



*"Small Town Atmosphere  
Outstanding Quality of Life"*

## DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

LEAD AGENCY: Town of Danville, Planning Division

NAME OF PROJECT: Town of Danville Pickleball Court Development

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Town is proposing to add up to six new pickleball courts at Osage Station Park where two courts currently exist.

### ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS/MITIGATION MEASURES:

1. NOISE: Would the project result in:
  - a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** The proposed project includes the construction of up to six new pickleball courts within an existing park within a residential development. The park currently hosts two pickleball courts and three tennis courts. Noise levels would temporarily be increased due to noise associated with the construction of the courts. The noise impact will be less than significant given required standard conditions of approval which define and limit hours of construction.

In addition, concerns have been raised regarding potential noise impacts generated by the impact of the pickleball against the face of the pickleball. In order to study this potential impact, a noise study was prepared by Rincon Consultants, Inc. The study's modeling concluded that using the sound meter set to slow and using "A" weighting, the noise levels would be below the threshold of 60  $d_n$  found in the Town of Danville General Plan Policy 27.09.

In order to address concerns that the nature of the noise generated by pickleball is of a different character due to its "impulsive" nature, the study additionally modeled the noise generated by taking measurements with the

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sound meter set to “fast”, including a 5 dB adjustment for impulsive noise and utilizing residential thresholds found in the *Model Community Noise Control Ordinance* (State of California 1977). Using those criteria, if unmitigated, project operational noise levels are anticipated to exceed several of the exterior noise thresholds at residences to the south and west.

To mitigate potential noise impacts, the Town will affix sound blankets of a minimum 12-foot height to the chain-link fences enclosing the courts along the project southern, western, and eastern court boundaries. The sound blankets shall be at least 1/8-inch thick, continuous from grade to top of the blankets with no gaps, and have a minimum sound transmission class (STC) rating of 28. Prior to project operation, post signs at the pickleball court entrances with a list of allowable USA Pickleball “Quiet Category”-compliant paddles. Non-quiet paddles shall be prohibited. Following project implementation, the Town shall retain a qualified acoustical consultant to measure project operational noise levels to verify that noise levels at the closest residential property lines do not exceed the Town’s thresholds.

With implementation of the recommended mitigation measure, project operational noise would be conservatively reduced by at least 10 dBA. With sound blanket mitigation, project operational noise would not exceed significance thresholds, and impacts would be less than significant.

**MITIGATION MEASURE 1:** *Prior to project operation, affix sound blankets of a minimum 12-foot height to the chain-link fences enclosing the courts along the project southern, western, and eastern court boundaries. The sound blankets shall be at least 1/8-inch thick, continuous from grade to top of the blankets with no gaps, and have a minimum sound transmission class (STC) rating of 28.*

**MITIGATION MEASURE 2:** *Prior to project operation, post signs at the pickleball court entrances with a list of allowable USA Pickleball “Quiet Category”-compliant paddles. Non-quiet paddles shall be prohibited.*

**MITIGATION MEASURE 3:** *Following project implementation, the Town shall retain a qualified acoustical consultant to measure project operational noise levels to verify that noise levels at the closest residential property lines do not exceed the Town’s thresholds.*

**DETERMINATION:** Based upon the above identified mitigation measures, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated to be

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associated with the subject project. A Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration of Environmental Significance has been prepared.

The Initial Study was prepared by the Planning Department, Town of Danville. Copies of the Initial Study may be obtained at the Town offices located at 500 La Gonda Way, Danville, California 94526.

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RAB', with a stylized, overlapping structure.

Riley Anderson-Barrett  
Associate Planner