

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Subject:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration  
**Project:** **Mission Hills High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project**  
**Lead Agency:** San Marcos Unified School District  
**Review Period:** April 4, 2025 to May 5, 2025 (30 days)

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the San Marcos Unified School District (District) has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Mission Hills High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project (proposed project) to address the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed project. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21165 and the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15050, the San Marcos Unified School District is the lead agency for the proposed project. The purpose of this notice is to (1) serve as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a MND pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15087 and (2) advise and solicit comments regarding the content of the IS/MND.

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:** Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, the IS/MND will be available for a 30-day public review from **Friday, April 4, 2025, through Monday, May 5, 2025**. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.4, responsible and trustee agencies must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt.

Copies of the IS/MND are available for review at the following locations:

San Marcos Unified School District  
Facilities Planning & Development Department  
255 Pico Avenue, Suite 250  
San Marcos, CA 92069

Mission Hills High School – Front Desk  
1 Mission Hills Court,  
San Marcos, CA 92069

The document can also be accessed online at:  
[https://www.smusd.org/departments/facilities\\_planning\\_and\\_development](https://www.smusd.org/departments/facilities_planning_and_development)

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** We ask that any person wishing to comment on the MND provide written comments by the end of the public review period at 5:00 p.m., **Monday, May 5, 2025**. You may send comments by email to Dena Williams, Administrative Secretary II – Facilities Planning and Development ([dena.williams@smusd.org](mailto:dena.williams@smusd.org)) or mail to the District's Facilities Planning and Development Department (see address above). Please include "**Mission Hills High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project**" in the subject line.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Mission Hills High School is at 1 Mission Hills Court in the City of San Marcos, San Diego County (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 220-231-4100 and 220-231-0300). The Mission Hills High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project would be developed within the existing school campus.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The proposed project would include replacing the natural turf with synthetic turf and installing permanent non-directional lighting to replace the temporary lighting at the existing multi-

purpose field. The proposed project would also include resurfacing the existing stadium and tennis courts, and removing two existing tennis courts and replacing them with three volleyball courts. The proposed project would not result in changes to student, staff, or bleacher capacity, and no additional lighting or Public Address (PA) systems would be added to the stadium, volleyball courts, and tennis courts.

The District is proposing to add permanent nighttime sports lighting to the existing multi-purpose field at the eastern portion of the site. The proposed lighting improvements are prompted by the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 328, which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 am. Instituting a later start time is expected to reduce the negative impacts of sleep deprivation on adolescents and give them multiple health, safety, and learning benefits. However, with the later start time, schools will also end later, which will affect sports activities. Currently, the multi-purpose field is lit for evening use using temporary lights. The multi-purpose field would be used for practice only. Mission Hills High School would be able to have practice onsite instead of using other locations, such as Palomar Community College, San Marcos Middle School, and Woodland Park Middle School. Additionally, the existing natural turf at the multi-purpose field would be replaced with new synthetic turf.

The existing stadium in the southwestern portion of the site would be resurfaced to allow for the continued use of the track and field for football, soccer, boy's and girl's lacrosse, field hockey, and flag football; no changes to games or events at the stadium would occur. The proposed project would install ball control netting at each of the end zones, as well as remove and replace: long/triple jump take-off boards, base mat, and potentially contaminated aggregate at the perimeter of the field. The proposed project may also include installing new slot drains on the north and south track straights.

The asphalt of the 10 existing tennis courts would be removed, eight of the tennis courts would be paved in concrete, and the two eastern tennis courts would be removed and replaced with three new sand volleyball courts. The existing chain link fence would be removed and replaced with new fence; the maintenance gates and accessible pathways would be reconstructed. The proposed project would also remove and replace the net posts and center hold downs, and would construct a new continuous trench drain at the eastern courts to allow discharge into the existing storm drain system. The landscaping to the east and south of the tennis courts would be restored. No changes to the tennis games would occur as a result of the reduction in courts; however, the number of spectators is expected to decrease from 20 to 14-16 spectators. The proposed volleyball games are anticipated to have 2-8 spectators.

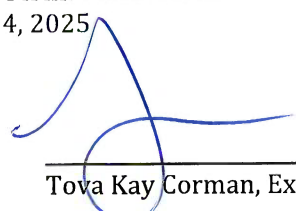
**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:** The IS/MND analyzed all 20 topical areas and determined that, with the implementation of mitigation measures, impacts to cultural resources, geology and soils, noise, and tribal cultural resources, would be less than significant.

**Lead Agency:** San Marcos Unified School District

**Consulting Firm:** PlaceWorks

**Date:** April 4, 2025

**Signature:**



Tova Kay Corman, Executive Director

Governing Board: Sarah Ahmad Stacy Carlson Heidi Herrick Lena Laur Meum Andrés Martín  
Andrew S. Johnsen, Ed.D., Superintendent