

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Tulare
221 S. Mooney Boulevard, Room 105
Visalia, CA 93291

From: (Public Agency): Earlimart School District
785 E. Center Street
Earlimart, CA 93219

(Address)

Project Title: Earlimart Middle School Track and Field Lights Project

Project Applicant: Earlimart School District

Project Location - Specific:

Earlimart Middle School, 599 Sutter Avenue, Earlimart, CA

Project Location - City: Unincorporated community of Earlimart Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project proposes new improvements to the existing Earlimart Middle School campus with the addition of four 70-foot lights poles equipped with LED fixtures and associated utility infrastructure to illuminate the existing track and field facility. The intent of the project is to upgrade the existing track and field facility to provide additional recreational opportunities during the evening hours for the existing school population and Earlimart community.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Earlimart School District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Clint Jones, MOT Director

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1- Section 15301 and Class 14- 15314
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attached

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Clint Jones, MOT Director Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (661) 732-6230

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 4/21/2025 Title: MOT Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

PROJECT LOCATION

The Earlimart Middle School campus is generally bounded by Sutter Avenue to the north, Center Avenue to the south, and Church Road to the east, in the City of Earlimart, addressed as 599 Sutter Avenue, Earlimart, CA (APN 315-080-010; Figures 1-2). The campus encompasses approximately 20.4 acres.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proposes new improvements to the existing Earlimart Middle School campus with the addition of four 70-foot light poles equipped with LED fixtures and associated utility infrastructure to illuminate the existing track and field facility. The intent of the project is to upgrade the existing track and field facility to provide additional recreational opportunities during the evening hours for the existing school population and Earlimart community.

EXEMPTION

- Class 1, Section 15301 *Existing Facilities*: consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.
- Class 14, Section 15314: *Minor Additions to Schools* consists of minor additions to existing schools within existing school grounds where the addition does not increase original student capacity by more than 25% or ten classrooms, whichever is less. The addition of portable classrooms is included in this exemption.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT

The project proposes further improvement of the existing Earlimart Middle School site through the addition of four 70-foot light poles equipped with LED fixtures and associated utility infrastructure to illuminate an existing track and field facility (Figures 3-4). These improvements are proposed to be located within the existing footprint of the school campus that is currently developed with classrooms, support buildings, and outdoor recreational facilities. The track and field facility includes concrete pavement, an outdoor track, and bleachers. The project will be located within the existing footprint of the school campus and does not result in an increase or expansion of student or faculty population. The intent of the project is to alter the existing track and field facility to provide additional opportunities for use during the evening hours for the existing student and teacher population and Earlimart community.

Light and Glare

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the installation of LED light fixtures and four 70-foot light poles to illuminate the existing track and field facility in the northeast portion of the existing middle school campus. To determine if the Project would result in significant light and glare impacts, review of the manufacturer's performance summaries is attached as Appendix A. The project anticipates the installation of outdoor lighting to illuminate the track and field facility during nighttime use. The location of the proposed light poles and their relative distance from neighboring properties to the north is depicted on Figure 3. These areas are proposed to be illuminated via 70-foot light poles and LED fixtures. Per fixture details provided by the manufacturer, the lighting fixtures are designed with reflectors and hoods that minimize light spill and glare on off-site receptors while maximizing illumination of the facility. Photometrics supplied by the manufacture

was used to make predictions of the light levels produced exclusively by the proposed lighting system (Musco Sports Lighting, LLC., 2025). Based on the assumed performance of the proposed lighting, a maximum illumination of 39-foot candles within the track and field facility would occur with an average of 34.28-foot candles where the majority of lighting would be concentrated.

The manufacturer's lighting summary indicates that the maximum illumination levels at the boundaries of the facility would be 4-foot candles. The closest residence is approximately 234 feet north of the nearest light pole and the second closest residence is approximately 287 feet north (Figure 3). Based on the manufacturer's performance summary the anticipated horizontal footcandle would be 0.02 at the nearest residence indicating minimal light and up to 0.03 footcandles at the southerly adjacent residence. The second closest residence anticipates 0.01 footcandles. It is anticipated that the neighboring residences will have little to no glare or light spill resulting from the project. Structural barriers and existing vegetation along the project's northern boundary would further shield light exposure and reduce light spill levels.

As a school district, special circumstances regarding the development of school facilities fall under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Education and the Division of the State Architect. Pertinent lighting sections as applicable under the California Code of Regulations (CCR) and the California Education Code (CDE) are as follows:

CCR Article 4, Section 14030.1: consists of light design standards that shall generate a lumination level that provides comfortable and adequate visual conditions in each educational space, specifically;

- Ceilings and walls are white or light colored for high reflectance unless function of space dictates otherwise.
- Lights do not produce glare or block the line of sight.
- Window treatment allows entrance of daylight but does not cause excessive glare or heat gain.
- Fixtures provide an even light distribution throughout the learning area.
- Light design follows the California Electric Code found in Part 3 of Title 24 of the CCR.

CDE Title 1, Division 1, Part 10.5, Chapter 3, Section 17280: Section 17280 states that the Department of General Services (Division of the State Architect) under the police power of the state shall supervise the design and construction of any school building or the reconstruction or alteration of or addition to any school building or the reconstruction or alteration of or addition to any school building, if not exempted under Section 17295, to ensure that plans and specifications comply with the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this article and building standards published in Title 24 of the CCR, and to ensure that the work of construction has been performed in accordance with the approved plans and specifications, for the protection of life and property.

California Green Building Standards Code (Title 24, Part 11)

The California Green Building Standards Code, which is Part 11 of Title 24, is commonly referred to as the CALGreen Code. Paragraph 5.1106.8, Light pollution reduction, requires that all non-residential outdoor lighting must comply with the following:

- The minimum requirements in the CEC for Lighting Zones 1-4 as defined in Chapter 10 of the California Administrative Code as noted above; and
- Backlight, Uplight and Glare (BUG) ratings as defined Illuminating Engineering Society of North America's Technical Memorandum on Luminaire Classification Systems for Outdoor Luminaires identified as IESNA TM-15-07 Addendum A; and

- Allowable BUG ratings not exceeding those shown in Table A5.106.8 in Section 5.106.8 of the CALGreen Code

Earlimart is an unincorporated community within the County of Tulare. Earlimart School District is not considered under the jurisdiction of the County of Tulare, however as there is no established threshold adopted by the California Department of Education (CDE) or the school district, consideration is made to the Earlimart Community Plan and County of Tulare General Plan to determine if an impact is made on sensitive receptors under the jurisdiction of the County of Tulare. The following General Plan and Community Plan policies were identified as being applicable to the project.

As the design and installation of the lighting is subject to the California Building Code and California Education Code requirements as noted above, the project is expected to comply with State rules and regulations. Under the performance standards provided by the light manufacture, the anticipated performance of the project at the nearest residence would be 0.02 footcandles, which indicates minimal light spill and glare as a result of the project. Based on the consideration of these factors, the illumination levels are not anticipated to impact sensitive receptors and would be in compliance with County of Tulare General Plan policies.

CONCLUSION

The project is determined to be a minor addition to the existing Earlimart Middle School campus. The installation of four 70-foot light poles and LED fixtures to illuminate the existing track and field facility will enhance the facility and provide an improved recreational experience for students, staff and the community. This project does not increase or expand the student or faculty population at the existing school. The project will minimally alter the track and field facility to allow for the use of the field during evening hours and does not expand the use of school campus outside of its existing footprint.

As discussed above the project would not result in a significant environmental impact and is consistent with the provisions of a Class 1 and Class 14 Exemption as per CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 and 15314.

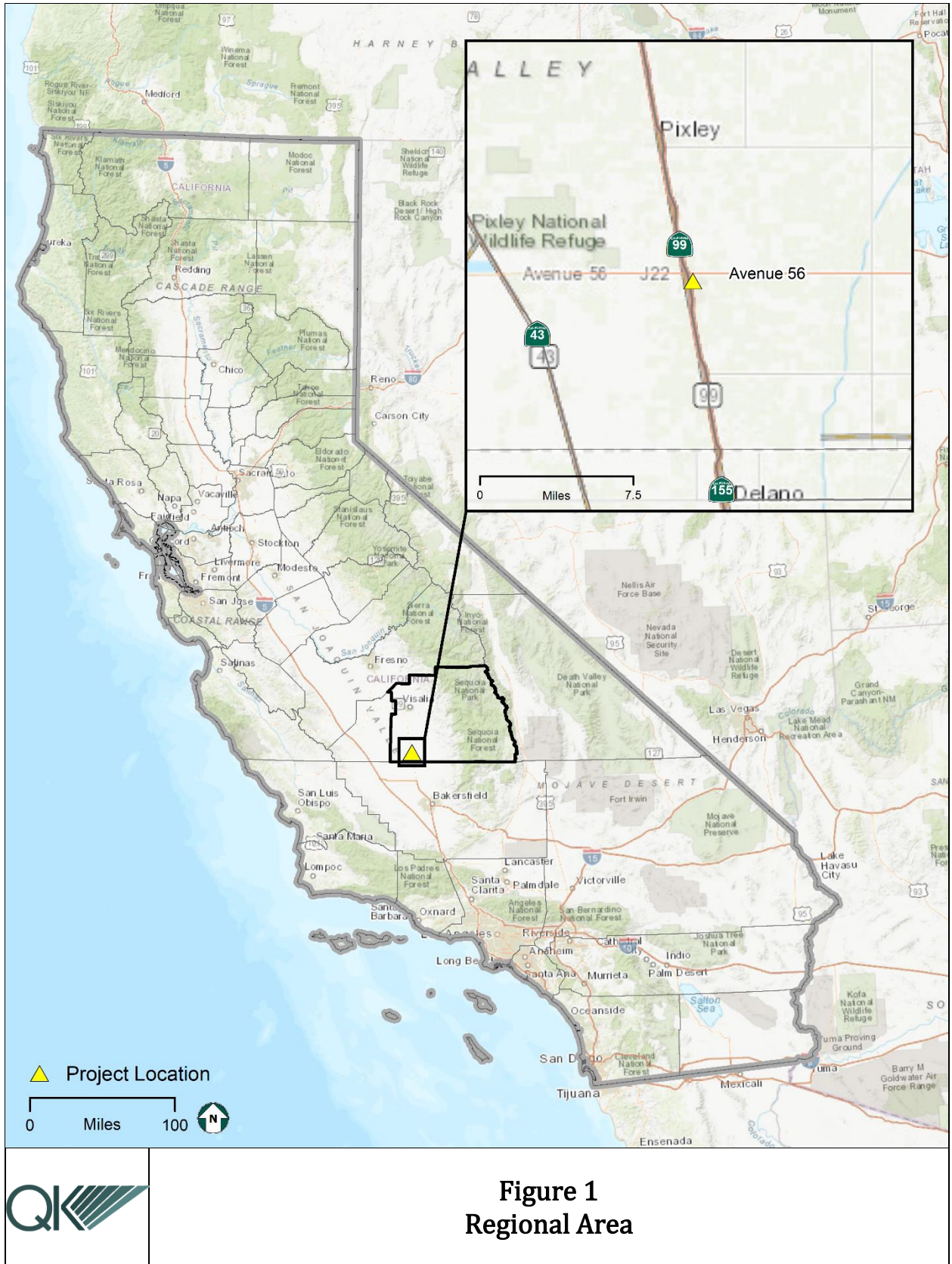




Figure 2
Project Area



Figure 3
Light Pole Position

Earlmart Middle School Football

Earlmart, CA

Equipment Layout

INCLUDES:
 · Football
 · Track

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

QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	Luminaires		
				ABOVE GRADE LEVEL	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY/POLE
2	F1-F2	70'	-	70'	TLC-LED-1500	5
				70'	TLC-LED-550	1
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	2
2	F3-F4	70'	-	70'	TLC-LED-1500	5
				15.5'	TLC-BT-575	2
4	Totals					30

Single Luminaire Amperage Draw Chart

Driver Specifications (.90 min power factor)	Line Amperage Per Luminaire (max draw)					
	208 (60)	220 (60)	240 (60)	277 (60)	347 (60)	480 (60)
Single Phase Voltage	8.4	7.9	7.3	6.3	5.0	4.6
TLC-LED-1500	3.3	3.2	2.9	2.5	2.0	1.8
TLC-BT-575	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.4	1.9	1.4

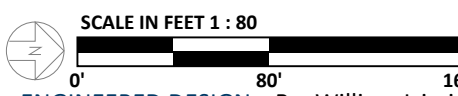


FIGURE 4



We Make It Happen.

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ENGINEERED DESIGN By: William Isiminger • File #159314B_FB • 09-Jan-25

Pole location(s) ⊕ dimensions are relative to 0,0 reference point(s) ⊗