DRAFT

TICE VALLEY PARK LIGHTING PROJECT
INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

LSA

February 2024

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DRAFT

TICE VALLEY PARK LIGHTING PROJECT
INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Submitted to:

Andrew McDade, Assistant Engineer
City of Walnut Creek
1666 North Main Street
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Prepared by:

LSA
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Project No. SAO1901

LSA

February 2024

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

µg/m^3	micrograms per cubic meter
APN	assessor's parcel number
AB 32	Assembly Bill 32
AB 52	Assembly Bill 52
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CBC	California Building Code
CCCFPD	Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CCTA	Contra Costa Transportation Authority
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Survey
CH_4	methane
City	City of Walnut Creek
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	CO_2 equivalents
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted sound level
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration

GHGs	Greenhouse gases
GWh	gigawatt-hours
GWP	Global Warming Potential
HFCs	hydrofluorocarbons
I-680	Interstate 680
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
kW	kilowatts
LED	light-emitting diode
LEV III	Pavley II Advanced Clean Cars Program
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
mph	miles per hour
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NO_2	nitrogen dioxide
NO_x	nitrogen oxide
O_3	ozone
OS/R	open Space – Recreation
Pb	lead
PD	Planned Development
PFCs	perfluorocarbons
PM	particulate matter
POTWs	publicly owned treatment works
PRC	Public Resources Code

ROG	reactive organic gases
SB 32	Senate Bill 32
SF_6	sulfur hexafluoride
SO_2	sulfur dioxide
SR 24	State Route 24
SRA	State Responsibility Area
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WCPD	Walnut Creek Police Department

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1.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

This section describes the proposed Tice Valley Park Lighting Project (project) that is evaluated in this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). An overview of the project site location and context is followed by a description of the proposed project itself and a summary of requested approvals and entitlements. The City of Walnut Creek (City) is the Lead Agency for environmental review.

1. **Project Title:**
   Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**
   City of Walnut Creek
   1666 North Main Street
   Walnut Creek, CA 94596

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**
   Andrew McDade, Assistant Engineer
   (925) 943-5899

4. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**
   City of Walnut Creek
   1666 North Main Street
   Walnut Creek, CA 94596

5. **General Plan Designation:** Open Space – Recreation (OS/R)

6. **Zoning:** Planned Development (PD), Potential Ridge Area Overlay

7. **Project Location**
   The project site is located within the existing Tice Valley Park at 2055 Tice Valley Boulevard in the City of Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County. Tice Valley Park is bounded by Tice Valley Boulevard to the north, Tice Valley Community Gym and multi-family residential uses to the east, undeveloped open space to the south, and public and institutional uses as well as Rossmoor Parkway to the west.

   Regional vehicular access to the project site is provided by Interstate 680 (I-680), access to which is located at the intersection of Danville Boulevard and Rudgear Road approximately 1.7 miles east of the project site, and State Route 24 (SR 24), access to which is provided by Pleasant Hill Road on- and off-ramps approximately 2.6 miles northwest of the project site. Direct local access is provided via Tice Valley Boulevard, an arterial roadway. Figure 1-1 depicts the site's regional and local context. Figure 1-2 depicts an aerial view of the project site and surrounding land uses.

8. Description of Project:

The proposed project would result in the installation of a lighting system to allow nighttime use of the existing soccer field. The existing site conditions and proposed project itself are described below.

a. Site Characteristics and Current Site Conditions. The project site is located within the approximately 8.4-acre Tice Valley Park (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 186-050-048-5), which includes the following recreational facilities: soccer field, softball field, playgrounds, gymnasium, and picnic areas. Currently, lighting on the project site and throughout Tice Valley Park consists of low-level safety lighting.

Tice Valley Park is used year-round for passive use, including walking, jogging, and local neighborhood use. The softball field is used for informal recreation year-round. From March through May, classes are offered at the park, including youth multi-sport classes, soccer clinics, and special events. During these months, afternoons are available for recreational soccer use and practice from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. or dusk. An average of four independent youth teams per day use the soccer field.

During the week from June to August the soccer field is used for camps with an attendance of approximately 50 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and for soccer practice from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with an average of four teams per evening. On the weekends, the soccer field is scheduled for soccer practice from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with games beginning in August. An average of 10 independent youth teams uses the soccer field for weekend practices during this period, with an average of five games on both Saturday and Sunday once games begin.

Between September and November, the soccer field is scheduled for soccer practice during the week from 4:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with an average of six independent youth teams per evening, and for soccer games from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the weekends with an average of 5 games per day. The soccer field is closed for the rest of the year between December and February.

As noted above, access to the project site is provided by Tice Valley Boulevard. A parking lot with approximately 238 parking spaces is located north and east of the project site. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the project site is provided by sidewalks along Tice Valley Boulevard and Rossmoor Parkway.

c. Proposed Project. The proposed project would consist of new lighting installed on the existing soccer field site.

New lighting would include the placement of a total of four new light poles located in the southwestern (S1), northwestern (S2), northeastern (S3), and southeastern (S4) corners of the soccer field. Three of the poles (S1, S3, and S4) would be 80 feet in height and one (S2) would be 70 feet in height. The new poles would be installed on a column style footing approximately 3 feet in diameter and 16 feet deep.

The four new poles would hold a total of 20 new LED light fixtures. The new LED lighting system would have a total connected load of 24.72 kilowatts (kW). Each of the poles would hold five

light fixtures and be directed at the soccer field with a small portion of the lighting dedicated to project site egress. As shown on Figure 1-4, the proposed lighting would provide an average of 32.05 horizontal footcandles on the soccer field.

The proposed LED light fixtures and cut-off visors would be made of powder coated aluminum. The visors would reduce light spillover and glare to the surrounding areas to the greatest extent possible. Poles S1, S2, S3, and S4 would be equipped with lights with a maximum load of 5.64 kW. The egress lights on all poles would have a maximum load of 0.54 kW.

With installation of the proposed lighting system, use of the existing soccer field is anticipated to increase. During the week, soccer practices and uses that currently end at 8:00 p.m. would end at 10:00 p.m. It is anticipated that there would be occasional weekend evening use past 8:00 p.m.; however, there would not be any regularly scheduled events. In addition, when the weather is dry, December to February would be available for practices. One additional practice slot would be available from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and adult fitness programs may occur from 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. year-round. Due to increased field use, the City would close the field annually for a four-to-eight-week period to allow regeneration of the grass seed.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project site is located in southern Walnut Creek, which is characterized by residential, open space, and commercial uses. The project site is generally bound by open space, residential, institutional, and commercial uses, as shown in Figure 1-2 and further described below.

- **North of the Project Site.** The project site is immediately bordered to the north by open space and parking uses located within the remainder of Tice Valley Park and Tice Valley Boulevard. North of Tice Valley Boulevard are institutional and commercial uses, further north of which are single-family residential uses.

- **East of the Project Site.** The project site is immediately bounded to the east by the Tice Valley Community Gym and the parking lot for the Tice Valley Park. Further east are single- and multi-family residential uses.

- **South of the Project Site.** The project site is bordered to the south by undeveloped open space. Further south are single-family residential uses.

- **West of the Project Site.** The project site is immediately bordered to the west by open space uses located within the remainder of Tice Valley Park and Contra Costa Fire Station 3. Further east are Rossmoor Parkway and institutional uses, past which are commercial and multi-family residential uses.

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required (e.g., permits, financial approval, or participation agreements):

None.

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resource 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.?

A request form describing the proposed project and requesting a list of tribes eligible to consult with the City was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in West Sacramento, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. The City sent a letter regarding the proposed project to these individuals on January 23, 2020.

On January 31, 2020, Mariah Mayberry of the Wilton Rancheria tribe responded requesting to initiate consultation. The City responded to Ms. Mayberry in an email on March 12, 2020, requesting that the tribe contact the City to set up a time for an initial consultation meeting. The email requested that Ms. Mayberry respond within 2 weeks. To date, no response to the City's second invitation has been received. Therefore, consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 has been completed.

LSA

LEGEND

Project Site

FIGURE 1-1

N

0 400 800

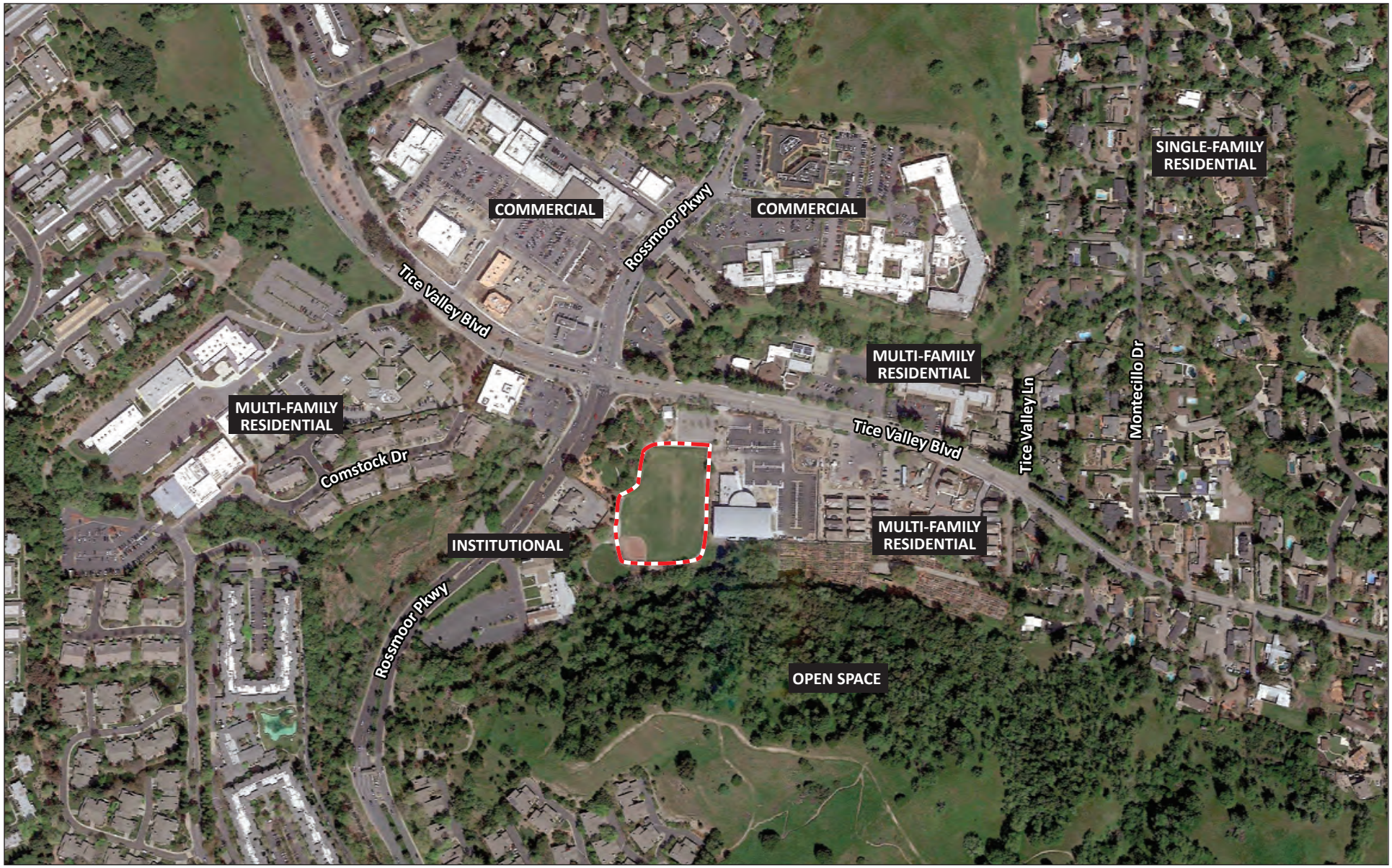
FEET

Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

Project Vicinity Map

SOURCE: ESRI World Map (12/19).

I:\SAO1901\Maps\Figure 1-1_Project Vicinity Map.mxd (12/5/2019)



LSA

FIGURE 1-2

0 300 600
FEET

N

Project Site

Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

Aerial Photograph of the Project Site and Surrounding Land Uses

SOURCES: GOOGLE EARTH, 4/2/18; LSA, 2019.

P:\SAO1901 Tice Valley\PRODUCTS\Graphics\Figure_1-2.ai (12/5/19)

Tice Valley Park Baseball Soccer

Walnut Creek, CA

Equipment Layout

INCLUDES:
· Soccer

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

Equipment List For Areas Shown

	Pole			Luminaires		
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	ABOVE GRADE LEVEL	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY/POLE
1	S1	80'	-0'	80.5'	TLC-LED-1500	4
				50.0'	TLC-LED-550	1
1	S2	70'	-0'	70.3'	TLC-LED-1500	4
				50.0'	TLC-LED-550	1
2	S3-S4	80'	-8'	72.5'	TLC-LED-1500	4
				42'	TLC-LED-550	1
4	Totals					20

Single Luminaire Amperage Draw Chart

Driver Specifications (.90 min power factor)	Line Amperage Per Luminaire (max draw)						
Single Phase Voltage	208 (60)	220 (60)	240 (60)	277 (60)	347 (60)	380 (60)	480 (60)
TLC-LED-1500	8.4	7.9	7.3	6.3	5.0	4.6	3.6
TLC-LED-550	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.8	1.4

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FIGURE 1-3

N

0 200 300
FEET

SOURCE: MUSCO LIGHTING

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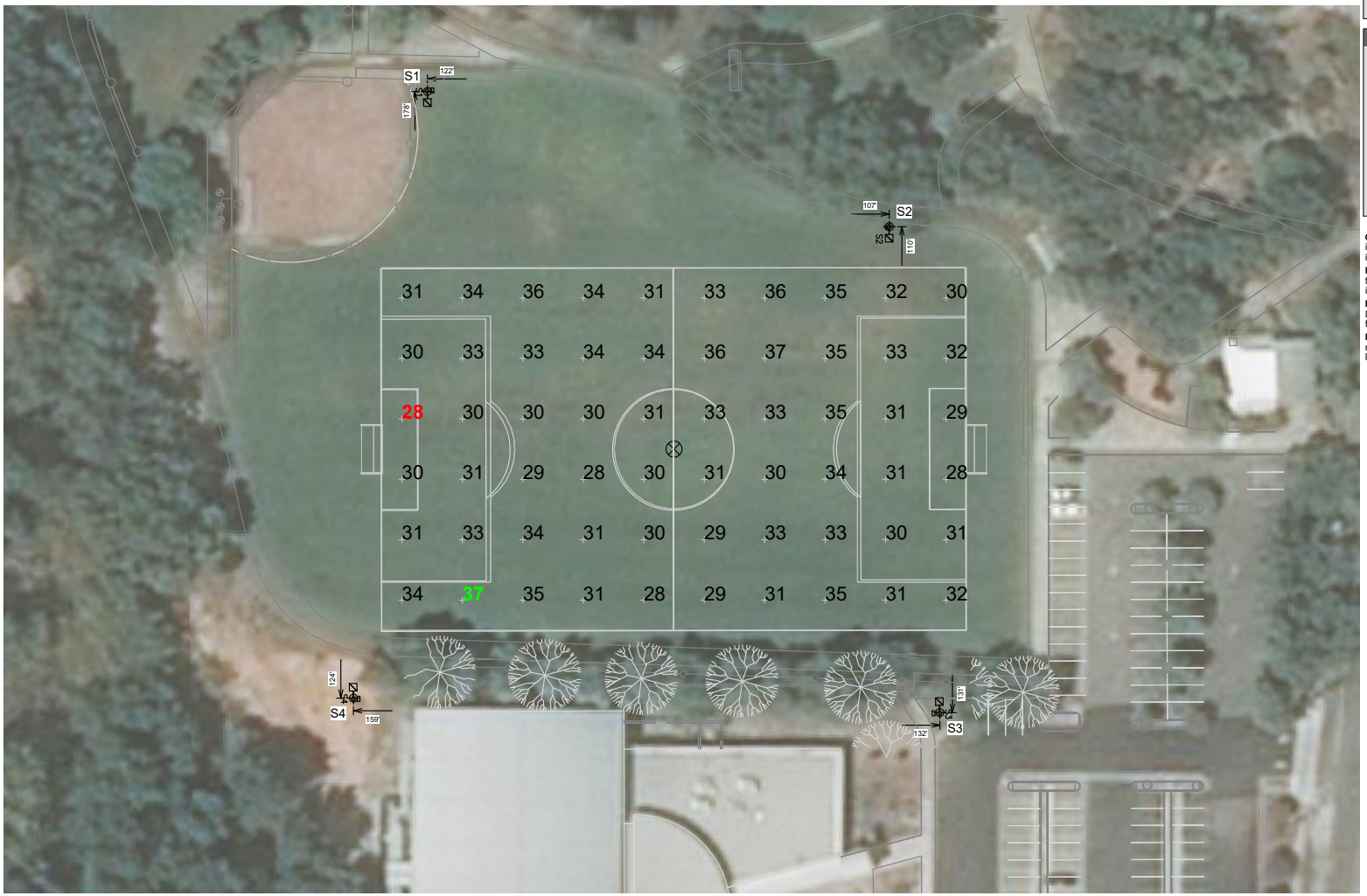
Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

Conceptual Site Plan



Walnut Creek, CA

Grid Summary

Name	**Soccer**
Size	290' x 180'
Spacing	30.0' x 30.0'
Height	3.0' above grade

Illumination Summary

MAINTAINED HORIZONTAL FOOTCANDLES	Entire Grid
Scan Average	**32.05**
Maximum	37.4
Minimum	28.0
Avg/Min	1.15
Max/Min	**1.34**
UG (adjacent pts)	1.16
CU	0.59
No. of Points	60
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A
No. of Luminaires	**16**
Total Load	22.56 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

LSA

FIGURE 1-4

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: MUSCO LIGHTING

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Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

Soccer Field Illumination Summary

2.0 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 Chapter 3.0.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology/Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & 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

2.1 DETERMINATION

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 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Steven R. Waymire

Digitally signed by Steven R. Waymire
Date: 2024.02.28 08:37:46 -08'00'

Signature

03/01/2024

Date

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3.0 CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

3.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. In non-urbanized 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 a 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a. Would the project have a substantial effect on a scenic vista? ***(No Impact)***

In Walnut Creek scenic vistas are characterized by public views of natural topography, rolling hills, and Mt. Diablo. While the City is largely urban, with a relatively dense development pattern that can restrict scenic views, higher elevations in the hills and open spaces near the edges of the City provide public scenic vistas of Mt. Diablo and the surrounding hills. The project site is located in a generally level area adjacent to the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Park. Limited views of the Las Trampas Regional Wilderness Park are available from the project site due to a hill located immediately adjacent to the southern boundary. Additionally, any other scenic vistas or scenic resources in the vicinity of the project site are generally obstructed by existing surrounding development and mature trees and vegetation.

The proposed project would consist of the installation of a lighting system on the project site that would include poles between 70 and 80 feet in height. The proposed light poles would be slim and unobtrusive, and would not obscure existing views of scenic vistas. The new lighting systems would be visible to areas surrounding the project site, but would not block or obscure views of the surrounding open space. As such, the proposed project would not further obstruct the already limited existing views of any scenic vistas from within the site or nearby public vantage points and there would be no impact.

b. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? ***(No Impact)***

The project site is not located within the vicinity of any State scenic highways. Interstate 680 (I-680) from the Alameda County line north to State Route 24 (SR 24), and SR 24 between the Caldecott Tunnel and I-680 are both listed as Officially Designated State Scenic Highways.[1] The officially designated portions of I-680 and SR 24 are located approximately 1 mile east and 1.5 miles north of the project site, respectively. Given this distance, the proposed project would not be visible from these scenic roadways. Additionally, the proposed project would not damage rock outcroppings or historic buildings because they are not present on the project site and no tree removal would be required as part of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on scenic resources located within view of a State scenic highway.

c. In non-urbanized areas, would the project 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 a 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)***

The project site is located within an urbanized area that is subject to existing exterior lighting from existing security lighting within Tice Valley Park, and exterior lighting from the Tice Valley Community Gym, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Station 3, and St. Anne's Catholic Church. As noted in Section 1.0, Project Information, the project site is located within the PD zoning district. Pursuant to Section 10.2.4.1202 of the Walnut Creek Municipal Code, the proposed project would be required to undergo design review, as a building permit would be required. Therefore, because site-specific review of the proposed project would be required as part of this process, the proposed project would not conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality, and this impact would be less than significant.

d. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Measurement of light is quantified in many different ways. A photometric analysis of the proposed lighting system measures the light in both footcandles and candelas. A footcandle is a common unit of measurement used to calculate adequate lighting levels of workspaces in buildings or outdoor space. It is used to describe the light level that a lighting source is expected to provide over the long-term. A horizontal footcandle is the amount of light striking a horizontal plane, and a vertical footcandle is the amount of light striking a vertical plane. Examples of commonly experienced light levels in other settings are shown below:

[1] California, State of, 2023. California Department of Transportation. Scenic Highways Map. Website: https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa (accessed December 2023).

- Full moonlit night: approximately 0.01 footcandle
- Typical neighborhood streetlight: 1 to 5 footcandles
- Main road intersection street lighting: 2.5 to 3 footcandles
- Residential lighting at night: 7 to 10 footcandles
- Dusk: approximately 10 footcandles
- Gas station canopies: 25 to 30 footcandles

A candela is a unit of luminous intensity in a given direction and used to measure glare. Glare refers to the discomfort or impairment of vision caused by excessive and uncontrolled brightness. The intensity of glare ranges from the worst case of "disability glare" where visibility is lost to "discomfort glare" where the light is uncomfortable. The degree of discomfort associated with glare decreases the further that a viewer is located from a light source, due to the dispersion of light across distance. Light intensities, or candela levels, at surrounding properties may be subject to the following levels of glare:

- Minimal to no glare: 500 candelas or less
- Significant glare: 25,000 to 75,000 candelas
- Maximum glare that should only occur on or very near the lit area where the light source is in direct view: 150,000 candelas or more

The light spillover and glare modeling and values for both the existing and proposed field lights were measured by Musco Sports Lighting.

Proposed Lighting System Spillover Light and Glare Levels. Figures 3-1, 3-2, and 3-3 show the potential light spillover (measured in horizontal and vertical footcandles) and glare (measured in candelas) from the proposed LED lighting system that would occur at 150 feet. The nearest existing residences are located approximately 400 feet east of the proposed lighting poles on the eastern boundary of the project site. As shown on Figure 3-1, the proposed project would result in an average of 0.03 horizontal footcandles at 150 feet, with a maximum of 0.2. As shown on Figure 3-2, the proposed project would result in an average of 0.07 vertical footcandles at 150 feet, with a maximum of 0.5. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the generation of significant spillover light.

As shown on Figure 3-3, the proposed project would result in an average of 2,818 candelas at 150 feet, with a maximum of 11,935. At the nearest point to the residences east of the project site, candela levels would range from approximately 177 to 11,935, which are below the level of significance. As noted above, the residences east of the project site are located approximately 400 feet away. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in significant off-site glare levels, and this impact would be less than significant.

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Walnut Creek, CA

Grid Summary

Name	Spill @ 150'
Spacing	30.0' x 10.0'
Height	6.0' above grade

Illumination Summary

	MAINTAINED HORIZONTAL FOOTCANDLES
	Entire Grid
Scan Average	0.03
Maximum	0.2
Minimum	0.0
Avg/Min	-
Max/Min	-
UG (adjacent pts)	0.00
CU	0.00
No. of Points	71
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A,B,C,D
No. of Luminaires	20
Total Load	24.72 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

LSA

FIGURE 3-1

N

0 100 200

FEET

SOURCE: MUSCO LIGHTING

Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

Proposed Project Light Spillover at 150 Feet, Horizontal Footcandles

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Walnut Creek, CA

Grid Summary

Name	**Spill @ 150'**
Spacing	30.0' x 10.0'
Height	6.0' above grade

Illumination Summary

MAINTAINED MAX VERTICAL FOOTCANDLES

	Entire Grid
Scan Average	**0.07**
Maximum	0.5
Minimum	0.0
Avg/Min	143.66
Max/Min	**1048.87**
UG (adjacent pts)	0.00
CU	0.00
No. of Points	71
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A,B,C,D
No. of Luminaires	**20**
Total Load	24.72 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

LSA

FIGURE 3-2

N

0 100 200

FEET

SOURCE: MUSCO LIGHTING

Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

Proposed Project Light Spillover at 150 Feet, Vertical Footcandles

I:\20231342\G\Spillover_Vertical.ai (1/22/2024)

Walnut Creek, CA

Grid Summary

Name	Spill @ 150'
Spacing	30.0' x 10.0'
Height	6.0' above grade

Illumination Summary

	MAINTAINED CANDELA (PER FIXTURE)
	Entire Grid
Scan Average	**2818.22**
Maximum	11935.4
Minimum	92.3
Avg/Min	30.54
Max/Min	**129.36**
UG (adjacent pts)	0.00
CU	0.00
No. of Points	71
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A,B,C,D
No. of Luminaires	**20**
Total Load	24.72 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

LSA

FIGURE 3-3

N

0 100 200

FEET

SOURCE: MUSCO LIGHTING

Tice Valley Park Lighting Project

Proposed Project Glare at 150 Feet, Maintained Candela

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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 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 the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

*a. Would the project 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? **(No Impact)***

The project site is located within an existing park located in an urbanized area of the City. There are no agricultural uses located within or adjacent to the project site. Additionally, the site is classified as "Urban and Built-Up Land" by the State Department of Conservation.[2] Therefore, development of the proposed project would not convert agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. The proposed project would not result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use and no impact would occur.

[2] California, State of, 2022. Department of Conservation. California Important Farmland Finder (map). Website: maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/ (accessed December 2023).

b. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? ***(No Impact)***

The project site is designated OS/R in the City's General Plan and is zoned PD with a Potential Ridge Overlay. The project site is publicly-owned, and therefore is not eligible for a Williamson Act contract.[3] Therefore, development of the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and no impact would occur.

c. Would the project 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 project site is located within an existing urban area zoned PD within the City. The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest uses, and no impact would occur.

d. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forestland to non-forest use? ***(No Impact)***

Refer to Section 3.2.c. The proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest uses, and no impact would occur.

e. Would the project 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? ***(No Impact)***

Refer to Sections 3.2.a and 3.2.c. The project site is located within an existing urban environment and would not result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural uses or forest land to non-forest uses. The proposed project would not adversely affect agricultural or forestry resources, and no impact would occur.

[3] California, State of, 2023. Department of Conservation. Williamson Act Program. Website: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/lca (accessed December 2023).

3.3 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The proposed project is located in the City of Walnut Creek, and is within the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), which regulates air quality in the San Francisco Bay Area. Air quality conditions in the San Francisco Bay Area have improved significantly since the BAAQMD was created in 1955. Ambient concentrations of air pollutants and the number of days during which the region exceeds air quality standards have fallen substantially. In Walnut Creek, and the rest of the air basin, exceedances of air quality standards occur primarily during meteorological conditions conducive to high pollution levels, such as cold, windless winter nights or hot, sunny summer afternoons.

Within the BAAQMD, ambient air quality standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), particulate matter (PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$), and lead (Pb) have been set by both the State of California and the federal government. The State has also set standards for sulfate and visibility. The BAAQMD is under State non-attainment status for ozone and particulate matter standards. The BAAQMD is classified as non-attainment for the federal ozone 8-hour standard and non-attainment for the federal $PM_{2.5}$ 24-hour standard.

The applicable air quality plan is the BAAQMD 2017 Clean Air Plan (Clean Air Plan),[4] which was adopted on April 19, 2017. The Clean Air Plan is a comprehensive plan to improve Bay Area air quality and protect public health. The Clean Air Plan defines control strategies to reduce emissions and ambient concentrations of air pollutants; safeguard public health by reducing exposure to air pollutants that pose the greatest heath risk, with an emphasis on protecting the communities most heavily affected by air pollution; and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to protect the climate.

[4] BAAQMD. 2017. Clean Air Plan. April 19.

Consistency with the Clean Air Plan can be determined if the project: (1) supports the goals of the Clean Air Plan; (2) includes applicable control measures from the Clean Air Plan; and (3) would not disrupt or hinder implementation of any control measures from the Clean Air Plan.

Clean Air Plan Goals. The primary goals of the Bay Area Clean Air Plan are to: attain air quality standards; reduce population exposure and protect public health in the Bay Area; and reduce GHG emissions and protect climate.

The BAAQMD has established significance thresholds for project construction and operational impacts at a level at which the cumulative impact of exceeding these thresholds would have an adverse impact on the region's attainment of air quality standards. The health and hazards thresholds were established to help protect public health. As discussed below, the proposed project would result in less than significant construction- and operation-period emissions. Therefore, the project would not conflict with the Clean Air Plan goals.

Clean Air Plan Control Measures. The control strategies of the Clean Air Plan include measures in the following categories: Stationary Source Measures, Transportation Measures, Energy Measures, Building Measures, Agriculture Measures, Natural and Working Lands Measures, Waste Management Measures, Water Measures, and Super-GHG Pollutants Measures.

Stationary Source Control Measures. The stationary source measures, which are designed to reduce emissions from stationary sources such as metal melting facilities, cement kilns, refineries, and glass furnaces, are incorporated into rules adopted by the BAAQMD and then enforced by the BAAQMD's Permit and Inspection programs. Since the project would not include any stationary sources, the Stationary Source Control Measures of the Clean Air Plan are not applicable to the project.

Transportation Control Measures. The BAAQMD identifies transportation measures as part of the Clean Air Plan to decrease emissions of criteria pollutants, TACs, and GHGs by reducing demand for motor vehicle travel, promoting efficient vehicles and transit service, decarbonizing transportation fuels, and electrifying motor vehicles and equipment. The proposed project would install a new lighting system to the existing soccer field. As the proposed project would include improvements to an existing park and vehicle trips are expected to be minimal, the proposed project would not hinder the BAAQMD's initiatives to reduce vehicle trips and vehicle miles traveled. Refer to Section 3.17, Transportation, for additional information regarding project trip generation.

Energy Control Measures. The Clean Air Plan also includes Energy Control Measures, which are designed to reduce emissions of criteria air pollutants, TACs, and GHGs by decreasing the amount of electricity consumed in the Bay Area, as well as decreasing the carbon intensity of the electricity used by switching to less GHG-intensive fuel sources for electricity generation. Since these measures apply to electrical utility providers and local government agencies (and not individual projects), the energy control measures of the Clean Air Plan are not applicable to the project.

Building Control Measures. The BAAQMD has authority to regulate emissions from certain sources in buildings such as boilers and water heaters, but has limited authority to regulate

buildings themselves. Therefore, the strategies in the control measures for this sector focus on working with local governments that do have authority over local building codes, to facilitate adoption of best GHG control practices and policies. The proposed project would not include any new buildings. Therefore, the Building Control Measures of the Clean Air Plan are not applicable to the project.

Agriculture Control Measures. The agriculture measures are designed to primarily reduce emissions of methane. Since the project does not include any agricultural activities, the Agriculture Control Measures of the Clean Air Plan are not applicable to the project.

Natural and Working Lands Control Measures. The natural and working lands measures focus on increasing carbon sequestration on rangelands and wetlands, as well as encouraging local governments to enact ordinances that promote urban-tree plantings. Since the project does not include the disturbance of any rangelands or wetlands, the Natural and Working Lands Control Measures of the Clean Air Plan are not applicable to the project.

Waste Management Control Measures. The waste management measures focus on reducing or capturing methane emissions from landfills and composting facilities, diverting organic materials away from landfills, and increasing waste diversion rates through efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle. The project would comply with local requirements for waste management (e.g., recycling and composting services). Therefore, the project would be consistent with the Waste Management Control Measures of the Clean Air Plan.

Water Control Measures. The water measures focus on reducing emissions of criteria pollutants, TACs, and GHGs by encouraging water conservation, limiting GHG emissions from publicly owned treatment works (POTWs), and promoting the use of biogas recovery systems. Since these measures apply to POTWs and local government agencies (and not individual projects), the Water Control Measures are not applicable to the project.

Super GHG Control Measures. The Super-GHG measures are designed to facilitate the adoption of best GHG control practices and policies through the BAAQMD and local government agencies. Since these measures do not apply to individual projects, the Super-GHG Control Measures are not applicable to the project.

Clean Air Plan Implementation. As discussed above, implementation of the proposed project would generally implement the applicable measures outlined in the Clean Air Plan, including the Transportation Control Measures. Therefore, the project would not disrupt or hinder implementation of a control measure from the Clean Air Plan.

In addition, as discussed below, construction of the project would not result in the generation of criteria air pollutants that would exceed BAAQMD thresholds of significance. Operational emissions associated with the project would also not exceed established BAAQMD significance thresholds. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans. This impact would be less than significant.

b. Would the project 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? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Both State and federal governments have established health-based Ambient Air Quality Standards for six criteria air pollutants: CO, ozone (O_3), NO_2, SO_2, Pb, and suspended particulate matter (PM). These standards are designed to protect the health and welfare of the populace with a reasonable margin of safety. As identified above, the BAAQMD is under State non-attainment status for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ standards. The Air Basin is also classified as non-attainment for both the federal ozone 8-hour standard and the federal $PM_{2.5}$ 24-hour standard.

Air quality standards for the proposed project are regulated by the BAAQMD CEQA Air Quality Guidelines. According to the BAAQMD CEQA Air Quality Guidelines, to meet air quality standards for operational-related criteria air pollutant and air precursor impacts, the project must not:

- Contribute to CO concentrations exceeding the State ambient air quality standards;
- Generate average daily construction emissions of reactive organic gases (ROG), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) or $PM_{2.5}$ greater than 54 pounds per day or PM_{10} exhaust emissions greater than 82 pounds per day; or
- Generate average operational emissions of ROG, NO_x or $PM_{2.5}$ of greater than 10 tons per year or 54 pounds per day or PM_{10} emissions greater than 15 tons per year or 82 pounds per day.

The following sections describe the proposed project's construction- and operation-related air quality impacts and CO impacts.

Construction Emissions. Air pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project would occur over the short term in association with construction activities such as minor excavation for the installation of the light poles and underground trenching for electrical connections. Construction vehicle traffic, the use of construction equipment, and wind blowing over exposed earth would emit exhaust and dust that affect local and regional air quality. Construction activities are also a source of ROG emissions.

Water or other soil stabilizers can be used to control dust, resulting in emission reductions of 50 percent or more. The BAAQMD has established standard measures for reducing fugitive dust emissions (PM_{10}). With the implementation of these Basic Construction Mitigation Measures, fugitive dust emissions from construction activities would not result in adverse air quality impacts.

In addition to dust related PM10 emissions, heavy trucks and construction equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines would generate CO, SO2, NOx, VOCs and some soot particulate (PM2.5 and PM10) in exhaust emissions. If construction activities were to increase traffic congestion in the area, CO and other emissions from traffic would increase slightly while those vehicles idle in traffic. These emissions would be temporary in nature and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site. As the proposed project would only require minor excavation for the installation of the light poles and underground trenching for electrical connections, construction emissions

associated with the project would be minimal and would be less than significant for ROG, Nox, and PM2.5 and PM10 exhaust emissions.

Construction emissions associated with the project would be minimal. Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in nonattainment under an applicable federal or State AAQS.

Operational Emissions. Long-term air emission impacts are associated with stationary sources and mobile sources. Stationary source emissions typically result from the consumption of natural gas and electricity. Mobile source emissions typically result from vehicle trips and result in air pollutant emissions affecting the entire air basin. The proposed project would consist of new lighting installed on the project site. Long-term air emissions generated by the proposed project would be associated project-generated vehicle trips and increased electricity demand.

The addition of lighting would extend the hours of recreational uses within the park; however, no changes to the operation or trip generation is anticipated due to the addition of lighting. As the proposed project would include improvements to an existing park and vehicle trips are expected to be minimal, the project would not result in a significant increase in the generation of vehicle trips that would substantially increase mobile source emissions.

In addition, new lighting would include the placement of a total of four new light poles. The four new poles would hold a total of 20 new LED light fixtures, which would have a total connected load of 24.72kW. As such, the project would result in low levels of off-site emissions due to energy generation associated with lighting. However, these emissions would be minimal and would not exceed the pollutant thresholds established by the BAAQMD. Therefore, the proposed project would not be a significant source of operational emissions and operation of the proposed project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State AAQS and impacts would be less than significant.

Localized CO Impacts. Emissions and ambient concentrations of CO have decreased dramatically in the Bay Area with the introduction of the catalytic converter in 1975. No exceedances of the State or federal CO standards have been recorded at Bay Area monitoring stations since 1991. The BAAQMD's CEQA Guidelines include recommended methodologies for quantifying concentrations of localized CO levels for proposed transportation projects. A screening level analysis using guidance from the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines was performed to determine the impacts of the project. The screening methodology provides a conservative indication of whether the implementation of a proposed project would result in significant CO emissions.

According to the BAAQMD's CEQA Guidelines, a proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact to localized CO concentrations if the following screening criteria are met:

- The project is consistent with an applicable congestion management program established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways, and the regional transportation plan and local congestion management agency plans.

- Project traffic would not increase traffic volumes at affected intersections to more than 44,000 vehicles per hour.

- The project would not increase traffic volumes at affected intersections to more than 24,000 vehicles per hour where vertical and/or horizontal mixing is substantially limited (e.g., tunnel, parking garage, bridge underpass, natural or urban street canyon, or below-grade roadway).

Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority for designated roads or highways, a regional transportation plan, or other agency plans. The project site is not located in an area where vertical or horizontal mixing of air is substantially limited. The project would not increase traffic volumes at intersections to more than 44,000 vehicles per hour and intersection level of service associated with the project would not decline with the project. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in localized CO concentrations that exceed State or federal standards and this impact would be less than significant.

c. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Sensitive receptors are defined as people that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units. The closest sensitive receptors include the multi-family residences located approximately 400 feet east of the project site.

Construction of the proposed project may expose these nearby sensitive receptors to airborne particulates, as well as a small quantity of construction equipment pollutants (i.e., usually diesel-fueled vehicles and equipment). However, as noted in Section 3.3.b, above, the proposed project would only require minor excavation for the construction of the light poles and underground trenching for electrical connections and construction emissions would be minimal. Once the project is constructed, the project would not be a source of substantial emissions. Therefore, sensitive receptors are not expected to be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations during project construction or operation, and potential impacts would be considered less than significant.

D. Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? ***(Less Than Significant Impact)***

During construction, construction equipment in use on-site may create localized odors. These odors would be temporary and are not likely to be noticeable for extended periods of time beyond the project site. The potential for diesel odor impacts is therefore considered less than significant. In addition, once the project is operational, it would not be a source of odors. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people, and potential impacts would be considered less than significant.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

*a. Would the project 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The project site, which includes a natural grass field, and surrounding areas are developed with urban and open space land uses. Artificial night lighting is known to have adverse consequences on riparian corridors, urban-rural interfaces, natural habitats adjacent to urban communities, and open space. Artificial night lighting can also adversely affect wildlife species by disrupting the foraging behavior and predation risk for nocturnal rodents, for example, or by leading to increased mortality of migrating birds. However, such areas are also utilized by numerous wildlife species that are used to urban areas.

No sensitive or plant species are known or expected to inhabit the project site. The closest plant species is located approximately 0.5 mile southwest of the project site, and the closest sensitive wildlife species is located approximately 1.75 miles southwest of the project site, and both are unlikely to be encountered at the project site.[5]

Additionally, Tice Valley Park currently contains artificial night lighting in the form of street and parking lot lights, interior lighting within the gymnasium, and safety lighting. Although the proposed new field lighting at the project site would be designed to minimize the amount of light spilling over to the adjacent land uses, there would be an incremental increase in the amount of artificial light in the surrounding area. However, the wildlife species occurring within and in the vicinity of the areas that would be lighted are relatively common urban species that have adapted to artificial night lighting and new and replacement lights would be turned off by 10:30 p.m. at the latest, and often earlier. For these reasons, the increase in ambient lighting would not substantially affect biological resources on or adjacent to the project site. Therefore, impacts to special-status species would be considered less than significant.

b. Would the project 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? ***(No Impact)***

The project site is developed with an active recreation use and does not contain any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.[6] Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities.

c. Would the project 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)***

The project site is currently developed with an active recreation use and is not located in an area that supports any wetlands, drainages, or water bodies as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and would not result in the direct removal, filling, or hydrological interruption of such wetlands.[7] Therefore, no impact would occur.

[5] California Department of Fish and Wildlife, 2019. California Natural Diversity Database. Website: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB (accessed December 2019). April.

[6] United States Fish and Wildlife Service, n.d.. National Wetlands Inventory Wetlands Mapper. Website: https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.HTML (accessed December 2023).

[7] Ibid.

d. Would the project 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)***

The project site is currently developed with an active recreation use that may be used by wildlife species typically associated with urban areas. The project site is located in an urban area that would support common species that are tolerant of human disturbance. Because the project site is located in an urban environment, there are no major wildlife movement corridors that pass through the project site. Additionally, most of the birds and other wildlife species at the site are characteristic of urban settings and would readily inhabit the surrounding area once installation of the new lighting is completed. There is a wildlife movement corridor through the open space area south of the project site. Although larger animals such as deer may move through this corridor, the corridor dead ends at the project site as it is surrounded by developed uses include single-family residences, Rossmoor Parkway, Tice Valley Boulevard, and commercial uses. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially interfere with the movement of wildlife species or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites. Implementation of the project would have a less-than-significant impact on wildlife corridors.

e. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? ***(No Impact)***

The proposed project would not result in the removal of any trees on the project site, or otherwise conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. Therefore, no impact would occur.

f. Would the project 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 not within the boundaries of a habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan or other similar plan, and no impact would occur.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

*a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

For a cultural resource to be considered a historic resource (i.e., eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources [CRHR]), it generally must be 50 years or older. Under CEQA, historical resources can include pre-contact (i.e., Native American) archaeological deposits, historic-period archaeological deposits, historic buildings, and historic districts. There are no existing buildings on the project site, and therefore none would be demolished with implementation of the proposed project.

No archaeological deposits have been recorded at the project site, and therefore it is not expected that the project would unearth artifacts or resources during removal of the trees. However, in the unlikely event that a previously unknown pre-contact archaeological deposits is unearthed during construction activities, the City would implement standard conditions of approval that are required of all ground-disturbing development projects within the City. Specifically, should project excavation unearth intact archaeological deposits, all activities would be redirected away from the deposit and a qualified archaeologist would be notified to assess the situation. The City of Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County Coroner's Office, and qualified archaeologist would evaluate the significance of the deposit and make recommendations regarding the treatment of the deposit in accordance with local and State regulations. Therefore, development of the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, and this impact would be less than significant.

*b. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5I), if the project would affect an archaeological deposit, the lead agency must first determine whether the deposit is a "historical resource" (see CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(a)). If the deposit is not a historical resource, the lead agency must determine if the deposit is a "unique archaeological resource."

Based on the significance criteria identified above, the proposed project would have a significant impact on the environment if ground-disturbing activities would cause a substantial adverse change

in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. A substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource would occur from its demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration such that the significance of the resource would be materially impaired (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(b)(1)).

For the proposed project, the significance of an archaeological resource would be materially impaired if ground disturbance would alter in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of the resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources. The proposed project could affect previously unidentified archaeological deposits, thereby causing a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource as defined in Section 15064.5. However, as described in Section 3.5.a, standard conditions of approval implemented by the City during the construction period would ensure that potential impacts related to archaeological resources would be less than significant.

c. Would the project disturb any humans remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The potential to uncover Native American human remains exists in locations throughout California. Although not anticipated, human remains could be identified during site preparation and grading activities and could result in a significant impact to human remains. Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code states that, in the event of discovery or recognition of any human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the coroner of the county in which the remains are discovered has determined whether or not the remains are subject to the coroner's authority. If the human remains are of Native American origin, the coroner must notify the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of this identification. The NAHC will identify a Native American Most Likely Descendent (MLD) to inspect the site and provide recommendations for the proper treatment of the remains and associated grave goods. Additionally, Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code states that the NAHC, upon notification of the discovery of Native American human remains pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, shall immediately notify those persons (i.e., the MLD) it believes to be descended from the deceased. With permission of the landowner or a designated representative, the MLD may inspect the remains and any associated cultural materials and make recommendations for treatment or disposition of the remains and associated grave goods. The MLD shall provide recommendations or preferences for treatment of the remains and associated cultural materials within 48 hours of being granted access to the site. Therefore, compliance with existing State regulations would ensure potential impacts to human remains would be less than significant.

3.6 ENERGY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

*a. Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

This analysis evaluates energy consumption for both construction and operation of the proposed project, including diesel fuel use for construction off-road equipment.

Construction. Construction of the proposed project would require minor excavation for installation of the light poles and underground trenching for electrical connections. As such, the proposed project would require the use of energy to fuel excavation and trenching equipment, trucks, and construction worker vehicles. All or most of this energy would be derived from non-renewable resources. In order to increase energy efficiency on the site during project construction, the project would restrict equipment idling times to 5 minutes or less and would require construction workers to shut off idle equipment, as required by BAAQMD's Basic Construction Mitigation Measures. In addition, construction activities are not anticipated to result in an inefficient use of energy as gasoline and diesel fuel would be supplied by construction contractors who would conserve the use of their supplies to minimize their costs on the project. Energy usage on the project site during construction would be temporary in nature and would be relatively small in comparison to the State's available energy sources. Therefore, construction energy impacts would be less than significant.

Operation. The proposed project would consist of new lighting installed on the project site. Typically, energy consumption is associated with fuel used for vehicle trips and electricity and natural gas use. Energy use consumed during operation of the proposed project would be associated with increased electricity demand and fuel used for vehicle trips associated with the proposed project. The proposed project would not increase the demand for natural gas.

New lighting would include the placement of a total of four new light poles. The four new poles would each hold 5 light fixtures for a total of 20 new LED light fixtures. The new LED lighting system would have a total connected load of 24.72 kW.

All the poles onsite would be equipped with lights with a maximum load of 5.64 kW. The egress lights on all poles would have a maximum load of 0.54 kW. In 2022, California consumed

approximately 287,826 gigawatt-hours (GWh) (287,826,110,475 kWh).[8] Of this total, Contra Costa County consumed 8,338 GWh or 8,337,835,566 kWh.[9] Therefore, electricity demand associated with the proposed project would be relatively small in comparison to the State's available energy sources and energy impacts would be negligible at the regional level.

The addition of lighting would extend the hours of recreational uses within the park; however, no changes to the operation or trip generation is anticipated due to the addition of lighting. As the proposed project would include improvements to an existing park and vehicle trips are expected to be minimal, gasoline demand generated by vehicle trips associated with the proposed project would be considered a minimal fraction of gasoline and diesel fuel consumption in California.

Therefore, implementation of the project would not result in a long-term substantial demand for electricity and gasoline nor would the project require new service connections or construction of new off-site service lines or substations to serve the project. The nature of proposed improvements would not require substantial amounts of energy for either construction or maintenance purposes. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of fuel or energy and would incorporate renewable energy or energy efficiency measures into building design, equipment use, and transportation. Impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation would be required.

b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

In 2002, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1389, which required the California Energy Commission (CEC) to develop an integrated energy plan every two years for electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuels, for the California Energy Policy Report. The plan calls for the State to assist in the transformation of the transportation system to improve air quality, reduce congestion, and increase the efficient use of fuel supplies with the least environmental and energy costs. To further this policy, the plan identifies a number of strategies, including assistance to public agencies and fleet operators in implementing incentive programs for zero emission vehicles and their infrastructure needs, and encouragement of urban designs that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and accommodate pedestrian and bicycle access.

The most recently adopted report includes the *2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report.*[10] The CEC's 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report provides the results of the CEC's assessments of a variety of energy issues facing California. Many of these issues will require action if the State is to meet its climate, energy, air quality, and other environmental goals while maintaining energy reliability and controlling costs. The 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report covers a broad range of topics, including implementation of Senate Bill 350, integrated resource planning, distributed energy resources, transportation electrification, solutions to increase resiliency in the electricity sector, energy

8 California Energy Commission (CEC). 2023a. Energy Consumption Data Management Service. Electricity Consumption by County. Available online at: http://www.ecdms.energy.ca.gov/elecbycounty.aspx. (accessed December 2023).

9 Ibid.

10 California Energy Commission (CEC). 2023b. *2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report*. California Energy Commission. Docket Number: 23-IEPR-01.

efficiency, transportation electrification, barriers faced by disadvantaged communities, demand response, transmission and landscape-scale planning, the California Energy Demand Preliminary Forecast, the preliminary transportation energy demand forecast, renewable gas (in response to Senate Bill 1383), updates on California electricity reliability, natural gas outlook, and climate adaptation and resiliency.

As indicated above, energy usage in the project area during construction and operation would be relatively small in comparison to the State's available energy sources and energy impacts would be negligible at the regional level. Because California's energy conservation planning actions are conducted at a regional level, and because the project's total impact to regional energy supplies would be minor, the proposed project would not conflict with California's energy conservation plans as described in the CEC's 2023 Integrated Energy Policy Report. Thus, as shown above, the project would avoid or reduce the inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy and not result in any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of energy. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The California Supreme Court concluded in its *CBIA v. BAAQMD* decision that "CEQA generally does not require an analysis of how existing environmental conditions will affect a project's future users or residents." With this ruling, CEQA no longer considers the impact of the environment on a project (such as the impact of existing seismic hazards on new project occupants) to be an environmental impact, unless the project could exacerbate an existing environmental hazard. The proposed project would not change existing seismic hazards and, therefore, would not exacerbate existing hazards related to surface fault rupture and seismic ground shaking. As such, the following discussions of seismic hazards related to surface fault rupture and seismic ground shaking are provided for informational purposes only.

a. Would the project 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)***

Surface fault rupture occurs when the ground surface is broken due to fault movement during an earthquake. Fault rupture is generally expected to occur along active fault traces. Areas susceptible to fault rupture are delineated by the California Geological Survey Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones and require specific geological investigations prior to development to reduce the threat to public health and safety and to minimize the loss of life and property posed by an earthquake-induced ground failure. There are no mapped faults within or adjacent to the project site, and the project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Zone.[11] Therefore, the proposed project would not directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects related to fault rupture, and this impact would be less than significant.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Seismic ground shaking generally refers to all aspects of motion of the earth's surface resulting from an earthquake, and is normally the major cause of damage in seismic events. The extent of ground shaking is controlled by the magnitude and intensity of the earthquake, distance from the epicenter, and local geologic conditions. The closest active fault to the project site is the Concord Fault, which is located approximately 4.65 miles to the east.[12] Because the proposed project is located in a seismically active region, moderate to strong ground shaking could occur at the project site as a result of an earthquake on any of the faults described above. However, compliance with existing building codes would ensure that potential impacts associated with ground shaking would be less than significant.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Soil liquefaction is a phenomenon primarily associated with saturated soil layers located close to the ground surface. During ground shaking, these soils lose strength and acquire "mobility" sufficient to permit both horizontal and vertical movements. Soils that are most susceptible to liquefaction are clean, loose, uniformly graded, saturated, fine-grained sands that lie relatively close to the ground surface. However, loose sands that contain a significant amount of fines (i.e., silt and clay) may also liquefy. Lateral spreading is a form of horizontal displacement of soil toward an open channel or other "free" face, such as an excavation boundary. In a lateral spread failure, a layer of ground at the surface is carried on an underlying layer of liquefied material over a nearly flat surface toward a river channel or other bank. The lateral spreading hazard tends to mirror the liquefaction hazard for a site.

[11] California Department of Conservation California Geological Survey, n.d. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation (map). Website: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/ (accessed December 2023).

[12] Ibid.

The California Geological Survey (CGS) has mapped Seismic Hazard Zones that delineate areas susceptible to liquefaction that require additional investigation to determine the extent and magnitude of potential ground failure. According to CGS, the project site is not located within a Seismic Hazard Zone for liquefaction.[13] Therefore, potential impacts associated with liquefaction and lateral spreading would be less than significant.

iv. Landslides? ***(No Impact)***

Seismically induced landslides occur as the rapid movement of large masses of soil on unstable slopes during an earthquake. The Seismic Hazard Zones mapped by CGS delineate areas susceptible to seismically induced landslides that require additional investigation to determine the extent and magnitude of potential ground failure. According to CGS, the project site is not located within a Seismic Hazard Zone for seismically induced landslides. In addition, the proposed project would only include minor excavation for installation of the foundations and would not expose any slopes. Therefore, no impact related to landslides would occur.

b. Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Installation of the new lighting poles and lights would occur on relatively flat ground and would not be subject to substantial soil erosion. Additionally, the California Building Code (CBC) limits soil erosion during construction, and therefore the potential for soil erosion on the project site would be reduced and impacts related to soil erosion would be less than significant.

c. Would the project 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)***

Please refer to Section 3.7.a. As previously described, the project site is located on level terrain and are already developed as athletic fields which have been graded to level playing surfaces. As such, on-site geologic and soils issues, such as on-site soil stability including landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, and collapse are not significant due to the open nature of the athletic fields. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts associated with unstable geologic conditions.

d. Would the project 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 are characterized by the potential for shrinking and swelling as the moisture content of the soil decreases and increase, respectively. Shrink-swell potential is influenced by the amount and type of clay minerals present and can be measured by the percent change of the soil volume.

[13] California, State of, 1993. Division of Mines and Geology. California Geological Survey. Special Studies Zones, Walnut Creek Quadrangle. July 1.

Potential impacts related to expansive soil would be less than significant because only small areas of soil would be affected due to installation of the pole bases and utility trenching.

e. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? ***(No Impact)***

The proposed project does not propose the use of septic tanks. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact related to septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems.

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The project site is located on developed land that is not known to contain paleontological resources. The proposed project consists of the installation of new field lighting at the project site. As a result, it is unlikely that construction activities could unearth previously undiscovered paleontological resources. However, in the unlikely event that a previously unknown paleontological resource is unearthed during project construction activities, the City would implement standard conditions of approval that are required of all ground-disturbing development projects within the City. Specifically, all activities would be redirected away from the deposit and a qualified paleontologist would be notified to assess the situation. The City of Walnut Creek and qualified paleontologist would evaluated the significance of the deposit and make recommendations regarding the treatment of the deposit in accordance with local and State regulations. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a paleontological resource, and this impact would be less than significant.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

*a. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are present in the atmosphere naturally, are released by natural sources, or are formed from secondary reactions taking place in the atmosphere. The gases that are widely seen as the principal contributors to human-induced global climate change are:

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2);
- Methane (CH_4);
- Nitrous oxide (N_2O);
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs);
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and
- Sulfur Hexafluoride (SF_6).

Over the last 200 years, humans have caused substantial quantities of GHGs to be released into the atmosphere. These extra emissions are increasing GHG concentrations in the atmosphere and enhancing the natural greenhouse effect, believed to be causing global warming. While manmade GHGs include naturally-occurring GHGs such as CO_2, methane, and N_2O, some gases, like HFCs, PFCs, and SF_6 are completely new to the atmosphere.

Certain gases, such as water vapor, are short-lived in the atmosphere. Others remain in the atmosphere for significant periods of time, contributing to climate change in the long term. Water vapor is excluded from the list of GHGs above because it is short-lived in the atmosphere and its atmospheric concentrations are largely determined by natural processes, such as oceanic evaporation.

These gases vary considerably in terms of Global Warming Potential (GWP), a concept developed to compare the ability of each GHG to trap heat in the atmosphere relative to another gas. The GWP is based on several factors, including the relative effectiveness of a gas to absorb infrared radiation and length of time that the gas remains in the atmosphere ("atmospheric lifetime").

The GWP of each gas is measured relative to CO_2, the most abundant GHG. The definition of GWP for a particular GHG is the ratio of heat trapped by one unit mass of the GHG to the ratio of heat trapped by one unit mass of CO_2 over a specified time period. GHG emissions are typically measured in terms of pounds or tons of "CO_2 equivalents" (CO_2e).

This section describes the proposed project's construction- and operational-related GHG emissions and contribution to global climate change.

Construction Greenhouse Gas Emissions. During construction, GHGs would be emitted through the operation of construction equipment and from worker and supply vendor vehicles, each of which typically use fossil-based fuels to operate. The combustion of fossil-based fuels creates GHGs such as CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O. Furthermore, CH_4 is emitted during the fueling of construction equipment.

Construction of the proposed project would require minor excavation for installation of the light poles and underground trenching for electrical connections. As such, construction GHG emissions would be minimal. Therefore, construction emissions would be considered less than significant.

Operational Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Section 15064.4 of the CEQA Guidelines states that: "A lead agency should make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible, on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate the amount of GHG emissions resulting from a project." In performing that analysis, the lead agency has discretion to determine whether to use a model or methodology to quantify GHG emissions, or to rely on a qualitative analysis or performance-based standards. In making a determination as to the significance of potential impacts, the lead agency then considers the extent to which the project may increase or reduce GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting, whether the project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project, and the extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement a Statewide, regional, or local plan for the reduction or mitigation of GHG emissions.

According to the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines, if a project is consistent with an adopted qualified GHG Reduction Strategy that meets the standards, it can be presumed that the project will not have significant GHG emission impacts. This approach is consistent with the State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15183.5, and is used in this analysis.

The City adopted its Sustainability Action Plan (SAP)[14] in July 2023 as an update to the previous Climate Action Plan (CAP) in April 2012. The City's SAP meets the BAAQMD requirements for a Qualified Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy. The SAP serves as an ongoing planning process that assesses, prepares, and mitigates climate change. The SAP also identifies how the City would achieve its GHG reduction through sustainability strategies and actions that would promote sustainability and resilience. The SAP provides 21 sustainability strategies that are organized in the following sectors: energy supply, buildings, transportation and land use, water and wastewater, waste, outdoor equipment, and community health and resilience. The SAP includes the following sustainability strategies:

[14] Walnut Creek, City of. 2023. *City of Walnut Creek Sustainability Action Plan.* April.

- Energy Supply
    - **1:** Require transition to renewable and carbon-free energy sources.
- Buildings
    - **2:** Facilitate energy efficiency and electrification at existing municipal buildings and infrastructure.
    - **3:** Facilitate energy efficiency and electrification at existing buildings and infrastructure.
    - **4:** Require electrification and low-carbon materials for new buildings.
- Transportation and Land Use
    - **5:** Expand adoption and accessibility of electric vehicle modes.
    - **6:** Increase availability of electric vehicle charging.
    - **7:** Electrify the City's vehicle fleet.
    - **8:** Promote sustainable development, which reduces vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions.
    - **9:** Ensure safe, efficient, and reliable mobility options throughout the community.
    - **10:** Support reduction of school-related emissions and vehicle miles traveled.
    - **11:** Expand and improve transportation partnerships to reduce local and regional vehicle miles traveled and emissions.
- Water and Wastewater
    - **12:** Expand City-led efforts to reduce water use community-wide.
    - **13:** Expand water reuse community wide.
- Waste
    - **14:** Reduce the amount of generated landfilled waste so ensure a diversion rate of 75 percent by 2030.
- Outdoor Equipment
    - **15:** Transition to pollution-free outdoor equipment.
- Community Health and Resilience
    - **16:** Reduce the impacts of poor air quality and improve air quality in the community.

- **17:** Decrease the community vulnerabilities to climate change hazards.
- **18:** Create a network of local resilience hubs and support regional resilience hubs.
- **19:** Support a fair and just countrywide and statewide transition to a low-carbon economy.
- **20:** Reduce carbon emissions through local and in-state nature-based solutions, including sequestration.
- **21:** Explore unique community-led sustainability techniques.

The proposed project would consist of new lighting installed on the project site therefore, several of the SAP strategies would not apply to the proposed project. Currently the park closes at dusk; however, implementation of the proposed project would extend the hours between 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The addition of lighting would extend the hours of operations; however, lighting would be shut off after hours of operations. The new lighting poles would utilize LED light fixtures that would comply with current Title 24 energy standards, consistent with SAP strategy 2. In addition, the proposed project would not require the use of natural gas. The elimination of natural gas in new development would help projects implement their "fair share" of achieving long-term 2045 carbon neutrality consistent with State goals. As such, if a project does not utilize natural gas, a lead agency can conclude that it would be consistent with achieving the 2045 neutrality goal.[15] Therefore, the proposed project would also be consistent with SAP strategies 1 and 4. The proposed project would not result in any changes to the operation or trip generation; therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the SAP strategies related to Transportation and Land Use, Water and Wastewater, Waste, Outdoor Equipment, or Community Health and Resilience. Therefore, the proposed project would be consistent with the applicable SAP strategies and would not generate substantial GHG emissions. This impact would be less than significant.

b. Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

As discussed above, the proposed project would be consistent with the City's SAP. The proposed project was also analyzed for consistency with the goals of Executive Order (EO) B-30-15, Senate Bill (SB) 32, Assembly Bill (AB) 197, and AB 1279, and the 2022 Scoping Plan.

EO B-30-15 added the immediate target of reducing GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. SB 32 affirms the importance of addressing climate change by codifying into statute the GHG emissions reductions target of at least 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 contained in EO B-30-15. CARB released the 2017 Scoping Plan to reflect the 2030 target set by EO B-30-15 and codified by SB 32. SB 32 keeps the State on the path toward achieving the 2050 objective of reducing emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels. The companion bill to SB 32, AB 197, provides

[15] Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). 2022. *Justification Report: CEQA Thresholds for Evaluating the Significance of Climate Impacts From Land Use Projects and Plans.* April. Website: Microsoft Word - FINAL CEQA Thresholds Report for Climate Impacts 03_30_22 revisions with tracked changes (baaqmd.gov) (accessed December 2023).

additional direction to the CARB related to the adoption of strategies to reduce GHG emissions. Additional direction in AB 197 intended to provide easier public access to air emissions data that are collected by CARB was posted in December 2016. AB 1279 was signed in September of 2022, and codifies the State goals of achieving net carbon neutrality by 2045 and maintaining net negative GHG emissions thereafter. This bill also requires California to reduce statewide GHG emissions by 85 percent compared to 1990 levels by 2045 and directs CARB to work with relevant state agencies to achieve these goals.

The 2022 Scoping Plan[16] assesses progress toward the statutory 2030 target, while laying out a path to achieving carbon neutrality no later than 2045. The 2022 Scoping Plan focuses on outcomes needed to achieve carbon neutrality by assessing paths for clean technology, energy deployment, natural and working lands, and others, and is designed to meet the State's long-term climate objectives and support a range of economic, environmental, energy security, environmental justice, and public health priorities.

The 2022 Scoping Plan focuses on building clean energy production and distribution infrastructure for a carbon-neutral future, including transitioning existing energy production and transmission infrastructure to produce zero-carbon electricity and hydrogen, and utilizing biogas resulting from wildfire management or landfill and dairy operations, among other substitutes. The 2022 Scoping Plan states that in almost all sectors, electrification will play an important role. The 2022 Scoping Plan evaluates clean energy and technology options and the transition away from fossil fuels, including adding four times the solar and wind capacity by 2045 and about 1,700 times the amount of current hydrogen supply. As discussed in the 2022 Scoping Plan, EO N-79-20 requires that all new passenger vehicles sold in California will be zero-emission by 2035, and all other fleets will have transitioned to zero-emission as fully possible by 2045, which will reduce the percentage of fossil fuel combustion vehicles.

Energy efficient measures are intended to maximize energy efficiency building and appliance standards, pursue additional efficiency efforts including new technologies and new policy and implementation mechanisms, and pursue comparable investment in energy efficiency from all retail providers of electricity in California. In addition, these measures are designed to expand the use of green building practices to reduce the carbon footprint of California's new and existing inventory of buildings. The proposed project would include new lighting poles that would utilize LED light fixtures, consistent with current Title 24 energy standards. In addition, the proposed project would not require the use of natural gas. The elimination of natural gas in new development would help projects implement their "fair share" of achieving long-term 2045 carbon neutrality consistent with State goals. As such, if a project does not utilize natural gas, a lead agency can conclude that it would be consistent with achieving the 2045 neutrality goal.[17] Therefore, the proposed project would comply with applicable energy measures.

[16] California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2022. *2022 Scoping Plan for Achieving Carbon Neutrality*. December. Website: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2023-04/2022-sp.pdf (accessed December 2023).

[17] Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). 2022. Op. cit.

Water conservation and efficiency measures are intended to continue efficiency programs and use cleaner energy sources to move and treat water. Increasing the efficiency of water transport and reducing water use would reduce GHG emissions. The proposed project consist of new lighting installed on the project site. As such, the water conservation and efficiency measures would not be applicable to the proposed project.

The goal of transportation and motor vehicle measures is to develop regional GHG emissions reduction targets for passenger vehicles. The second phase of Pavley standards will reduce GHG emissions from new cars by 34 percent from 2016 levels by 2025, resulting in a 3 percent decrease in average vehicle emissions for all vehicles by 2020. Specific regional emission targets for transportation emissions would not directly apply to the proposed project. However, vehicles traveling to the project site would comply with the Pavley II (LEV III) Advanced Clean Cars Program. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the identified transportation and motor vehicle measures.

Therefore, the proposed project would comply with existing State regulations adopted to achieve the overall GHG emissions reduction goals identified in AB 32 and would be consistent with applicable plans and programs designed to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. This impact would be less than significant.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Impair 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The proposed field lighting system would not include the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous waste. Although small quantities of commercially available hazardous material could be used during project construction activities (e.g., diesel fuels, oils, and lubricants) and for field maintenance within the project site, these materials would not be used in sufficient quantities to pose a threat to human or environmental health. The amount of these hazardous materials present during construction would be limited, would be in compliance with existing federal, State, and local regulations, and would not be considered a significant hazard. Therefore, development of the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, and impacts associated with these activities would be considered less than significant.

b. Would the project 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 proposed project would not result in a significant hazard-related event through release of hazardous materials or the regular handling of hazardous waste because the proposed project would require minimal ground disturbance. Hazardous materials, including commercially-available fuels could be used temporarily during construction activities. The City would comply with all State, local and regulatory agency requirements when using hazardous materials. Therefore, potential impacts related to the release of hazardous materials would be less than significant.

c. Would the project 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 Acalanes Center for Independent Study is located approximately a quarter-mile east of the project site at 1963 Tice Valley Boulevard. However, as described in Section 3.9.b, the use of hazardous materials such as commercially-available fuels during construction activities would not create conditions such that substantial hazardous emissions would be created. In addition, the proposed project would handle limited amounts of hazardous materials during construction activities. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact related to hazardous emissions or materials within a quarter-mile of a school.

d. Would the project 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? ***(No Impact)***

The project site is not listed on the Regional Water Quality Control Board's GeoTracker[18] or the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Envirostor[19] databases. These two components comprise the State Cortese List of known hazardous materials sites complied pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment, and no impact would occur.

[18] California State Water Resources Control Board, 2023. GeoTracker. Website: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ (accessed December 2023)

[19] California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2023. EnviroStor. Website: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/ (accessed December 2023)

e. Would the project be located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 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? ***(No Impact)***

The project site is not located within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport. Additionally, the proposed project would consist of installation of new field lighting and would not increase the residential or working population at the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people to safety hazards related to airports and no impact would occur.

f. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? ***(No Impact)***

The installation of the new field lighting systems would not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The proposed project would not alter any of the streets within, or adjacent to, the project site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The project site is located within a Very High threat area related to wildland fire in the City's General Plan.[20] However, development of the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk associated with wildland fires, as the proposed project would not exacerbate the risk of wildland fire. Therefore, the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact related to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

[20] Walnut Creek, City of. 2006. *General Plan 2025. Safety and Noise Element*. April 4..

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
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	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

*a. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The proposed project would consist of installation of new field lighting at the project site, which is flat and currently covered with natural grass. Existing surface runoff is either captured by the grass field or directed into the existing storm drainage system. The proposed project would not substantially alter the existing direction or flow of stormwater such that water quality or waste discharge standards would be violated. Therefore, impacts associated with water quality standards and waste discharge would be less than significant.

*b. Would the project 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 include minor excavation to install new field lighting poles at the project site. The proposed project would not include the use of any groundwater supplies. In addition, as noted above, the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing direction or flow of stormwater, and therefore would not interfere with groundwater recharge.

Therefore, the proposed project would not result in an impact related to the depletion of groundwater supplies and this impact would be less than significant.

c. Would the project 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 substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; 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 iv. Impede or redirect flood flows? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

As noted in Section 3.10.a, the proposed project would not alter the course of a stream or river. The project site is located in a developed area and would not substantially alter the existing drainage patterns in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard zone as mapped by FEMA and is not located within a mapped dam failure inundation area.[21] There are no levees protecting the site from flooding and as a result, no risk of failure. The project site and surrounding areas are generally level and would not be subject to mudflows. The project site is not located within a mapped tsunami area for Contra Costa County[22] and no seismically induced seiche waves have been documented in the San Francisco Bay throughout history.[23] Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

e. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

As noted in Sections 3.10.a and 3.10.b above, the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing direction or flow of stormwater and would not interfere with groundwater recharge. Therefore, the proposed project would not obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan, and this impact would be less than significant.

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21 Federal Emergency Management Agency, n.d.. FEMA Flood Map Service Center (map). https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=tice%20valley%20park#searchresultsanchor (accessed December 2023).

22 California, State of, 2022. California Emergency Management Agency. Contra Costa County Tsunami Hazard Areas. Website: https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps/Contra-Costa (accessed December 2023).

23 Association of Bay Area Governments and Metropolitan Transportation Commission, 2013. *Plan Bay Area.* July 18.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

*a. Would the project physically divide an established community? **(No Impact)***

The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a physical feature (such as an interstate highway or railroad tracks) or removal of a means of access (such as a local road or bridge) that would impair mobility within an existing community, or between a community and outlying area. For instance, the construction of an interstate highway through an existing community may constrain travel from one of the community to another; similarly, such construction may also impair travel to areas outside the community.

The proposed project consists of installation of new field lighting at the project site. The proposed project would not alter the existing streets within or adjacent to the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in a physical division of an established community or adversely affect the continuity of land uses in the vicinity, and there would be no impact.

*b. Would the project 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)***

Land use at the project site would remain the same with project implementation, and the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation of the City that was adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental impact. No land use incompatibilities or conflicts with existing plans or policies would result from the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation, and no impact would occur.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

*a. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? **(No Impact)***

There are no areas within the City designated by the California Department of Conservation as having the potential for being a significant source of composite materials or industrial materials.[24] The proposed project involves the installation of new lighting and would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value to the region and the residents of the State and no impact would occur.

*b. Would the project 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)***

Refer to Section 3.12.a. The proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

[24] Walnut Creek, City of, 2005. *General Plan 2025 Draft Environmental Impact Report*. August 5.

3.13 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 2 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a. Would the project result in 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? ***(Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated)***

Noise is usually defined as unwanted sound. Noise consists of any sound that may produce physiological or psychological damage and/or interfere with communication, work, rest, recreation, or sleep. Several noise measurement scales exist that are used to describe noise in a particular location. A decibel (dB) is a unit of measurement that indicates the relative intensity of a sound. Sound levels in dB are calculated on a logarithmic basis. An increase of 10 dB represents a 10-fold increase in acoustic energy, while 20 dB is 100 times more intense and 30 dB is 1,000 times more intense. Each 10 dB increase in sound level is perceived as approximately a doubling of loudness; and similarly, each 10 dB decrease in sound level is perceived as half as loud. Sound intensity is normally measured through the A-weighted sound level (dBA). This scale gives greater weight to the frequencies of sound to which the human ear is most sensitive. The A-weighted sound level is the basis for 24-hour sound measurements that better represent human sensitivity to sound at night.

As noise spreads from a source, it loses energy so that the farther away the noise receiver is from the noise source, the lower the perceived noise level would be. Geometric spreading causes the sound level to attenuate or be reduced, resulting in a 6 dB reduction in the noise level for each doubling of distance from a single point source of noise to the noise sensitive receptor of concern.

A project would have a significant noise effect if it would substantially increase the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas or conflict with adopted environmental plans and goals of applicable regulatory agencies, including, as appropriate, the City of Walnut Creek.

The City of Walnut Creek addresses noise in the Safety and Noise Element of the General Plan[25] and in Chapter 6, Article 2, Noise of the City's Municipal Code.[26] The Safety and Noise Element contains goals, policies, and actions that seek to provide compatible noise environments for new development, redevelopment, and condominium conversions and control excessive noise sources in existing development. The following policies and actions from the Safety and Noise Element are applicable to the proposed project.

- Action 9.1.1. Require the evaluation of noise mitigation measures for projects that would cause a substantial increase in noise.

- Policy 9.2. Strive to reduce traffic noise levels in existing residential areas.

The City of Walnut Creek also addresses noise in Chapter 6, Article 2, Noise of the City's Municipal Code. The Municipal Code restricts construction activities to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays which are not holidays, or those precise hours of operation enumerated in individual building and grading permits.

The following section addresses the short-term construction and long-term operational noise impacts of the proposed project.

Short-Term (Construction) Noise Impacts. Project construction could result in short-term noise impacts on the nearby sensitive receptors. Construction noise associated with the proposed project would occur over the short term in association with construction activities such as minor excavation for installation of the light poles and underground trenching for electrical connections. The duration of noise impacts generally would be from one day to several days depending on the phase of construction. The level and types of noise impacts that would occur during construction are described below.

Short-term noise impacts would occur during excavation and trenching activities. Table 1 lists typical construction equipment noise levels (L_{max}) recommended for noise impact assessments, based on a distance of 50 feet between the equipment and a noise receptor, obtained from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Roadway Construction Noise Model. Construction-related short-term noise levels would be higher than existing ambient noise levels currently in the project area but would no longer occur once construction of the project is completed.

Two types of short-term noise impacts could occur during construction of the proposed project. The first type involves construction crew commutes and the transport of construction equipment and materials to the site, which would incrementally increase noise levels on roads leading to the site. As shown in Table 1, there would be a relatively high single-event noise exposure potential at a maximum level of 84 dBA L_{max} with trucks passing at 50 feet.

[25] Walnut Creek, City of. 2006. op. cit.
[26] Walnut Creek, City of. 2019. *Walnut Creek Municipal Code. Title 4, Chapter 6, Article 2, Noise*. September 17.

The second type of short-term noise impact is related to noise generated during excavation and trenching activities. As indicated above, Table 3.A lists maximum noise levels recommended for noise impact assessments for typical construction equipment, based on a distance of 50 feet between the equipment and a noise receptor.

Table 3.A: Typical Construction Equipment Noise Levels

Equipment Description	Acoustical Usage Factor (%)	Maximum Noise Level (L_{max}) at 50 Feet[1]
Backhoes	40	80
Compactor (ground)	20	80
Compressor	40	80
Cranes	16	85
Dozers	40	85
Dump Trucks	40	84
Excavators	40	85
Flat Bed Trucks	40	84
Forklift	20	85
Front-end Loaders	40	80
Jackhammers	20	85
Pick-up Truck	40	55
Pneumatic Tools	50	85
Pumps	50	77
Rollers	20	85
Tractors	40	84
Welder	40	73

Source: Roadway Construction Noise Model (FHWA 2006).
Note: Noise levels reported in this table are rounded to the nearest whole number.
[1] Maximum noise levels were developed based on Spec 721.560 from the Central Artery/Tunnel (CA/T) program to be consistent with the City of Boston's Noise Code for the "Big Dig" project.
L_{max} = maximum instantaneous sound level

This analysis assumes that an excavator, tractor, and flat bed truck would be operating simultaneously during construction of the proposed project. Based on the typical construction equipment noise levels shown in Table 3.A, noise levels associated with these pieces of construction equipment operating simultaneously would be approximately 85 dBA L_{max} at 50 feet. As noted above, the closest sensitive receptors include the multi-family residences located approximately 400 feet east of the project site. At 400 feet, there would be a decrease of approximately 18 dBA from the increased distance compared to the noise level measured at 50 feet from the active construction area. Therefore, the closest sensitive receptor may be subject to short-term maximum construction noise reaching 67 dBA L_{max} during construction.

Construction noise is permitted by the City of Walnut Creek when activities occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. Construction activities are not permitted on weekends or holidays. In addition, Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would be required to limit construction activities to daytime hours and would reduce potential construction period noise impacts for sensitive receptors to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure NOI-1: The project contractor shall implement the following measures during construction of the proposed project:

- Equip all construction equipment, fixed or mobile, with properly operating and maintained mufflers consistent with manufacturers' standards.
- Place all stationary construction equipment so that emitted noise is directed away from sensitive receptors nearest the active project site.
- Locate equipment staging in areas that would create the greatest possible distance between construction-related noise sources and noise-sensitive receptors nearest the active project site during all construction activities.
- Ensure that all general construction related activities are restricted to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. Construction activities shall be prohibited on weekends and holidays.
- Designate a "disturbance coordinator" at the City who would be responsible for responding to any local complaints about construction noise. The disturbance coordinator would determine the cause of the noise complaint (e.g., starting too early, bad muffler) and would determine and implement reasonable measures warranted to correct the problem.

Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1 would limit construction hours and require the construction contractor to implement noise-reducing measures during construction, which would reduce short-term construction noise impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Operational Noise Impacts. A characteristic of sound is that a doubling of a noise source is required in order to result in a perceptible (3 dBA or greater) increase in the resulting noise level. The proposed project would consist of new lighting installed on the project site. The addition of lighting would extend the hours of operations; however, no significant changes to the overall use of the park or trip generation is anticipated due to the addition of lighting.

The project site itself is located in an urban area adjacent to roadways that are heavily traveled. As such, project trips would represent a small fraction of the overall roadway traffic volumes. Therefore, project daily trips would not result in a doubling of traffic volumes along any roadway segment in the project vicinity and would not result in a perceptible increase in traffic noise levels at receptors in the project vicinity.

Currently the park closes at dusk; however implementation of the proposed project (e.g., addition of lighting) would extend the hours between 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Based on previous measurements conducted by LSA, noise levels associated with sports activities at a similar type of park were measured to be 58.1 dBA L_{eq} at a distance of 180 feet. As identified above, the closest sensitive receptors include the multi-family residences located approximately 400 feet east of the project site. At this distance, the noise generated would be 51.2 dBA L_{eq} without the incorporation of intervening shielding or topography. The City relies on a noise level of 65 dBA L_{dn} as "normally acceptable", which equates to a daytime L_{eq} standard of 65 dBA L_{eq} (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.) and a nighttime L_{eq} standard of 55 dB L_{eq} (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.). The projected park noise would continue to occur during daytime hours only (e.g,. before 10:00 p.m.) and would be less than the daytime noise level threshold of 65 dBA L_{eq}.

Therefore, operational noise from the proposed project would be similar to existing conditions and would generally include noise from outdoor activity that would not generate noise levels that would exceed the applicable standards. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance. This impact would be less than significant.

b. Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Vibration refers to groundborne noise and perceptible motion. Groundborne vibration is almost exclusively a concern inside buildings and is rarely perceived as a problem outdoors. Vibration energy propagates from a source, through intervening soil and rock layers, to the foundations of nearby buildings. The vibration then propagates from the foundation throughout the remainder of the structure. Building vibration may be perceived by the occupants as the motion of building surfaces, rattling of items on shelves or hanging on walls, or as a low-frequency rumbling noise. The rumbling noise is caused by the vibrating walls, floors, and ceilings radiating sound waves. Annoyance from vibration often occurs when the vibration exceeds the threshold of perception by 10 dB or less. This is an order of magnitude below the damage threshold for normal buildings.

Typical sources of groundborne vibration are construction activities (e.g., pavement breaking and operating heavy-duty earthmoving equipment), and occasional traffic on rough roads. In general, groundborne vibration from standard construction practices is only a potential issue when within 25 feet of sensitive uses. Groundborne vibration levels from construction activities very rarely reach levels that can damage structures; however, these levels are perceptible near the active construction site. As the proposed project would only require minor excavation for installation of the light poles and underground trenching for electrical connections, potential structural damage from heavy construction activities would not occur.

The streets surrounding the project area are paved, smooth, and unlikely to cause significant groundborne vibration. In addition, the rubber tires and suspension systems of buses and other on-road vehicles make it unusual for on-road vehicles to cause groundborne noise or vibration problems. It is, therefore, assumed that no such vehicular vibration impacts would occur and, therefore, no vibration impact analysis of on-road vehicles is necessary. Additionally, once

constructed, the proposed project would not contain uses that would generate groundborne vibration. This impact 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 2 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? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The proposed project is not located within 2 miles of a private airstrip, public airport, or a public use airport and is not within an airport land use plan. The nearest airport, Buchanan Field Airport is located approximately 8 miles north of the project site. In addition, Oakland International Airport is located approximately 14 miles southwest of the project site. Although aircraft-related noise is occasionally audible on the project site, the site does not lie within the 55 dBA CNEL noise contours of any of these public airports or private airfields. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels due to the proximity of a public airport. This impact would be less than significant.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a. Would the project 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 proposed project does not include housing and would be located at the existing Tice Valley Park. Development of the proposed project would not affect the residential population of the City and therefore would have no impact related to population growth.

b. Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? ***(No Impact)***

The project site does not contain any housing. Implementation of the proposed project would not remove any existing housing. Therefore, no impact would occur.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				
i. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
v. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a. 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, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: i. Fire protection? ii. Police protection? iii. Schools? iv. Parks? v. Other public facilities? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Fire Protection. The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the project site. Station 3 is located adjacent to the project site to the east at 1520 Rossmoor Parkway. The installation of a new field lighting system would allow practices and games to be held during evening hours at the project site. The addition of new night lighting to allow additional games and practices would incrementally increase demand for fire protection and life safety services. However, the addition of lighting would not affect existing response times to the project site. The proposed project would not result in a significant impact on the physical environment due to the incremental increase in demand for fire protection and life safety services. Therefore, the installation of new field lighting would have a less-than-significant impact on fire protection and life safety services and facilities.

Police Protection. Police protection services at the project site is provided by the Walnut Creek Police Department (WCPD). The WCPD is located at 1666 North Main Street. The installation of a new field lighting system would allow practices and games to be held during evening hours at the project site. The addition of new night lighting to allow additional games and practices would incrementally increase demand for police protection services. However, the addition of lighting would not affect existing response times to the project site. The proposed project would not result in a significant impact on the physical environment due to the incremental increase in demand for police protection services and would not require the construction of new facilities. Therefore, the installation of new field lighting would have a less-than-significant impact on police protection services and facilities.

Schools. As noted in Section 3.14, the proposed project would not result in any direct or indirect population growth. The proposed project would not directly affect the existing schools such that new school facilities would have to be physically altered or newly constructed. Therefore, installation of new field lighting would have no impact on school facilities.

Parks. The proposed project involves the installation of new field lighting to allow for extended use of the project site. The installation of the new field lighting at the project site would allow additional practices and games to be held during evening hours. During project construction, use of the existing fields would be temporarily interrupted, which could increase the use of other community parks. However, this potential increase in use of other community parks would be temporary in nature. Once constructed, the proposed project would provide for extended use of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in increased demand for park facilities such that new park facilities would need to be constructed. The installation of new lighting to allow extended use of the fields would have a less-than-significant impact.

Other Public Facilities. The installation of new field lighting would not affect the existing school population and would not result in an increase of the local resident population. Therefore, the project would not result in increased demand for other public facilities such as libraries and community centers, such that new facilities would have to be physically altered or newly constructed. Therefore, the installation of the field lighting would have no impact on other public facilities.

3.16 RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

*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)***

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the installation of new field lighting at the project site to allow for extended hours of use. To address use and maintenance of all City fields, the Parks and Recreation Department has an active and dedicated field maintenance program. The field maintenance program includes mowing, edging, weed control, and pruning. Annual routine field closures are essential in keeping up the integrity of the field, allowing the City to provide quality and safe fields. The City will continue to manage and maintain the project site pursuant to standard City practices to ensure that substantial physical deterioration of the field would not occur or be accelerated and impacts to the field associated with the extended hours of use would be less than significant.

*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? **(No Impact)***

Please refer to Section 3.16.a. The proposed project involves the installation of new field lighting and would not require the construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities on or off the project site. The proposed project may alleviate the demand for field space within the City by allowing additional use at the project site. As such, there would be no construction or expansion of recreation facilities that would have an adverse impact on the environment.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a. Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The City's Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) Implementation Guide have established 100 net new peak-hour trip thresholds for requiring preparation of a traffic impact analysis. LSA has examined the peak trip generation potential during the future operations of the park with the proposed project below.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the installation of new field lighting at the project site to allow for extended hours of use. Currently the park closes at dusk. The operating day would include the hours between 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with the project. Given that the additional hours of operation are outside of the typical PM peak period (4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.), no changes to the operation or trip generation is anticipated due to the addition of lighting.

Because the addition of lighting is not anticipated to affect peak hour trip generation the proposed project is expected to generate less than 100 peak-hour trips. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the programs, plans, ordinances, or policies addressing the circulation system set forth by the City or the CCTA, and this impact would be less than significant.

b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

According to the screening threshold for small projects, defined in the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA dated December 2018, "projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than-significant transportation impact." Given that the additional hours of operation are outside of the typical PM peak period (4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.), no changes to the operation or trip generation are anticipated due to the addition of lighting. Therefore, in accordance

with the Technical Advisory, impacts related to CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b) can be assumed to be less than significant.

c. Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The proposed project involves installation of a lighting system for nighttime use of the soccer field within the existing Tice Valley Park and would not alter public roadways or access to park from public roadways. As such, the proposed project would not result in hazards due to incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact related to hazards associated with a design feature or incompatible uses.

d. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The proposed project would continue to utilize the existing access points at the project site and as such, would not result in inadequate emergency access with the proposed project. Therefore, the project's impact would be less than significant.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a. 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	☐	☐	☒	☐
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.	☐	☐	☒	☐

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

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)***

Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52), which became law on January 1, 2015, provides for consultation with California Native American tribes during the CEQA environmental review process, and equates significant impacts to "tribal cultural resources" with significant environmental impacts. Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21074 states that "tribal cultural resources" are:

- Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe and are one of the following:

- Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
- Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of PRC Section 5020.1.
- 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 PRC Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

A "historical resource" (PRC Section 21084.1), a "unique archaeological resource" (PRC Section 21083.2(g)), or a "nonunique archaeological resource" (PRC Section 21083.2 (h)) may also be a tribal cultural resource if it is included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register.

The consultation provisions of the law require that a public agency consult with local Native American tribes that have requested placement on that agency's notification list for CEQA projects. Within 14 days of determining that a project application is complete, or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency must notify tribes of the opportunity to consult on the project, should a tribe have previously requested to be on the agency's notification list. California Native American tribes must be recognized by the California Native American Heritage Commission as traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project site, and must have previously requested that the lead agency notify them of projects. Tribes have 30 days following notification of a project to request consultation with the lead agency.

The purpose of consultation is to inform the lead agency in its identification and determination of the significance of tribal cultural resources. If a project is determined to result in a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource, the consultation process must occur and conclude prior to adoption of a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration, or certification of an Environmental Impact Report (PRC Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3).

The City sent letters describing the project and maps depicting the project site via certified mail on January 23, 2020, to Native American contacts that had previously requested to be contacted by the City for potential consultation pursuant to AB 52. On January 31, 2020, Mariah Mayberry of the Wilton Rancheria tribe responded requesting to initiate consultation. The City responded to Ms. Mayberry in an email on March 12, 2020, requesting that the tribe contact the City to set up a time for an initial consultation meeting. The email requested that Ms. Mayberry respond within 2 weeks. To date, no response to the City's second invitation has been received. The City did not receive any requests for consultation during the 30-day notification period. Therefore, the City considers the AB 52 consultation process to be concluded. As noted in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, the project site is not listed on, or eligible for listing on, the CRHR. Additionally, the City, as Lead Agency, has not determined that there are any existing resources significant to Native American Tribes within the project site. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a. Would the project 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 not require the use of water, natural gas, or telecommunications infrastructure and would not generate wastewater. As noted in Section 3.10, Hydrology and Water Quality, the proposed project would not result in any changes to the existing stormwater runoff patterns. The proposed project would require the installation of new electric power infrastructure, however, these potential impacts are evaluated and mitigated throughout this Initial Study. Therefore, with implementation of the mitigation measures included in this Initial Study, this impact would be less than significant.

b. Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? ***(No Impact)***

As noted in Section 3.19.a, the proposed project would not require the use of water. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impact related to water supplies.

c. Would the project 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? ***(No Impact)***

The proposed project would not affect the current wastewater disposal and treatment systems that serve the project site. Therefore, installation of a new field lighting at the project site would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements and no impact related to wastewater treatment systems would occur.

d. Would the project 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 (beyond whatever small quantities of construction waste could not be reused or recycled). Existing landfills have sufficient capacity to accommodate this potential minor increase in construction waste and impacts with landfill capacity are expected to be less than significant.

e. Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Please refer to Section 3.19.d. The proposed project would comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would have a less-than-significant impact on regulations related to solid waste.

3.20 WILDFIRE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

*a. Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

The project site is not located within any state responsibility areas (SRA) for fire service or in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) within a Local Responsibility Area.[27] The project site is located within a Very High threat area related to wildland fire as designated in the City's General Plan.[28] As noted in Section 3.9.f, the proposed project would not impair the implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

*b. Would the project, 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? **(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Refer to Section 3.20.a. As noted in Section 1.0, Project Information, the project site is generally level and bound by existing development on most sides. In addition, the proposed project would not result in an increase in permanent population on the project site, as noted in Section 3.12, Population and Housing. Therefore, the proposed project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire, and this impact would be less than significant.

[27] California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. 2007. Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer. Website: https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/ (accessed December 2023).

[28] Walnut Creek, City of. 2006. Op. cit.

c. Would the project 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? ***(Less-Than-Significant Impact)***

Refer to Section 3.20.a. The project site is not located within an SRA for fire service. The proposed project would require the installation of power lines, however, these lines would be underground and therefore would not exacerbate fire risk. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

d. Would the project 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)***

Refer to Section 3.20.a and 3.20.b. The project site is generally level and is not located within an SRA for fire service. In addition, as noted in Section 3.10, Hydrology and Water Quality, the proposed project would not result in a change in the existing runoff or drainage from the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose people or structures to significant risks as a result of post-fire slope instability or drainage and runoff changes, and this impact would be less than significant.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. 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.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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)***

As noted in Section 3.5, the proposed project would not have any significant impacts to historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources. As noted in Section 3.4, the proposed project would not have any significant impacts related to biological resources and would not require any mitigation measures. Therefore, development of the proposed project would not: 1) degrade the quality of the environment; 2) substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; 3) cause a fish or wildlife species population to drop below self-sustaining levels; 4) threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; 5) reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal; or 6) eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history.

b. 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 with Mitigation Incorporated)***

CEQA defines cumulative impacts as “two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable, or which can compound to increase other environmental impacts.” Section 15130 of the CEQA Guidelines requires evaluation of potential environmental impacts when

the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable. "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of "reasonably foreseeable probable future" projects, per CEQA Section 15355. Cumulative impacts can result from a combination of the proposed project together with other closely related projects that cause an adverse change in the environment. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over time.

The proposed project's impacts would be individually limited and not cumulatively considerable, because these impacts are either temporary in nature (i.e., limited to the construction period) or are limited to the project site (i.e., potential discovery of unknown cultural or paleontological resources). The potentially significant noise impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of recommended mitigation measures. These impacts would primarily be related to construction-period activities, would be temporary in nature, and would not substantially contribute to any potential cumulative impacts associated with these topics. For the topic of noise, potentially significant impacts related to temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1.

For the topics of aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire, the project would have no impacts or less-than-significant impacts, and therefore, the project would not substantially contribute to any potential cumulative impacts for these topics. All environmental impacts that could occur as a result of the proposed project would be reduced to a less-than-significant level through the implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in this document.

When future development proposals are considered by the City, these proposals would undergo environmental review pursuant to CEQA, and when necessary, mitigation measures would be adopted as appropriate. In most cases, this environmental review and compliance with project conditions of approval, relevant policies and mitigation measures, and the General Plan, and compliance with applicable regulations would ensure that significant impacts would be avoided or otherwise mitigated to less-than-significant levels.

The implementation of appropriate mitigation measures for this project and future projects would ensure that the impacts of this project and other projects within the vicinity would be below established thresholds of significance and that these impacts would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact on the environment as a result of project development. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant and would ensure that cumulative impacts remain relatively unchanged.

c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? ***(No Impact)***

The proposed project would not result in any environmental effects that would cause substantial direct or indirect adverse effects to human beings.

4.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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