, that generate four cubic yards or more of commercial solid waste per week to have recycling services. AB 1826 and SB 1383 implement a recycling and organic waste program that targets a 40 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic

waste to aid in the reduction of methane emissions in landfills. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

e) Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed project consists of renovation and lighting improvements to the relocated baseball field on El Rancho HS campus. Construction and operation of the proposed project would comply with applicable federal, State, and local statues and regulations to solid waste. The City of Pico Rivera contracts with NASA Services that ensures compliance with any federal, State, and local mandates regarding solid waste. The State of California signed AB 341 requiring recycling services and signed SB 1383 to implement organic waste services to divert solid waste from landfills. As the proposed project would comply with these regulations, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

3.20 WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas (SRAs) or lands classified as VHFHSZs, would the project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is within a LRA as a non-VHFHSZ (CAL FIRE 2023). The project site is not in an SRA) or lands classified as VHFHSZ. The nearest FHSZ is approximately 2.40 miles northeast of the project site and is designated as a VHFHSZ in LRA. The project site does not border the VHFHSZ and is not within the wildlife-urban interface (ArcGIS 2019).

The proposed project is not anticipated to physically impede the existing evacuation routes (see Figure 9-4, Evacuation Routes, of the *Pico Rivera General Plan*), nor emergency vehicle access, or personal access to the site. The City of Pico Rivera does not have an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The City is in the process of drafting an EOP; however, no official documents have been released to the public. The proposed project is not anticipated to physically impede the future EOP. Any disruptions in access would be limited to the fire access/maintenance road during construction activity uses and would be temporary and short-term, no construction-related vehicles or materials would be staged on the road. The proposed project would comply with the CDE guidelines for site design and circulation and the LACFD's design standards for emergency access. Fire suppression equipment specific to construction would be maintained on site. Additionally, project construction would comply with applicable existing codes and ordinances related to the maintenance of mechanical equipment, handling, and storage of flammable materials, and cleanup of spills of flammable materials. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, would the project exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is within a LRA as a non-VHFHSZ (Cal FIRE 2023). The project site is not in an SRA or lands classified as VHFHSZ. The nearest FHSZ is approximately 2.40 miles northeast of the project site and designated as a VHFHSZ in LRA. The project site is not within nor abutting a VHFHSZ and is not within the Wildlife-Urban Interface (ArcGIS 2019).

The surrounding area of the project site is developed with residential, institutional, and commercial land uses. Development of the proposed project would not result in a change of prevailing winds. Construction activities would temporarily introduce ignition sources due to the use of vehicles, and heavy machinery. Machinery and tools could result in sparks and generate heat. To minimize the risk of fire during construction, the project would adhere to the Pico Rivera adopted fire code (Section 15.44.010) of the 2022 California Fire Code, which outlines standards for fire safety during construction activities. The proposed project is not anticipated to expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

No Impact. The project site is located within an LRA as a non-VHFHSZ (Cal FIRE 2023). The project site is not in an SRA or lands classified as VHFHSZ. The nearest FHSZ is approximately 2.40 miles northeast of the project site and designated as a VHFHSZ in LRA. The project site is not within nor abutting a VHFHSZ and is not within the Wildlife-Urban Interface (ArcGIS 2019).

Development of the proposed project would not require the installation of roads, fuel brakes, or power lines. Therefore, the proposed project would not exacerbate fire risk or result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project site is within an LRA as a non-VHFHSZ (Cal FIRE 2023). The project site is not in an SRA or lands classified as VHFHSZ. The nearest FHSZ is approximately 2.40 miles northeast of the project site and designated as a VHFHSZ in LRA. The project site is not within nor abutting a VHFHSZ and is not within the Wildlife-Urban Interface (ArcGIS 2019).

As discussed in Section 3.10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*, the project area is not within a FEMA-designated 100-year flood zone and there are no nearby water bodies, streams, or other conditions that would result in flooding of the project site (FEMA 2021; DWR 2023). There is no past evidence of landslides at or in the immediate vicinity of the project site; and the proposed project has no potential to result in or be in the path of landslides (USGS 2023b). Additionally, the project site is relatively flat with a gradual downward slope from the west to

the east. Based on the non-VHFHSZ designation, surface hydrology, and soil, there is a low potential for the project site to be at risk of post-fire slope instability or drainage changes. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. As discussed in Section 3.4, *Biological Resources*, there are no federally designated critical habitats that exist on-site or in the vicinity of the project site. As discussed under Section 3.5, *Cultural Resources*, and Section 3.7, *Geology and Soils*, the project site is developed with athletic facilities; therefore. the project site has been previously disturbed. Since the project site has been previously disturbed and the proposed project does not contain subterranean levels, it is unlikely that buried archaeological resources and/or fossils would be encountered. Nevertheless, Mitigation Measures MM-GEO-1 and MM-CUL-1 include processes in the unlikely event that archaeological or paleontological resources are encountered. With incorporation of MM-GEO-1 and MM-CUL-1, impacts to paleontological and archaeological resources would be less than significant. With identified mitigation, the proposed project would not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, nor eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. A less-than-significant impact would occur with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?

Less Than Significant Impact. The potential for cumulative impacts occurs when the independent impacts of a given project are combined with the impacts of related projects in proximity to the project site that would create impacts that are greater than those of the project alone. As discussed previously in this IS/MND, the proposed project would have no impact, a less-than-significant impact, or a less-than-significant impact with mitigation to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, GHG emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. Therefore, all impacts are individually limited and would not result in any cumulatively significant impact. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable

when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

Less Than Significant Impact. The potential for cumulative impacts occurs when the independent impacts of a given project are combined with the impacts of related projects in proximity to the project site that would create impacts that are greater than those of the project alone. As discussed previously in this IS/MND, the proposed project would have no impact, a less-than-significant impact, or a less-than-significant impact with mitigation measures to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, GHG emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. Therefore, all impacts are individually limited and would not result in any cumulatively significant impact. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are required.

d) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than Significant Impact. The project would comply with applicable local, State, and federal laws governing general welfare and environmental protection. The implementation of required mitigation measures specified in this IS/MND would reduce impacts to less than significant. The proposed project would not, directly nor indirectly, result in environmental effects that could cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. Therefore, a less-than-significant impact would occur.

3. Environmental Analysis

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5. List of Preparers

LEAD AGENCY

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5. List of Preparers

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Appendix A El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Air Quality Assessment

Appendix

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Appendix B El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Energy Consumption Assessment

Appendix

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Appendix C El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Noise Assessment

Appendix

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Appendix D El Rancho High School Baseball Field Improvement Project: Traffic Analysis

Appendix

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