DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

ARAGON HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL AND FLEXFIELD PROJECT

Prepared for:

San Mateo Union High School District
650 N. Delaware Street,
San Mateo, CA 94401

Prepared by:

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7008 Bristol Drive
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September 2022

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FIGURES

TABLES

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
AB	Assembly Bill
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGP	Construction General Permit
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CH_4	methane
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CO_2E	carbon dioxide equivalent
CY	cubic yard
dB	decibel
dBA	decibel (A-weighted)
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
F	Fahrenheit
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
GHG	greenhouse gas
gpd	gallons of wastewater per day
GWP	global warming potential
HUD	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
IS	Initial Study
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
Leq	equivalent continuous sound level over a given time period
Ldn	day-night average sound level
LOS	level of service
mgd	million gallons per day
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
N_2O	nitrogen dioxide
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standard
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission

NOx	nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
O_3	ozone
OHP	State Office of Historic Preservation
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PM_{10}	particulate matter less than 10 microns
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
PPV	peak particle velocity\
ROG	reactive organic gas
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCH	State Clearinghouse
SMCWPPP	San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program
SMUHSD	San Mateo Union High School District
SMFCD	San Mateo County Flood Control District
SOx	sulfur dioxide
sq. ft.	square feet or square foot
SR	State Route
SWCP	Stormwater Control Plan
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	toxic air contaminant
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USGS	Untied States Geological Survey
VOC	volatile organic compound
VMT	vehicle miles traveled

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

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 on the following pages.

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

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.	**X**
I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.	
I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.	
I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.	

_____ _____

Yancy Hawkins, Associate Superintendent, SMUHSD **Date**

I. INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared by the San Mateo Union School District (SMUHSD or District), 650 N. Delaware Street, San Mateo CA, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statutes[1] and Guidelines[2]. It provides documentation to support the conclusion that the proposed Aragon High School Baseball and Flexfield Project ("the proposed project"), with mitigation identified herein, would not cause a potentially significant impact to the physical environment. The project site is located on the Aragon High School campus, 900 Alameda de las Pulgas, in the City of San Mateo.

This IS/MND describes the location of the project site, the project sponsor's objectives, and the details of the proposed project. The Environmental Checklist Form included as Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines serves as the basis for the environmental evaluation contained in the IS/MND. The Checklist Form examines the specific potential project-level physical environmental impacts that may result from the construction and operation of the proposed new and expanded facilities onsite. Mitigation measures have been identified to reduce any potentially significant impacts that would otherwise occur with development and operation of the new facilities to a less-than-significant level.

The District will serve as the "lead agency" (the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out and/or approving a project) for the proposed project. The governing board of the District is responsible for ensuring that the environmental review and documentation meet the requirements of CEQA. The Draft IS/MND is subject to review and comment by responsible agencies and the public during a statutory public review period (30 days). Any necessary revisions would be incorporated in the Final IS/MND.

The Draft IS/MND will be circulated for a 30-day public review period. Should the District approve the project, it would be required to file a "Notice of Determination" for posting by the County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse. The filing of the notice and its posting starts a 30-day statute of limitations on legal challenges to the CEQA review of the Project.

Document Organization

This document is organized into the following sections:

SECTION I – INTRODUCTION: Provides background information about the project.

SECTION II – PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Includes project background and detailed description of the project.

SECTION III – INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION: Reviews the proposed project and states whether the project would have potentially significant environmental effects.

[1] Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.
[2] Title 14, Section 15000 et seq. of the California Code of Regulations

SECTION IV – MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE: States whether environmental effects associated with development of the proposed project are significant, and what, if any, added environmental documentation may be required.

SECTION V – REFERENCES: Identifies source materials that have been consulted in the preparation of the IS.

SECTION VI – REPORT PREPARERS: Identifies the firms and individuals who prepared the IS.

APPENDICES: Includes supporting information used in preparation of the IS.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Name:	Aragon High School Baseball and Flexfield Project
Project Location:	900 Alameda de las Pulgas Way San Mateo, CA 94402
Project Applicant and Lead Agency Contact:	Yancy Hawkins, Associate Superintendent, Chief Business Officer San Mateo Union High School District 650 N. Delaware Street San Mateo, CA 94401 (650) 558-2203 yhawkins@smuhsd.org
General Plan Designation:	Public Facility
Zoning:	R1B – One Family Dwelling "B"
Project Approvals:	SMUHSD approval. Review of facilities by Division of the State Architect, Possible City of San Mateo approval of Grading Permit. SWPPP from RWQCB.
Date Initial Study Completed:	September 2, 2022

PROPOSED PROJECT

Project Purpose/Objectives

The existing baseball field is outdated and its hours of use are limited due to the natural turf field and lack of lighting. The existing field also slopes approximately six feet from leftfield to rightfield. The proposed project would provide improved facilities that would allow for increased hours of use and field safety.

Project Location

Aragon High School is located at 900 Alameda de las Pulgas, in the Foothill Terrace neighborhood in the City of San Mateo (See Figure 1 – Project Location). The school is located south of Alameda de las Pulgas, east of Hobart Avenue, west and north of Woodland Drive. Regionally, the campus is accessed via from California State Route (SR) 92, via Alameda de las Pulgas or via Crystal Springs Road via Alameda de las Pulgas.

Aragon High School has an enrollment of approximately 1,764 students and was originally constructed in 1961. The existing ballfield is located at the southeastern corner of Aragon High School near Hobart Avenue. The project site comprises approximately 3.12 acres (135,800 sq. ft.) of the overall 25-acre campus.

Surrounding Land Uses

The portion of the campus containing the project site is surrounded by other school uses. The overall school campus is in a residential neighborhood and is almost entirely surrounded by single-family residences, except for Baywood Elementary School which is located west of the project site. SR 92 (a major corridor) is located approximately ¼ mile east of the project site.

Existing Site Conditions and Facilities

The project site currently contains the school's existing baseball field (See Figure 2 – Existing Ball Field Area). It is currently unlit and has no sound system. The existing bleacher capacity is approximately 200. The field is currently used for approximately 12 regular season home games plus additional games for playoffs, between the hours of approximately 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

District Lighting and PA Policies. The SMUHSD Board Policy 7325 was adopted in 2016 and updated in March 2018 to limit the impacts of stadium lights and public address systems on nearby land uses. It also applies to other sports fields. The policy limits the number of athletic games and contests, hours of lighting, use of facilities, and public-address (PA) system use. This policy is included as Appendix A to this document.

Figure 1 Project Location

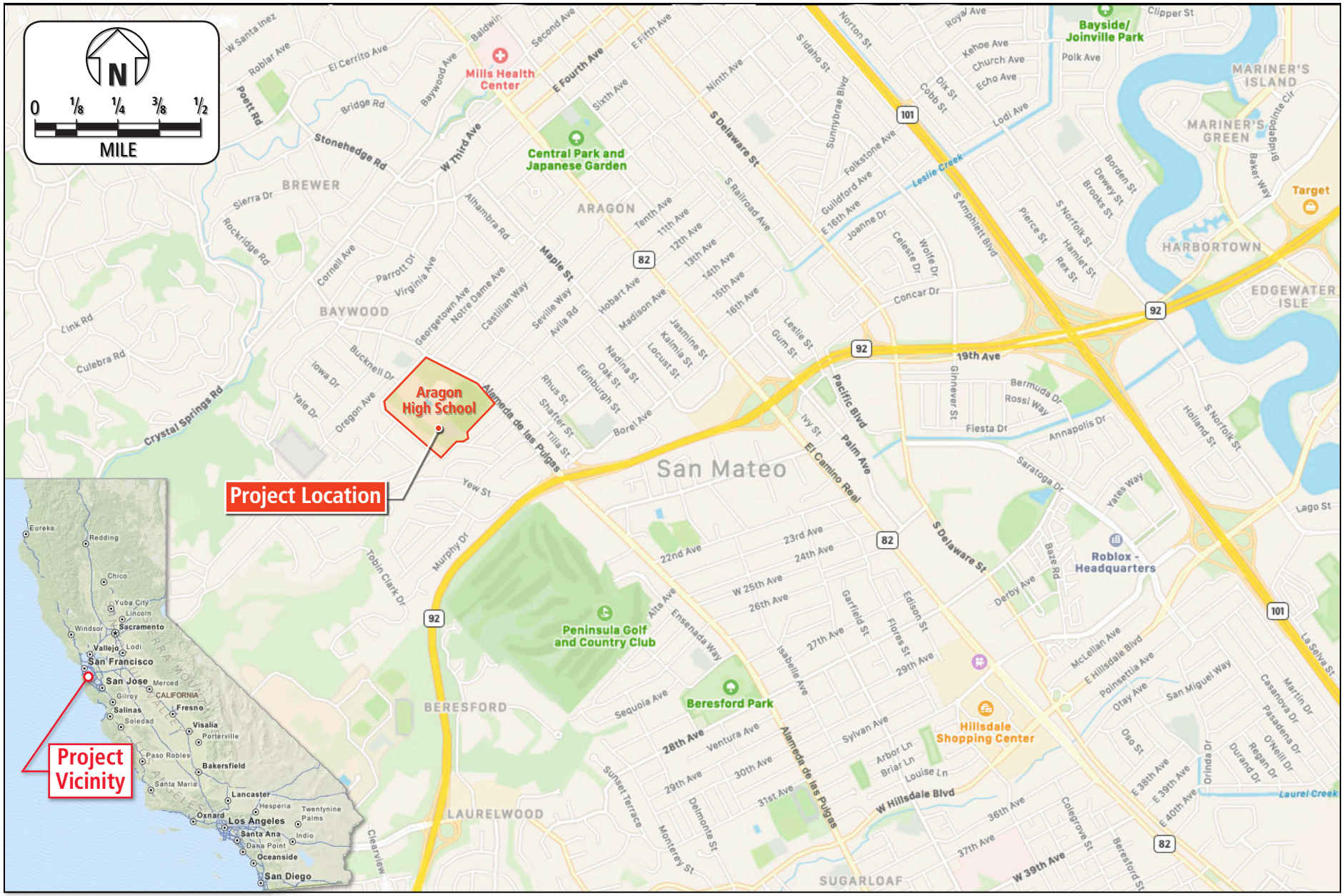

Figure 1
Project Location

Source: TomTom Maps and Grassetti Environmental

Figure 2 Existing Ball Field Area

Figure 2
Existing Ball Field Area

Source: TomTom Maps and Grassetti Environmental

Proposed Field Reconfiguration and Upgrades

The proposed project would reconfigure the existing baseball field into a 99,500 sq. ft. artificial-turf baseball and flexfield. (See Figure 3 – Proposed Field Complex Upgrades.) The flexfield would be used for football and soccer practices. Accessory facilities and elements for the proposed field include:

- batting cages,
- baseball diamond,
- partial football/soccer field striping,
- bullpens,
- dugouts,
- 30’ high backstop with 3’ high planking and padding,
- sideline and outfield fencing,
- 5-row bleachers on pavement (200-person capacity)
- sports lighting (lights on eight poles [6x70 feet high and 2x80 feet high])
- benches, and ADA accessible walkways

Artificial Turf System. The turf would be typical polypropylene turf with olive-pit fill. The turf would include four components: fiber, infill, backing and underlayment.

Infrastructure Connections. The proposed project would include power to existing switchgear, connections to the existing onsite water line, and connection to the existing onsite storm drain.

Days and Hours of Operation. The proposed project would continue to be used for approximately 12 regular-season home games plus additional games for playoffs. Hours of use would continue to be between approximately 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Daily practice would occur between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

School Capacity. There would be no change in student enrollment or staffing from the proposed project.

Sound System. The speaker location for the portable sound system would be behind the backstop.

Tree Removal and Planting. No trees would be removed or planted with the proposed project.

Grading and Earthwork. 10,000 cubic yards (CY) of cut plus an additional approximately 6,000 CY of imported fill would be used onsite to level the site.

Drainage and Runoff. The 135,800 sq. ft. project site is currently all pervious surfaces. With the project, the site would have 12,879 sq. ft. of impervious surfaces (concrete/asphalt), 99,500 sq. ft. of turf (which has a subsurface drainage system), and 23,421 sq. ft. of landscaping/other. The project site perimeter drain would connect to the existing storm drain onsite which flows to the City’s storm drainage system under Alameda de la Pulgas.

Figure 3 Proposed Field Complex Upgrades

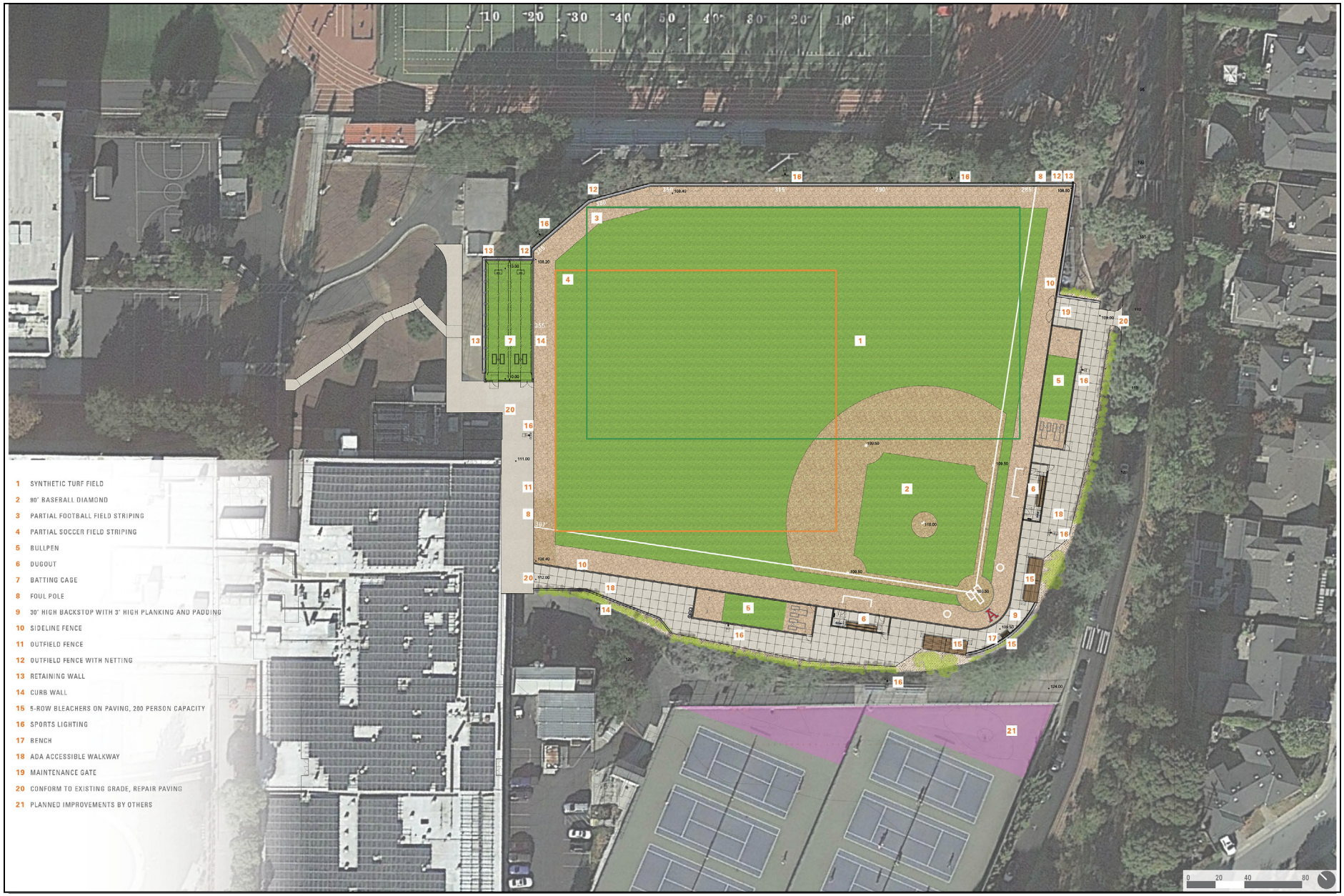

Figure 3
Proposed Fields Complex Upgrades

Source: Carducci Associates

Construction Schedule, Equipment, Workers, and Hours

Construction Schedule. The proposed project has a tentative construction start date of May 2023, with completion anticipated by December 2023 (approximately seven months). The project would require approximately 142 work-days including 10 days of site preparation, 20 days of grading, and 10 days of turf installation.

***Equipment Use*.** Construction would require various pieces of equipment such as cranes, excavators, forklifts, graders, tractors, paving equipment, air compressors, and welders.

Construction Workers. The proposed project would require six to 12 construction workers daily.

Construction Hours. Construction of the proposed project would occur within the allowable hours of the City of San Mateo Municipal Code §7.30.060(e), which states that construction, alteration, repair or land development activities which are authorized by a valid city permit shall be allowed on weekdays between the hours of seven a.m. and seven p.m., on Saturdays between the hours of nine a.m. and five p.m., and on Sundays and holidays between the hours of noon and four p.m.

***Staging Areas*.** Construction staging would be located on the project site.

III. INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

The initial study checklist recommended by the CEQA Guidelines is used to describe the potential impacts of the proposed project on the physical environment.

I. Aesthetics

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				**X**
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				**X**
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			**X**	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			**X**	

Discussion

a, b) There are no outcroppings, historic buildings, scenic vistas, scenic resources, or scenic highways on or in the immediate vicinity of the project vicinity. The proposed project would reconfigure the existing baseball field with a new baseball and flexfield of similar use. No trees would be removed. Therefore, the proposed project would have **no impact** on scenic vistas or scenic resources.

c) The project site is shielded from views from Alameda del las Pulgas and Woodland Drive by existing trees, topography, and school buildings. The reconfigured baseball field and new light poles would be visible from the backyards of the residences adjacent to the project site along Hobart Avenue and from the on-school access driveway adjacent to the site (See Figures 4 and 5). However, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site, because the

proposed project features would (1) either not be visible from these public vantage points due to vegetative screening, other buildings on campus, or changes in grade; or (2) would introduce minor features, such as light poles and new bleachers that, while visible, would not significantly detract from the existing visual quality of the high school campus. Furthermore, there are existing light poles for the track and football field north of the project site. Because the proposed project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings, or conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality, the impacts on visual quality would be **less than significant.**

Figure 4. View Looking West from the School Access Driveway East of the Site.

d)

Figure 5. View Looking North from The School Access Driveway South of the Site.

The proposed project lighting would create a new source of nighttime light and glare. Residences located directly south and southeast of the project site (on Hobart Avenue) would experience new nighttime light as a result of installation of shielded, directional LED lights on eight new light poles (six 70-foot high and two 80-foot high) for the reconfigured field. The proposed lighting for the project site would be designed to control light to maximize illumination on the field and minimize off-site light and glare. The proposed project would also comply with SMUHSD Board Policy 7325 to limit the impacts of lighting on the adjacent residences. Applicable lighting policies are as follows:

Other [non-football] SMUHSD High School Athletic Contests After Daylight Hours

- These events can be scheduled throughout the school year, Monday through Friday.
- The goal is to end other SMUHSD athletic contests by 8:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. There will be sports, such as lacrosse, that may end at 9:15 p.m. Every effort will be made to complete games as efficiently as possible.
- On Friday nights, competition level lighting will be turned off within 10 minutes of the completion of the game (typically before 9:30 p.m.).
- The same lighting guidelines used for evening football games, and related to crowd disbursement and litter abatement/field restoration will apply.

Light and glare studies have been prepared for the project (Musco Lighting, August 26, 2022 – See Appendix C). Lighting is measured in *foot-candles (fc)*. Lighting studies conducted for both the baseball and softball fields indicate light spill ranging from 0 to 0.12 foot-candles at the project periphery (i.e. back yards of houses abutting the school driveway to the south). This would be less than is typical of roadway/sidewalk lighting which ranges from 0.3 to 1.6 fc, and is therefore not considered significant.

C*alenda*, represent the amount of glare an observer would see when facing the brightest light source from any direction. *High glare* is considered to be 150,000 or more candela. *Significant glare* is defined as 25,000 to 75,000 candela, which is equivalent to the high beam headlights on a car. *Minimal to no glare* is 500 or fewer candela, or equivalent to a 100-watt incandescent light bulb. Musco's lighting studies showed a maximum illumination of approximately 3400 candela at the nearest off-site receptor (back yard of houses abutting the school driveway to the south). This is not considered a significant level of glare. The lights generally would not operate after 9:45 pm.

Because (1) the proposed lighting would have only a minimal amount of spillover light and glare, (2) the hours that the lights would be on at night would be limited to evening hours, and (3) the proposed project would comply with SMUHSD policies to limit the hours that lighting can be used, the light and glare impacts of the project would be **less than significant.**

II. Agricultural and Forestry Resources

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				**X**
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				**X**
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				**X**
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				**X**
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				**X**

Discussion

a-e) There are no agricultural or forested lands on or in the vicinity of the high school campus that may be affected by the development of the proposed project. The project site has not been used for agriculture and is not under a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of farmland or forestland to non-agricultural uses would have **no impact** on agricultural or forest resources.

III. Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			**X**	
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			**X**	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			**X**	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			**X**	

Background

This section describes construction and operational air quality impacts associated with the project and is consistent with the methods described in the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines* (May 2017).

The air quality analysis includes a review of criteria pollutant emissions such as carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOC) as reactive organic gases (ROG), particulate matter less than 10 micrometers (coarse or PM_{10}), and particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers (fine or $PM_{2.5}$).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has established National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for the criteria pollutants and California Air Resources Board (CARB) has established California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). Air basins where NAAQS and/or CAAQS are exceeded is designated as a "nonattainment" area. If standards are met, the area is designated as an "attainment" area.

The project site is located within the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (Air Basin) under the jurisdiction of the BAAQMD. The BAAQMD is the local agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of air quality regulations for the area. The Bay Area is currently designated "nonattainment" for state and national (1-hour and 8-hour) ozone standards, for the state PM_{10} standards, and for state and national (annual average and 24-hour) $PM_{2.5}$ standards. The Bay Area is designated "attainment" or "unclassifiable" with respect to the other ambient air quality standards.

Discussion

a) The BAAQMD *2017 Clean Air Plan/Regional Climate Protection Strategy (CAP/RCPS)*, which provides a roadmap for BAAQMD's efforts over the next few years to reduce air pollution and protect public health and the global climate. The CAP/RCPS identifies potential rules, control measures, and strategies that BAAQMD can pursue to reduce GHG in the Bay Area.

When a public agency contemplates approving a project where an air quality plan consistency determination is required, BAAQMD recommends that the agency analyze the project with respect to the following questions: (1) Does the project support the primary goals of the air quality plan; (2) Does the project include applicable control measures from the air quality plan; and (3) Does the project disrupt or hinder implementation of any air quality plan control measures? If the first two questions are concluded in the affirmative and the third question concluded in the negative, the BAAQMD considers the project consistent with air quality plans prepared for the Bay Area.

The recommended measure for determining project support of these goals is consistency with the previously mentioned BAAQMD thresholds of significance. As described below, the proposed project would not exceed the BAAQMD significance thresholds; therefore, the proposed project would support the primary goals of the *2017 CAP/RCPS* and would not hinder implementation of any of the control measures. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

b) ***Construction Impacts***

Construction would generate short-term emissions of air pollutants, including fugitive dust and equipment exhaust emissions. The BAAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines* recommend quantification of construction-related exhaust emissions and comparison of those emissions to significance thresholds. CalEEMod (California Emissions Estimator Model Version 2020.4.0) was used to quantify construction-related pollutant emissions.

Table AQ-1 provides the estimated short-term construction emissions for the proposed project. The average daily construction period emissions (i.e., total construction period emissions divided by the number of construction days) would be below the applicable BAAQMD significance thresholds. See Appendix B for air quality calculations.

Table AQ-1: Estimated Daily Construction Emissions (pounds)

Condition	ROG	NOx	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$	CO
Construction	1.55	1.06	0.05	0.04	1.07
Significance Threshold	54	54	82	54	---
Significant (Yes or No)?	No	No	No	No	No

SOURCE: CalEEMod Version 2020.4.0, See Appendix B for Air Quality Calculations.

BAAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines* require that projects implement best management practices (BMPs) to control fugitive dust and exhaust emissions regardless of the estimated construction emissions including:

Fugitive Dust Control Measures

- All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day.
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off site shall be covered.
- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 miles per hour.
- All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible. Building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.
- A publicly visible sign shall be posted with the telephone number and person to contact at the Lead Agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action with 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

Basic Exhaust Emissions Reduction Measures.

- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to five minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation.

Emissions of VOC due to the use of architectural coatings are regulated by the limits contained in Regulation 8: Organic Compounds, Rule 3: Architectural Coatings (Rule 8-3). The VOC architectural coating limits require that the paints and solvents used on exterior surfaces have a VOC content of 100 grams per liter or less for interior and 150 grams per liter or less.

As indicated, the estimated construction emissions would be below the BAAQMD's significance thresholds, the District would implement the required BMPs, and the proposed project construction impacts would be **less than significant.**

Operational Impacts

There would be no change in student enrollment, school staffing, or visitors to the school with the proposed project. As such, the operational impacts would be similar for the proposed project versus the existing conditions. Any increase in operational emissions with the proposed project would be negligible. Therefore, operational air quality impacts associated with the proposed project would be **less than significant**.

Cumulative Impacts

The BAAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines* recommend that cumulative air quality effects from criteria air pollutants also be addressed by comparison to the mass daily and annual thresholds. These thresholds were developed to identify a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant regional air quality impact. As shown previously, the construction and operational emissions would be below the significance thresholds. Therefore, the proposed project would not be cumulatively considerable and cumulative impacts would be **less than significant**.

Conclusion

As shown, the proposed project construction and operational emissions would be **less than the BAAQMD significance thresholds** per BAAQMD's *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines*.

c) Construction of the proposed project would entail the short-term use of diesel-fueled heavy equipment. The bulk of heavy equipment would be required during site preparation and grading, which would occur over approximately 30 working days. Typically, health risks are estimated based on a chronic exposure period of 30 to 70 years. Because exhaust emissions associated with construction activities of the proposed project would be relatively low, short-term (approximately seven months), and well below the significant chronic exposure periods, exposure to construction-related emissions would not result in an elevated health risk. Thus, project construction health impacts would be **less than significant**.

d) The BAAQMD's significance criteria for odors are subjective and are based on the number of odor complaints generated by a project. Generally, the BAAQMD considers any project with the potential to frequently expose members of the public to objectionable odors to cause a significant impact. With respect to the proposed project, diesel-fueled construction equipment exhaust would generate mild odors. However, these emissions typically dissipate quickly and would be unlikely to affect a substantial number of people. The proposed project would not involve operational activities that generate odors. Therefore, odor impacts would be **less than significant**.

IV. Biological Resources

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				**X**
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				**X**
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				**X**
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				**X**
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				**X**
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				**X**

Background

The project site is currently fully developed with school buildings and facilities, in a highly developed suburban area. Based on habitat requirements and regional distribution, no State or federally Threatened or Endangered species are expected to occur on the project site. No sensitive habitats or plant communities for these occur on the project site. There are no trees on the project site (there are trees adjacent to the project site along the field perimeter). No

potential jurisdictional wetlands or Waters of the United States occur on the developed school site.

Discussion

a) The proposed project has no potential to affect migratory and nesting protected bird species due to its location at the developed school campus. No trees would be removed for project construction, therefore no nesting or roosting habitat for sensitive bird or bat species would be affected by the proposed project. **No impact** would occur.

b) The proposed project would not affect any riparian habitat or sensitive natural communities, as none of those are present on the site. **No impact** would occur.

c) The proposed project would not affect any wetlands habitats, as none of those are present on the site. **No impact** would occur.

d) The proposed project has no potential to impede any migration corridors. The proposed project would not "interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species" because there is no habitat on the site and the proposed project would not substantially change the uses of the project site and area. With respect to native wildlife nursery sites, see tree discussion, above. **No impact** would occur.

e) No trees would be removed with the proposed project. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

f) The project site is not covered by any federal, state, or local conservation plan. Therefore, the proposed project would have **no impact** with respect to habitat conservation plan compliance.

V. Cultural Resources

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?				**X**
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?		**X**		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?		**X**		

Discussion

a) The project site is an existing school ballfield and contains no historical resources as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. The proposed project would not affect off-site historic resources. Therefore, the proposed project would have **no impact** on historical resources.

b) The project site has been previously disturbed for construction of the existing baseball field. Although the likelihood of proposed project grading and excavation to encounter and disturb archaeological resources is low, it is possible that prehistoric materials and sites could be encountered. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULT-1 and CULT-2 would reduce this **potentially significant impact** to a **less-than-significant level**.

c) Although no prehistoric or historic-era human remains are known to exist on the project site, it is possible that presently undocumented human interments may be uncovered during grading. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULT-1 and CULT-2 would reduce this **potentially significant impact** to a **less-than-significant** level.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure CULT-1: Archaeological Deposits. If archaeological remains are encountered during project activities, project ground disturbances at the find and immediate vicinity shall be halted immediately until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the finds (§15064.5 [f]). The archaeologist shall examine the finds and recommend mitigation measures which may include documentation in place, avoidance, testing, and/or data recovery. Project personnel should not collect cultural resources. Native American resources include chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, and pestles; and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic-period resources include stone or adobe foundations or

walls; structures and remains with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies. In addition, as a precaution, the project shall include cultural resource sensitivity training for crews involved in grading activities, as well as construction monitoring by a qualified professional archaeologist during all ground disturbing activities.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2: Human Remains*.* California law recognizes the need to protect interred human remains, particularly Native American burials and associated items of patrimony, from vandalism and inadvertent destruction. The procedures for the treatment of discovered human remains are contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Section 7052 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.

In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered during ground disturbing activities all such activities in the vicinity of the find shall be halted immediately and the District or the District's designated representative shall be notified. The District shall immediately notify the county coroner and a qualified professional archaeologist. The coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). The responsibilities of the District for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in detail in the California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9. The District or their appointed representative and the professional archaeologist would consult with a Most Likely Descendent determined by the NAHC regarding the removal or preservation and avoidance of the remains and determine if additional burials could be present in the vicinity.

VI. Energy

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			**X**	
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				**X**

Discussion

a) The proposed project would require short-term energy consumption for project construction activities (gasoline, diesel fuel, and electricity) over the approximately seven months of construction. The proposed project would provide improved facilities that would allow for increased hours of use and field safety. The proposed project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy during operations, given the project site would remain an athletic field with negligible energy consumption. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

b) The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency, given the project site would remain an athletic field with negligible energy consumption. **No impact** would occur.

VII. Geology and Soils

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		X		
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?			X	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial director indirect risks to life or property?			X	
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 wastewater?				X
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?			X	

Background

Seismic Conditions

The project site is in the seismically active Bay Area. The project site is located approximately 2.3 miles northeast of the San Andreas fault, 15.7 miles southwest of the Hayward fault, and

24.2 miles southwest of the Calaveras fault (CGS, 2021). Despite the City's proximity to faults, there is no evidence of significant ground rupturing in the City during the last one million years (City of San Mateo, 2010). There are no known active faults in San Mateo, and inactive faults which are present are older features which do not exhibit indications of recent motion and there is no reason to expect a recurrence of movement along these other fault traces (City of San Mateo, 2010). According to the USGS, there is a 72% chance of a Richter Magnitude (M) of over 6.7 earthquake in the San Francisco Bay Region between 2014 and 2043. The highest probability of a Richter. Magnitude 6.7 or greater earthquake on any of the active faults in the San Francisco Bay region by 2043 is assigned to the Hayward/Rodgers Creek Fault system at 33% followed by the San Andreas Fault at 22% (USGS, 2016).

Discussion

a) i. The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (CGS, 2021). No known fault lines are located on the project site. The nearest identified Earthquake Fault Zone is the San Andreas, which is located approximately 2.3 miles from the project site. Therefore, **no impact** would occur due to rupture of a known earthquake fault.

ii. The project site would be subject to moderate to strong ground shaking in the event of a major earthquake on any of the regional fault zones. Due to its proximity to the project site, the San Andreas Fault presents the highest potential for strong ground shaking. Some elements of the project may be damaged by this shaking; however, these elements would be constructed to current seismic codes and would not pose a safety risk in the event of an earthquake. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant.**

iii. The earthquake-induced liquefaction potential at the site is determined to be "very low" to "low" (City of San Mateo, 2017). In addition, no habitable structures are proposed for the site. Therefore, liquefaction hazards would be **less than significant**.

iv. Landslides most commonly occur on slopes greater than 15% or from grading activities that increase slope or alter drainage patterns (City of San Mateo, 2010). The project site and adjacent lands are nearly level, so there would be no landslide or lateral spreading hazards. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

b) The project site is nearly level so erosion hazards would not be substantial. However, if grading were to occur during the rainy season, erosion could result from the site. Mitigation Measure HYD-1, in the Hydrology and Water Quality section, would reduce this potential impact to **less than significant**.

c) Please see response to item a) iii, above. This impact would be **less-than-significant**.

d) Shrink and swell movements occur in fine-grained sediments containing expansive clays. Soils containing high clay content often exhibit a moderate to high potential to expand when saturated and contract when dried out. This shrink/swell movement can

adversely affect building foundations, often causing them to crack or shift, which results in damage to the buildings they support (City of San Mateo, 2010). There are no risks to human life associated with the shrink/swell condition of clayey soils (City of San Mateo, 2010). The project site would not develop new buildings subject to be damaged by expansive soils. Further, it is very unlikely that the project site would contain expansive soils that would result in damage of the project site. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant.**

e) The project would be served by the public sewer system and would not include any septic systems. Therefore, **no impact** would occur with respect to adequacy of site soils for septic systems.

f) The project excavation work would occur primarily within previously graded areas, and would not involve deep excavations, therefore potential impacts to paleontological resources are unlikely and would be considered **less than significant**.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			**X**	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			**X**	

Background

This section describes construction and operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions impacts associated with the proposed project and is consistent with the methods described in the BAAQMD *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines* (May 2017). The BAAQMD adopted new GHG significance thresholds in April 2022, however, they do not apply to the proposed project since they were only developed for typical residential or commercial projects and general plan updates (BAAQMD, 2022).

"Global warming" and "global climate change" are the terms used to describe the increase in the average temperature of the earth's near-surface air and oceans since the mid-20th century and its projected continuation. Warming of the climate system is now considered to be unequivocal, with global surface temperature increasing approximately 1.33 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) over the last 100 years. Continued warming is projected to increase global average temperature between 2 and 11°F over the next 100 years.

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are referred to as GHG because they capture heat radiated from the sun as it is reflected into the atmosphere, much like a greenhouse does. The accumulation of GHG has been implicated as the driving force for global climate change. The primary GHG are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O), ozone, and water vapor.

While the presence of the primary GHG in the atmosphere are naturally occurring, CO_2, CH_4, and N_2O are also emitted from human activities, accelerating the rate at which these compounds occur within earth's atmosphere. Emissions of CO_2 are largely by-products of fossil fuel combustion, whereas methane results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices, coal mines, and landfills. Other GHG include hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride, and are generated in certain industrial processes.

CO_2 is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant GHG emitted. The effect that each of the gases can have on global warming is a combination of the mass of their emissions and their global warming potential (GWP). GWP indicates, on a pound-for-pound

basis, how much a gas is predicted to contribute to global warming relative to how much warming would be predicted to be caused by the same mass of CO_2. CH_4 and N_2O are substantially more potent GHG than CO_2, with GWP of 28 and 265 times that of CO_2, respectively. (IPCC 2014)

In emissions inventories, GHG emissions are typically reported in terms of pounds or metric tons of CO_2 equivalents (CO_2e). CO_2e are calculated as the product of the mass emitted of a given GHG and its specific GWP. While CH_4 and N_2O have much higher GWP than CO_2, CO_2 is emitted in such vastly higher quantities that it accounts for the majority of GHG emissions in CO_2e.

Discussion

a) CalEEMod was used to quantify GHG emissions associated with proposed project construction activities. Proposed project construction was estimated to generate approximately 210 metric tons of CO_2e, which equates to seven metric tons of CO_2e per year if amortized over 30 years. There is no BAAQMD CEQA significance threshold for construction related GHG emissions. However, this value would be below the 2030 bright line GHG significance threshold of 660 metric tons per year. There would be no change in student enrollment or staffing with the proposed project. As such, the operational impacts would be similar for the proposed project versus the existing conditions. Any increase in operational GHG emissions with the proposed project would be negligible. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

b) California passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32; California Health and Safety Code Division 25.5, Sections 38500 - 38599). AB 32 established regulatory, reporting, and market mechanisms to achieve quantifiable reductions in GHG emissions and establishes a cap on statewide GHG emissions. AB 32 required that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. The state achieved 1990 levels in 2016, and the levels remained below 1990 levels through 2020 (CARB 2021). In 2016, SB 32 extended the goals of AB 32 and set a goal to achieve reductions in GHG of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. In 2017, CARB adopted the 2017 Scoping Plan, which identifies how the state can reach the 2030 climate target to reduce GHG emissions by 40 percent from 1990 levels, and substantially advance toward the state's 2050 climate goal to reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels.

   The proposed project has been reviewed relative to the climate change policies and measures in CARB's *2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan* (CARB 2017) and it has been determined that the proposed project would not conflict with State GHG reduction goals. The proposed project has also been reviewed relative to the GHG emission reduction measures in City of San Mateo's 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP) (City of San Mateo 2020) and it has been determined that the project would not conflict with the CAP. Therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	
e) For a Project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area?				X
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				X

Discussion

a, b) Proposed project construction activities may involve the use and transport of hazardous materials. These materials may include fuels, oils, mechanical fluids, and other chemicals used during construction. Transportation, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials during construction activities would be required to comply with applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Compliance would ensure that human health and the environment are not exposed to hazardous materials. In

addition, the construction contractor would be required to implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) during construction activities to prevent contaminated runoff from leaving the project site.

The project would not increase hazardous materials use at the project site during operations. It is likely that hazardous materials use at the project site would be reduced by the proposed project since the existing field is a natural grass field and the proposed project would replace it with artificial turf (no need for fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides).

As discussed above, all transportation, storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials during construction and operations would be required to comply with applicable federal, state and local statutes and regulations. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant**.

c) Baywood Elementary School is approximately 250 feet northeast of the overall campus and Borel Middle School is approximately ¼ mile east of the overall campus. As described above, the proposed project would reduce the amount of hazardous materials used onsite during operations and would comply with all applicable regulations for the transportation, storage, use and disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project would have a **less-than-significant** potential to significantly affect children or adults at the school or nearby schools.

d) The overall high school campus is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962 (Cortese List) because a “Schools Investigation” was conducted at the high school. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor database determined that no action was required as of July 2002 at the high school (DTSC, 2022). The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database determined that a case investigation was closed and completed as of January 1998 at the high school (SWRCB, 2022). Therefore, there are no current open investigations or remediation sites at the overall campus. This 29-acre site was vacant prior the late 1950's, when the school was constructed. Therefore, this impact would be **less than significant.**

e) There are no public airports or public use airports within two miles of the project site. The nearest airport is San Carlos Airport (approximately five miles southwest). Given the distance from the airport, the proposed project would not present a hazard to air safety. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

f) Construction and operation of the project are not expected to interfere with the San Mateo Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017) because the proposed project is the reconfiguration of an existing baseball field within an existing high school campus. Construction would be limited to the existing high school, and traffic would not impede or

require diversion of rescue vehicles or evacuation traffic in the event of a life-threatening emergency. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

g) The project site is not located within a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or a State Responsibility Area (CAL Fire, 2022). The project site would not create new uses that would increase the risk of wildland fires at the campus or at nearby land uses. **No impact** would occur.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?		X		
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: 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 off-site; 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?			X	
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			X	
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				X

Discussion

a, c, e) Under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. EPA has established regulations through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program to control stormwater discharges, including those associated with construction activities. The NPDES stormwater permitting program regulates stormwater quality from construction sites. The State Construction General Permit (CGP) requires the development and

implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and the use of appropriate best management practices (BMPs) for erosion control and spill prevention during construction. Dischargers whose Projects disturb one or more acres of soil or whose projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the CGP for Discharges of Stormwater Associated with Construction Activity (CGP Order 2009-0009-DWQ).

The City of San Mateo is under the jurisdiction of the San Mateo County Flood Control District (SMFCD), which manages stormwater and flooding problems in San Mateo County and is responsible for administering the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP) and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Program.

The project site is relatively flat and mostly covered with an existing baseball field. The existing field slopes approximately six feet from leftfield to rightfield. Development of the project would require disturbance and light grading, as described in the Project Description, to correct this sloping and provide a level field.

During construction activities, there would be a potential for surface water to carry sediment from on-site erosion and small quantities of pollutants into the City's stormwater system and, ultimately, San Francisco Bay. Soil erosion may occur along project boundaries during construction in areas where temporary soil storage may be required. Small quantities of pollutants may enter the storm drainage system, potentially degrading water quality.

Construction of the proposed project also would require the use of gasoline and diesel-powered heavy equipment. Chemicals such as gasoline, diesel fuel, lubricating oil, hydraulic oil, lubricating grease, automatic transmission fluid, paints, solvents, glues, and other substances could be used during construction. An accidental release of any of these substances could degrade the water quality of the surface water runoff and add additional sources of pollution into the drainage system.

The proposed project would be required to comply with the State CGP. The District would be required to develop and implement a SWPPP that identifies appropriate construction BMPs in order to minimize potential sedimentation or contamination of storm water runoff generated from the project site. The SWPPP would identify the risk level for erosion and sedimentation and how much monitoring of potential pollutants is required. Implementation of a SWPPP as required would ensure that the construction of the proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements and reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level, as described in Mitigation Measure HYD-1.

As required under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. R2 2009-0074, the City of San Mateo requires regulated projects, such as this one, to prepare a Stormwater Control Plan (SWCP). The SWCP must include post-construction stormwater treatment

measures such as bio-retention facilities and source controlled BMPs. The SWCP must also address ongoing maintenance of those facilities.

Prior to the issuance of grading permits or building permits (whichever occurs first), the Project would be required to obtain coverage under the State CGP (NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Association with Construction Activity (Order 2009-0009 DWQ) by preparing a SWPPP and submitting it along with a notice of intent, to the San Francisco Bay RWQCB. The SWPPP must identify a practical sequence for BMP implementation and maintenance, site restoration, contingency measures, responsible parties, and agency contacts. The SWPPP would include but not be limited to the following elements:

- Temporary erosion control measures would be employed for disturbed areas.
- No disturbed surfaces would be left without erosion control measures in place during the winter and spring months. Cover disturbed areas with soil stabilizers, mulch, fiber rolls, or temporary vegetation.
- Sediment would be retained on site by a system of sediment basins, traps, or other appropriate measures. Drop inlets shall be lined with filter fabric/geotextile.
- The construction contractor would prepare Standard Operating Procedures for the handling of hazardous materials on the construction site to eliminate or reduce discharge of materials to storm drains. This may include locating construction-related equipment and processes that contain or generate pollutants in a secure area, away from storm drains and gutters, and wetlands; parking, fueling, and cleaning all vehicles and equipment in the secure area; designating concrete washout areas; and preventing or containing potential leakage or spilling from sanitary facilities.
- BMP performance and effectiveness would be determined either by visual means where applicable (e.g., observation of above-normal sediment release), or by actual water sampling in cases where verification of contaminant reduction or elimination (such as inadvertent petroleum release) is required by the RWQCB to determine adequacy of the measure.
- In the event of significant construction delays or delays in final landscape installation, native grasses or other appropriate vegetative cover would be established on the construction site as soon as possible after disturbance, as an interim erosion control measure throughout the wet season.

The proposed 135,800 sq. ft project site currently has minimal impervious surfaces. The project would result in 12,879 sq. ft. of impervious surfaces (concrete/asphalt), 99,500 sq. ft. of turf, and 23,421 sq. ft. of landscaping/other. The project site perimeter drain would connect to the existing storm drain onsite. The artificial turf system would include a subdrain that also would connect to the existing storm drain system. The on-site storm drain system connects to the City of San Mateo's storm drain system in Alameda de la Pulgas. The District would coordinate any new connections/increased flows with the City. Therefore, impacts to runoff would be **less than significant**.

The quality of the runoff would improve since pesticide and fertilizer use would decrease because such substances would no longer be needed for the natural grass that would be replaced with synthetic turf. Implementation of the CGP requirements described above, as well as Mitigation Measure HYD-1, below, would reduce the other water quality impacts described above to a **less-than-significant** level.

b) The proposed project would reconfigure the existing baseball field into a new baseball and flexfield and would therefore not increase water demand. As such, it would not conflict with any groundwater management plan. Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

d) The project site is not mapped as a flood hazard area by the FEMA (FEMA 2022). Therefore, flooding impacts to the reconfigured field would be **less than significant**.

The project site is not mapped as being within a dam failure area (San Mateo County, 2017). Therefore, the proposed project would not be subject to flood hazards from that source. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

Seiches and tsunamis are seismically induced large waves of water. Because of the distance of the site from the San Francisco Bay and Pacific Ocean, the absence of steep slopes above the site, and the elevation of the site, there is no potential for a tsunami, seiche, or mudflow to affect the project site. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure HYD-1: Prior to the issuance of grading permits for the proposed project, the project engineers shall prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, which shall identify pollution prevention measures and practices to prevent polluted runoff from leaving the project site.

XI. Land Use and Planning

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				**X**
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				**X**
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				**X**

Discussion

a) The field improvements are proposed for existing facilities on an existing high school campus. The proposed project would not change the existing land use but would instead upgrade the existing athletic facilities onsite. The proposed project would not create conflicts between uses or divide an established community. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

b) The proposed project would not change the existing land use on site or conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

c) The project site is not within the boundaries of a habitat conservation plan or a natural community conservation plan. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

XII. Mineral Resources

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?				**X**
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				**X**

Discussion

a, b) The project site does not contain a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. The proposed project would not result in the loss or availability of a known mineral resource that would be of local, regional, or statewide importance. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

XIII. Noise

Would the proposed project result in:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?		X		
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

Background

RCH Group, Inc. (RCH) performed noise monitoring at the project site on August 11, 2022. The following analysis details the results of the noise monitoring and potential noise impacts from the project.

Noise Descriptors

Noise can be defined as unwanted sound. It is commonly measured with an instrument called a sound level meter. The sound level meter captures the sound with a microphone and converts it into a number called a sound level. Sound levels are expressed in units of decibels (dB).

To correlate the microphone signal to a level that corresponds to the way humans perceive noise, the A-weighting filter is used. A-weighting de-emphasizes low-frequency and very high-frequency sound in a manner similar to human hearing. The use of A-weighting is required by most local General Plans as well as federal and state noise regulations (e.g., Caltrans, EPA, OSHA, and HUD). The abbreviation dBA is sometimes used when the A-weighted sound level is reported.

Several time-averaged scales represent noise environments and consequences of human activities. The most commonly used noise descriptors are the equivalent A–weighted sound

level over a given time period (Leq)[3]; average day–night 24-hour average sound level (Ldn)[4] with a nighttime increase of 10 dB to account for sensitivity to noise during the nighttime; and community noise equivalent level (CNEL)[5], also a 24-hour average that includes both an evening and a nighttime sensitivity weighting. Table NOISE-1 identifies decibel levels for common sounds heard in the environment. Regarding increases in A-weighted noise level, the following relationships occur (Caltrans, 1998a):

- Under controlled conditions in an acoustics laboratory, the trained healthy human ear is able to discern changes in sound levels of 1 dB;
- Outside of such controlled conditions, the trained ear can detect changes of 2 dB in normal environmental noise;
- It is widely accepted that the average healthy ear, however, can barely perceive noise levels changes of 3 dB;
- A change in level of 5 dB is a readily perceptible increase in noise level; and
- A 10-dB change is recognized as twice as loud as the original source.

Table NOISE-1. Typical Noise Levels

Noise Level (dB)	Outdoor Activity	Indoor Activity
90+	Gas lawn mower at 3 feet, jet flyover at 1,000 feet	Rock Band
80-90	Diesel truck at 50 feet	Loud television at 3 feet
70-80	Gas lawn mower at 100 feet, noisy urban area	Garbage disposal at 3 feet, vacuum cleaner at 10 feet
60-70	Commercial area	
40-60	Quiet urban daytime, traffic at 300 feet	Large business office, dishwasher next room
20-40	Quiet rural, suburban nighttime	Concert hall (background), library, bedroom at night
10-20		Broadcast / recording studio
0	Lowest threshold of human hearing	Lowest threshold of human hearing
SOURCE: Modified from Caltrans Technical Noise Supplement, 1998		

[3]The Equivalent Sound Level (Leq) is a single value of a constant sound level for the same measurement period duration, which has sound energy equal to the time–varying sound energy in the measurement period.
[4]Ldn is the day–night average sound level that is equal to the 24-hour A-weighted equivalent sound level with a 10-decibel penalty applied to night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
[5]CNEL is the average A-weighted noise level during a 24-hour day, obtained by addition of 5 decibels in the evening from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., and an addition of a 10–decibel penalty in the night between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.

Vibration is an oscillatory motion which can be described in terms of the displacement, velocity, or acceleration. The peak particle velocity (PPV) is the descriptor used in monitoring of construction vibration.

Noise Attenuation

Stationary point sources of noise, including construction equipment, attenuate (lessen) at a rate of 6 to 7.5 dB per doubling of distance from the source, depending on ground absorption. Soft sites attenuate at 7.5 dB per doubling because they have an absorptive ground surface such as soft dirt, grass, or scattered bushes and trees. Hard sites have reflective surfaces (e.g., parking lots or smooth bodies of water) and therefore have less attenuation (6.0 dB per doubling). A street or roadway with moving vehicles (known as a “line” source), would typically attenuate at a lower rate, approximately 3 to 4.5 dB each time the distance doubles from the source, that also depends on ground absorption (Caltrans, 1998b). Physical barriers located between a noise source and the noise receptor, such as berms or sound walls, would increase the attenuation that occurs by distance alone. Construction activities would have characteristics of both “point” and “line” sources, so attenuation would probably range between 4.5 and 7.5 dB per doubling of distance.

City of San Mateo Municipal Code

Chapter 7.30 of the San Mateo Municipal Code regulates noise generated by project construction and operation activities. The SMUHSD is not subject to City code requirements for work that is limited to the school campus, however the following are relevant to the proposed project and can be considered in determining significance of any impacts:

§7.30.040 establishes maximum permissible sound levels for different time periods and noise zones. The proposed project is within Noise Zone 1 (single family residential), which has a noise standard of 60 dB between the hours of 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. §7.30.040 states:

It is unlawful for any person to operate or cause to be operated any source of sound at any location within the City of allow the creation of any noise on property owned, leased, occupied or otherwise controlled by such person, which causes the noise level when measured on any other property to exceed:

1. The noise level standard for that property as specified in Table 7.30.040 for a cumulative period of more than 30 minutes in any hour;
2. The noise level standard plus five dB for a cumulative period of more than 15 minutes in any hour;
3. The noise level standard plus 10 dB for a cumulative period of more than five minutes in any hour;
4. The noise level standard plus 15 dB for a cumulative period of more than one minute in any hour; or
5. The noise level standard or the maximum measured ambient level, plus 20 dB for any period of time.

§7.30.060(e) states that construction, alteration, repair or land development activities which are authorized by a valid city permit shall be allowed on weekdays between the hours of seven a.m. and seven p.m., on Saturdays between the hours of nine a.m. and five p.m., and on Sundays and holidays between the hours of noon and four p.m., or at such other hours as may be authorized or restricted by the permit.

SMUHSD Lights and Public Address Systems

The SMUHSD Board or Trustees Board Policy 7325 provides administrative regulations that guide the use of stadium lights and public address systems. Appendix A includes the detailed policy, but applicable highlights that would govern the noise from the project's proposed PA systems are as follows:

- The public address (PA) system may not be used for school athletic practices.
- The PA system may not be used for non-school, organized sports leagues.
- The PA system for contests shall be limited to key game facts and not include running game commentary.
- Schools can use the PA system during the day for all school events every day, except Sunday and not before 9:00 a.m.
- The PA system cannot exceed 65 dBA (or decibel limit according to city ordinance) at closest property line to school.
- Upon individual request, schools will provide on-site phone numbers of staff who can address issues should they arise.

Sensitive Receptors

The City of San Mateo 2030 General Plan Noise Element identifies noise sensitive land uses as residential dwellings, schools, hospitals, hotels, and outdoor recreation areas. The nearest single-family homes are to the south and southeast and the nearest residential property line is approximately 60 feet from the edge of the site or about 300 feet from the center of the site.

Existing Noise Environment

To quantify existing ambient noise levels, three short-term (10- to 30-minute) noise measurements were conducted within and around the project site. Table NOISE-2 summarizes the locations and results of the noise measurements. Figure 6 shows the measurement locations on a map. Based on observations from the short-term measurements, the main sources of noise in and around the project site included traffic along the school's access road, students using the adjacent tennis court, noise from students during passing period, and pedestrians.

Table NOISE-2. Existing Noise Levels

Location	Time Period	Noise Levels (dB)	Noise Sources
Site 1: Southeast boundary of the existing baseball field.	Thursday August 12, 2022 10:17 a.m. to 10:47 a.m.	5-minute Leq's: 50, 53, 55, 51, 51, 52	Car passbys up to 76 dB, noise from students during passing period up to 54 dB.
Site 2: Southwest boundary of existing baseball field.	Thursday August 12, 2022 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.	5-minute Leq's: 50, 51, 52, 48, 49, 50	Car passbys up to 63 dB, students using the adjacent tennis court up to 60 dB.
Site 3: Backyard fence of the project site's nearest residence.	Thursday August 12, 2022 10:49 a.m. to 10:59 a.m.	5-minute Leq's: 52, 51	Car passbys up to 69 dB, pedestrians walking nearby meter 52 dB.

Source: RCH Group, 2022

Figure 6 Noise Measurement Locations

Discussion

a) ***Construction Noise Impacts***.

The proposed project has a tentative construction start date of May 2023, with completion anticipated by December 2023. Construction would occur within the allowable hours of the City of San Mateo Municipal Code §7.30.060(e), described above. Construction would result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project that would last for about seven months. Noise levels generated by construction equipment would vary greatly depending upon factors such as the type and specific model of the equipment, the operation being performed, the condition of the equipment and the prevailing wind direction.

The nearest single-family homes are to the south and southeast and the nearest residential property line is approximately 60 feet from the edge of the site or about 300 feet from the center of the site. The maximum noise levels at 50 feet and 300 feet for various types of construction equipment that could be used during construction are provided in Table NOISE-3.

Table NOISE-3. Typical Noise Levels from Construction Equipment (Lmax)

Construction Equipment	Noise Level (dB, Lmax at 50 feet)	Noise Level (dB, Lmax at 300 feet)
Dump Truck	76	57
Air Compressor	78	59
Backhoe	78	59
Dozer	82	63
Compactor (ground)	83	64
Excavator	81	62
Flat Bed Truck	74	55
Grader	85	66
Generator	81	62
Roller	80	61
Front End Loader	79	60

Notes:
L_{max} = maximum sound level
SOURCE: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Roadway Construction Noise Model User's Guide, 2006.

Due to the proximity of nearby school buildings on-site, construction activities have the potential to disrupt school activities or cause annoyance to on-site students, teachers, and staff. Because the construction is a SMUHSD project, the District could implement any

needed changes to the construction schedule and activities if construction activities are disrupting school activities.

In addition, the proposed project shall implement BMPs in Mitigation Measure NOI-1 to reduce impacts from construction noise. With implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-1, noise impacts from construction would be **less than significant.**

Operational Noise Impacts

As discussed above, the District, in recognition of the importance of minimizing noise impact to neighbors from the use of PA systems, has adopted a policy for amplified sound (See Appendix A). The policy requires that the sound of the PA system be limited to a maximum noise level of 65 dBA at the closest property line to the school or in compliance with the local ordinance, whichever is less. The District policy also states that schools can use the PA system for all school events except on Sunday and not before 9:00 a.m.

As described above, the City of San Mateo Municipal Code restricts maximum noise levels to 80 dB when measured at the property line of a residential zone between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., which is less restrictive than the District's 65 dB maximum noise level limit. The Municipal Code 30-minute cumulative noise standard would not be exceeded by the proposed PA system because the District's policy limits PA system usage to only essential announcements during games (key game facts, no commentary or play-by-play), thus PA system usage would be far less than 30 minutes in a given hour. The Municipal Code 15-minute, 5-minute, and one-minute cumulative noise standards would also not be exceeded by the proposed PA system because those standards are 65 dB, 70 dB, and 75 dB, respectively, and cannot be exceeded unless the proposed PA system's maximum noise level is greater than 65 dB. Therefore, the District policy of 65 dB, Lmax at the closest property line to the school is applied as the threshold of significance for PA system noise for this analysis.

The speaker location for the portable sound system would be located behind the backstop and would be located approximately 60 feet away from the nearest property line to the school and approximately 160 feet away from the nearest residential property line. The specific PA equipment has not yet been chosen for the proposed project; however, it is expected that the PA system would include standard type of system components designed to provide sound coverage for the seating and competition areas. The dominant noise source during baseball games is the crowd cheering (SMUHSD, 2020). Referee whistles, coaches/player voices, batting cage ball hits, and PA system sound would also be noticeable but are not the dominant contributor to average noise levels during baseball games (SMUHSD, 2020). The field is currently used for practices and games, so these noise sources are not new and are part of the existing noise environment.

The use of a PA system would introduce a new source of noise in and around the project site and at nearby sensitive receptors. Because the exact specification of the proposed PA system is not yet known, noise from the PA sound system has the potential to exceed 65 dB, Lmax at the closest property line to the school which is approximately 60

feet away. However, it is feasible to design a PA system that can be limited to 65 dB, Lmax at the closest property line to the school. Implementation of Mitigation Measure NOI-2 would reduce this **potentially significant impact** to a **less-than-significant level.**

b) Construction activities have the potential to result in varying degrees of temporary ground vibration, depending on the specific construction equipment used and operations involved. In most cases, vibration induced by typical construction equipment does not result in adverse effects on people or structures (Caltrans, 2013). Vibrational effects from typical types of construction activities proposed for this project are only a concern within 25 feet of existing structures (Caltrans, 2002). There are no structures within 25 feet of the proposed construction site. Therefore, vibration impacts would be **less than significant**.

c) The project site is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public use airport. The nearest airport is San Carlos Airport (approximately five miles southwest). Therefore, **no impact** would occur.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure NOISE-1: To minimize disruption and potential annoyance during construction, the District shall implement the following construction noise reduction measures:

- All construction equipment shall be properly maintained and in good order.
- Stationary equipment shall be located on the site so as to maintain the greatest possible distance to sensitive receptors.
- Prior to construction activities, the District shall designate a “Construction Noise Coordinator” who would be responsible for responding to any local complaints about construction noise. The Construction Noise Coordinator shall determine the cause of the complaint and shall require implementation of reasonable measures to correct the problem.
- At least three weeks prior to the start of construction activities, the District shall provide written notification to the residences adjacent to the site on Hobart Avenue informing them of the estimated start date and duration of construction activities, the role of the Construction Noise Coordinator, and how to contact the Construction Noise Coordinator.

Mitigation Measure NOISE-2: The District shall ensure that the PA system does not exceed 65 dB, Lmax at the nearest property line to the school. This would require the installation of a distributing sound system with highly directional and carefully aimed loudspeakers around the bleachers and field. The distance between the loudspeakers and the coverage area should be minimized to reduce noise spill to the

community. In addition, the PA system output volume should be regulated by an audio processor with the ability to limit the audio output levels (e.g., compressor/limiter). A qualified noise professional shall test the PA system prior to initial use at the field to ensure it does not exceed 65 dB, Lmax at the nearest property line to the school.

XIV. Population and Housing

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				**X**
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				**X**

Discussion

a) The proposed project would not directly or indirectly increase population growth because no new housing or permanent jobs are proposed as part of the project. The project site and surrounding areas are developed with urban land uses and no extensions of roads or other infrastructure would be required that would indirectly induce growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not induce new development on nearby lands, and **no impact** would occur.

b) The project site contains an existing high school baseball field with no housing. The proposed project would not displace existing housing or people. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

XV. Public Services

Would the proposed 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 following public services:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?				**X**
b) Police protection?				**X**
c) Schools?				**X**
d) Parks?				**X**
e) Other public facilities?				**X**

Discussion

a) The Fire Departments in the Cities of San Mateo, Belmont, and Foster City have joined together as a Joint Powers Authority and operate as the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department. The San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department provides fire protection and emergency medical services for the project site. The fire station closest to the project site is Station 25, located at 1452 Shafter Street, approximately 0.3 miles east of the project site. Reconfiguration of the existing baseball field would not materially alter uses of the site, and therefore would not result in a substantive increase in demand for fire protection services. The proposed project would not require the provision of or need for new or physically altered facilities to continue to serve the project site. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

b) Aragon High School is served by the City of San Mateo Police Department, located at 200 Franklin Parkway, located about two miles west of the site. As discussed for fire, above, the project would reconfigure the existing baseball field, and therefore would not increase the need for police services. No new police facilities would be required. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

c) The proposed project would not increase the population or otherwise increase demands for school services. It would not alter the capacity of students at Aragon High School. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

d, e) As described above, the proposed project would not result in an increase in residents and therefore, would not increase demand for parks or other public facilities. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

XVI. Recreation

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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 physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				**X**
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				**X**

Discussion

a) The proposed project would not result in the physical deterioration or increased use of local parks or other recreational facilities. The proposed project would improve the existing recreational facilities at the school. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

b) The proposed project would reconfigure the existing baseball field and is evaluated by topic in this document. The proposed project would not require the construction or expansion of other recreational facilities. **No impacts** would occur that are not already addressed elsewhere in this IS.

XVII. Transportation/Traffic

Would the Project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit roadways, pedestrian and bicycle facilities?				**X**
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) (vehicle Miles traveled)?				**X**
c) Substantially increase hazards due to design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				**X**
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?				**X**

Discussion

a) The proposed project would not alter uses or any traffic routes compared to existing conditions at the school. Minor construction traffic would not conflict with program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit roadways, pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Therefore, there would be **no impact.**

b) With the passage of Senate Bill SB 743 in 2013 and full implementation on July 1, 2020, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) became the main metric to evaluate transportation impacts of proposed development projects. Traffic LOS and parking deficiencies are no longer considered significant impacts in CEQA analysis. With SB 743, most development projects need to provide a VMT analysis to determine traffic impacts. However, there are several exceptions. These include small projects that generate fewer than 110 daily trips; locally serving retail and similar land uses; and locally serving public facilities such as public schools and parks.

According to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, April 2018), similar to small projects, locally serving retail and land uses, and local-serving public facilities, including schools, are presumed to have a less than significant impact on VMT. As discussed above, the proposed project is an upgrade of the existing baseball field and would not result in additional athletic activities and events, or substantially increase seating capacity. The proposed project mainly serves the students from within the school and, as such, would be exempt from VMT analysis. As indicated above, the proposed project is not a new project

but the replacement of an existing facility and would be mainly used by the school. Therefore, **no impact** would occur with respect to VMT.

c, d) As described above, the proposed project would not change the current traffic circulation patterns and operations in the area. In addition, it would not add new driveways or parking. Therefore, it would not introduce new design features or other changes that are incompatible with the existing transportation infrastructure or otherwise adversely affect emergency access and there would be **no impact.**

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

Would the project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a significant adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource defined in Public Resource Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or		**X**		
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1. In applying criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.		**X**		

Background

The existing school on the site was constructed in 1961. The entire project site was graded at the time of construction and has been in use as a school use. The project site also is surrounded by suburban land uses and not near any streams or other areas where Native American habitation are likely to have occurred. There is no undisturbed land on or near the site.

Discussion

ai, ii) As described in the Cultural Resources section, because the site has already been graded and is the location of an existing high school facility, and because the proposed project would have minimal earthmoving beyond the previously graded depths, impacts to culturally sensitive sites would be unlikely. Additionally, Mitigation Measures CULT-1

and CULT-2, in the Cultural Resources section would address impacts on any unknown cultural resources and would assure that any potential tribal cultural resource impacts would be reduced to **less than significant with mitigation**.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

Would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				X
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X	
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				X
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

Background

The majority of the City of San Mateo, including the section where the project site is located, receives its water from the California Water Service Company (Cal Water) as part of the Mid-Peninsula District. The Mid-Peninsula District serves San Mateo as well as San Carlos and parts of unincorporated Redwood City, The Highlands, and Palomar Park. The service area is approximately 17 square miles and includes 137,217 residents. The average daily demand of the district is 12.90 million gallons per day. The distribution system includes 22 pressure zones in San Carlos, 18 in San Mateo, 62 booster pumps, 38 storage tanks, 2,832 hydrants, and 363 miles of main.

Recology provides solid waste and recycling collection services for the City of San Mateo. Upon collection, refuse is taken for sorting at the San Carlos Transfer Station. Non-recyclable waste is disposed of at the Ox Mountain Landfill in Half Moon Bay. The Ox Mountain landfill is permitted by the California Integrated Waste Management Board to receive 3,598 tons per day or 1.3

million tons per year. The landfill's maximum capacity is 60.5 million cubic yards, with an estimated closure year of 2034.

Discussion

a, c) The project area is fully developed, and no substantial expansions or extensions of utility services would be required. The proposed project wastewater generation from the upgraded field would be approximately the same as from the existing field, so there would be no net increased wastewater treatment demand. As a result, the proposed project would have no impact related to wastewater treatment facilities. The project would slightly increase stormwater runoff that would be directed to City of San Mateo storm-drain system as discussed in the Hydrology and Water Quality section, above. This impact would be reduced to less than significant by mitigation measures in that section. A minimal increase in electrical power would be required for the new lights and portable PA system. These would not require any infrastructure upgrades. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

b) As described in Hydrology and Water Quality, the proposed project would replace the existing natural turf baseball field with an artificial turf baseball and flexfield, and would therefore reduce water demand, resulting in **no impact**.

d, e) Recology would continue to provide recycling, organics, and garbage collection services to the school. The proposed project would upgrade the existing baseball field on the site and there would be no net increase in solid waste generation. Therefore, the project would have **no impact** on solid waste generation or disposal.

XX. Wildfire Hazards

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the proposed project:

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				**X**
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				**X**
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?				**X**
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				**X**

Discussion

a-d) The project site is not located within a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, or a State Responsibility Area (CAL Fire, 2022). The site is located in a heavily developed urban area distant from wildfire hazard areas. The project site would not require installation of wildfire-hazard related infrastructure. Therefore, there would be **no impact**.

IV. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Environmental Issue	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact
a) Does the Project have the potential to 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 an endangered, rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X		
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)?			X	
c) Does the Project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X		

a) Compliance with the mitigation measures for the unearthing of any unknown cultural resources would ensure all potential impacts associated with cultural resources would be reduced to a **less-than-significant** level. No other potentially significant impacts were identified in this IS.

b) No other substantive projects are proposed at the school that would overlap the proposed project. Based on a review of proposed development in the City of San Mateo, there is only one project within one-half mile of the school at 415 Fairfax Avenue, which proposes the demolition of an existing residence and the construction of a new home (City of San Mateo, 2022). Due to the distance between (approximately 1,800 feet) and the limited construction associated with the 415 Fairfax Avenue project and the proposed project, the proposed project's contribution to cumulative construction impacts (i.e. noise, air quality, traffic) would not be cumulatively considerable and would be **less than significant**. In addition, the project would not increase operational impacts over existing conditions.

c) The proposed project would not increase long-term air pollutant emissions and GHG emissions because it would not increase enrollment or staffing at the school. The

project's noise impacts also would be less than significant with mitigation. The impact would be reduced to a **less-than-significant** level with mitigation.

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APPENDIX A: DISTRICT LIGHTING AND PA POLICIES

APPENDIX B: AIR QUALITY CALCULATIONS

APPENDIX C- MUSCO LIGHTING PLANS