

DRAFT

**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION/
INITIAL STUDY**

for the

**PALM SPRINGS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS LIGHTING PROJECT**

Prepared for:

Palm Springs Unified School District
Facilities Planning & Development Department
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Prepared by:



Westlake Village Office
920 Hampshire Road, Suite A5
Westlake Village, CA 91361

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD or District) has prepared this Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Initial Study (IS) (collectively the “MND/IS”) to evaluate the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed PSUSD High School Fields Lighting Project (“proposed Project” or “Project”).

The District is proposing high school field lighting improvements on the campuses of Palm Springs High School (PSHS), Desert Hot Springs High School (DHSHS), and Cathedral City High School (CCHS). All campuses are within the PSUSD service area within Riverside County, California.

On July 12, 2022, direction was given to the PSUSD Facilities Department to review high school field lighting at the high school fields within the District. The PSUSD High School Fields Lighting Project would provide additional exterior lighting (including fields/courts) and safely allow the use of outdoor instructional and activity areas into before and after school hours. Additional exterior lighting would maximize spaces on campus for outdoor instruction and activities at the district's high school campuses.

The proposed lighting improvements of the high school fields was prompted by the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 328,¹ which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 A.M. However, with the later start time, schools will also end later, which will affect activities unless the high school fields are lit for evening use. The proposed lights would safely allow use of the high school fields into the evening hours and the design meets the California Interscholastic Federation recommended lighting levels for baseball and softball fields. Each high school lighting improvement includes varsity baseball and softball fields, junior varsity baseball and softball fields, tennis courts, soccer, and practice fields.

1.2 AUTHORITY

PSUSD, as Lead Agency pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is required to undergo an environmental review process for the proposed Project, pursuant to the CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The basic purposes of CEQA are as follows: to inform decision-makers and the public about the potentially significant environmental effects of proposed activities, identify ways to eliminate or reduce such potentially significant environmental impacts through the use of feasible alternatives and mitigation measures, and to disclose why a governmental agency may consider approving a project if

¹ Senate Bill (SC) 328 - Local educational agencies: before and after school programs: middle school and high school start time. An act to amend Section 46148 of, and to add Section 8203.4 to, the Education Code, relating to local educational agencies.

significant environmental effects are involved. To help with understanding select issues, references to the statute, CEQA Guidelines, or appropriate case law will be provided in this document.

An Initial Study (IS) is used to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment. The IS, as required by CEQA, describes the proposed Project and environmental setting, discusses the potential environmental impacts, and identifies feasible mitigation measures to eliminate or reduce the potentially significant effects. The IS also examines the proposed Project's consistency with applicable zoning, plans, and policies. Furthermore, the preparers of the Initial Study are identified.

1.3 ORGANIZATION OF THE MND/IS

The content and format of this report are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines. The IS supports the finding that the proposed Project, as mitigated, would have no significant environmental impact, thus preparation of a MND is appropriate for the Project. This report contains the following sections:

- **Section 1: Introduction** identifies the purpose and scope of the MND/IS and the terminology used in this document.
- **Section 2: Project Description** identifies the location, background, and planning objectives of the proposed Project and describes it in detail.
- **Section 3: Environmental Setting** describes the existing conditions, surrounding land use, general plan, and existing zoning in the area of the proposed Project.
- **Section 4: Environmental Checklist** presents the checklist responses and evaluation for each resource topic.
- **Section 5: Environmental Analysis** includes an analysis for each resource topic and identifies impacts of implementing the proposed Project. It also identifies mitigation measures, if applicable.
- **Section 6: References** identifies all printed references and individuals cited in this MND/IS.
- **Section 7: List of Preparers** identifies the individuals who prepared this report and their areas of technical specialty.

Appendices present data supporting the analysis or contents of this report. These include:

- **Appendix A: Lighting Studies**
- **Appendix B: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas CalEEMod Output Sheets**
- **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data**
- **Appendix D: EDR Reports**
- **Appendix E: Energy Calculations**
- **Appendix F: Construction Calculations**
- **Appendix G: Tribal Consultation Correspondence**

1.4 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MND/IS

PSUSD is providing a 30-day period for review and comment on the Draft MND/IS herein and online at <https://www.psusd.us/> (Facilities Planning & Development Page). Interested individuals, organizations, trustee and responsible agencies, and other agencies can provide written comments to the address below.

Palm Springs Unified School District
Facilities Planning & Development Department
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264

Contact: Julie Arthur, Executive Director
Fax: (760) 325-8728
E-mail: facilities_planning@psusd.us

Please include “**PSUSD High School Fields Lighting Project**” in the subject line. Comments should include the name of a contact person within the commenting agency.

Upon completion of the public and agency review-period, PSUSD will evaluate the comments on environmental issues received and prepare written responses, which will be considered for adoption by the PSUSD Board of Education.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Palm Springs Unified School District (“District” or “PSUSD”) is proposing to install field lighting at the existing high schools in response to recent changes in State law. The PSUSD High School Fields Lighting Project (proposed Project) would provide additional exterior lighting (including high school fields) and safely allow the use of outdoor instructional and activity areas before and after school hours. The exterior lighting is reasonable and necessary to prepare for and respond to the Covid-19 pandemic by allowing the use of all school areas before and after school, increasing social distancing space while reducing opportunities for the transmission of Covid-19 and subsequent variants.

To comply with recent legislators requiring that public high school classes begin no earlier than 8:30 A.M., the District is proposing changes to its afterschool programs and modify the times of use for activities at high school fields. This will result in adjustments in their practice/games times scheduling at high school campuses. To comply with this new law, the District has needed to adjust the start and end times for outdoor field activities. With later end times for practices and games, the fields on PSUSD high school campuses must be lighted for safety purposes.

The proposed Project consists of the addition of new field lighting at high school fields for three of the District’s high schools: Palm Springs High School (PSHS), Desert Hot Springs High School (DHSHS), and Cathedral City High School (CCHS).

The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing stadium facilities for several sports teams including baseball, softball, soccer, and tennis. By allowing evening-hour use, the high school would provide enhanced opportunities for students to participate in school-sponsored sports while accommodating the state-mandated late-start law.

2.1 PROJECT SITES

The District is proposing to install new high school field lights at 3 high schools: Palm Springs High School (PSHS), Desert Hot Springs High School (DHSHS), and Cathedral City High School (CCHS). **Figure 2.0-1: Lighting Structure System** illustrates the proposed lighting fixtures that would be installed at each of the schools. The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing stadium facilities for several sports teams including the following: football (boys), soccer (boys and girls), track and field (boys and girls), tennis (boys and girls), and softball (girls).

Palm Springs High School Field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at PSHS on the varsity baseball and softball fields, JV baseball field, tennis courts, football field and track field (Stadium), and practice field. The existing high school fields are shown on **Figure 2.0-2: PSHS Conceptual Lighting Design**.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of a total of 35 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the varsity baseball field, JV baseball field, varsity softball field, tennis Courts (1-8), band practice field, practice field, and Stadium.

Nineteen of the lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the varsity baseball field, JV baseball field, varsity softball field, and practice fields, adjacent to East Baristo Road to the north and South Pavilion Way to the west. These lighting poles would extend 60 feet to 80 feet high (see Figure 3.0-1). Ten of the lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the tennis courts, adjacent to Ramon Road to the south and the Palm Springs Skate Park to the west. The remaining six lighting poles would be located around the stadium seating to the east and west of the football/track field on the east end of the campus, adjacent to South Farrell Drive. These poles would be 80 feet tall, with one pole at 70 feet tall on the east side, adjacent to Ramon Road.

Each pole would be on a pre-cast concrete base approximately 10 feet below ground. Each lighting pole would feature between four to thirteen separate luminaires. Mounting heights for the luminaires are 50 feet (tennis courts); 15.5 feet, 60 feet, 70 feet, 80 feet (varsity baseball field, JV baseball field, varsity softball field, and practice fields); and 15.5 feet, 70 feet, 80 feet, 105 feet, and 115 feet (football/track field). The new lighting poles would result in a total of 253 luminaires with an average kilowatt (kW) of 25.9 (69.0 maximum). The Proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing stadium facilities for several sports teams including the following: football (boys), soccer (boys and girls), track and field (boys and girls), tennis (boys and girls), and softball (girls).

Desert Hot Springs High School Field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at DHSHS on the varsity baseball and softball fields, JV baseball and softball fields, tennis Courts (1-6), and soccer field. The existing high school fields are shown on **Figure 2.0-3: DHSHS Conceptual Lighting Design**.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of a total of 35 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the varsity baseball field, JV baseball field, varsity softball field, JV baseball field, practice softball field, tennis Courts (1-6), and soccer field.

Fourteen of the lighting poles would be located around the JV baseball field, varsity baseball field, and the practice soccer field on the south end of the campus adjacent to Pierson Boulevard and would extend 80 feet to 90 feet high (see **Figure 3.0-2**). Eight of the lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the tennis courts on the east side of the campus, adjacent to Cholla Drive and would extend 40 feet high. The remaining thirteen lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the JV softball and varsity softball fields on the northeast side of the campus, adjacent to 5th street and would be 60 feet to 80 feet high.

Each pole would be on a pre-cast concrete base approximately 10 feet below ground. Each lighting pole would feature between three to eighteen separate luminaires. Mounting heights for the luminaires are

15.5 feet, 80 feet, and 90 feet (JV baseball, varsity baseball, and soccer fields); 40 feet (tennis courts); and 15.5 feet, 60 feet, 70 feet, 80 feet (softball and varsity softball fields). The new lighting poles would result in a total of 209 luminaires with an average kW of 25.9 (54.6 maximum). The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing stadium facilities for several sports teams including the following: baseball (boys), soccer (boys and girls), softball (boys and girls), and tennis (boys and girls).

Cathedral City High School field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at CCHS on the varsity baseball and varsity softball fields, JV baseball and JV softball fields, tennis Courts (1-6), and Multipurpose field. The existing high school fields are shown on **Figure 2.0-4: CCHS Conceptual Lighting Design**.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of 33 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the JV baseball field, varsity baseball field, Multipurpose field, varsity softball field, JV softball field, and tennis courts.

Fourteen of the lighting poles would be located around the JV baseball and varsity baseball fields on the southwest end of the campus adjacent to Dinah Shore Drive and would extend 70 feet to 80 feet high (see **Figure 3.0-3**). Four of the lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the Multipurpose field on west side of the campus, adjacent to the CCHS stadium and would extend 80 feet high. Seven of the lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the varsity softball and JV softball fields on the northwestern side of the campus and would extend 60 feet to 80 feet high. The remaining eight lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the tennis courts in the northwest corner of the campus, adjacent to Dave Kelley Road and would be 50 feet high.

Each pole would be on a pre-cast concrete base approximately 10 feet below ground. Each lighting pole would feature between two to thirteen separate luminaires. Mounting heights for the luminaires are 15.5 feet, 70 feet, and 80 feet, (JV baseball and varsity baseball fields); 50 feet (tennis courts); 15.5 feet, 60 feet, and 80 feet (Multipurpose field); and 15.5 feet, 60 feet, 70 feet, 80 feet (JV softball and varsity softball fields). The new lighting poles would result in a total of 206 luminaires with an average kilowatt of 28.0 (55.9 maximum). The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing stadium facilities for several sports teams including the following: baseball (boys), soccer (boys and girls), softball (boys and girls), and tennis (boys and girls).

Schedule of Uses

The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing stadium facilities for several sports teams including football, track, and soccer teams as well as marching band and other school programs. By allowing evening-hour use, the high schools would provide enhanced opportunities for students to participate in school-sponsored sports while accommodating the state-mandated late-start law beginning in 2022. The timing of all other school-affiliated sporting activities that do not utilize the stadium for practices or games would remain the same.

The District recognizes that District facilities and grounds at each of the high schools are a community resource and can authorize their use by community groups for purposes provided for in the Civic Center Act, only when such use does not interfere with school activities.² Pursuant to District policies, facilities available for use as follows:

1. Subject to district policies and regulations (BP/AR1330), school facilities and grounds are available to citizens and community groups as a civic center as specified in Education Code 32282, 38131.
2. All school-related activities shall be given priority in the use of facilities and grounds under the Civic Center Act and take precedence over a non-school group. The District reserves the right to revoke a use of facilities permit at any time.

Evening high school activities and practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams at each of the schools. Use of lighting during and following high school activities would end by 10:00 P.M. Most high school games would end by 9:00 P.M., but no later than 9:30 P.M., with lighting potentially remaining on after to facilitate safe crowd exiting and for clean-up and other similar activities after game completion.

Construction

The proposed Project includes trenching to install wiring between the poles and electrical control panels and installation of the light fixtures. Construction staging would occur on each field over the course of approximately 6 to 9 months. The staging area would change for each field and would place the area away from active school areas. A variety of construction equipment would be used including but not limited to tractors, loaders, backhoes, trenchers, cement and mortar mixers, cranes, and excavators. No street closure is anticipated during construction.

Construction activities would occur during normal weekday working hours, between 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM; Saturday construction hours would be limited to between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and no construction would occur on Sundays.

All construction workers would be required to wear identification badges, PPE, and enter through a designated construction entrance. Construction areas would be separated from the rest of the campus by temporary fencing and secured by locks.

² Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) Policies. Section 1330. Available at: <http://www.gamutonline.net/district/palmsprings/displayPolicy/436513/>. Accessed March 2023.

When school is not in session, the overall campus area would be secured by temporary fencing and locked gates surrounding the active construction area(s). Additional security and safety measures may be implemented to further secure the campus during and outside of operational school hours.

Project Schedule

It is anticipated that the construction activities would begin in December of 2023 and end in fall of 2024.

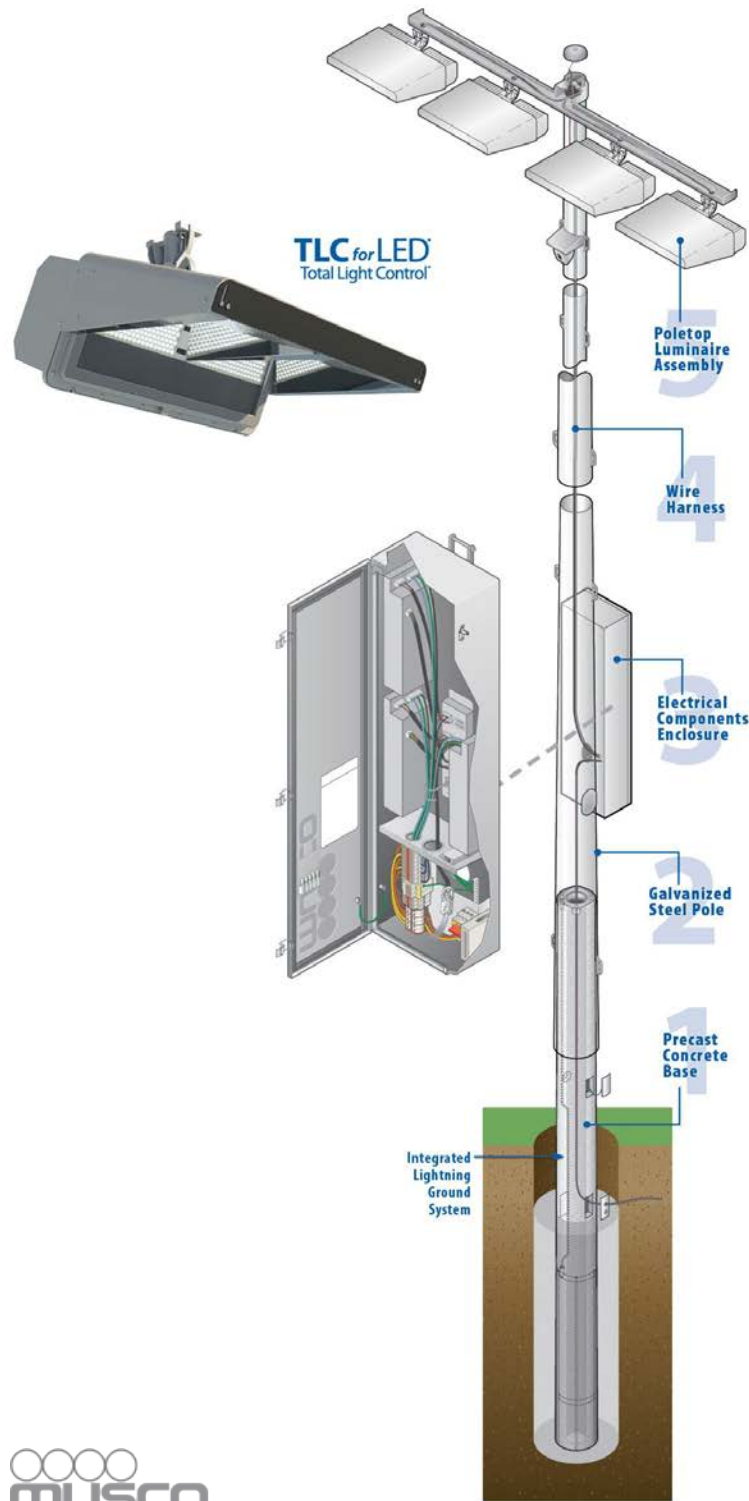
Construction activities would take 6 to 9 months at each school and would be staggered among the various high school fields to accommodate ongoing practice and field needs at each campus.

The entire project would be complete by the end of 2024.

2.3 PROJECT DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS

It is the intent of this Initial Study to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Project, thereby enabling PSUSD, responsible and reviewing agencies, and interested parties to make informed decisions. The anticipated approvals for this proposed Project are:

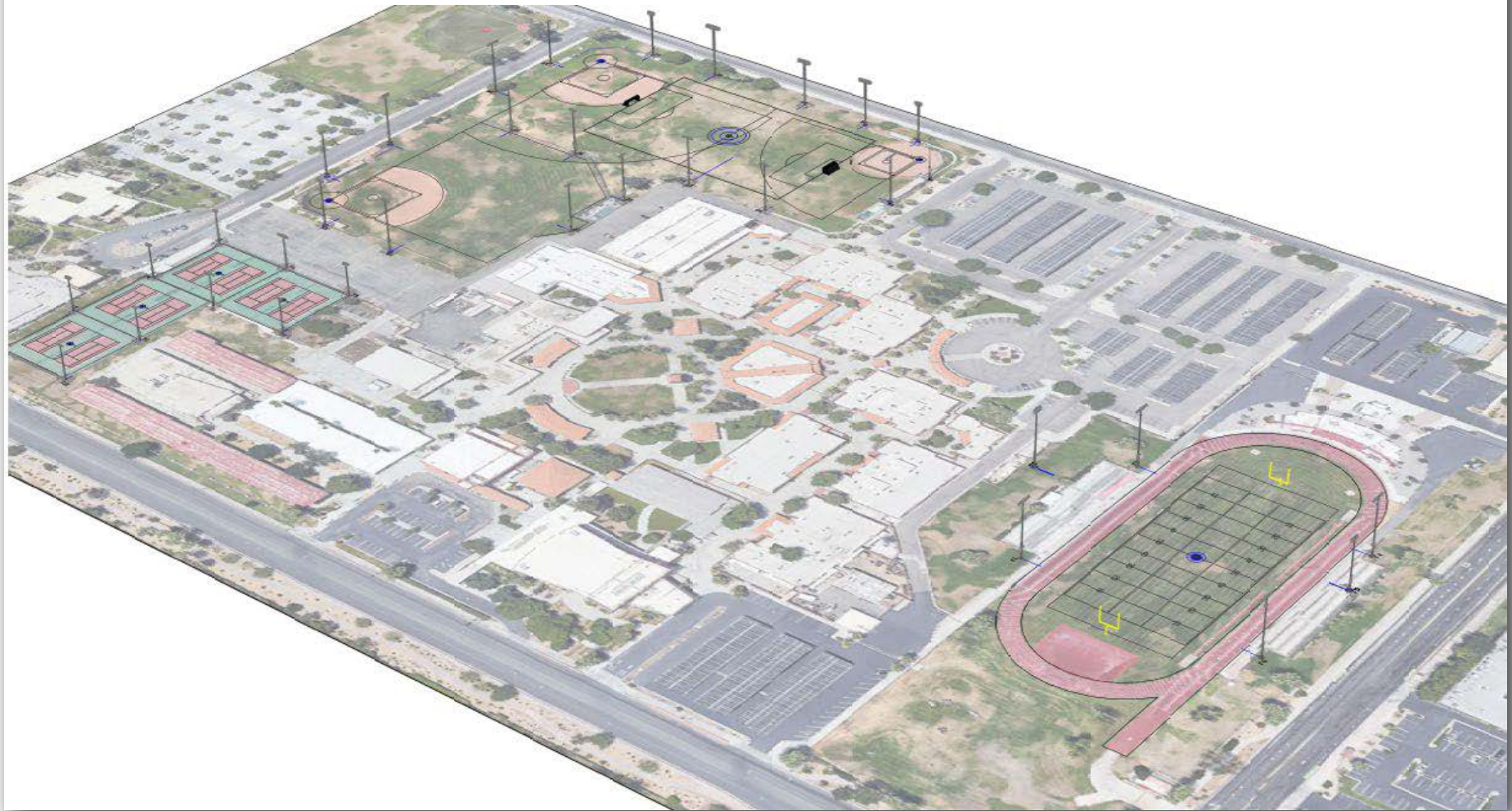
Lead Agency	Action
PSUSD Board of Education	MND/IS Adoption and Project Approval
Reviewing Agencies	Action
California Department of Education	Review School Design and Program
Division of the State Architect	Review Building and Construction Plans



SOURCE: Musco Sports Lighting - 2023

FIGURE 2.0-1

Palm Springs High School – Proposed Lighting



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE 2.0-2

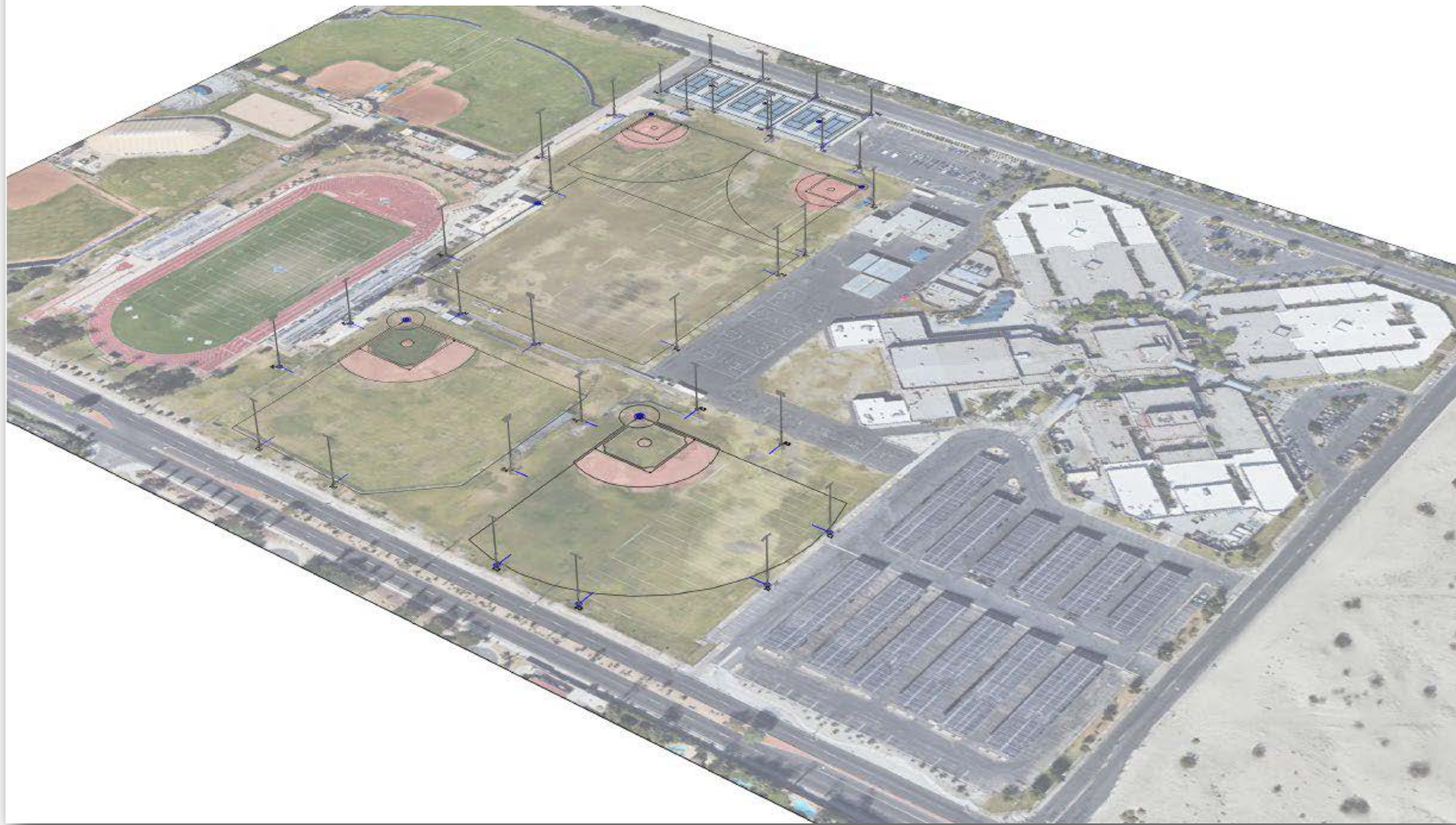
Desert Hot Springs High School – Proposed Lighting



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE 2.0-3

Cathedral City High School – Proposed Lighting



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE 2.0-4

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 PALM SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Existing Condition

PSHS serves students from grades nine through twelve. The campus is situated on a 48-acre site, serving the communities of Palm Springs and its surrounding cities within the Coachella Valley. The existing fields support activities on the east and west ends of the campus and include a JV baseball field, varsity softball field, varsity baseball field, a football field and racetrack with Stadium seating, as well as courts used for band practice and tennis.

Surrounding Uses

The campus is bound by residential and mixed uses to the north, office use to the east, residential use to the south, and open space to the west as shown in **Figure 3.0-1: PSHS Location Map**. The Project Site is located east of the Palm Springs Public Library and Sunrise Plaza which includes the Palm Springs Leisure Center, Sunrise Park, the Palm Springs Swim Center, and the Palm Springs Skate Park. Northwest and south of the Project Site consist of existing residential developments. A movie theater and vacant shopping center is located north of the site. East of the Project Site consists of commercial retail uses facing the street along South Farrell Drive and residential uses beyond the commercial retail uses.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City comprises an incorporated area of approximately 95 square miles, with the City's sphere of influence consisting of another 42 square miles.³

According to the Palm Springs General Plan, the Project Site is designated as "Schools," as shown in **Figure 3.0-2: City of Palm Springs General Plan Land Use Map**.⁴ General Plan designations to the north of the Project Site are designated for residential use under "Very Low Density Residential" and for mixed-use under "Mixed Use/Multi-Use." The "Very Low Density Residential" designation allows for residential developments up to a density of 4.0 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). To the east of the Project Site is designated "Office" use. South of the Project Site is designated as "Medium Density Residential," with up to 15 du/ac. To the west of the Project Site consists of "Open Space - Parks and Recreation" use.

³ City of Palm Springs General Plan. Chapter 1 Administration. Page 1-4. Available at: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1979/635545493507830000>. Accessed February 2023.

⁴ City of Palm Springs. General Plan Land Use Map. Available at: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/33590/635578621730170000>. Accessed March 2023

The Palm Springs Zoning Map designates the Project Site as the “Open Land Zone,” or “O” as shown in **Figure 3.0-3: City of Palm Springs Zoning Map**.⁵ Permitted uses under zone “O” includes accessory buildings and uses permitted on the same lot; agriculture; governmental public facilities; public parking areas; public parks, recreational areas, and open space; and single-family residential uses.⁶ Similar uses permitted within this zone include childcare centers, among other uses.⁷

3.2 DESERT HOT SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL

Existing Condition

DHSHS serves students from grades nine through twelve from the communities of Desert Hot Springs, North Palm Springs, Sky Valley and the unincorporated areas of Painted Hills and Mission Lakes. The campus is situated on a 45-acre site with existing fields to support sports activities. Existing fields include a JV baseball field, varsity baseball field, varsity softball field, JV softball field, practice softball field, a football field and racetrack with Stadium seating, as well as a tennis court.

Surrounding Uses

The campus is bound by vacant land to the north, east, and south and residential development to the northeast, south, and west, as shown in **Figure 3.0-4: DHSHS Location Map**.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City of Desert Hot Springs includes an incorporated area that encompasses 31 square miles with a sphere of influence that consists of 29 square miles.⁸

According to the Desert Hot Springs General Plan, the Project Site is designated as “Public/Institutional,” or “P,” as shown in **Figure 3.0-5: City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan Land Use Map**.⁹ General Plan designations on the north, northeast, and west sides of the Project Site include “Residential Low” or “R-L.” The R-L designation allows for residential development at a density of up to 6.0 du/ac. To the east of the Project Site includes designations for “Residential High” or “R-H,” “Open Space” or “OS,” and

⁵ City of Palm Springs. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/26522/637515977161430000>. Accessed March 2023.

⁶ City of Palm Springs. Municipal Code. Zoning Code. Chapter 92. Section 92.21.01.

⁷ City of Palm Springs. Municipal Code. Zoning Code. Chapter 92. Section 92.21.01. See ordinance 2076. Available at: https://content.qcode.us/lib/palm_springs_ca/alerts/documents/ordinance_2076.pdf. Accessed March 2023.

⁸ City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan. Chapter 1 Introduction. Page 1-7. Available at: <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed February 2023.

⁹ City of Desert Hot Springs. General Plan Land Use Map. Available at: <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/09/General-Plan-Land-Use-Map.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

“Commercial” or “C.” The R-H designation allows for residential developments at a density of up to 20 to 30 du/ac. The C designation includes commercial development with a floor to area ratio (FAR) of 0.30. South of the Project Site includes designations for “Residential Medium” or “R-M” and more C uses. The RM land use designation includes residential developments at a density of up to 20 du/ac.

The Desert Hot Springs Zoning Map designates the Project Site as “Public/Institutional,” or “P,” as shown in **Figure 3.0-6: City of Desert Hot Springs Zoning Map**.¹⁰ Permitted uses under P include parks and parking lots.¹¹ Allowed uses (require a development permit) within this zone include schools and related facilities, among other uses.

3.3 CATHEDRAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Existing Condition

CCHS serves students from grades nine through twelve on a 48-acre site, serving the communities of Cathedral City and its surrounding cities within the Coachella Valley. The existing sports fields support sports activities and include a JV baseball field, varsity baseball field, JV softball field, varsity softball field, a Multipurposed field, a football field and racetrack with Stadium seating, as well as a tennis Court.

Surrounding Uses

The campus is bound by vacant land, a United States Postal Service location, and resort uses to the north; vacant land to the east; an existing residential development to the south; and commercial retail and some residential to the west as shown in **Figure 3.0-7: CCHS Location Map**.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City of Cathedral City encompasses 23 square miles with a sphere of influence that consists of approximately 37 square miles.¹²

According to the Cathedral City General Plan, the Project Site is designated as “Schools,” or “P/S,” as shown in **Figure 3.0-8: City of Cathedral City General Plan Land Use Map**.¹³ General Plan designations to the north and east of the Project Site allow for “Resort Residential” or “RR” uses. The RR designation allows for resort residential developments between the density of 3 and 6.5 du/ac. To the south of the Project Site is designated “Medium Density Residential” or “RM,” “Low Density Residential” or “RL,” and

¹⁰ City of Desert Hot Springs. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/09/Zoning-Map.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

¹¹ City of Desert Hot Springs. Municipal Code. Title 17. Chapter 17.24. Section 17.24.020.

¹² City of Cathedral City General Plan Update. Chapter 1 Introduction. Page I-4. Available at: <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed February 2023.

¹³ Cathedral City, General Plan, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=5351>, 2014. Accessed February 2022.

“General Commercial” or “CG.” The RM designation allows for residential development with a density of up to 4.5 to 10 du/ac. The RL designation allows for residential development with a density of up to 2 to 4.5 du/ac. West of the Project Site is designated “Open Space - Public” or “OS-P.”

The Cathedral City Zoning Map designates the Project Site and the north and east areas as “Resort Residential,” or “RR,” as shown in **Figure 3.0-9: City of Cathedral City Zoning Map**.¹⁴ Permitted uses under RR include short-term vacation rentals in qualifying residential dwelling units.¹⁵ Discretionary uses (requiring a conditional use permit) within this zone include public utility structures and public service facilities, recreational uses, among other uses.¹⁶ South of the Project Site is zoned for “Single Family Residential” or “R1” and “Multiple Family Residential” or “RM.” Permitted uses under R1 include home occupations, large family day care homes, one-family dwellings, among other housing types.¹⁷ Permitted uses under RM include home occupations, multiple dwellings, small family day-care homes, among other types of multi-family dwelling types.¹⁸ Land zoned for “Open Space,” or “OS,” is located to the west of the Project Site.

¹⁴ Cathedral City, Zoning Map, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=5350>, 2014. Accessed February 2022.

¹⁵ City of Cathedral City. Municipal Code. Title 9. Chapter 9.24. Section 9.24.020.

¹⁶ Cathedral City, Cathedral City Municipal Code, <http://qcode.us/codes/cathedralcity/?view=desktop&topic=9>. Accessed February 2022.

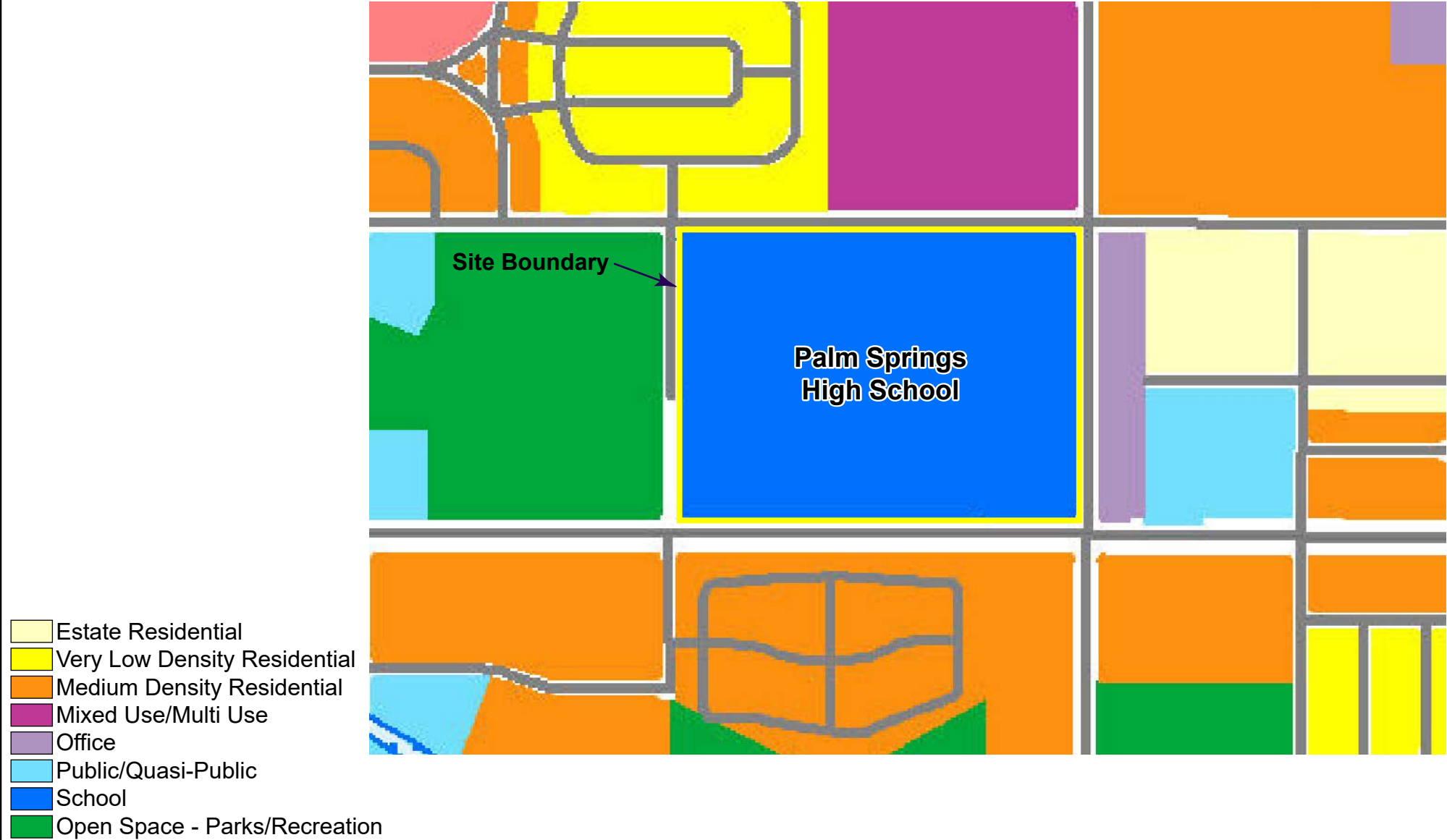
¹⁷ City of Cathedral City. Municipal Code. Title 9. Chapter 9.14. Section 9.14.020.

¹⁸ City of Cathedral City. Municipal Code. Title 9. Chapter 9.18. Section 9.18.020.



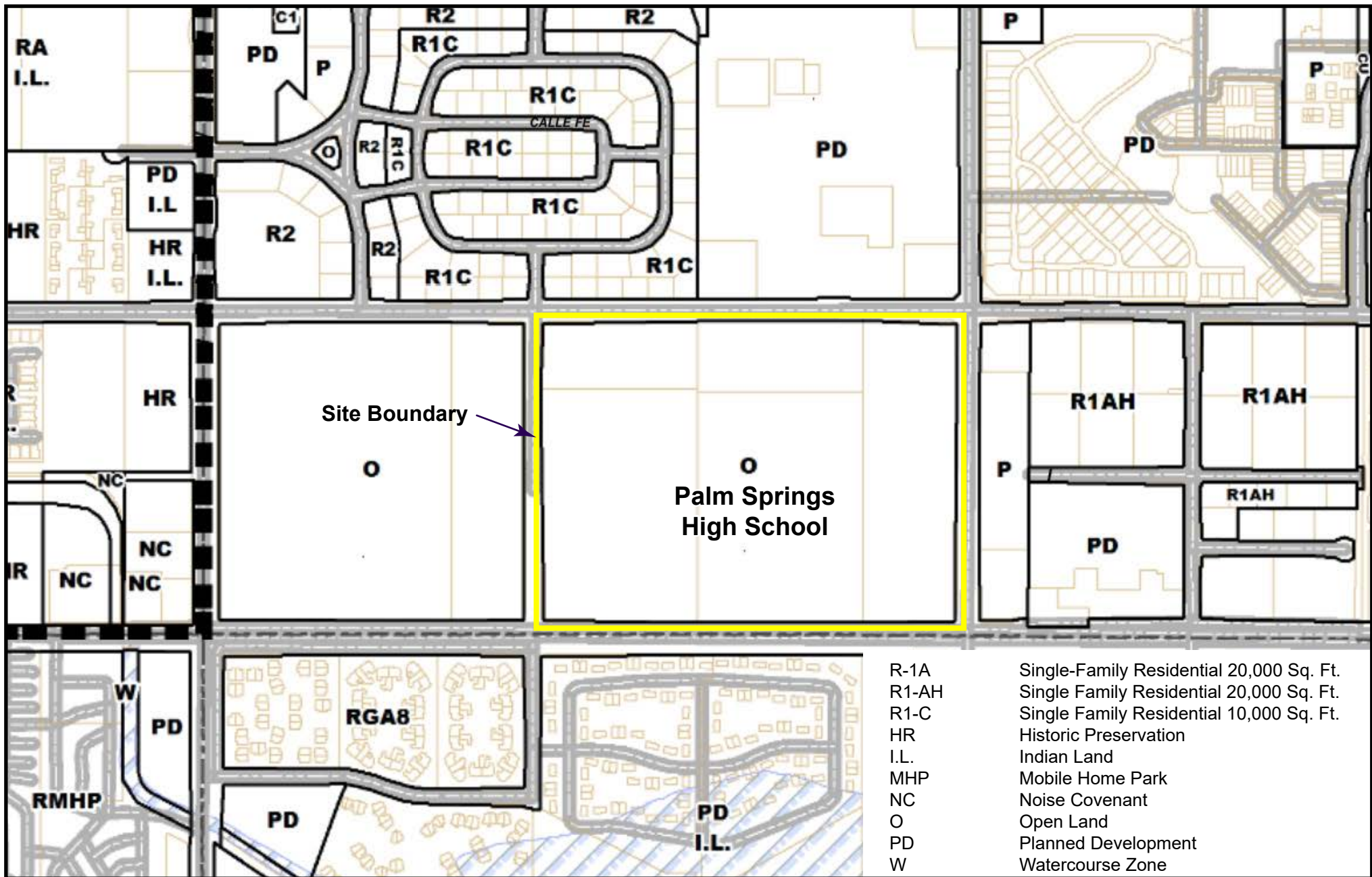
SOURCE: Google Earth—2023

FIGURE 3.0-1



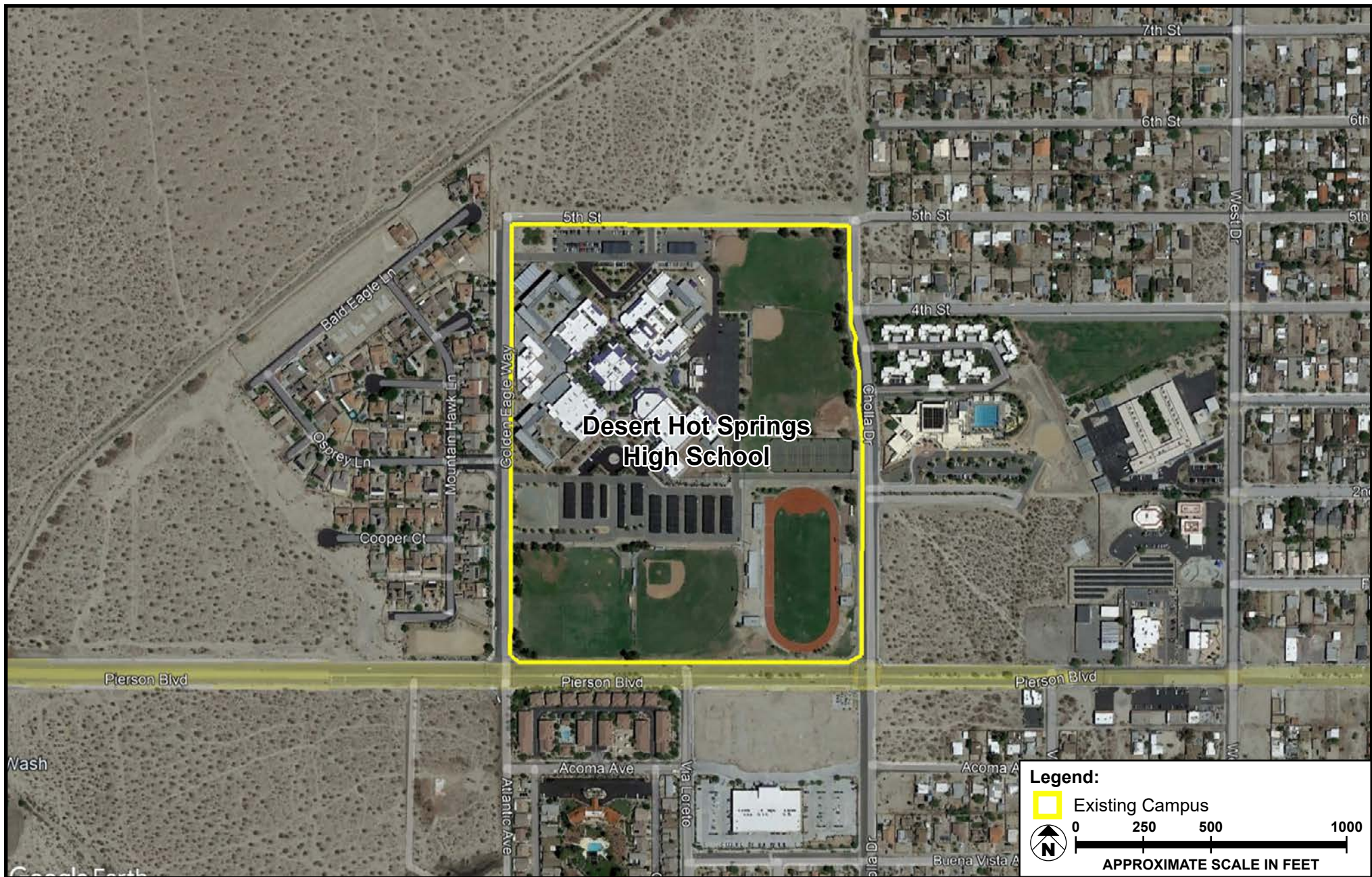
SOURCE: Palm Springs GP Land Use Map - December 2014

FIGURE 3.0-2



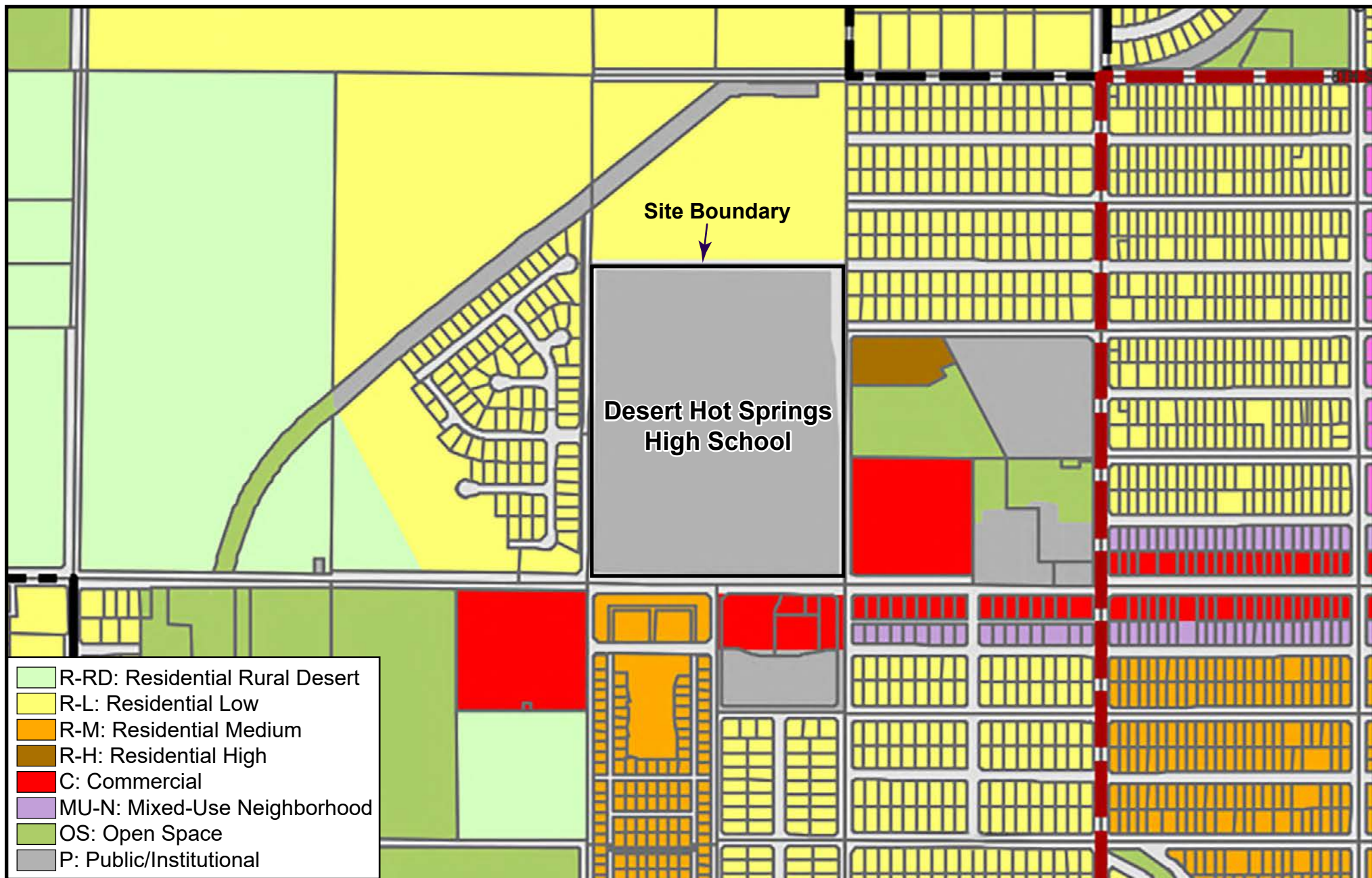
SOURCE: Palm Springs GP Land Use Map - December 2014

FIGURE 3.0-3



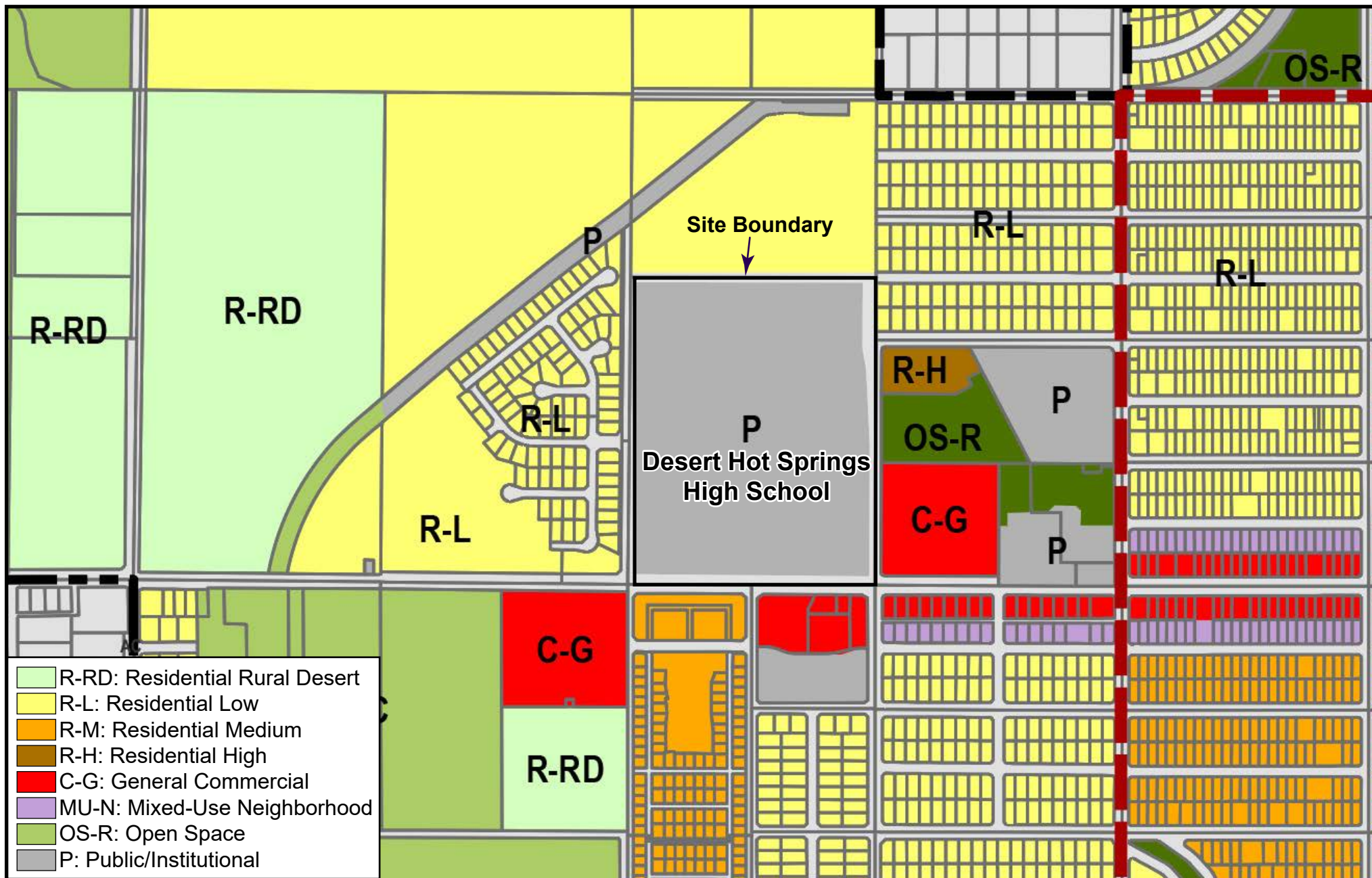
SOURCE: Google Earth—2023

FIGURE 3.0-4



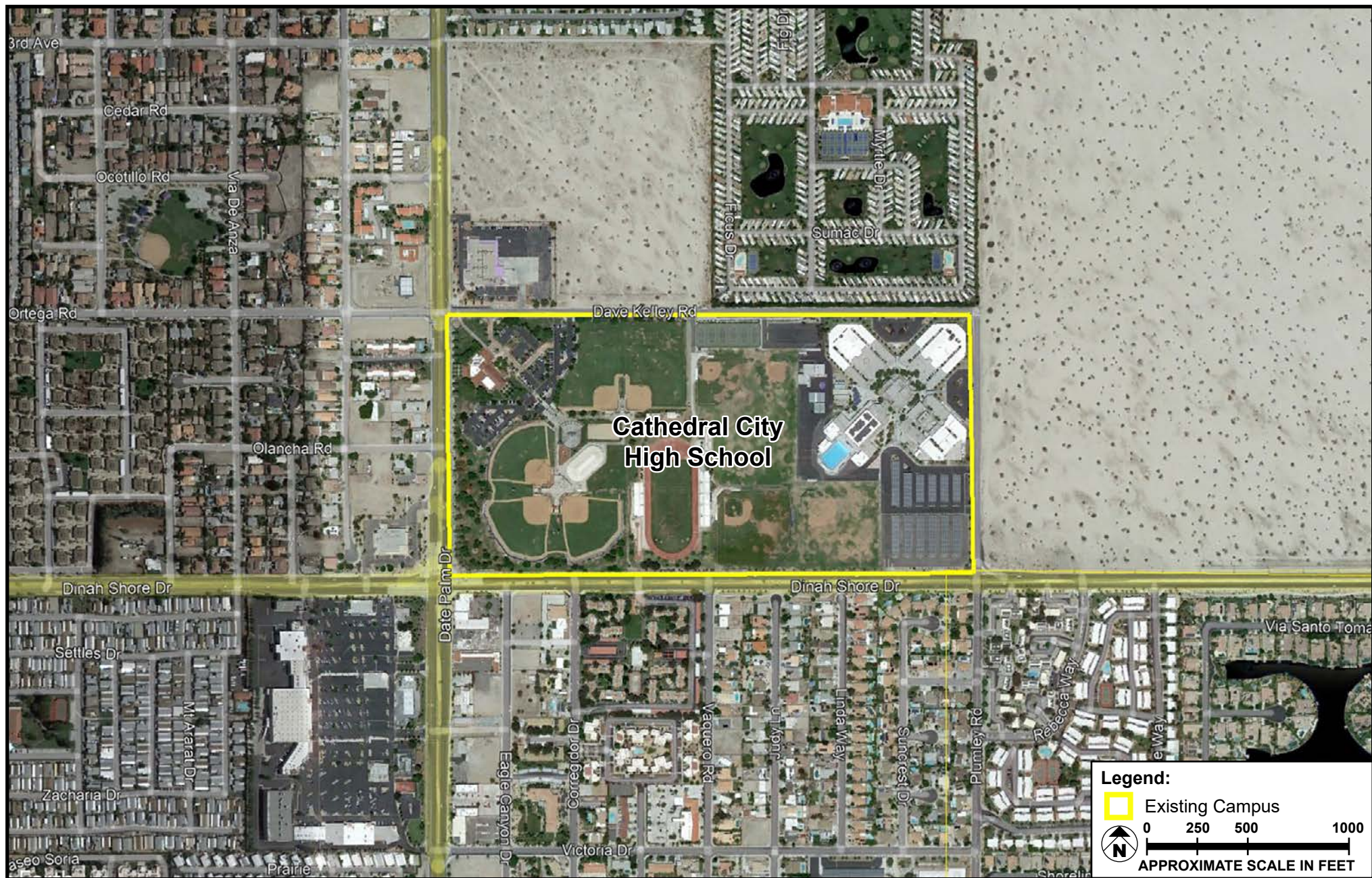
SOURCE: Desert Hot Springs Land Use Map - December 2014

FIGURE 3.0-5



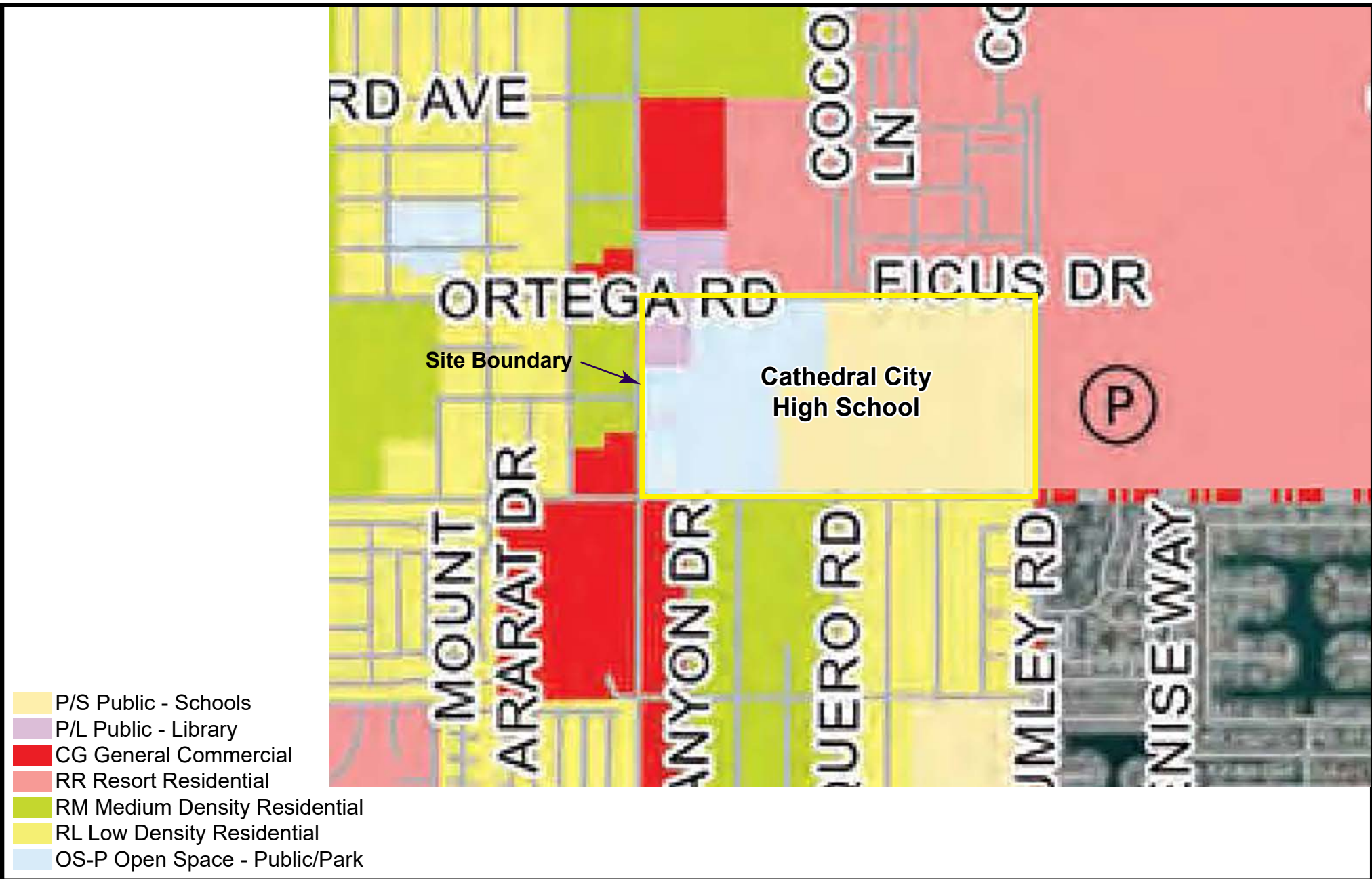
SOURCE: Desert Hot Springs Land Use Map - December 2014

FIGURE 3.0-6



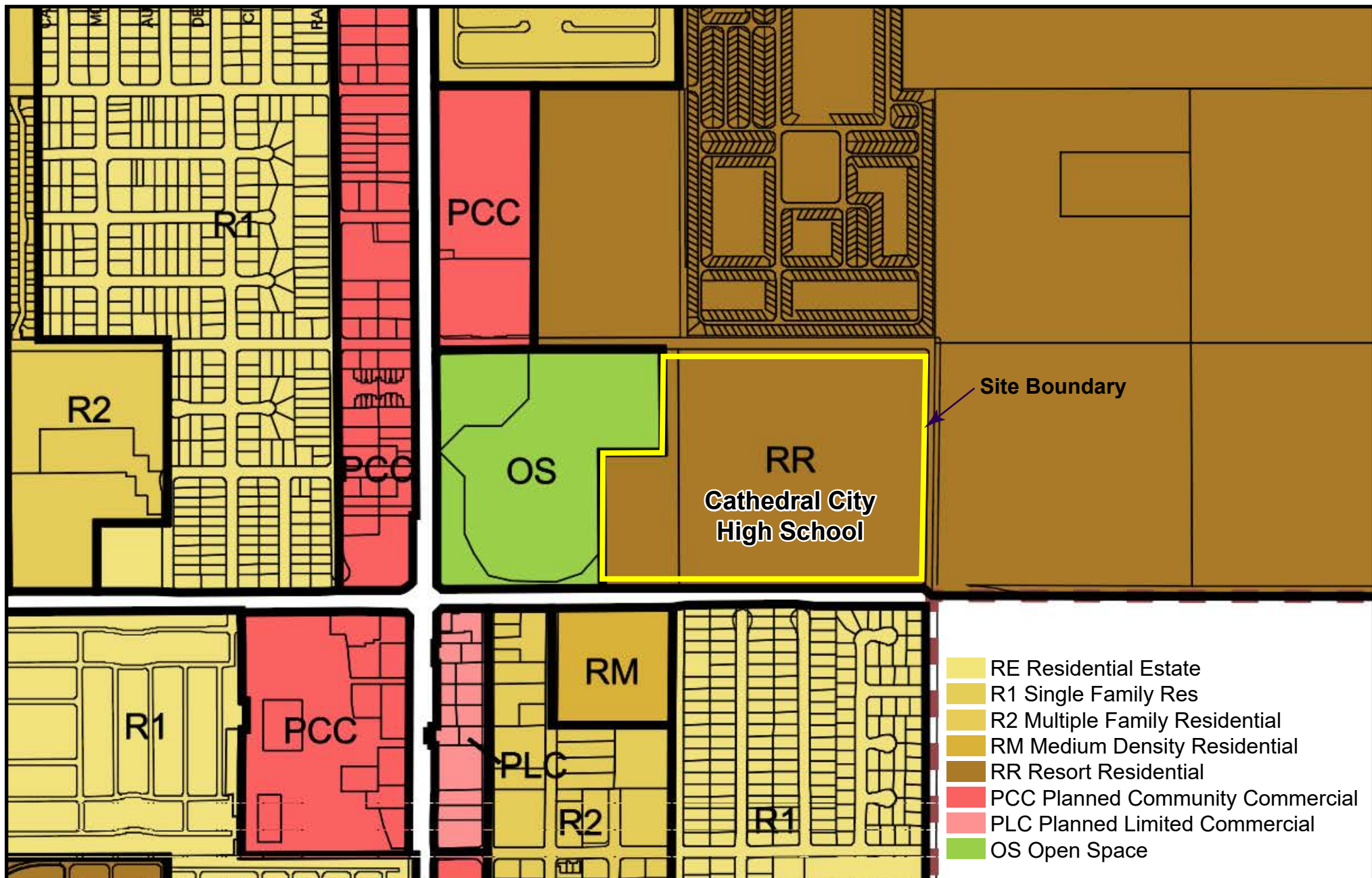
SOURCE: Google Earth—2023

FIGURE 3.0-7



SOURCE: Palm Springs GP Land Use Map - December 2014

FIGURE 3.0-8



SOURCE: Palm Springs GP Land Use Map - December 2014

FIGURE 3.0-9

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and is eligible for a Categorical Exemption.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the 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 Project, nothing further is required.

Signature

Date

4.2 SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE STATE SCHOOL FACILITY PROGRAM

In addition to the general environmental checklist, projects involving primary and secondary public schools have several additional requirements established by the California Education Code (Cal. Ed. Code), California Code of Regulations (CCR), and the Public Resources Code (PRC), as shown in **Table 4.2-1, Environmental Review Factors for State-Funded New School, and State-Funded Addition to Existing School**. These requirements vary by type of school project and whether State funds are involved.

TABLE 4.2-1 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FACTORS FOR STATE-FUNDED NEW SCHOOL AND STATE-FUNDED ADDITION TO EXISTING SCHOOL		
Topic	Applicable Code	Environmental Checklist
Air Quality		
Is the boundary of the proposed school site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the School?	PRC §21151.8(a)(1)(D); Ed. Code §17213(c)(2)(C)	Section 5.3, Air Quality, Question (e)
Geology and Soils		
Does the site contain an active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?	Ed. Code, §17212; CCR Title 5 §14010(f)	Section 5.6, Geology and Soils, Question (a)(ii)
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?	Ed. Code §17212; CCR, Title 5 §14010(f)	Section 5.6, Geology and Soils, Question (a)(iii)
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction?	CCR, Title 5 §14010(i)	Section 5.6, Geology and Soils, Question (a)(iv)
Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to landslides?	CCR, Title 5 §14010(i)	Section 5.6, Geology and Soils,

**TABLE 4.2-1
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FACTORS FOR STATE-FUNDED NEW SCHOOL
AND STATE-FUNDED ADDITION TO EXISTING SCHOOL**

Topic	Applicable Code	Environmental Checklist
		Question (a)(v)
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		
If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?	Ed. Code §17210.1 (a)(4)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (b)
Does the proposed school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or aboveground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?	PRC §21151.8 (a)(1)(C)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (c)
Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (h)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (d)
Would the project create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and nonpermitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?	PRC § 1151.8 (a)(2); Ed. Code §17213 (b)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (f)
Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for	Ed. Code §17215.5 (a)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous

**TABLE 4.2-1
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FACTORS FOR STATE-FUNDED NEW SCHOOL
AND STATE-FUNDED ADDITION TO EXISTING SCHOOL**

Topic	Applicable Code	Environmental Checklist
agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site? (Does not apply to school sites approved by CDE prior to January 1, 1997.)		Materials, Question (g)
Is the property line of the proposed school site less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50-133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220-230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500-550 kV line?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (c)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (h)
Is the Project Site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant to §25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?	PRC §21151.8 (a)(1)(B)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (i)
Does the Project Site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?	PRC §21151.8 (a)(1)(A)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (j)
If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?	Ed. Code §17210.1 (a)(3)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Questions (b), (f), and (k)
Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (t)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (l)

**TABLE 4.2-1
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FACTORS FOR STATE-FUNDED NEW SCHOOL
AND STATE-FUNDED ADDITION TO EXISTING SCHOOL**

Topic	Applicable Code	Environmental Checklist
Is the proposed school site within two miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site? (Does not apply to school sites acquired prior to January 1, 1997.)	Ed. Code §17215 (a)&(b)	Section 5.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (m)
Hydrology and Water Quality		
Is the Project Site subject to flooding or dam inundation?	Ed. Code §17212; CCR, Title 5 §14010 (g)	Section 5.9, Hydrology and Water Quality, Question (j)
Land Use and Planning		
Would the proposed school conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (m)	Section 5.10, Land Use and Planning, Question (c)
Noise		
Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (e)	Section 5.12, Noise, Question (b)
Public Services		
Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?	CCR, Title 5, §14010 (o)	Section 5.14, Public Services, Question (f)
Transportation/Traffic		
Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (l)	Section 5.16, Transportation/Traffic, Question (e)

**TABLE 4.2-1
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FACTORS FOR STATE-FUNDED NEW SCHOOL
AND STATE-FUNDED ADDITION TO EXISTING SCHOOL**

Topic	Applicable Code	Environmental Checklist
Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (k)	Section 5.16, Transportation/Traffic, Question (f)
Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (d)	Section 5.16, Transportation/Traffic, Question (g)

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section provides an evaluation of the various topics contained in the State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G.¹⁹ and are considered for environmental review.

A brief explanation for the determination of significance is provided for all impact determinations with the exception of “No Impact” determinations that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Agency (PSUSD) cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” determination is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the Project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” determination includes an explanation of its bases relative to project-specific factors, as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

Explanations take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

Once the Lead Agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist is utilized to indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant.

“Mitigated Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

19 California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Sections 15000-15387, Appendix G.

5.1 AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AESTHETICS—Would the project:				
Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Palm Springs High School

Palm Springs High School (PSHS) sits adjacent to Sunrise Park, a public community park in the city of Palm Springs, and north of the Mesquite Country Club open space. The high school is surrounded by public roads, residential areas, and commercial buildings. Sunrise Park is not considered a visual resource, but as the lights would be used for evening activities and events, there would be little to no visual interference. This is due to the amount of people in the park (to enjoy scenic views) at dark are minimal. Residential communities lie between PSHS and the Mesquite Golf Club, meaning they would not be affected by the lights at all. The Project Site is situated within an existing campus, which has previously been noted to not adversely affect scenic vistas in and around Palm Springs.

Scenic vistas/resources exist in and around the city of Palm Springs, such as the Santa Rosa Mountains, San Jacinto Mountains, Whitewater River, Whitewater Preserve, the Palm Canyon Wash, the Tahquitz

Wash, and Snow Creek Canyon.²⁰ These resources are either not visible, or the view would not be significantly obstructed, by the installment of the Proposed light fixtures. These scenic resources are approximately 23 miles, 4 miles, 3.5 miles, 19 miles, 6 miles, 1.5 miles, and 14 miles away from the Project Site, respectively.

The Project Site is situated within an existing campus, which has previously been noted to not adversely affect the scenic vistas in and around Palm Springs, as it is consistent with the visual character of the surrounding area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Desert Hot Springs High School

Desert Hot Springs High School (DHSHS) is surrounded primarily by open space and some medium-density residential housing. The closest open recreational space is Wardman Park, approximately 1 mile north of the high school. Due to its more-less private location, there would be no impact on the scenic vistas due to the proposed Project.

Scenic vistas/resources in and around Desert Hot Springs include the San Bernardino Mountains, San Jacinto Mountains, the Sand to Snow National Monument, and Joshua Tree National Park. The Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon, Willow Hole, Long Canyon Conservation Areas are protected vistas within the City and its area of interest.²¹ Desert Springs High School lies approximately 9 miles southeast of the nearest part of the San Bernadino Mountains, 15 miles northeast of the San Jacinto Mountains, 12 miles southeast of the Sand to Snow Monument, and 5 miles west of Joshua Tree National Park. Upper Mission Creek/Big Morongo Canyon Conservation Area is the closest to the Project Site, approximately 0.5 miles west at its nearest point.

The Project Site is situated within an existing campus, which has previously been noted to not adversely affect the scenic vistas in and around Desert Hot Springs, as it is consistent with the visual character of the surrounding area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

²⁰ City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Land Use Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1969/635545493507830000>. Accessed March 2023.

²¹ City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Open Space, Natural, And Cultural Resources Element, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

Cathedral City High School

Cathedral City High School (CCHS) lies less than 2 miles east of Mission Hills Country Club, 3 miles northeast of the Tamarisk Country Club, and approximately 4.5 miles north of the base of the Santa Rosa mountains, just south of the City limits.²² Patriot Park, a neighborhood park, is located adjacent to CCHS. Patriot Park is used for day-time recreational activities. No scenic vistas are visible from public roadways that surround CCHS on all sides, but the lights may be visible from Patriot Park. Some of the more notable scenic vistas in the City include the Cathedral Cove located in the foothills and expansive backdrop of the Santa Rosa Mountains, just south of the City limits.²³

The Project Site is situated within an existing campus, which has previously been noted to not adversely affect scenic vistas in and around Cathedral City, as it is consistent with the visual character of the surrounding area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Construction on each Project Site would be short-term and would not require large equipment that would obstruct views of the vistas. The proposed Project's overall impact on scenic vistas would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No Impact. An "Officially Designated" scenic highway means that the highway provides views of scenic backdrops and has been officially designated by the Caltrans Corridor Protection Program, which protects the views and natural landscapes surrounding the highway.²⁴

22 Cathedral City, General Plan (2040 Update). "Land Use Element." <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed March 2023.

24 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California State Scenic Highway Map, "Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (D) Routes." Available at: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>. Accessed March 2023.

Palm Springs High School

The nearest State Designated Scenic Highway by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is Interstate-10 (I-10) located approximately 6 miles northwest of PSHS.²⁵ The Historic Southern Pacific Railroad runs parallel to the I-10, as well.

The Project Site is not located within proximity to any buildings that may have historical significance, as per the City's General Plan²⁶. The Project Site does not contain any scenic resources, such as rock outcroppings or trees, or historic buildings that would be damaged by the Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would not damage scenic resources. No impact would occur.

Desert Hot Springs High School

The nearest State Designated Scenic Highway by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is Interstate-10 (I-10) located approximately 5.7 miles south of DSHS.²⁷ The Historic Southern Pacific Railroad runs parallel to the I-10, as well.

The Project Site is not located within proximity to any buildings that may have historical significance.²⁸ The Project Site does not contain any scenic resources, such as rock outcroppings or trees, or historic buildings that would be damaged by the Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would not damage scenic resources. No impact would occur.

Cathedral City High School

The nearest State Designated Scenic Highway by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is Interstate-10 (I-10) located less than 4 miles north of CCHS.²⁹ The Historic Southern Pacific Railroad runs parallel to the I-10, as well.

²⁵ California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Scenic Highways: California State Scenic Highways, <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways> Accessed March 2023.

²⁶ City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Recreation, Open Space & Conservation Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1981/635545493507830000>. Accessed March 2023.

²⁷ California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Scenic Highways: California State Scenic Highways, <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways> Accessed March 2023.

²⁸ Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Open Space and Natural Resources Element, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

²⁹ California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Scenic Highways: California State Scenic Highways, <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways> Accessed March 2023.

The Project Site is not located within proximity to any buildings that may have historical significance³⁰. The Project Site does not contain any scenic resources, such as rock outcroppings or trees, or historic buildings that would be damaged by the Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would not damage scenic resources. No impact would occur.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The installation of the lighting fixtures would not damage any scenic resources as there are none onsite or within proximity to the three high schools.

The Project would not damage any scenic resources, and such would have no impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project involves the installation and operation of an exterior lighting system for the existing fields at the existing high school campuses.

Palm Springs High School

The proposed Project would involve installing and operating 29 new light fixtures at the perimeter of the football/track stadium, located on the eastern side of the PSHS campus, as well as the varsity baseball field, JV baseball field, varsity softball field, band practice field, practice field, and tennis courts (1-8), located on the west/northwestern side of the campus.

Six lighting fixtures would be installed at the football/track stadium: three around the bleachers of the home team, and three around the away-team bleachers (one on each side and one behind to provide back lighting), as per the Musco Lighting Illumination Summary (Appendix A). Five of the fixtures would rise 80 feet out of the ground, and the sixth (labeled as F5³¹) would be 70 feet high. Fixture F5 is 10 feet shorter than the rest as it lies closest to the road (South Farrell Drive), in an effort to minimize light spillage and a visual blockade outside of school grounds. All lights would be facing inward on the stadium.

30 City of Cathedral City, General Plan (2040 Update), "Cultural Resources SubElement."
<https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed March 2023.

31 Musco Sports Lighting. Illumination Summary. November 2022. See Appendix A.

A total of 19 fixtures would be installed around the varsity and JV baseball fields, varsity softball field, and practice fields, located on the northwestern side of the Project site. The fixtures would rise between 60 and 80 feet out of the ground and would face inward into the fields and away from the school boundaries. Two fixtures would be 60 feet tall, thirteen would be 70 feet tall, and four would be 80 feet tall.

The tennis courts (1-8) would have a total of 10 lighting fixtures, each rising 50 feet out of the ground.³² One light would be placed on the corner of each court, some sharing a light. The lights would face inward onto the courts to avoid disrupting any visual quality of the area and to mitigate light spillage onto the nearby road (East Ramon Road).

Desert Hot Springs High School

The proposed Project would involve installing and operating 35 new light fixtures at the perimeter of the varsity baseball and softball fields, JV baseball and softball fields, tennis Courts (1-6), and soccer field at DHSHS.³³

Fourteen of the lighting poles would be located around the JV baseball field, varsity baseball field, and the practice soccer field on the south end of the campus adjacent to Pierson Boulevard and would extend 80 feet to 90 feet high. Eleven of these fixtures would be 80ft tall and three would be 90 feet tall. Thirteen lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the JV softball and varsity softball fields on the northeast side of the campus, adjacent to 5th street and would be 60 feet to 80 feet high. Six of the fixtures are 60 feet tall, three are 70 feet tall, and the remaining four are 80 feet tall.

The remaining eight lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the tennis courts on the east side of the campus, adjacent to Cholla Drive, and would extend 40 feet high.

Cathedral City High School

The proposed Project would involve installing and operating 33 new light fixtures at the perimeter of the varsity baseball and varsity softball fields, JV baseball and JV softball fields, tennis Courts (1-6), and Multipurpose field at CCHS.³⁴

Twenty-four of the lighting poles would be located around the JV baseball and varsity baseball fields on the southwest end of the campus adjacent to Dinah Shore Drive and would extend 70 feet to 80 feet high. Sixteen of the fixtures are 70 feet tall and the remaining eight are 80 feet tall.

32 Musco Sports Lighting. Illumination Summary. November 2022. See Appendix A.

33 Musco Sports Lighting. Illumination Summary. November 2022. See Appendix A.

34 Musco Sports Lighting. Illumination Summary. November 2022. See Appendix A.

Six of the lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the Multipurpose field on west side of the campus, adjacent to the CCHS stadium and would extend 80 feet high.

Eight of the lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the varsity softball and JV softball fields on the northwestern side of the campus and would extend 60 feet to 80 feet high. Four of the fixtures are 60 feet tall and the remaining four are 80 feet tall.

The remaining eight lighting poles would be located around the perimeter of the tennis courts in the northwest corner of the campus, adjacent to Dave Kelley Road and would be 50 feet high.

The proposed Project would place field lights around existing outdoor high school fields at Palm Springs HS, Desert Hot Springs HS, and Cathedral City HS. The lighting poles would be between 40-80 feet tall, but not create a solid obstructive view of the surroundings.

The Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City Land Use Maps designates the Project Sites as “O” or “Open Land,”³⁵ “P” or “Public/Institutional,”³⁶ and “RR” or “Resort Residential,”³⁷ and the surrounding sites are zoned as “Single Family Residential” or “R1.” The Project would not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The placement and height of the lighting fixtures would not conflict with applicable zoning or other regulations governing scenic quality in Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City. While the fixtures are tall, they would not create a solid obstructive view of their surroundings.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing facilities at PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS, by allowing evening-hour use for students to participate in

³⁵ City of Palm Springs. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/26522/637515977161430000>. Accessed March 2023.

³⁶ City of Desert Hot Springs. GIS Viewer, Zoning Map. Available at: <https://deserthotsprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=09a2838a17c2457dbf854ec9f441c9a2>. Accessed March 2023.

³⁷ City of Cathedral City. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/5350/636245721641900000>. Accessed March 2023.

school-sponsored activities while accommodating the state-mandated late-start law. The District has authority over District facilities and grounds, which are a community resource that can be accessed by community groups for purposes provided for in the Civic Center Act, only when such use does not interfere with school activities.³⁸ Pursuant to District policies, facilities available for use as follows:

- a) Subject to district policies and regulations (BP/AR1330), school facilities and grounds are available to citizens and community groups as a civic center as specified in Education Code 32282, 38131.

All school-related activities shall be given priority in the use of facilities and grounds under the Civic Center Act and take precedence over a non-school group. The District reserves the right to revoke a use of facilities permit at any time. Further, the District most recently revised its policy on Energy and Water Management to include:³⁹

“High school fields, including football stadium lighting, will be turned off at times established by city lighting code, or by 10 P.M., unless otherwise approved by the district administration. Lighting should only be on for approved school sports, band, cheer, or other school related or approved events, including graduation-related activities.”

Field lighting would be designed to ensure that all fields meet the CIE and industry standards for field light to ensure safety and playability. As previously noted, this would include:

- Minimum lighting level for high school baseball fields is typically set at 500 lux or about 45 foot-candles.

Lighting uniformity is a crucial factor in ensuring the safety and visibility of players on a baseball field. Regulations for lighting uniformity typically specify the maximum allowable difference in lighting levels between different areas of the field, such as the infield and the outfield. This helps to ensure that players have consistent visibility and are not disadvantaged by uneven lighting.

The new lighting poles would result in a total of 251 luminaires with an average kilowatt (kW) of 38.4 (55.8 maximum). All luminaires would utilize LED technology and would be fixed to cast light downward to reduce spill onto adjacent properties. LED sports field lighting provides benefits for large areas or sites requiring illumination because of how they generate light and how they distribute light. Light emitting diodes generate light via a semi-conductor, as opposed to the consumption of a “fuel source” like in HID lamps. In regards to “distributing” light, LED sport light fixtures commonly utilize “multi-

³⁸ Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) Policies. Section 1330. Available at: <http://www.gamutononline.net/district/palmsprings/displayPolicy/436513/>. Accessed March 2023.

³⁹ PSUSD. Board Policy Manual. Regulation 3511: Energy And Water Management (updated 4/18/2023). See **Appendix A**.

point” sources, meaning the fixtures have multiple diodes with individual optics. When you compare this to the way most HID fixtures distribute light (with a single bulb and reflectors within the fixture), the result is light that is more evenly “distributed” across a given area.

Moving on to the way LED fixtures distribute light: as a result of the multi-point design, LED sports field fixtures provide a very evenly distributed light pattern. What this means is that light levels across a given surface will vary less as the distance from the pole or fixture changes. Compared to high intensity discharge (HID) fixtures, which often produce a “bright spot” directly underneath the fixture with light levels decreasing drastically as the distance from the pole increases. The result, in regard to LED vs HID, is a more even foot candle distribution from the LED conversion. In addition to the even distribution of light, LEDs are available in a range of color temperatures, and as a result provide a range of options to increase the visual perception of “brightness.”

As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 0.5-foot candle.⁴⁰ Illumination offsite that exceed the 0.5 footcandle threshold was used to analyze the impact of the new lighting.

The District has adopted Terms and Conditions for the Use of School Facilities and Grounds. For a high school field use, As noted therein, fields are rented per field. User Groups may not use additional fields beyond what the permit states. Additionally, the District maintains Regulation 3511: Energy and Water, that addresses field use and lights. This stipulates:

- Fields, including football stadium lighting, will be turned off at times established by city lighting code, or by 10 pm, unless otherwise approved by the district administration. Lighting should only be on for approved school sports, band, cheer, or other school related or approved events, including graduation-related activities.

Use of lights would follow this policy, to prevent any potential light nuisances to the residents that live adjacent to the Project Site.

Palm Springs High School

Existing sources of light around the school include lighting from the school buildings, street lighting, residential uses, playground lighting, and high intensity nighttime lighting within the parking lots on campus.

⁴⁰ A foot candle is a measure of luminance. One foot candle is the illumination provided by a standard candle one foot (0.3048 m) away from the candle flame. The “lumen” is a more modern term, equivalent to a one foot-candle illumination level per square foot of area.

The construction and staging areas would be on-site and may be lit in the evening for security purposes. The proposed improvements consist of new, modernized nighttime high school field lighting. All new lighting proposed would be focused and any potential spill-over the school boundaries would be minimal.

PSHS would have 25 lighting poles along its high school fields. The light poles would extend between 40 and 80 feet in height. Each pole would have a number of luminaires (light fixtures) with solid “hoods” referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise high school fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. Even with this addition, the luminaires would still be visible at night and could potentially be a bother to residents nearby as they begin their evening relaxation.

Musco prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the high school fields and adjacent areas. The complete analysis including the lighting design sheets and specifications can be found in Appendix A. As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 0.5-foot candle.⁴¹ Illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the Project Site. Illumination of no greater than 0.5-foot candles is maintained within school grounds, and does not cross over East Ramon Road on the southern end of campus, which lies adjacent to residential neighborhoods. It would also be maintained along the northern end of campus, bordering East Baristo Road and another residential community. The western and eastern sides of campus, where the lights would be installed, border open space/ a park and commercial buildings. If the 0.5-foot candle threshold were to increase, minor spillover may occur in neighborhoods, which would cause minimal annoyance/nuisance.

Evening high school games and evening high school practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams. Use of lighting during and following high school practices would end by 8:00 P.M. Most high school games would end by 7:00 PM, but no later than 9:30 PM, with lighting potentially remaining on after to facilitate safe crowd exiting and for clean-up and other similar activities after game completion. To minimize any light-nuisances, lighting should be extinguished as soon as possible following practices and games- dimmed 15 minutes after the end of an event and extinguished no more than 60 minutes after the end of each event, no later than 10:00 P.M. Additionally, as the lights are covered by hoods, the light would be minimal and not as visible during the day, when not in use.

The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now. See **Figure 5.1-1: PSHS Illumination Summary** that illustrates the calculated illumination for the Project Site.

⁴¹ A foot candle is a measure of luminance. One foot candle is the illumination provided by a standard candle one foot (0.3048 m) away from the candle flame. The “lumen” is a more modern term, equivalent to a one foot-candle illumination level per square foot of area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Desert Hot Springs High School

Existing sources of light around the school include lighting from the school buildings, street lighting, residential uses, playground lighting, and high intensity nighttime lighting within the parking lots on campus.

The construction and staging areas would be on-site and may be lit in the evening for security purposes. The proposed improvements consist of new, modernized nighttime high school field lighting. All new lighting proposed would be focused and any potential spill-over the school boundaries would be minimal.

DHSHS would have 25 lighting poles along its high school fields. The light poles would extend between 40 and 80 feet in height. Each pole would have a number of luminaires (light fixtures) with solid “hoods” referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise high school fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. Even with this addition, the luminaires would still be visible at night and could potentially be a bother to residents nearby as they begin their evening relaxation.

Musco prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the high school fields and adjacent areas. The threshold of 0.5-foot candle illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the high school. Illumination of no greater than 0.5-foot candles is maintained within school grounds, and does not cross over Pierson Boulevard or Cholla Drive. If the threshold were to go above 0.5-foot candles, residents living adjacent to the northeastern part of the high school, along Cholla Drive, and the southern part of the campus, along Pierson Boulevard, may experience a slight nuisance while the lights are in use.

Evening high school games and evening high school practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams. Use of lighting during and following high school practices would end by 8:00 P.M. Most high school games would end by 7:00 P.M., but no later than 9:30 P.M., with lighting potentially remaining on after to facilitate safe crowd exiting and for clean-up and other similar activities after game completion. To minimize any light-nuisances, lighting should be extinguished as soon as possible following practices and games- dimmed 15 minutes after the end of an event and extinguished no more than 60 minutes after the end of each event, no later than 10:00PM. Additionally, as the lights are covered by hoods, the light would be minimal and not as visible during the day, when not in use.

The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now. See **Figure 5.1-2: DHSHS Illumination Summary** that illustrates the calculated illumination for the Project Site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Cathedral City High School

Existing sources of light around the school include lighting from the school buildings, street lighting, residential uses, playground lighting, and high intensity nighttime lighting within the parking lots on campus.

The construction and staging areas would be on-site and may be lit in the evening for security purposes. The proposed improvements consist of new, modernized nighttime high school field lighting. All new lighting proposed would be focused and any potential spill-over the school boundaries would be minimal.

CCHS would each have 33 lighting poles along its high school fields. The light poles would extend between 40 and 80 feet in height. Each pole would have a number of luminaires (light fixtures) with solid “hoods” referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise high school fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. Even with this addition, the luminaires would still be visible at night and could potentially be a bother to residents nearby as they begin their evening relaxation.

Musco prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the high school fields and adjacent areas. The threshold of 0.5-foot candle illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the high school. Illumination of no greater than 0.5-foot candles is maintained within school grounds, and does not cross over to the residential side of Dinah Shore Drive. This indicates that the light would be no nuisance to residents living near and around CCHS. If the 0.5-foot candle threshold were to increase, it may cause a minor nuisance to residents along Dinah Shore opposite the high school.

Evening high school games and evening high school practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams. Use of lighting during and following high school practices would end by 8:00 P.M. Most high school games would end by 7:00 P.M., but no later than 9:30 P.M., with lighting potentially remaining on after to facilitate safe crowd exiting and for clean-up and other similar activities after game completion. To minimize any light-nuisances, lighting should be extinguished as soon as possible following practices and games- dimmed 15 minutes after the end of an event and extinguished no more than 60 minutes after the end of each event, no later than 10:00PM. Additionally, as the lights are covered by hoods, the light would be minimal and not as visible during the day, when not in use.

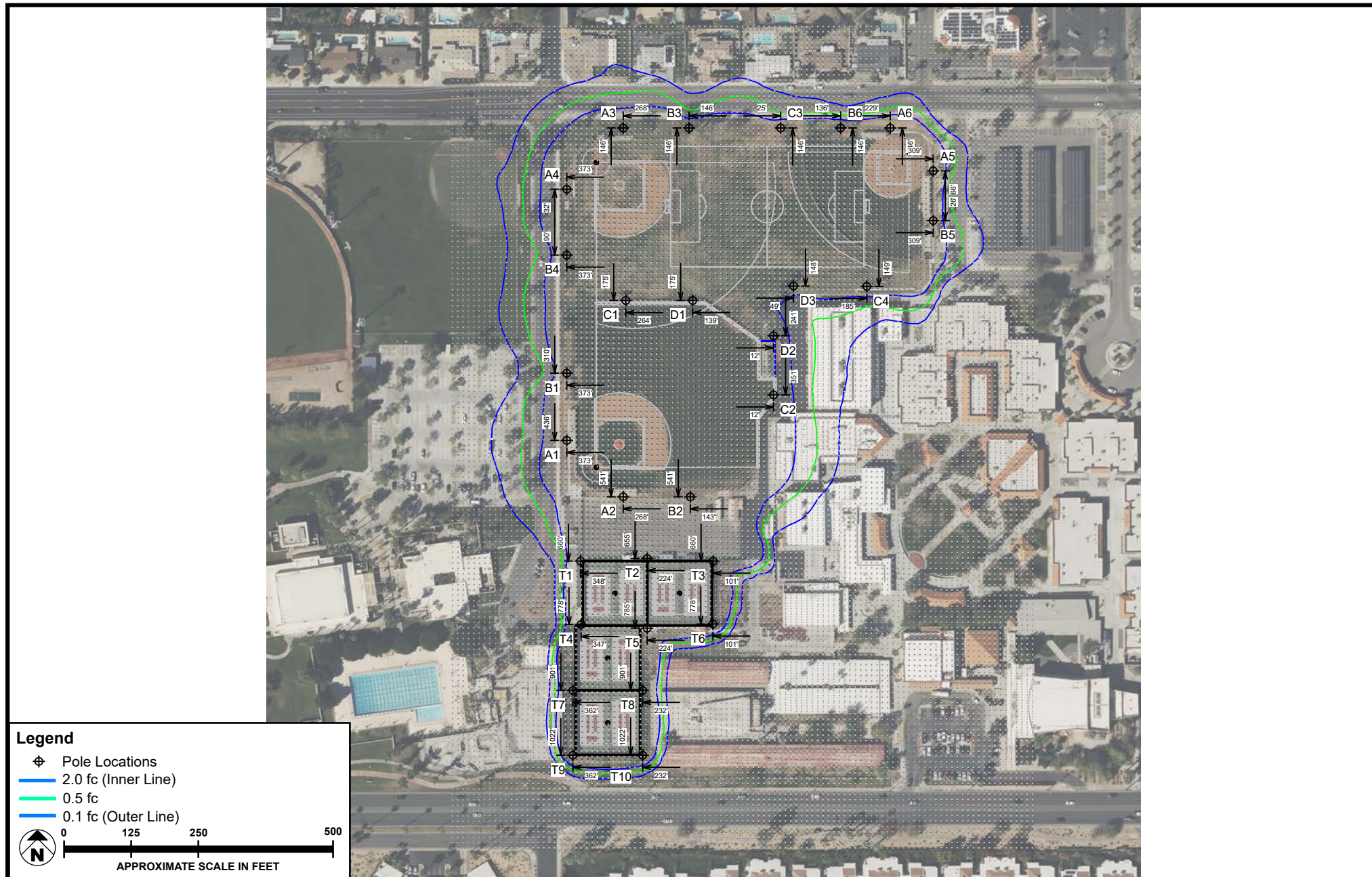
The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now. See **Figure 5.1-3: CCHS Illumination Summary** that illustrates the calculated illumination for the Project Site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

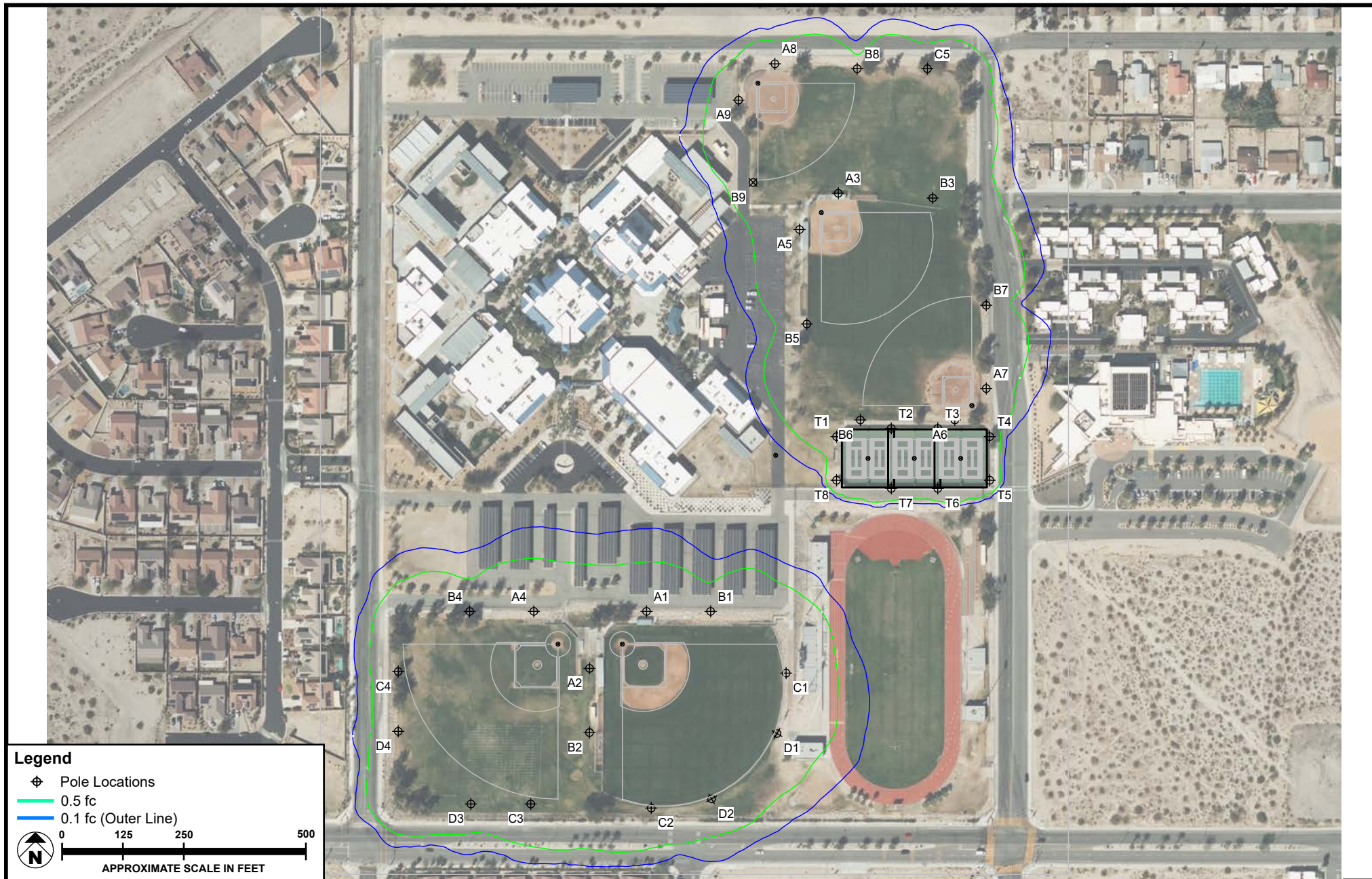
The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. This would create a new source of light during the nighttime, around all three high school campuses. If a 0.5-foot candle threshold is maintained, along with the light fixture hoods, the effects of the proposed Project would not be substantial or adversely affect day or nighttime views. Impacts would be less than significant at PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.



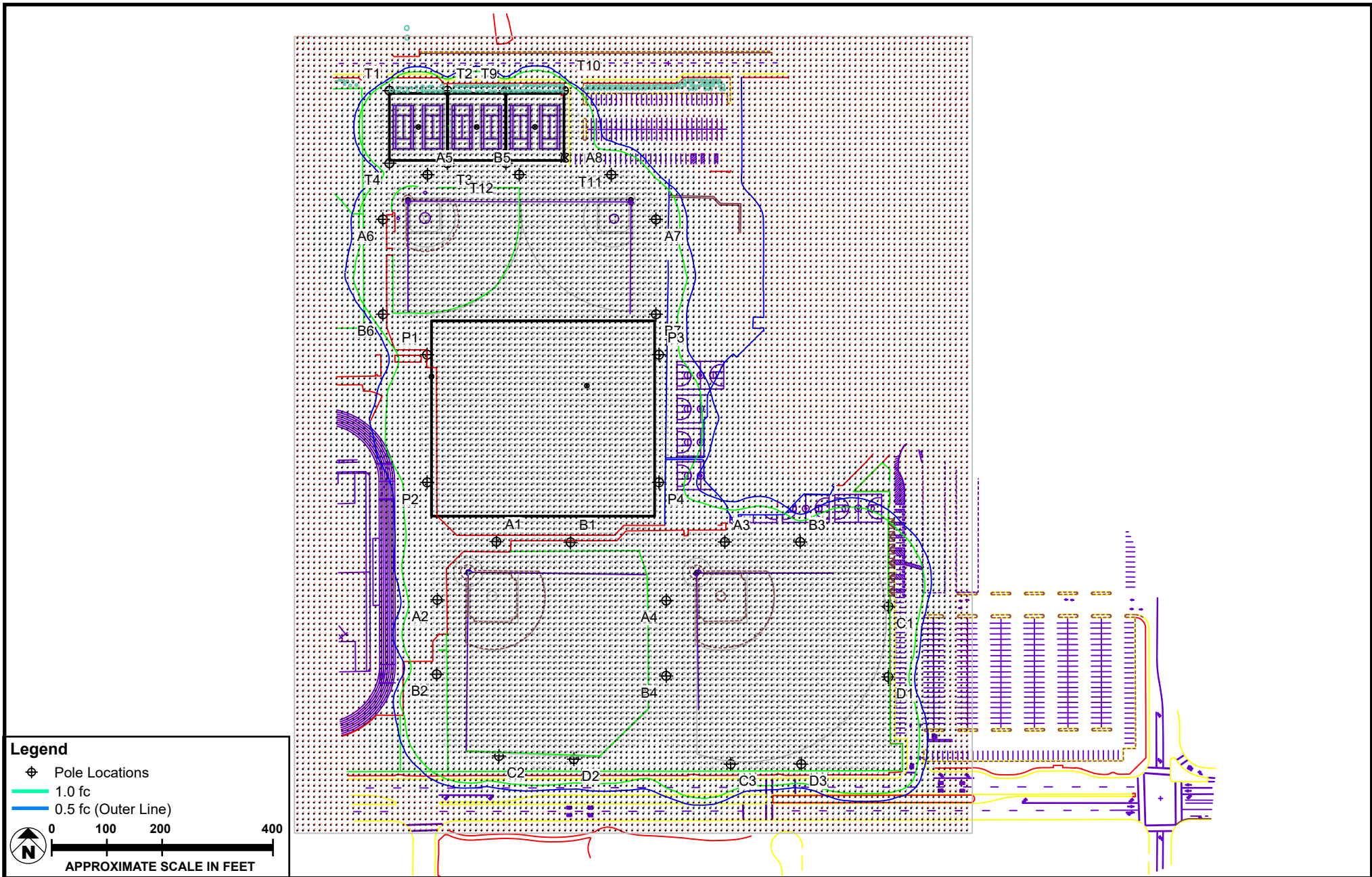
SOURCE: Musco Lighting - 2022

FIGURE 5.1-1.1



SOURCE: Musco Lighting - 2022

FIGURE 5.1-2



SOURCE: Musco Lighting - 2023

FIGURE 5.1-3

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES—Would the project:				
Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?

No Impact. All of the Project Sites contain existing, developed high schools, and are surrounded by urban and built uses.

According to the California Department of Conservation “California Important Farmland Map,” each of the three Project Sites and surrounding uses are listed as “Urban and Built-Up Land.”⁴² There are no areas listed as Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Local Importance on the Project Sites or surrounding the Project Site. The Project Sites and surrounding development are not currently used for agriculture. The proposed Project would not convert farmland to nonagricultural use.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. This Project would not convert or affect farmland, as the proposed Project involves existing developed high schools surrounded by urbanized communities.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act Contract?

No Impact. The Williamson Act is also known as the California Land Conservation Act of 1965. It enables local government to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use.

Palm Springs High School

PSHS is zoned “O” for Open Land Zone, which does allow for agricultural use, which does not allow for agricultural use.⁴³ Palm Springs and PSHS are under the jurisdiction of the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) within Riverside County. The zone which PSHS lies within is regarded as urban built-up land by the California Department of Conservation’s California Important Farmland Finder.⁴⁴ This means the land is defined as irreversibly urban in character, and as there is no contract for the Williamson Act,⁴⁵ there is no conflict.

⁴² Department of Conservation, “California Important Farmland Map,” <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed March 2023.

⁴³ City of Palm Springs. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/26522/637515977161430000>. Accessed March 2023.

⁴⁴ California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring, California Important Farmland Finder, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed April 2023.

⁴⁵ California Department of Conservation. California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/WilliamsonAct/>. Accessed April 2023.

Desert Hot Springs High School

DHSHS is zoned “P” for Public or Institutional, which does not allow for agricultural use.⁴⁶ Desert Hot Springs and DHSHS are under the jurisdiction of the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) within Riverside County. The zone which DHSHS lies within is regarded as urban built-up land by the California Department of Conservation’s California Important Farmland Finder.⁴⁷ This means the land is defined as irreversibly urban in character, and as there is no contract for the Williamson Act,⁴⁸ there is no conflict.

Cathedral City High School

CCHS is zoned “RR” for Resort Residential, which does not allow for agricultural use.⁴⁹ Cathedral City and CCHS are under the jurisdiction of the Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) within Riverside County. The zone which CCHS lies within is regarded as urban built-up land by the California Department of Conservation’s California Important Farmland Finder.⁵⁰ This means the land is defined as irreversibly urban in character, and as there is no contract for the Williamson Act,⁵¹ there is no conflict.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. All three of the schools and related Project Sites are not under the Williamson Act Contract.^{52, 53, 54} Therefore, the implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with existing land use designations for agricultural use or Williamson Act Contract.

⁴⁶ City of Desert Hot Springs. GIS Viewer, Zoning Map. Available at: <https://deserthotsprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=09a2838a17c2457dbf854ec9f441c9a2>. Accessed March 2023.

⁴⁷ California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring, California Important Farmland Finder, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed April 2023.

⁴⁸ California Department of Conservation. California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/WilliamsonAct/>. Accessed April 2023.

⁴⁹ City of Cathedral City. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/5350/636245721641900000>. Accessed March 2023.

⁵⁰ California Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring, California Important Farmland Finder, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/>. Accessed April 2023.

⁵¹ California Department of Conservation. California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder. Available at: <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/WilliamsonAct/>. Accessed April 2023.

⁵² Riverside county Planning Department, Riverside County General Plan, Land Use Element, https://planning.rctlma.org/Portals/14/Ch03_Land%20Use_FINAL%209-28-21.pdf. Accessed March 2023.

⁵³ City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan Update and Zoning Amendment, Environmental Impact Report, May 2020, <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LdhmTkCxb0Lw3Weyg5UclYrAuAmxWvQ/view>. Accessed March 2023.

⁵⁴ City of Cathedral City, General Plan EIR, July 2019, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed March 2023.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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))?

No Impact. The three campuses and associated Project Sites are not used for forestland or timberland. As previously stated, the Project Sites exist in a developed part of their respective cities, and are surrounded by land uses consisting of mostly residential uses and some general commercial uses.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There is no conflict with existing zoning, as the land the three high schools are situated on are not zoned for forest land or timberland.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?

No Impact. The Project Sites are not zoned for forestland and contains no forestland. Furthermore, the proposed Project would not result in the loss of, or conversion of, forestland to nonforest use.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There is conversion of forestland to nonforest use, as the three campuses are not zoned for forestland nor do they contain forestland.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature could result in conversion of Farmland, to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?

No impact. The Project Sites are not zoned for agriculture or forestland. The proposed Project would not result in conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use, or forestland to nonforest use.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The proposed action does not involve conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use or forestland to nonforest use.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 project:				
Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Is the boundary of the proposed school site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the School?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the agency responsible for attaining State and federal clean air standards in the Salton Sea Air Basin (Basin). Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City, where each of the Projects are located, fall within the jurisdiction of the Basin.

The SCAQMD adopted an updated air quality management plan (AQMP) in December 2022.⁵⁵ The Final 2022 AQMP was prepared to comply with the federal and State Clean Air Acts and amendments, to accommodate growth, to reduce pollutants in the Basin, meet federal and State air quality standards, and minimize the fiscal impact of pollution control measures on the local economy. The Final 2022 AQMP

⁵⁵ South Coast Air Quality Management District, Final 2022 Air Quality Management Plan, Accessed February 2023.

builds on approaches seen in the previous AQMP in order to achieve attainment of the federal ozone air quality standard. These planning efforts have decreased exposure to unhealthy levels of pollutants, even while substantial population growth has occurred within the Basin.

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less than Significant Impact. Projects considered to be consistent with the AQMP would not interfere with attainment of the air quality levels identified in the AQMP because this growth is included in the projections utilized in the formulation of the AQMP. Therefore, projects, uses, and activities that are consistent with the applicable assumption used in the development of the AQMP would not jeopardize attainment of the air quality levels identified in the AQMP, even if they exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily emissions thresholds.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has the responsibility for preparing and approving the portions of the AQMP relating to regional demographic projections and integrated regional land use, housing, employment, as well as transportation programs, measures, and strategies. With regard to air quality planning, SCAG has prepared and adopted the 2020-2045 RTP/SCS,⁵⁶ which includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy that addresses regional development and growth forecasts. Determining whether or not a project exceeds SCAG's growth forecasts involves the evaluation of the following: (1) consistency with applicable population, housing, and employment growth projections; (2) project mitigation measures; and (3) appropriate incorporation of AQMP land use planning strategies. A project is consistent with the AQMP, in part, if it is consistent with the population, housing, and employment assumptions that were used in the development of the AQMP.

The proposed Project would not increase population, employment, or housing projections. The proposed Project would install field lighting improvements on the campuses of PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS. Thus, the proposed Project would not induce an increase in population, employment, or housing, and the proposed Project would not conflict with growth projections used in the development of the AQMP.

Additionally, the Salton Sea Air Basin is currently designated as nonattainment for O₃ and PM₁₀. SCAQMD developed regional emissions thresholds to determine whether a project would contribute to air pollutant violations. If a project exceeds the regional air pollutant thresholds, it would contribute to air quality violations in the Salton Sea Air Basin.

As shown in **Table 5.3-1: Maximum Construction Emissions** below, temporary emissions associated with construction of the proposed Project would occur at each of the three campuses. The individual emissions

⁵⁶ Southern California Association of Governments, Connect SoCal: 2020-2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies, <https://scag.ca.gov/read-plan-adopted-final-plan>. Accessed February 2022.

from one campus as well as the cumulative emissions for all three campuses fall below regional thresholds and impacts would be less than significant.

Additionally, as discussed below, the proposed Project would not result in long-term air quality emissions during operations as the proposed Project would not increase the local population, number of students, or number of faculty on site. As such, the proposed Project would not conflict with the growth assumptions in the regional air plan and would not contribute to air quality violations in the Basin.

Summary

The AQMP applicable to the Project Sites provides emissions thresholds to be assessed in addition to the thresholds developed by SCAQMD. **Table 5.3-1** demonstrates the air quality emissions as a result of the construction on all three campuses individually and cumulatively. All emissions fall below the regional thresholds and would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of AQMP.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard?

Less than Significant Impact. A significant impact could occur if a project would add a considerable cumulative contribution to federal or State nonattainment pollutants. The Salton Sea Air Basin is currently designated as nonattainment for O₃, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀. In regard to determining the significance of the Project's contribution, the SCAQMD neither recommends quantified analyses of construction and/or operational emissions from multiple related projects, nor provides methodologies or thresholds of significance to be used to assess the cumulative emissions generated by multiple cumulative projects. Instead, the SCAQMD recommends that a project's potential contribution to cumulative impacts be assessed utilizing the same significance criteria as those for project-specific impacts. The SCAQMD states that "projects that do not exceed the project specific thresholds are generally not considered to be cumulatively significant."⁵⁷ Therefore, if a project generates less than significant construction or operational emissions, then the project would not generate a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions for those pollutants which the Basin is in nonattainment.

57 South Coast Air Quality Management District, White Paper on Potential Control Strategies to Address Cumulative Impacts from Air Pollution (2003), Appendix A, <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/Agendas/Environmental-Justice/cumulative-impacts-working-group/cumulative-impacts-white-paper-appendix.pdf>. Accessed February 2023.

Construction

With respect to the proposed Project's construction-period air quality emissions and cumulative Basin-wide conditions, the SCAQMD has developed strategies to reduce criteria pollutant emissions outlined in the AQMP pursuant to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

According to the SCAQMD, individual construction projects that exceed the SCAQMD's recommended daily thresholds for project-specific impacts would cause a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions for those pollutants for which the Basin is in nonattainment. Construction of the proposed Project has the potential to create air quality impacts through the use of heavy-duty construction equipment and through vehicle trips generated from construction workers to and from the Project Site. In addition, fugitive dust emissions would result from construction activities. NO_x emissions would result from the use of off-road construction equipment.

Construction emissions were estimated according to the SCAQMD CEQA Air Quality Handbook and construction emission factors contained in the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) (See **Appendix B: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas CalEEMod Output Sheets**).

The results presented in **Table 5.3-1: Maximum Construction Emissions** are compared to the SCAQMD-established construction significance thresholds for the construction on a single campus as well as cumulatively for all three Project Sites. As shown in **Table 5.3-1**, the individual and cumulative construction emissions would not exceed the regional VOC, NO_x, CO, SO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} concentration thresholds.

Construction impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

TABLE 5.3-1 MAXIMUM CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS						
Source	VOC	NO _x	CO	SO _x	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
pounds/day						
Maximum Emissions for each school	3	14	38	<1	5	1
Cumulative Emissions ¹	8	43	115	<1	15	4
SCAQMD Mass Daily Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Threshold exceeded?	No	No	No	No	No	No

¹ Cumulative emissions assume construction would occur concurrently at each school and represents the worst-case scenario. CO = carbon monoxide; NO_x = nitrogen oxides; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; SO_x = sulfur oxides; VOC = volatile organic compounds. Refer to Appendix B: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas CalEEMod Output Sheets.

Operation

The proposed Project would not result in long-term air quality emissions during operations as the proposed Project would not increase the local population, number of students, or number of faculty on site. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Operational impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

The Salton Sea Air Basin is currently designated as nonattainment for O₃, PM_{2.5}, and PM₁₀. The proposed Project's construction-period air quality emissions were estimated and concluded to not exceed the regional VOC, NO_x, CO, SO_x, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} concentration thresholds. Additionally, operational air quality emissions would not be generated. As such, the proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant Impact. The SCAQMD developed the Localized Significance Threshold (LST) methodology⁵⁸ to assess the potential air quality impacts that would result in the near vicinity of the Project.

For evaluation purposes, the SCAQMD territory is divided into 38 source receptor areas (SRAs). These SRAs are designated to provide a general representation of the local meteorological, terrain, and air quality conditions within the particular geographical area. The three campuses are all within SRA 30, Coachella Valley.⁵⁹

The LST methodology considers emissions generated from on-site sources and excludes emissions from off-site vehicular traffic. The SCAQMD provides mass-rate lookup tables as a screening tool to determine the likelihood of localized impacts from the proposed Project's construction and operation. Ambient conditions for the Coachella Valley, as recorded in SRA 30 by the SCAQMD, were used for ambient

58 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Final Localized Threshold Methodology, July 2008. <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/localized-significance-thresholds/final-lst-methodology-document.pdf?sfvrsn=2>. Accessed February 2023.

59 SCAQMD, General Forecast Areas and Air Monitoring Areas, map, <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/map-of-monitoring-areas.pdf>. Accessed February 2023.

conditions in determining appropriate threshold levels. The LST mass-rate lookup tables are applicable to NO_x, CO, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} emissions.

Construction

The results of the construction LST analysis for the proposed Project are provided in **Table 5.3-2: Localized Construction Emissions**. As shown in Table 5.3-2, cumulative emissions would not exceed the localized significance thresholds for construction.

As emissions would be below SCAQMD localized thresholds, impacts to the sensitive receptors identified below from localized emissions during construction would be less than significant.

TABLE 5.3-2 LOCALIZED CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS				
Source	NO _x	CO	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
	On-Site Emissions (pounds/day)			
Maximum Emissions for each school	8	8	<1	<1
Cumulative Emissions ¹	24	24	<1	<1
LST threshold	304	2,292	14	8
Threshold Exceeded?	No	No	No	No

Notes:

¹ Cumulative emissions assume construction would occur concurrently at each school and represents the worst-case scenario. Totals in table may not appear to add exactly due to rounding in the computer model calculations.

CO = carbon monoxide; NO_x = nitrogen oxide; PM₁₀ = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM_{2.5} = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns.

Refer to Appendix B: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas CalEEMod Output Sheets.

Operation

Receptors sensitive to air pollution include, but are not limited to, residences, schools, hospitals, and convalescent facilities.

Palm Springs High School

As shown in **Figure 5.3-1: Palm Springs High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the PSHS Project Site includes Open Space Recreation uses to the west, residential uses to the north and south. There are residential uses to the east as well as a private school about 740 feet away to the east.

The proposed Project would not result in long-term air quality emissions during operations as the proposed Project would not increase the local population, number of students, or number of faculty on the PSHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Desert Hot Springs High School

As seen in **Figure 5.3-2: Desert Hot Springs High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the DHSHS Project Site includes residential uses to the south, east, and west, as well as the Open Space Recreation uses to the east.

The proposed Project would not result in long-term air quality emissions during operations as the proposed Project would not increase the local population, number of students, or number of faculty on the DHSHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Cathedral City High School

As seen in **Figure 5.3-3: Cathedral City High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the CCHS Project Site includes residential uses to the north and south and Open Space Recreation uses to the west.

The proposed Project would not result in long-term air quality emissions during operations as the proposed Project would not increase the local population, number of students, or number of faculty on the CCHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Therefore, localized operational impacts resulting from the proposed Project to the sensitive receptors located around the Project Sites at each of the three school campuses would be less than significant.

Summary

SCAQMD provides the LST thresholds as a method of assess air quality impacts in the vicinity of the Project Site. Table 5.3-2 shows that the cumulative construction emissions would fall below the LST thresholds. Additionally, no operational emissions would be created as a result of the proposed Project. As a result, sensitive receptors would not be exposed to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Less than Significant Impact. During construction activities associated with the operation of construction equipment, the application of architectural coatings and other interior and exterior finishes may produce discernible odors typical of most construction sites. Although these odors could be a source of nuisance to adjacent residences, they are temporary and intermittent in nature. As construction-related emissions dissipate, the odors associated with these emissions would also decrease, dilute, and become unnoticeable.

As such, construction impacts would be less than significant.

According to the SCAQMD, “while almost any source may emit objectionable odors, some land uses would be more likely to produce odors because of their operation.”⁶⁰ Land uses that are more likely to produce objectionable odors include agriculture, chemical plants, composting operations, dairies, fiberglass molding, landfills, refineries, rendering plants, rail yards, and wastewater treatment plants. Operation of the proposed Projects includes installation of field lighting improvements on each of the campuses and would not contain any active manufacturing activities.

Therefore, operational impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

Construction activities may produce odors; however, they would be temporary and intermittent in nature. Operational activities would not result in any odors. In conclusion, the proposed Project would not result in emissions that would cause odors or affect a substantial number of people.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

e. Is the boundary of the proposed school site within 500 feet of the edge of the closest traffic lane of a freeway or busy traffic corridor? If yes, would the project create an air quality health risk due to the placement of the school?

Less than Significant Impact.

California Education Code (EDC) Section 17213 states that a busy traffic corridor is defined as having 50,000 or more average daily trips (ADT) in a rural area or 100,000 or more ADT in an urban area.⁶¹

Palm Springs High School

There are no freeways within 500 feet of the Palm Springs High School Project Site. The closest freeway, I-10, is approximately 3.8 miles northeast of the Project Site.

60 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning, May 2005, 2-2.

61 California Education Code (EDC), Sec. 17213, accessed March 2023.
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC§ionNum=17213.#:~:text=17213.%20The%20governing%20board%20of%20a%20school%20district,school%20district%2C%20unless%20all%20of%20the%20following%20occur%3A. Accessed March 2023.

Desert Hot Springs High School

There are no freeways within 500 feet of the Desert Hot Springs High School Project Site. The closest freeway, I-10, is located approximately 4.2 miles south of the DHSHS Project Site.

Cathedral City High School

There are no freeways within 500 feet of the Cathedral City High School Project Site. The closest freeway, I-10, is located approximately 2.3 miles northeast of the CCHS Project Site.

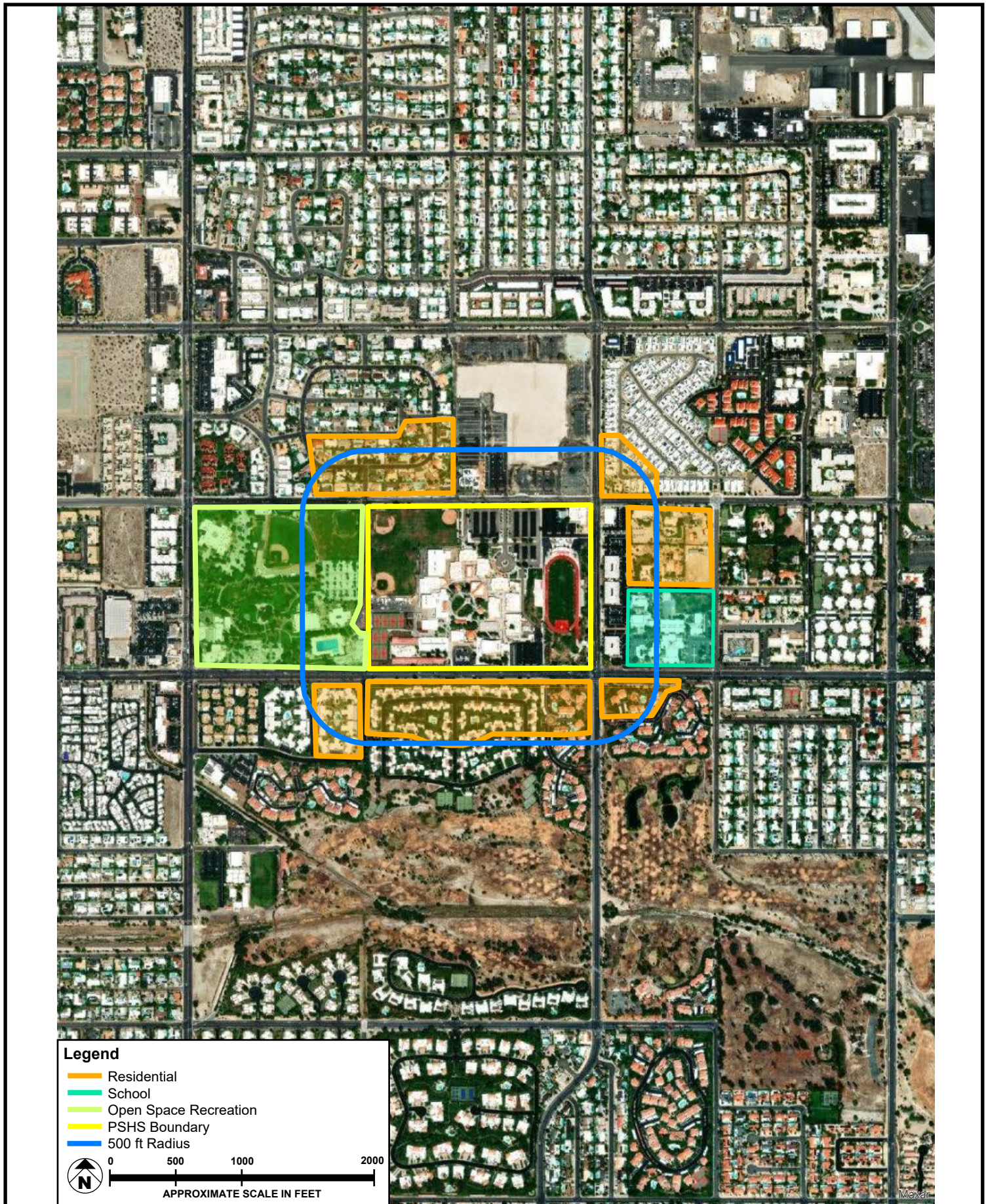
Summary

The proposed Project would not generate an increase of daily vehicle trips, as analyzed in Section 5.17: Transportation. AS noted above, none of the campuses are within one-quarter mile of a freeway nor within one-quarter mile of any road with an ADT above 50,000, as defined by California Education Code.⁶²

Impacts would be less than significant.

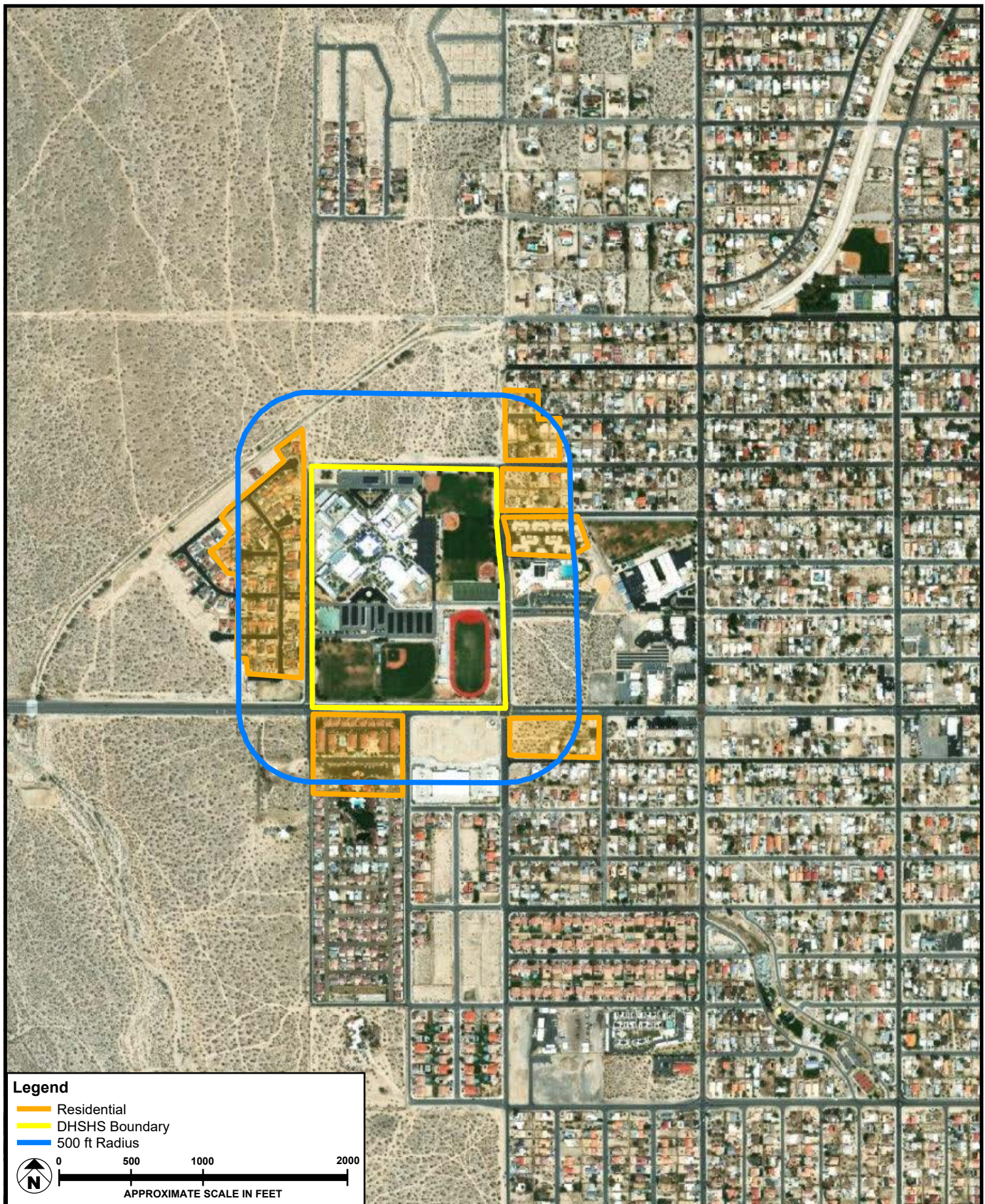
Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

⁶² California Education Code (EDC), Sec. 17213. Accessed March 2023. https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC§ionNum=17213.#:~:text=17213.%20The%20governing%20board%20of%20a%20school%20district,school%20district%2C%20unless%20all%20of%20the%20followin%20occur%3A. Accessed March 2022.



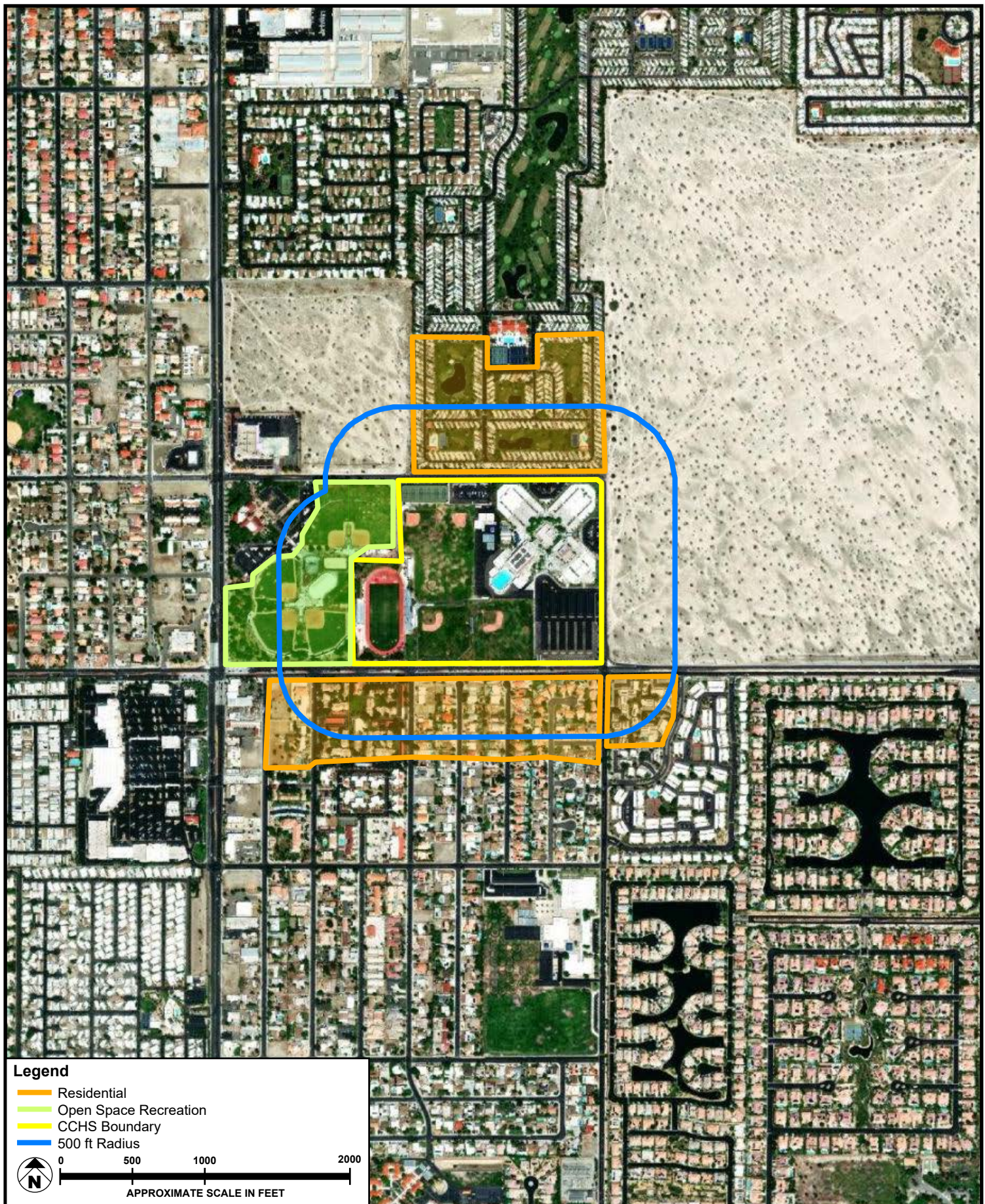
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE 5.3-1



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE 5.3-2



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE 5.3-3

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES—Would the project:				
Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?***

Less Than Significant With Project Mitigation.

Special-status species include those listed as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA), species otherwise given certain designations by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and plant species listed as rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

The Project Sites are located in the cities of Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City, which are all within the Coachella Valley, and part of the lower Colorado and Sonoran Deserts.⁶³ This local includes high temperatures, dry climate, and extreme topographic variations such as low desert floor and mountain ranges which contribute to the diverse ecological environment and natural communities found here.⁶⁴

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) contains an aggregate of the most recent, updated listing of plant and animal species in California. A CNDDB records-search was conducted for the following quadrangles and the eight quadrangles surrounding it (nine total): Desert Hot Springs, Palm Springs, and Cathedral City (see **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data** for the full list of search results). The search identified **27 animal** species listed as either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, with one species, in particular, listed as “Candidate Threatened,” two as “Candidate Endangered,” as well as additional plant and animal species listed with special status.

The eBird database is a congregate of public observations and real-time data of bird distribution and abundance, and one of the world’s largest biodiversity-related science projects.⁶⁵ An eBird search was conducted for a half-mile radius around PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS, which identified sightings of two bird species.

63 City of Cathedral City, General Plan (2040 Update), “Open Space and Conservation Element.” <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed March 2023.

64 Cathedral City General Plan EIR, Exhibit 2.5-2, CVMSHCP Biological Resources Map North, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8165/636990400863070000>. Accessed March 2023.

65 The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird, About eBird, <https://ebird.org/about>. Accessed April 2023.

Palm Springs High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around Palm Springs High School yielded a total of 223 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C**⁶⁶ were identified within the nine-quadrangle search as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special-status species. Eighteen species in the 9-quadrangle around Palm Springs have a federal conservation status, seventeen have a state level conservation status, an additional two with “Candidate Endangered” status, 7 with CDFW status, and 92 total plant species. The Project Site is within the Palm Springs Quadrangle, which contains 89 animal and plant species. There are 43 wildlife and 28 plant species within the Palm Springs quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, state, or federal level authority.

Twenty-four plant and wildlife species were identified within a quarter mile of the high school campus. Eight of these species are plants, the rest are wildlife. Of the wildlife species within a quarter-mile of the high school, six are nocturnal or most commonly active around sunset and sunrise: Casey’s June Beetle, pallid San Diego pocket mouse, big free-tailed bat, western yellow bat, pocketed free-tailed bat, and the Coachella Valley Jerusalem Mouse.⁶⁷ There is a potential for some of these species to occur onsite, but considering the human activity levels that would occur on the high school fields, the potential is low. Casey’s June Beetles are common in the warmer summer seasons, and may be attracted to the lights around the high school field. This would have little impact on the species.

The animal species listed in **Appendix C**⁶⁸ and identified within a quarter mile of the high school campus are not likely to occur within the Project Site considering the site is disturbed with an existing school and ongoing school operations. Additionally, the Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support the referenced species. Furthermore, the construction areas would be located within an actively used part of the PSHS campus and away from any potential habitat. The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species. This impact would be significant, but the addition of “hoods” (as shown in **Figure 2.0-1**) would focus the light onto the high school fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

The eBird database has recorded sightings of Prairie Falcons within a half-mile of the high school campus, and Burrowing owls have been sighted within a mile, see **Appendix C**. Prairie Falcons are a species of low conservational concern, and a year-round presence throughout the western-half of North and Central

⁶⁶ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 9-Quad Search. March 2023 (See Appendix C: Biological Resources Data).

⁶⁷ The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird. Listed Species Sightings within a Half Mile of the Project Site. April 2023 (See Appendix C: Biological Resource Data).

⁶⁸ The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird. Listed Species Sightings within a Half Mile of the Project Site. April 2023 (See Appendix C: Biological Resource Data).

America.⁶⁹ Their preferred habitats include bluffs and cliffs for nesting; grassland, shrubsteppe desert, and alpine tundra for breeding; as well as grasslands, agricultural fields, and sage scrub for hunting.⁷⁰ The Prairie Falcon is not likely to occur on the Project Site or spend much time around PSHS, as the site is disturbed with an existing school and ongoing operations. The species is also diurnal, meaning they return to their roosts before sunset and resume activities at sunrise. Burrowing Owls were observed within a mile, but over half-a-mile from the Project Site. The Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support all activities of the Prairie Falcon nor the Burrowing Owl, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the PSHS campus and away from any potential habitat. The impact of introducing a nighttime light source may be significant to birds, but the addition of lighting hoods would focus the lights onto the high school fields, and would be extinguished prior to 10pm after events.

PSHS is located within an existing residential community with commercial-use properties. The proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing PSHS high school fields and stadium. The campus includes maintained landscaping, concrete and asphalt areas, surface parking, and an eastern adjacent field that is regularly landscaped and manicured. It is unlikely for special-status plant species to occur on-site, and all construction would be conducted on Project Site. Additionally, the majority of construction would be concentrated on the west and east sides of the campus, which are adjacent to a developed surface parking lot and pool.

The proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs or trees. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

The mowed lawn area of the existing high school fields do not provide habitat for sensitive or special status wildlife species, and thus no direct impacts are anticipated from the proposed Project upon wildlife.

Short-term construction would not be anticipated to affect nesting or roosting bird species in the vicinity, because the high school fields are regularly maintained by a tractor-mounted mower, which produces noise levels similar to the equipment anticipated for trenching and light pole installation; thus, bird species that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. However, introduction of lighting would be a new impact to nesting birds.

⁶⁹ The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds, Prairie Falcon, Life History: Conservation, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Prairie_Falcon/lifehistory#conservation. Accessed April 2023.

⁷⁰ The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds, Prairie Falcon, Life History: Habitat, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Prairie_Falcon/lifehistory#habitat. Accessed April 2023.

The lighting fixtures would be dressed with “hoods” (as exhibited in **Figure 2.0-1: Lighting Structure System**) to reduce light-spillage and to direct the LED lights towards the fields. This would reduce impacts and stress on wildlife and birds adjacent to the high school fields, as the light glare would not exceed past school grounds.

Impacts would be potentially significant to nesting birds.

Desert Hot Springs High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around Desert Hot Springs High School yielded a total of 212 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C⁷¹** were identified within the nine-quadrangle search as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special-status species. Eighteen species in the 9-quadrangle around Desert Hot Springs have a federal conservation status, fifteen have a state level conservation status, an additional two with “Candidate Endangered” status, one with “Candidate Threatened” status, 75 with CDFW status, 86 total plant species, and 4 terrestrial communities (none of which have any protective status). There are 34 wildlife and 11 plant species within the Desert Hot Springs quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, state, or federal level authority.

Eight species were identified within a quarter mile of the high school campus, two of which are plant species. Two of the species, the burrowing owl and pallid San Diego pocket mouse, are nocturnal species. There is a potential for some of these species to occur onsite, but considering the timidity of the species and the human activity levels that would occur on the high school fields, the potential is low.

The animal species listed in **Appendix C⁷²** and within a quarter mile of the campus are not likely to occur within the Project Sites considering the site is disturbed with an existing school and ongoing school operations. Additionally, the Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support the referenced species. Furthermore, the construction areas would be located within an actively used part of the PSHS campus and away from any potential habitat. The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species. This impact would be significant, but the addition of “hoods” (as shown in **Figure 2.0-2**) would focus the light onto the high school fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

The eBird database has recorded sightings of Burrowing Owls within a half-mile of the high school campus, and Prairie Falcons have been sighted within a mile, see **Appendix C**. Burrowing Owls are a species of

⁷¹ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). 9-Quad Search. March 2023 (See Appendix C: Biological Resources Data).

⁷² The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird. Listed Species Sightings within a Half Mile of the Project Site. April 2023 (See Appendix C: Biological Resource Data).

low conservational concern, and a year-round presence throughout southern North America and northern Central America, as well as most of South America.⁷³ Their preferred habitats include open, treeless areas with low, sparse vegetation, such as grasslands, deserts, and steppe environments.⁷⁴ The Burrowing Owl is not likely to occur on the Project Site or spend much time around DHSHS, as the site is disturbed with an existing school and ongoing operations. The species is also diurnal and crepuscular, meaning they are most active at dusk and dawn, but also active throughout the day. Prairie Falcons were observed within a mile, but over half-a-mile from the Project Site. The Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support all activities of the Burrowing Owl nor Prairie Falcon, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the DHSHS campus and away from any potential habitat. The impact of introducing a nighttime light source may be significant to birds, but the addition of lighting hoods would focus the lights onto the high school fields, and would be extinguished prior to 10pm after events.

DHSHS is located within an existing residential community with pockets of vacant land further away. The proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing DHSHS high school fields. The campus, which includes maintained landscaping, concrete and asphalt areas, surface parking, and an adjacent high school field that are regularly landscaped and manicured. It is unlikely for special-status plant species to occur on-site, and all construction would be conducted on Project Site.

Additionally, the majority of construction would be concentrated on the southern and eastern sides of the campus which are adjacent to a developed residential community and major roadway.

The proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs or trees. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

The mowed lawn area of the existing high school fields do not provide habitat for sensitive or special status wildlife species, and thus no direct impacts are anticipated from the proposed Project upon wildlife.

Short-term construction would not be anticipated to affect nesting or roosting bird species in the vicinity, because the high school fields are regularly maintained by a tractor-mounted mower, which produces noise levels similar to the equipment anticipated for trenching and light pole installation; thus, bird

⁷³ The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds, Burrowing Owl, Life History: Conservation, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Burrowing_Owl/lifehistory#conservation. Accessed April 2023.

⁷⁴ The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds, Burrowing Owl, Life History: Habitat, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Burrowing_Owl/lifehistory#habitat. Accessed April 2023.

species that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. However, introduction of lighting would have a new impact on nesting birds.

The lighting fixtures would be dressed with “hoods” (as exhibited in Figure 2.0-2) to reduce light-spillage and to direct the LED lights towards the fields. This would reduce impacts and stress on wildlife and birds adjacent to the high school fields, as the light glare would not exceed past school grounds.

Impacts would be potentially significant to nesting birds.

Cathedral City High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around Cathedral City yielded a total of 162 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C**⁷⁵ were identified within the nine-quadrangle search as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special- status species. Fifteen species in the 9-quadrangle around Cathedral City have a federal conservation status, eleven have a state level conservation status, one with “Candidate Endangered” status and one with “Candidate Threatened” status, as well as 56 with CDFW status, 72 total plant species, and 3 terrestrial communities (one of which has a protective status). There are 15 wildlife and 10 plant species within the Cathedral City quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, State, or federal level authority.

Ten wildlife and plant species were identified within a quarter mile of the high school campus, three of which are plant species.⁷⁶ One species, the Coachella giant sand treader cricket, was identified as nocturnal. There is a potential for the Coachella giant sand treader cricket or other identified species to occur onsite, the human activity levels that would occur on the high school fields, the potential is low.

The animal species listed in **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data** are not likely to occur within the Project Sites considering the sites are disturbed with an existing school and ongoing school operations. Additionally, the Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support the referenced species. Furthermore, the construction areas would be located within an actively used part of the CCHS campus and away from any potential habitat. The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species. This impact would be significant, but the addition of “hoods” (as shown in **Figure 2.0-2**) would focus the light onto the high school fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

⁷⁵ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). 9-Quad Search. March 2023 (See Appendix C: Biological Resources Data).

⁷⁶ The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird. Listed Species Sightings within a Half Mile of the Project Site. April 2023 (See Appendix C: Biological Resource Data).

The eBird database has no recorded bird sightings within half a mile of CCHS, but a Prairie Falcon was observed within a mile, see **Appendix C**. The Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support activities of Prairie Falcons or any other bird species, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the CCHS campus and away from any potential habitat. The impact of introducing a nighttime light source may be significant to birds, but the addition of lighting hoods would focus the lights onto the high school fields, and would be extinguished prior to 10pm after events.

CCHS is located within an existing residential community with pockets of vacant land further away. The proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing CCHS high school fields. The campus includes maintained landscaping, concrete and asphalt areas, surface parking, and a western adjacent field that is regularly landscaped and manicured. It is unlikely for special-status plant species to occur on-site, and all construction would be conducted on Project Site.

West of the CCHS campus lies a small open field which could potentially include habitat for listed bird species, but it is situated between the main high school campus and its high school fields. Additionally, the majority of construction would be on the western side of the campus which is adjacent to a developed surface parking lot and existing high school facilities. **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data** includes all recorded bird species found through the CNDDDB search consisting of all nine quadrangles.

The proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs or trees. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

The mowed lawn area of the existing high school fields do not provide habitat for sensitive or special status wildlife species, and thus no direct impacts are anticipated from the proposed Project upon wildlife.

Short-term construction would not be anticipated to affect nesting or roosting bird species in the vicinity, because the high school fields are regularly maintained by a tractor-mounted mower, which produces noise levels similar to the equipment anticipated for trenching and light pole installation; thus, bird species that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. However, introduction of lighting would have a new impact on nesting birds.

The lighting fixtures would be dressed with “hoods” (as exhibited in Figure 2.0-2) to reduce light-spillage and to direct the LED lights towards the fields. This would reduce impacts and stress on wildlife and birds adjacent to the high school fields, as the light glare would not exceed past school grounds.

Impacts would be potentially significant to nesting birds.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. With the implementation of MM BIO-1, the potentially significant impacts to nesting birds would be reduced. The effects would be less than significant to other plant and wildlife species, as the Project sites are disturbed and not ideal habitats, and the likelihood of encountering a special status species is low. The hoods on the lighting fixtures would reduce light-spillage and direct the light towards the high school fields and reduce stress on wildlife, including birds, which reside adjacent to the high schools.

Impacts would be potentially significant to nesting birds.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shall be implemented before construction of the Project in order to reduce impacts on wildlife species that may occur on the Project Site.

MM BIO-1: Pre-Construction Surveys for Migratory Birds (including avoidance if found)

If ground disturbance is proposed between February 1st and August 31st, a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey within 7 to 10 days of initiation of grading on site, focusing on covered species. If active nests are reported, species-specific measures shall then be prepared. At a minimum, grading in the vicinity of a nest shall be postponed until the young birds have fledged. For construction between September 1st and January 31st, no pre-removal nesting bird survey is required.

Additionally, pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls should be undertaken between 14 and 30 days prior to any kind of ground disturbance related to modifications to facilities and properties.

If breeding activities and/or an active bird nest is located, the breeding habitat/nest site shall be fenced and/or flagged a minimum of 200 feet, and 500 feet for raptors and burrowing owls around the nest until such time as nestlings have fledged as buffer from the active construction areas. This area shall not be disturbed by construction crews until the nest becomes inactive, the young have fledged, the young are no longer being fed by the parents, the young have left the area, and the young will no longer be impacted by the Project between September 1 and January 31 shall be exempt from this requirement.

Implementation of the mitigation measure below would reduce impacts to less than significant.

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans,

policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact. Sensitive natural communities are those listed in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife due to the rarity of the community in the State or throughout its entire range.⁷⁷ Natural communities are ranked based on a variety of values, most basic are the rarity of the community and the threat of removal. Sensitive natural communities are those that are especially rare and have a high threat of removal.

There are no documented riparian corridors or creeks connecting to the existing school campus for PSHS, DHSHS or CCHS.⁷⁸ Project implementation would not impact riparian habitat or sensitive habitat, and no impact would occur. The existing campuses are surrounded by existing residential development and include well maintained and active high school fields that do not include riparian or other sensitive natural habitat.

PSHS and surrounding areas to the north, east, south, and west are disturbed with urban development. The DHSHS and CCHS have vacant land adjacent to the campuses, but there are no riparian or documented sensitive habitats.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no documented riparian or sensitive habitats connected to PSHS, DHSHS, or CCHS, and as they are existing school campuses, they are unlikely to occur.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No Impact. The Project Sites are comprised of fully developed school campuses. According to the USFWS Wetlands Mapper, there are no recorded federally protected wetlands on or near the Project Sites.⁷⁹

77 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Natural Communities." <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities/Background>. Accessed February 2022.

78 Cathedral City, Comprehensive Draft General Plan (2040 Update). "Open Space and Conservation Element." <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed February 2022.

79 USFWS, Wetlands Mapper, <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>. Accessed February 2022.

The Project Sites are neither in proximity to, nor do they contain, wetland habitat or a blue line stream. Implementation of the proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no federally protected wetlands on or near the Project sites.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The existing high school fields for PSHS, DHSHS and CCHs are situated within existing high school campuses that lacks the constituent elements of a wildlife corridor or habitat linkage, namely linear or patchy habitat connecting adjacent larger patches of habitat.

Although the school campuses are composed of currently developed areas associated with residential development, there is a potential for small, highly mobile species to traverse the high school fields and surrounding area. In particular, bird species are anticipated to migrate through the fields and possibly nest in the adjacent vegetation.

Habitat connectivity is an essential aspect of viable habitat conservation and wildlife management. Habitat connectivity is accomplished by establishing habitat linkages and wildlife movement corridors that connect fragmented pieces of habitat. This allows for the movement of wildlife, a place for new vegetation to recolonize, and diversifies the plant and wildlife gene pools across areas of available habitat.

Palm Springs High School

The Project Site and immediate surroundings west, east, south, north and west are developed residential and commercial uses.

The school campus is abutted by extensive residential neighborhoods to the north, south and east; commercial properties to the north and west; natural open space habitat area exists to the west of the

school, which is already a continuous corridor that allows wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus.

PSHS does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region, and the introduction of light standards would not directly block existing travel routes for smaller wildlife, including birds. Therefore, the proposed Project would not interfere with the movement to wildlife across the region and no direct or indirect impacts to wildlife corridors or habitat linkages is expected.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Desert Hot Springs High School

The Project Site and immediate surroundings south, northeast and west are developed residential, Institutional use to the south, with vacant land to the north; vacant land and open space exist in areas around the school campus.

The school campus is abutted by residential neighborhoods to the northeast, south, and west; natural open space habitat area exists to the northeast, and west (past the residential neighborhoods) of the school, which is already a continuous corridor that allows wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus. Institutional land use also exists south and east of the Project Site.

DHSHS does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region, and the introduction of light standards would not directly block existing travel routes for smaller wildlife, including birds. Therefore, the proposed Project would not interfere with the movement to wildlife across the region and no direct or indirect impacts to wildlife corridors or habitat linkages is expected.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Cathedral City High School

The Project Site and immediate surroundings north, south, and west are developed residential and commercial uses, with vacant land to the east; pockets of vacant land is located to the north and east of the Project Site.

The school campus is abutted by extensive residential neighborhoods to the north, west, and south; commercial use to the west and south; natural open space habitat area exists to the north and east of the school, which is already a continuous corridor that allows wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus.

CCHS does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region, and the introduction of light standards would not directly block existing travel routes for smaller wildlife, including birds. Therefore, the proposed Project would not interfere with the movement to wildlife across the region and no direct or indirect impacts to wildlife corridors or habitat linkages is expected.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

The proposed Project would be implemented within the three high school campuses and no off-site improvements would occur.

Impacts to wildlife movement would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

No Impact. The cities of Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City do not have tree preservation policies nor any similar ordinances that protect trees or any other biological resources. Additionally, no trees would be removed from the Project Sites due to implementation of the proposed Project.

Summary

The Proposed project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation. No trees would be removed from any of the school campuses.

No impact would occur from Project implementation.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) addresses numerous species in the Coachella Valley.⁸⁰

The goal of the Coachella Valley MSHCP is to preserve the natural ecosystems and biological diversity on a regional scale in Coachella Valley. Local developments must pay a local development mitigation fee prior to the issuance of a building permit. The fee is used to mitigate the impacts of new development, for the purchase of land, and perpetual conservation.

⁸⁰ Southern California Association of Governments. SCAG GIS Open Data Portal. Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP & HCP). <https://gisdata-scag.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/natural-community-conservation-plan-nccp/explore?location=34.320967%2C-116.670397%2C8.71>. Accessed March 2023.

In addition to the CVMSHCP, the Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians maintain and implement the Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).⁸¹ The Tribal HCP protects and manages natural resources and habitat within the Tribe's jurisdictional territory. Its primary conservation mechanisms include creation of a Habitat Preserve; adoption of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures to enhance the habitats and survivability of Covered species; and payment of a mitigation fee that funds Tribal acquisition and management of replacement habitat. It has not yet been approved by the USFWS.

The District is not a participant in either the Coachella Valley MSHCP or Tribal HCP programs.

Summary

The proposed Project would include installation and operation of exterior field lighting on the high school fields of the PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS campuses. There is no conflict with the provisions of the CVMSHCP or HCP as the proposed Project does not involve disrupting a protected habitat, but sensitive species may still occur on-site. As the Project sites are located on three existing high school campuses, the risk of disrupting a protected habitat is low.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

⁸¹ Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians, Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan, <https://www.aguacaliente.org/documents/planning-department/THCPAugust2010.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
CULTURAL RESOURCES—Would the project:				
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

No Impact. CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(a) defines a “historical resource” as a resource listed or determined to be eligible for listing by the State Historical Resources Commission, a local register of historical resources, or the lead agency. Generally, a resource is considered “historically significant” if it meets one of the following criteria “g” of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation:

- I. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;
- II. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- III. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values;
- IV. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Palm Springs High School

PSHS is not listed as a local historical landmark, nor is it on the California Historical Landmarks register⁸² or the Points of Historical Interest register.⁸³ The campus was originally opened in 1980 and is not over 50 years old, thus it does not meet the criteria to be investigated as a historical resource. The Project Site is not listed on the National register of Historic Places.

Desert Hot Springs High School

DHSHS is not listed as a local historic landmark, nor is it on the California Historical Landmarks register⁸⁴ or the Point of Historical Interest register.⁸⁵ DHSHS was built in 1999 and is less than 50 years old. The permanent school buildings and the campus itself have not reached sufficient age, and are not associated with a significant historical event or person, nor yielded any significant history to be considered eligible for the listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria consideration “g” of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation.

Cathedral City High School

CCHS is not listed as a local historic landmark, nor is it on the California Historical Landmarks register⁸⁶ or the Points of Historical Interest register.⁸⁷ The CCHS campus was built in 1991 and is less than 50 years old, so The Project Site does not meet the criteria to be investigated as a historical resource due to age. No historic-period-built environment resources were identified within 0.5 mile of the Project Site.

Summary

The proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5, as none of the campuses are listed in any historical databases. There would be no impacts to historical resources.

⁸² National Parks Service. National Register of Historic Places. National Register Database and Research. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm#table>. Accessed March 2023.

⁸³ California State Parks. Office of Historic Preservation. California Historical Landmarks By County: Riverside. https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21452. Accessed March 2023.

⁸⁴ National Parks Service. National Register of Historic Places. National Register Database and Research. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm#table>. Accessed March 2023.

⁸⁵ California State Parks. Office of Historic Preservation. California Historical Landmarks By County: Riverside. https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21452. Accessed March 2023.

⁸⁶ National Parks Service. National Register of Historic Places. National Register Database and Research. <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm#table>. Accessed March 2023.

⁸⁷ California State Parks. Office of Historic Preservation. California Historical Landmarks By County: Riverside. https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21452. Accessed March 2023.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less Than Significant Impact with Project Mitigation.

Palm Springs High School

The City of Palm Springs has a Historic Preservation Ordinance that is designed to preserve areas and specific buildings that reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, architectural, and archaeological history.⁸⁸ According to the Palm Springs General Plan, there are two prehistoric archaeological districts, neither of which include the Project Site. As the Project Site is an existing school site, archaeological resources would have been identified at the time of construction, or during renovations- no such resources were identified. There are no identified archaeological resources within one-half mile of the Project site.

Considering the lack of general archaeological sensitivity, the fact that portions of and the areas surrounding the proposed Project Site have been studied with negative results, that the proposed Project Site has been subject to considerable ground disturbance and that the proposed disturbances are minimal, the potential for inadvertently encountering cultural resources during ground disturbing activities is unlikely. However, there is always potential for inadvertently encountering unknown cultural resources and in the event a cultural resource is encountered.

Impacts to the resource may be significant.

Desert Hot Springs High School

According to the Desert Hot Springs General Plan, the Project Site is not considered to be on or itself an archaeological resource⁸⁹. It has also been previously graded and developed with an existing school site- Desert Hot Springs High School. There are no identified archeological resources within one-half mile of the Project Site. The proposed Project would occur within the graded and developed areas of the high school campuses and would not affect the off-site areas; as such, the potential for encountering intact archaeological resources is low.

88 City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Recreation, Open Space & Conservation Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1981/635545493507830000#:~:text=In%20addition%2C%20this%20element%20will%20provide%20guidance%20for,includin%20local%20archaeology%20and%20paleontology%20within%20Palm%20Springs>. Accessed March 2023.

89 Desert Hot Springs General Plan, Open Space and Natural Resources, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

Considering the lack of general archaeological sensitivity, the fact that portions of and the areas surrounding the proposed Project Site have been studied with negative results, that the proposed Project Site has been subject to considerable ground disturbance and that the proposed disturbances are minimal, the potential for inadvertently encountering cultural resources during ground disturbing activities is unlikely. However, there is always potential for inadvertently encountering unknown cultural resources and in the event a cultural resource is encountered.

Impacts to the resource may be significant.

Cathedral City High School

According to the Cathedral City General Plan EIR, the Project Site is not within areas identified sensitive for prehistoric archaeological sites.^{90,91} Most archaeological resources in Cathedral City are located north of the I-10. Additionally, as stated above, there are no identified archaeological resources within one-half mile of the Project Site. The proposed Project would occur within the graded and developed areas of the high school campuses and would not affect the off-site areas; as such, the potential for encountering intact archaeological resources is low.

Considering the lack of general archaeological sensitivity, the fact that portions of and the areas surrounding the proposed Project Site have been studied with negative results, that the proposed Project Site has been subject to considerable ground disturbance and that the proposed disturbances are minimal, the potential for inadvertently encountering cultural resources during ground disturbing activities is unlikely. However, there is always potential for inadvertently encountering unknown cultural resources and in the event a cultural resource is encountered.

Impacts to the resources may be significant.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. No archaeological resources were identified at PSHS, DHSHS, or CCHS, at the time of original grading and construction. While the potential to encounter intact archaeological resources during the installation of the proposed lighting fixtures, impacts to resources may be significant if mitigation measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 are not implemented, and if resources are discovered. With the Workers Environmental Awareness

⁹⁰ PBK Architects, Inc. for Palm Springs Unified School District, Long-Range Facilities Master Plan 2019-2029, Existing Campus Asset Summary: Cathedral City High School, <https://www.psusd.us/cms/lib/CA02204874/Centricity/Domain/166/PSUSD%20-%20LRFMP%20Board%20Approved-%2008-13-2019.pdf>. Accessed March 2023

⁹¹ Cathedral City General Plan EIR, Open Space and Conservation Element, Exhibit OS-4, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8165/636990400863070000>. Accessed March 2023.

Program and an on-retainer Archaeologist, impacts on any potential resource discoveries would be mitigated.

Impacts to the resource may be significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation is identified:

MM CUL-1: WEAP Training: All construction personnel and monitors who are not trained archaeologists shall be briefed regarding inadvertent discoveries prior to the start of construction activities. A basic presentation and handout or pamphlet shall be prepared, by a qualified archaeologist meeting the Secretary of Interior's Standards, in order to ensure proper identification and treatment of inadvertent discoveries. The purpose of the Workers Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training is to provide specific details on the kinds of archaeological materials that may be identified during construction of the project and explain the importance of and legal basis for the protection of significant archaeological resources. Each worker shall also learn the proper procedures to follow in the event that cultural resources or human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities. These procedures include work curtailment or redirection, and the immediate contact of the site supervisor and archaeological monitor.

Plan Requirements and Timing: Prior to commencement of project construction, PSUSD shall contract with a qualified archaeologist to prepare materials and deliver WEAP training to construction workers engaged in trenching and light pole foundation excavation; the requirement for WEAP training shall be included on grading or civil improvement plan sheets. The WEAP training shall be completed before ground disturbing activities begin. Monitoring: The construction contractor or PSUSD facilities management staff will verify workers receive the WEAP training prior to construction start.

MM CUL-2: Inadvertent Discoveries: A qualified archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of Interior's Standards, shall be retained and be on-call to respond to and address any inadvertent discoveries identified during ground disturbing activities whether within disturbed, imported or native soils.

In the event that potential prehistoric or historic-era archaeological resources (sites, features, or artifacts) are exposed during construction activities for the project, all construction work occurring within 50 feet of the find shall immediately stop and a qualified archaeologist must be notified immediately to assess the significance of the find and determine whether or not additional study is warranted.

Depending upon the significance of the find under the California Environmental Quality Act, the archaeologist may simply record the find and allow work to continue. If the discovery proves significant under CEQA, additional work (e.g., preparation of an archaeological treatment plan, testing, or data recovery) may be warranted.

If Native American resources are discovered or are suspected, each of the consulting tribes for the Project will be notified and as dictated by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, PRC Section 5097.98, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5(e).

Implementation of the mitigation measure below would reduce impacts to less than significant.

c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries

Less Than Significant Impact with Project Mitigation. A significant impact would occur if previously interred human remains would be disturbed during excavation.

Palm Springs High School

The closest cemetery to Palm Springs High School is Jane Augustine Patencio Cemetery, 1 mile northeast of the Project. The Project site is within an urbanized area and has been subject to grading and development in the past, which would reduce the risk of disturbing human remains during construction.

Desert Hot Springs High School

Welwood Murray Cemetery is the closest to Desert Hot Springs High School, 13.3 miles south of the Project site. The Project site is within an urbanized area and has been subject to grading and development in the past, which would reduce the risk of disturbing human remains during construction.

Cathedral City High School

Desert Memorial Park is located approximately 0.50 miles southeast of Cathedral City High School. The Project site is within an urbanized area and has been subject to grading and development in the past, which would reduce the risk of disturbing human remains during construction.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. In the unlikely event that human remains are discovered during construction, MM CUL-3 would be implemented to reduce the impact of the Project.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation has been identified to reduce impacts to less than significant:

MM CUL-3: In the unlikely event that earth-disturbing activities conducted by the District and/or its construction contractors identify undiscovered human remains, the District would comply with Government Code Sections 27460 et seq.,⁹² Section 27491, and Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98.⁹³ These regulations would require earthmoving

92 California Government Code, Title 3, Division 2, Ch. 10, Sections 27460-27530.

93 Public Resources Code, Division 5, Ch. 1.75, Section 5097.98.

activities to halt until the Riverside County Coroner can determine whether the remains are subject to the provisions of Section 27491 or any other related provisions of law. The required recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains would be subject to the person responsible for the excavation, or to his or her authorized representative.

Additionally, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.594, the coroner shall make a determination within two working days of notification of the discovery of the human remains. If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and recognizes, or has reason to believe, that they are those of a Native American, he or she shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission by telephone within 24 hours. The District would comply with existing regulations and potential impact related to the accidental discovery of human remains.

94 California Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Part 1, Ch. 2, Section 7050.5.

5.6 ENERGY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less than Significant Impact. The following analysis estimates the proposed Project's electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuel usage. This analysis also evaluates whether the Project would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. In accordance with Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines, the analysis includes relevant information to address the energy implications of the proposed Project. The supporting energy calculations are included in **Appendix D: Energy Calculations**.

Construction

During construction, energy would be directly consumed on a limited basis to power lights and electronic equipment. As discussed below, construction activities typically do not involve the consumption of natural gas. Construction would also consume energy in the form of petroleum-based fuels associated with the use of off-road construction vehicles and equipment within the Project Sites at each of the three campuses, construction worker travel, haul trips, and delivery trips.

As shown in **Table 5.6-1: Summary of Energy Use During Construction**, approximately 52,606 gallons of diesel fuel and 26,032 gallons of gasoline are estimated to be consumed during construction of the Project on a single campus. For all three campuses, a total of 157,818 gallons of diesel fuel and 78,096 gallons of gasoline are expected to be consumed.

**TABLE 5.6-1
SUMMARY OF ENERGY USE DURING CONSTRUCTION**

Fuel Type	Quantity per Single School	Total for all Schools
<i>Diesel</i>		
Off-Road Construction Equipment	9,335 gallons	28,005 gallons
On-Road Motor Vehicles	43,271 gallons	129,813 gallons
Total	52,606 gallons	157,818 gallons
<i>Gasoline</i>		
Off-Road Construction Equipment	0 gallons	0 gallons
On-Road Motor Vehicles	26,032 gallons	78,096 gallons
Total	26,032 gallons	78,096 gallons

Source: Refer to **Appendix D** for detailed calculations.

Electricity

During construction, electricity may be used to power lighting, electronic equipment, and other construction activities necessitating electrical power. Electricity would be supplied to the Project Site by Southern California Edison (SCE) distribution infrastructure and would be obtained from existing substations and electrical lines in and around the Project Site.

Due to the relatively short duration of the construction process, as well as the fact that electricity consumption is inherently low with construction projects of this size, natural electricity consumption impacts would not be considered excessive or substantial with respect to regional supplies. The energy demands during construction would be typical of construction projects of this size and the proposed Project at each of the campuses would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of electricity resources.

Accordingly, electricity demand during construction would be less than significant.

Natural Gas

Construction activities do not typically involve the consumption of natural gas because construction equipment and staging rely heavily on electricity and transportation fuels. Accordingly, natural gas would not be needed to support construction activities; thus, there would be little to no demand generated by construction. As a result, the proposed Project at each campus would not result in inefficient, or unnecessary, consumption of natural gas during construction.

Therefore, natural gas demands during construction would be less than significant.

Transportation Energy

Construction of the proposed Project would consume energy in the form of petroleum-based fuels associated with use of off-road construction vehicles and equipment on the Project Site, construction

workers traveling to and from the Project Site, and delivery and haul truck trips (e.g., for deliveries of construction supplies and materials).

As shown in **Table 5.6-1**, on- and off-road vehicles would consume an estimated 78,638 gallons of petroleum (26,032 gallons of gasoline and 52,606 gallons of diesel fuel) throughout a single campus's construction period. Additionally, for all three Project sites on- and off-road vehicles would consume an estimated 235,914 gallons of petroleum (78,096 gallons of gasoline and 157,818 of diesel fuel). For purposes of comparison, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts a national oil supply of 17.2 million barrels (mb) per day in 2023, which is the first year of construction for the Project.⁹⁵ This equates to approximately 6,278 mb per year or 263,676 million gallons (mg) per year.⁹⁶ Construction of the proposed Project would account for less than 0.01 percent of the projected annual oil supply in 2023.

Due to the short duration of the construction process, and the fact that the extent of fuel consumption is inherent to construction projects of this size and nature, fuel consumption impacts would not be considered excessive or substantial with respect to regional fuel supplies. The energy demands during construction would be typical of construction projects of this size and would not necessitate additional energy facilities or distribution infrastructure. The proposed Project would also comply with Section 2485 in Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations,⁹⁷ which requires the idling of all diesel-fueled commercial vehicles to be limited to five minutes at any location. As a result, the proposed Project would not result in inefficient, or unnecessary, consumption of transportation resources during construction.

Accordingly, transportation resource demands during construction would be less than significant.

Operation

Electricity

The lighting installed as a part of the proposed Project would be LED (light emitting diode) lighting. LED lighting products are considered to produce light up to 90 percent more efficiently than other lighting types.⁹⁸ The amount of power an electric light would require to operate is measured in kilowatts.

95 U.S. Energy Information Administration, Annual Energy Outlook 2021: Table 11. Petroleum and Other Liquids Supply and Disposition, <https://www.eia.gov/outlooks/aeo/data/browser/#/?id=11-AEO2021&cases=ref2021&sourcekey=0>. Accessed February 2023.

96 There are 42 gallons of oil in a barrel.

97 State of California, California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Section 2485, Airborne Toxic Control Measure to Limit Diesel-Fueled Commercial Motor Vehicle Idling.

98 Energy Star, Learn About LED Lighting, https://www.energystar.gov/products/lighting_fans/light_bulbs/learn_about_led_bulbs#:~:text=of%20LED%20lighting-,What%20are%20LEDs%20and%20how%20do%20they%20work%3F,efficiently%20than%20incandescent%20light%20bulbs. Accessed April 2023.

As detailed within **Appendix A: Lighting Studies**, the LED lighting at PSHS would utilize 70.55 kilowatt (kW) for stadium lighting, and 188.19 kW for field lighting, DHSHS would utilize 233.17 kW for field lighting, and CCHS would utilize 200.17 kW for field lighting. As such, the total electricity load under the proposed Project would be 716.01 kW. It was assumed that the proposed Project would conservatively operate up to 5 hours per day, 365 days per year. The lighting at PSHS would thus consume approximately 343,517 kWh/year (.3 Gigawatt hours [GWh]) of electricity. The lighting at DHSHS would consume approximately 425,535 kWh/year (.4 GWh) of electricity. Finally, lighting at CCHS would consume approximately 365,310 kWh/year (.4 GWh) of electricity. Electricity consumption would total of 1,306,718 kWh/year (1.3GWh) of electricity for all three Project Sites.

SCE estimates that electricity consumption within its planning area would be approximately 114,947 GWh annually by 2024, when the proposed Project would be fully built out.⁹⁹ The proposed Project would account for less than 0.01 percent of the 2024 annual consumption in SCE's planning area. As such, the proposed Project would account for a negligible portion of the projected annual consumption in SCE's planning area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Natural Gas

The proposed Project does not include any development which would utilize natural gas.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Transportation Energy

The proposed Project would not increase the number of students attending the school. Therefore, mobile trips would remain the same as the existing conditions.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

Based on the analysis presented above and the calculations provided in Appendix D, the proposed Project would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, and thus would not generate impacts with regard to energy use and consumption.

Impacts would be less than significant.

⁹⁹ CEC, Demand Analysis Office, California Energy Demand 2020-2030 Revised Forecast, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/integrated-energy-policy-report/2019-integrated-energy-policy-report/2019-iepr>. Accessed February 2023.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

b. Conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would comply with applicable regulatory requirements for the design of new electricity related infrastructure, including the provisions set forth in the CALGreen Code and California's Building Energy Efficiency Standards. Therefore, the proposed Project would be consistent with adopted energy efficiency plans.

Summary

The proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
GEOLOGY AND SOILS—Would the project:				
a.				
Expose people or structures to 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Does the site contain an active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iii. Involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
v. Involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b.				
Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:**
- i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.**

Less Than Significant Impact.

Palm Springs High School

PSGS campus is not considered to be within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Rupture Zone, as delineated by the California Geologic Survey.¹⁰⁰ The closest fault is the Coachella Valley segment of the San Andreas Fault - South Branch (Banning Strand), approximately 5.66 miles north of PSHS.

Desert Hot Springs High School

DHSHS not considered to be within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Rupture Zone, as delineated by the California Geologic Survey.¹⁰¹ The closest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is the Coachella Valley segment of the San Andreas Fault - South Branch (Banning Strand), approximately 0.3 miles north of DHSHS.¹⁰²

Cathedral City High School

CCHS is not considered to be within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Rupture Zone, as delineated by the California Geologic Survey.¹⁰³ The closest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is the Coachella Valley segment of the San Andreas Fault - South Branch (Banning Strand), approximately 4.93 miles northeast of CCHS.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project sites are not within a known earthquake fault or fault zones, nor does the Project involve activities which would induce rupture. The proposed Project would be implemented in accordance with the 2022 California Building Code (CBC),¹⁰⁴ which contains provisions to safeguard against major structural failures or loss of life caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

¹⁰⁰ California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, Regional Geological and Mapping Program, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁰¹ California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, Regional Geological and Mapping Program, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁰² City of Cathedral City. General Plan Update: Environmental Impact Report. <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument?id=8165>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁰³ California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, Regional Geological and Mapping Program, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁰⁴ California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2, <http://www.bsc.ca.gov/codes.aspx>. Accessed March 2023.

ii. Does the site contain an active earthquake fault or fault trace, or is the site located within the boundaries of any special studies zone or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the local general plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. As with most of southern California, each of the campuses are subject to ground shaking and potential damage in the event of earthquakes. PSHS is located approximately 5.7 miles south of the nearest fault, DSHS is located approximately 0.3 miles southwest/west from the fault, and CCHS is located approximately 4.9 miles south of the fault.¹⁰⁵

The California Building Standards Commission regulates development in California through a variety of tools that reduce hazards from earthquakes to other geologic hazards. The proposed Project would be required to adhere to the provisions of the 2022 California Building Code (CBC) which contains provisions to safeguard against major structural failures or loss of life caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards.¹⁰⁶ Compliance with the requirements of the 2022 CBC for structural safety would reduce hazards from strong seismic ground shaking.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Each of the school campuses are within 6 miles of an active earthquake fault zone, such as most of California, it may affect the schools. With the Project's adherence to the provisions of the 2022 California Building Code, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

iii. Involve the construction, reconstruction, or relation of any school building on the trace of a geological fault along which surface rupture can reasonably be expected to occur within the life of the school building?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would not involve construction of any school buildings. Further, none of the Project Sites are located along the track of a geological fault. As such, surface rupture is not expected to occur.

¹⁰⁵ California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey. Regional Geological and Mapping Program, <http://www.quake.ca.gov/gmaps/WH/regulatorymaps.htm>. Accessed February 2022.

¹⁰⁶ California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2. Accessed February 2022.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. It would not involve construction of any school buildings, nor are any of the school campuses located along the track of a geological fault.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

iv. Involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction?

Less Than Significant Impact. Liquefaction refers to loose, saturated sand or gravel deposits that lose their load-supporting capability when subjected to intense shaking.

According to the California Department of Conservation, none of the three campuses lie on or close to liquefaction zones.¹⁰⁷ The proposed Project does not involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school buildings.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project does not involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school buildings. As none of the three campuses lie on or close to a liquefaction zone, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

v. Involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to landslides?

No Impact. The proposed Project does not include the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school buildings. Additionally, all three campuses have been evaluated with a California Geological Survey by the California Department of Conservation pursuant to the requirements of the California department of Education for school sites, and are not suspected of having a significant landslide risk due

¹⁰⁷ California Department of Conservation, EQ Zapp: California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>. Accessed March 2023.

to their regional location and the campuses being previously developed.¹⁰⁸ Thus, none of the campuses are subject to landslides.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. None of the three school campuses are subject to landslides, and the Project does not involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school buildings.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less Than Significant Impact. Erosion is the movement of rock fragments and soil from one place to another. Precipitation, running water, waves, and wind are all agents of erosion. Erosion typically occurs on steep slopes where storm water and high winds can carry topsoil down the hillsides.

The proposed Projects are located within previously developed or disturbed areas and existing school campuses, consisting of planted turf for the high school fields. Construction activities including minor excavation for light standard foundations and open trenching for electrical conduit would produce exposed soils that could be susceptible to erosion as a result of rain, windy conditions, and/or construction vehicles traveling over exposed soils.

During construction, dust control measures required by SCAQMD would be implemented. SCAQMD Rule 403,¹⁰⁹ which requires pre-watering, prompt revegetation, and use of soil binders, all of which would reduce impacts associated with soil blowing and wind erosion during construction activities. Compliance with these erosion-control regulations would reduce soil erosion from the proposed Projects.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Construction activities would include minor excavation for light standard foundations and open trenching for electrical conduit. This would produce exposed soil that could be susceptible to erosion as a result

¹⁰⁸ California Department of Conservation, EQ Zapp: California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application, <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁰⁹ South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Compliance, Rule 403 Dust Control Information. www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/compliance/rule-403-dust-control-information#:~:text=Rule%20403%20requires%20the%20implementation%20of%20best%20available,the%20South%20Coast%20AQMD%20by%20submitting%20specific%20forms.

of rain, windy conditions, and/or construction vehicles traveling over exposed soils. Rule 403 by SCAQMD would help reduce soil erosion.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. As previously mentioned, the campuses and associated high school fields do not include any areas identified as being susceptible to landslides, and the overall risk of landslides is low. Additionally, the campuses and associated high school fields and surrounding areas are relatively flat.

Impacts related to landslides would be less than significant.

Subsidence typically occurs where groundwater or natural gas is extracted. The boundaries of the campuses and associated high school fields have a low possibility of being affected by liquefaction and lateral spreading. The approximate depth to groundwater is between 150 to 200 feet, but may reach depths of up to 1,00 feet, and the depth of excavation would only be about 10 feet into the ground.¹¹⁰
¹¹¹ ¹¹² Unfortunately, the Whitewater River, Mission Creek, and Indio subbasins, which lie under Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City, have been steadily depleting.

Impacts related to subsidence would be less than significant.

The phenomenon of liquefaction generally occurs when loose, unconsolidated, saturated, sandy soils are subjected to ground vibrations during a seismic event. The campuses and associated high school fields

¹¹⁰ City of Cathedral City. General Plan Environmental Impact Report. Accessed March 2023.

¹¹¹ City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Safety Element,
<https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1975/635545493507830000>. Accessed April 2023.

¹¹² City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Open Space and Natural Resource Element, May 2020,
<https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed April 2023.

are not located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable.^{113 114 115} Additionally, construction would not result in substantial hazards from unstable or expansive soils. The proposed Project would also be required to adhere to the 2022 CBC¹¹⁶, which includes provisions that mandate structural foundations on compacted, competent soils, as well as measures to prevent soil collapse of saturated sediments (e.g., temporary shoring).

Impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS are not considered to be sitting on unstable soil, according to their General Plans. Thus, the risk of landslides, liquefaction, and subsidence are considered to be very low. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

Less Than Significant Impact. Expansive soils contain clay particles that have the ability to give up water (shrink) or take on water (swell). When these soils swell, the change in volume can exert pressures that are placed on them, and structural distress and damage to buildings can occur.

Given the relatively minor amount of clay present in soils in Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City, expansive soils are not considered a hazard for the Project Site.¹¹⁷ The proposed Project would also be required to adhere to the 2022 CBC, which contains provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other seismic-related ground failures.

¹¹³ City of Cathedral City. General Plan Environmental Impact Report. Accessed March 2023.

¹¹⁴ City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Safety Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1975/635545493507830000>. Accessed April 2023.

¹¹⁵ City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Open Space and Natural Resource Element, May 2020, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed April 2023.

¹¹⁶ California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2. Accessed March 2023.

¹¹⁷ United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed March 2023.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. These lights would not be installed in expansive soil, as the high school campuses do not lie on expansive soil. This, along with adherence to the 2022 CBC, would minimize any risk of liquefaction and other seismic-related hazards.

As such, the impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No Impact. Development of the proposed Project at each campus would not require the installation of a septic tank or any alternative wastewater disposal system.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project does not involve or require the installation of septic tanks or other wastewater disposal systems.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less Than Significant Impact. The campuses and associated high school fields have been previously disturbed during the construction and operation of the high school campuses. Ground-disturbing activities would occur in areas that have previously been disturbed, which would include site preparation and construction activities.

Palm Springs High School

Palm Springs has regions of known historical archaeological sites, but none overlap or lie near the PSHS Project site.¹¹⁸ Soil under and around the high school consists of alluvial Myoma fine sand, which according to its General Plan, has low potential to contain unique paleontological resources.¹¹⁹

Desert Hot Springs High School

Desert Hot Springs is primarily designated as having a low potential for containing paleontological resources, with some areas designated as undetermined potential.¹²⁰ Soil under and around the high school consists of alluvial Carsitas gravelly sand and alluvial Carsitas fine sand, which according to its General Plan, has low potential to contain unique paleontological resources.¹²¹

Cathedral City High School Cathedral City is not known to contain unique paleontological or geologic features.¹²² Soil under and around the high school consists of alluvial Myoma fine sand which according to its General Plan EIR, has low potential to contain unique paleontological resources.¹²³ Furthermore, each of the campuses and associated high school fields has been subject to excavation and grading, and soil disturbing activities related to proposed Project construction, including the placement of new lighting fixtures, would have minimal potential to damage or destroy paleontological resources.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There would be no direct destruction of a unique paleontological resource, site, or geological feature, as a result of the proposed Project. Indirect impacts may occur, but as discussed, the potential to come across such a resource in Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, or Cathedral City, is low.

Impacts would be less than significant.

¹¹⁸ City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Recreation, Open Space & Conservation Element, 2007, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1981/635545493507830000>. Accessed March 2023.

¹¹⁹ United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed April 2023.

¹²⁰ City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Open Space and Natural Resource Element, May 2020, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

¹²¹ United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed April 2023.

¹²² City of Cathedral City. General Plan Environmental Impact Report. Accessed March 2023.

¹²³ United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Web Soil Survey, <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed April 2023.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS - Would the project:				
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction

Construction activity impacts are short in duration, and they contribute a small portion of the total lifetime GHG emissions of a project. Due to the complex physical, chemical, and atmospheric mechanisms involved in global climate change, no basis exists for concluding that the Project's very small and temporary (primarily from construction) increase in emissions could cause a measurable increase in global GHG emissions necessary to force global climate change. In addition, GHG emissions-reduction measures for construction equipment are limited.¹²⁴

GHG emissions were quantified from construction and operation of the proposed Project using SCAQMD's CalEEMod model. CalEEMod is based on outputs from the CARB off-road emissions model (OFFROAD) and the CARB on-road vehicle emissions model (EMFAC), both of which are emissions estimation models

¹²⁴ South Coast Air Quality Management District, Draft Guidance Document - Interim CEQA Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Significance Threshold, [http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/greenhouse-gases-\(ghg\)-ceqa-significance-thresholds/ghgattachmente.pdf](http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/ceqa/handbook/greenhouse-gases-(ghg)-ceqa-significance-thresholds/ghgattachmente.pdf). Accessed March 2023.

developed by CARB and used to calculate emissions from construction activities, including on- and off-road vehicles.

The forecasting of construction-related GHG emissions requires assumptions regarding the timing of construction as the emission factors for some of the proposed Project's construction-related GHG emission sources decline over time. See Appendix B for GHG modeling data.

As shown in **Table 5.8-1: Construction GHG Emissions**, construction emissions would be 556 MTCO₂e per school site; 1668 MTCO₂ in total.

TABLE 5.8-1 CONSTRUCTION GHG EMISSIONS		
Construction Phase	MTCO ₂ e/Year per School	Total MTCO ₂ e/Year
2023	277	831
2024	279	837
Overall Total	556	1668

Refer to Appendix B: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas CalEEMod Output Sheets.

Notes: GHG = greenhouse gas; MTCO₂e = metric tons of CO₂

Operation

Operation of the proposed Project has the potential to generate GHG emissions due to increased electricity usage for field and stadium lighting. As detailed within Appendix A PSHS would utilize 70.55 kW for stadium lighting, and 188.19 kW for field lighting, DHSHS would utilize 233.17 kW for field lighting, and CCHS would utilize 200.17 kW for field lighting. As such, the total electricity load under the proposed Project would be 692.08 kW. It was assumed that the proposed Project would conservatively operate up to 5 hours per day, 365 days per year. The lighting would thus consume approximately 1,263,046 kilowatt hours per year (kWh/yr.) of electricity. This electricity usage was assumed in CalEEMod and would generate approximately 306 MTCO₂e per year.

Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, and Cathedral City have not adopted a numerical significance threshold for assessing impacts related to GHG emissions. Nor have SCAQMD, OPR, CARB, CAPCOA, or any other state or regional agency adopted a numerical significance threshold for assessing GHG emissions that is applicable to the Project.

Assessing the significance of a project's contribution to cumulative global climate change involves: (1) developing pertinent inventories of GHG emissions, and (2) considering project consistency with applicable emission reduction strategies and goals. As under Threshold 5.8 b) below, the proposed Project would not increase local population, student capacity, employment opportunities, or housing. As such, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Summary

GHG emissions generated as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed Project were quantified. Construction emissions for all three Project sites would be 1668 MTCO₂, while operational emissions would be 317 MTCO₂ per year. While there is not a numerical threshold for assessing impacts related to these GHG emissions, as stated above, the proposed Project would not increase local population, student capacity, employment opportunities, or housing. There would be no conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No Mitigation Measures are required.

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would not conflict with local zoning, land use designations, plans, policies, or regulations. Moreover, the proposed Project would only upgrade and modernize existing facilities without increasing local population, student capacity, employment opportunities, or housing. As such, the proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Summary

The proposed Project involves the installation of field lighting on the three school sites, PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS. There would be no conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:				
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5.0 Environmental Analysis

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Does the proposed school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or aboveground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.0 Environmental Analysis

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?				
<p>k.</p> <p>Would the project create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and nonpermitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>l.</p> <p>Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site? (Does not apply to school sites approved by CDE prior to January 1, 1997.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p>m.</p> <p>Is the property line of the proposed school site less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50-133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220-230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500-550 kV line?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.0 Environmental Analysis

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
n. Is the Project Site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant to §25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o. Does the Project Site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q. Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r. Is the proposed school site within two miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site? (Does not apply to school sites acquired prior to January 1, 1997.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction

The project does not include any transportation, use or disposal of hazardous materials.

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing hazardous materials would ensure that all potentially hazardous materials are used and handled in an appropriate manner which would minimize the potential for safety impacts to occur. For example, all spills or leakage of petroleum products during construction activities are required to be immediately contained, the hazardous material identified, and the material remediated in compliance with applicable State and local regulations regarding the cleanup and disposal of the contaminant released. All contaminated waste encountered would be required to be collected and disposed of at an appropriately licensed disposal or treatment facility.

Strict adherence to all emergency response plan requirements set forth by Palm Springs, Desert Hot Springs, Cathedral City, and Riverside County Department of Environmental Health (RCDEH) would be required throughout the duration of the project construction. Impacts related to the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials would be less than significant.

Operation

The existing schools would continue to operate during construction. Hazardous substances associated with the operation of the campuses would be similar to those used for its current operations, which would be limited in both amount and use. Typical hazardous materials found around high school fields include fertilizers and pesticides. When used correctly and in compliance with existing laws and regulations, including pesticide regulations enforced by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), these hazardous materials would not result in a hazard to people or the environment.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There would not be transportation, use, or disposal of hazardous materials as part of the Project. Anything considered potentially hazardous during construction would be properly disposed of, in compliance with State and local regulations. Operational hazards would not differ from ones that exist on the high school campuses currently.

Impacts related to the transport, disposal, or release of hazardous materials during operation of the proposed improvements would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would require earthwork (e.g., vegetation removal, grading, and site minimal excavation), site preparation (cement bases), and placement of large light fixtures. No hazardous materials would be released into the environment as a result of this Project.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The proposed Project would not 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 because the Project would only involve the installation and operation of lighting fixtures.

Impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project Site is not located within one-quarter mile of a proposed school. The Project Sites are located within existing school campuses, and as such are within one-quarter mile.

Construction

The Project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 miles of an existing or proposed school because the Project would only involve the installation and operation of lighting fixtures.

Operation

During the operation of the proposed Project, no hazardous materials would be used. Emissions generated during operation of the school include electricity to power the lighting fixtures.

As analyzed in Section 5.3 (c), emission sources would not result in impacts to the local environment, including school occupants.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste during construction or operations. School occupants would not be affected.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

Less than Significant Impact. A search of environmental records was conducted by Environmental Data Resources, Inc (EDR) (Appendix D). The EDR records search includes hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.¹²⁵

Palm Springs High School

The records search identified the PSHS on the Hazardous Waste Information System (HAZNET) site, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) site, and the Hazardous Waste tracking System (HWTS) site. As noted in the EDR report (see **Appendix D**), there is one hazardous materials site located on PSHS campus- registry ID is 110065256403, Palm Springs High SC. This site is closed and was the result of an NPDES permit that was applied during the construction of the campus, which expired on February 4, 2014. The remaining sites (15) within one quarter mile of the Project Site are either closed or are considered very small quantity generators (VSQGs) that generate less than 100 kg of hazardous waste, or less than 1 kg of acutely hazardous waste per month and would not be significant.

The proposed Project would not be affected by this prior hazardous materials site.

As such, implementation of the proposed Project would not expose the public or environment to hazards.

Desert Hot Springs High School

The records search identified the Project Site on the Hazardous Waste Information System (HAZNET) site, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) site, and the Hazardous Waste tracking

125 Government Code, Title 7. Planning and Land Use, Division 1. Planning and Zoning, Chapter 4.5. Review and Approval of Development Projects, Article 6. Development Permits for Classes of Projects, Section 65962.5, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=65962.5&lawCode=GOV. Accessed March 2022

System (HWTS) site. As noted in the EDR report (see **Appendix D**), the one hazardous materials site is DHSHS' campus- registry ID is 110059741310, Desert Hot Springs High School. As per the HWTS, all sites on DHSHS' campus are inactive as of September of 2013. The (9) remaining sites within one quarter mile of the Project Site are closed or are considered very small quantity generators (VSQGs) that generate less than 100 kg of hazardous waste, or less than 1 kg of acutely hazardous waste per month and would not be significant. The proposed Project would not be affected by this prior hazardous materials site.

Implementation of the proposed Project would not expose the public or environment to hazards.

Cathedral City High School

The records search identified the Project Site on the Hazardous Waste Information System (HAZNET) site, the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) site, and the Hazardous Waste tracking System (HWTS) site. As noted in the EDR report (see **Appendix D**), there is one hazardous materials site located on CCHS' campus- registry ID is 110059741301, Cathedral City High School. This site has been terminated and was the result of an NPDES permit that was applied during the construction of the campus, in March of 2018. The remaining sites (8) within one quarter mile of the Project Site are either closed or are considered very small quantity generators (VSQGs) that generate less than 100 kg of hazardous waste, or less than 1 kg of acutely hazardous waste per month and would not be significant.

The proposed Project would not be affected by this prior hazardous materials site.

As such, implementation of the proposed Project would not expose the public or environment to hazards.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Due to their reported low threats and the distance from the proposed construction activities, Project implementation would not expose the public or environment to hazards, and impacts would be less than significant.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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 for people residing or working in the project area?

Less than Significant Impact.

Palm Springs High School

There are no private airports, airstrips, or heliport stations within the vicinity of the Project Site. According to the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (RCALUCP) and the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (RCALUC), PSHS is located outside of any designated airport safety zones.¹²⁶ As such, the Project would not have the potential to create a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

Desert Hot Springs High School

There are no private airports, airstrips, or heliport stations within the vicinity of the Project Site.

According to the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (RCALUCP) and the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (RCALUC), DHSHS is located outside of any designated airport safety zones.¹²⁷

Cathedral City High School

According to the RCALUCP and the RCALUC, the CCHS is located within Zone E within the boundaries of the Palm Springs International Airport's area of influence.^{128,129} Zone E airspace extends upward from either the surface or a designated altitude to the overlying or adjacent controlled airspace. Zone E is generally compatible with most land uses, including institutional/schools.¹³⁰ Presiding within zone E does not indicate a hazardous environment, but rather allows for more compatible land uses close to the airport. The proposed Project does not interfere with Zone E or airport traffic, and does not increase the risk of hazards.

The CCHS site consists of a developed school campus and the proposed improvements would not encroach into any potential runway, nor result in a safety hazard for students, staff, or workers.

¹²⁶ Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, Land Use Compatibility Plan, Palm Springs International Airport, <https://rcaluc.org/Portals/13/PDFGeneral/plan/newplan/18-%20Vol.%201%20Palm%20Springs%20International.pdf>. Accessed April 2023.

¹²⁷ Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, Land Use Compatibility Plan, Palm Springs International Airport, <https://rcaluc.org/Portals/13/PDFGeneral/plan/newplan/18-%20Vol.%201%20Palm%20Springs%20International.pdf>. Accessed April 2023.

¹²⁸ Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, Land Use Compatibility Plan, Palm Springs International Airport, <https://rcaluc.org/Portals/13/PDFGeneral/plan/newplan/18-%20Vol.%201%20Palm%20Springs%20International.pdf>. Accessed April 2023.

¹²⁹ Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, Airport Maps -Palm Springs International Airport, <http://www.rcaluc.org/Plans/New-Compatibility-Plan>. Accessed March 2023.

¹³⁰ Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission, Land Use Compatibility Plan, Appendix D: Compatibility Guidelines for Specific Land Uses, <https://rcaluc.org/Portals/13/PDFGeneral/plan/newplan/24-%20Appendix%20D.%20Guidelines%20for%20Specific%20Uses.pdf>. Accessed April 2023.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. PSHS and DHSHS are not within 2 miles of a public/public use airport, but CCHS is located within Palm Springs International Airport's Zone E. CCHS's land use is compatible with RCALUC's Zone E, and the lighting fixtures would not affect or increase any hazards related to the airport.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project consists of the installation and operation of lighting within an existing high school field at the PSHS, DHSHS and CCHS campuses; no off-site improvements, construction or physical alterations are proposed, and the lighting standards would not be located within an area of the campuses that supports vehicle access.

The proposed Project would therefore not have the potential to impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.^{131,132,133}

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no off-site alterations proposed by the Project, and such, there would be no potential to impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

Impacts would be less than significant.

131 Cathedral City, Emergency Hazard Mitigation Plan, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showdocument?id=6670>. Accessed March 2023.

132 City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Safety and Noise Element, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotsspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

133 City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Safety Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1975/635545493507830000>. Accessed March 2023.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

g. Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

No Impact. The school campuses and surrounding areas are within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA), classified as Non-VHFHSZ (Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone).^{134,135,136,137} The campuses and associated high school fields are surrounded by primarily urban development; these areas are zoned residential, open space, or commercial/mixed-use.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools, located in a residential community and does not propose improvements that would exacerbate fire risk. Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to wildland fires. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

h. If a response action is necessary and proposed as part of this project, has it been developed to be protective of children's health, with an ample margin of safety?

Less than Significant Impact. The land uses surrounding each of the campuses include schools, commercial, recreational open spaces, and residential, which would not be affected during the construction and operation of the proposed Project. As these sensitive receptors could house or contain children for periods of the day, impacts from construction activities could have an impact on children's health. The Project Sites, which include existing and developed schools, are the nearest sensitive receptors to the Project Sites.

¹³⁴ City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Safety and Noise Element, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotsspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

¹³⁵ California Office of the State Fire Marshal, Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps, Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer, <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/>. Accessed March 2023.

¹³⁶ Cathedral City, Emergency Hazard Mitigation Plan, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showdocument?id=6670>. Accessed March 2023.

¹³⁷ City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Safety Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1975/635545493507830000>. Accessed March 2023.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. As shown in **Section 5.3: Air Quality**, the proposed Project would not have an impact on human health. The Project must comply with CDE standards and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for schools.

Therefore, with regulatory compliance, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

i. Does the proposed school site contain one or more pipelines, situated underground or aboveground, which carry hazardous substances, acutely hazardous materials, or hazardous wastes, unless the pipeline is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?

No Impact. There are no known underground or aboveground pipelines that carry hazardous substances or hazardous wastes to PSHS, DHSHS, CCHS, or the surrounding neighborhoods.¹³⁸

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The school campus sites do not contain pipelines that may carry hazardous materials.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

j. Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?

No Impact. There are no known above-ground water or fuel storage tanks, nor underground or aboveground pipelines existing within 1,500 feet that pose a safety hazard to the Project Sites located at PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS.¹³⁹

138 US Department of Transportation, Pipeline Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, National Pipeline Mapping System Public Viewer, access February 2022. <https://pvnpm.phmsa.dot.gov/PublicViewer/>. Accessed March 2023.

139 California State Water Resources Control Board, Geotracker, Accessed March 2023. <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no aboveground water or fuel storage tanks near the three high school campuses, nor are there any above- or belowground pipelines that can pose a safety hazard within 1,500 feet of each school campus.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

k. Would the project create an air quality hazard due to the placement of a school within one-quarter mile of: (a) permitted and nonpermitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution control district; (b) freeways and other busy traffic corridors; (c) large agricultural operations; and/or (d) a rail yard, which might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste?

Less Than Significant Impact.

(a) Permitted and nonpermitted facilities identified by the jurisdictional air quality control board or air pollution board.

A project would expose sensitive receptors to elevated pollutant concentrations if it were to place the school in an area with pollutant concentrations above ambient concentration in the SCAQMD area. The Facility Information Detail (FIND) database shows all the facilities that are required to have a permit to operate equipment that releases pollutants into the air within the SCAQMD boundary.¹⁴⁰ As shown in the Appendix D, the campus does not show up on the FIND database.

Only Palm Springs High School is identified in the FIND database or in an air quality control board, shown in **Section 5.3: Air Quality**.

The proposed Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations as the emissions would be below SCAQMD localized thresholds, as shown in Section 5.3: Air Quality, **Table 5.3-2**. Emissions are quantified in pounds/day, with Localized Significance Threshold (LST) ranging from 8 pounds/day to 2,292 pounds/day. The maximum emissions for one school ranges from less than 1

¹⁴⁰ SCAQMD, Facility Information Detail (F.I.N.D.), accessed February 2022. <https://www.aqmd.gov/nav/FIND/facility-information-detail>

pound/day to 8 pounds/day. Cumulative localized construction emissions range from less than 1 to 24 pounds/day, none of which exceed their specific emissions threshold.

Maximum construction and operation emissions associated with the proposed Project would be less than significant, as shown in **Section 5.3: Air Quality, Table 5.3-1**. The SCAQMD Mass Daily Threshold ranges from 55-550 pounds/day, depending on the specific emission particulate. The maximum emissions for one school does not exceed 38 pounds/day, and cumulative emissions do not exceed 115 pounds/day. Neither the maximum/day for one school nor the cumulative emissions exceed the SCAQMD Mass Daily Threshold.

The Project Sites are high school fields at each of the existing campuses. Furthermore, there are no known hazardous air emission generated from mobile and stationary sources within a quarter-mile radius of the Project Sites identified within the FIND database and would not pose an actual or potential endangerment to students or staff at the school.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

(b) Freeways and other busy traffic corridors.

The proposed Project is located at existing school campuses and would implement additional lighting fixtures around the perimeter of the fields. The proposed Project would not generate an increase of daily vehicle trips, as analyzed in Section 5.17: Transportation. The proposed Project is not within one-quarter mile of a freeway, or any other busy traffic corridor as defined by California Education Code.¹⁴¹

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

(c) Large agricultural operations.

There are no large agricultural operations located within a quarter mile of the Project Sites. Surrounding land uses include schools, commercial, mixed-use, open recreational spaces (i.e., parks), as well as multi- and single-family residences.

¹⁴¹ Education Code (EDC) Title 1. General Education Code Provisions, Division 1. General Education Code Provisions, Par1 10.5. School Facilities, Chapter 1. School Sites, Article 1. General Provisions, Section 17213, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=17213.&lawCode=EDC#:~:text=17213.%20The%20governing%20board%20of%20a%20school%20district,school%20district%2C%20unless%20all%20of%20the%20following%20occur%3A. Access March 2022.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

(d) Rail yard.

There are no rail yards located within one-quarter mile of the Project Sites. Surrounding land uses include schools, commercial, mixed-use, open recreational spaces (i.e., parks), as well as multi- and single-family residences.

No impact would occur.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. None of the three high school campuses are within one-quarter mile of a hazardous air quality hazard. **Table 5.3-1** and **Table 5.3-2** both exhibit the construction emissions of regional and localized scenarios. Emissions would not exceed SCAQMD or LST thresholds, even in the worst-case scenario.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

l. Is the school site in an area designated in a city, county, or city and county general plan for agricultural use and zoned for agricultural production, and if so, do neighboring agricultural uses have the potential to result in any public health and safety issues that may affect the pupils and employees at the school site? (Does not apply to school sites approved by CDE prior to January 1, 1997.)?

No Impact. The General Plan and use designation is zoned “O” Open Land Zone for PSHS, “P” Public or Institutional for DHSHS, and CCHS is zoned “RR” for Resort Residential.^{142,143,144} As such, the Project Sites are not designated by the General Plan or zoning for agricultural use.

¹⁴² City of Palm Springs. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/26522/637515977161430000>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁴³ City of Desert Hot Springs. GIS Viewer, Zoning Map. Available at: <https://deserthotsprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=09a2838a17c2457dbf854ec9f441c9a2>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁴⁴ City of Cathedral City. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/5350/636245721641900000>. Accessed March 2023.

The Project Site is not subject to a Williamson Act Contract as indicated in Section 5.2: Agriculture and Forestry Resources.

There are no designated General Plan agricultural land uses or zoning adjacent or in the vicinity of the Project Sites.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project sites are not designated as agricultural land uses or zoned for agricultural production, as per their respective city General Plan.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

m. Is the property line of the proposed school site less than the following distances from the edge of respective power line easements: (1) 100 feet of a 50-133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220-230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500-550 kV line?

No Impact. The Project Sites are not within the prescribed distances of a 50 to 133 kilovolt (kV) line, a 220 to 230 kV line, or a 500 to 550 kV line.¹⁴⁵

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS are all more than 100 feet from a 50-133 kV line, 150 feet from a 220-230 kV line, and more than 350 feet from a 500-550 kV line.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

n. Is the Project Site a hazardous substance release site identified by the state Department of Health Services in a current list adopted pursuant

¹⁴⁵ Cathedral City, Draft Comprehensive General Plan, Public Services and Facilities Element, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/services/planning/documents/general-plan>. Accessed March 2023.

to §25356 for removal or remedial action pursuant to Chapter 6.8 of Division 20 of the Health and Safety Code?

Less than Significant Impact. Where a proposed school site is listed by DTSC under Health and Safety Code (HSC) Section 25356, the project would, through the CEQA processes and under DTSC's oversight, undertake all required removal and/or remedial actions; ensure that DTSC removes the site from this listing; determine that the site as remediated poses no health risk to students, faculty, and staff; and secure DTSC's certification that all school buildings may be occupied and used for their intended purpose.¹⁴⁶ The public would then have the opportunity to review the site-specific investigations through the public review process. Compliance with the process and steps outlined would ensure that impacts from any site used for a school project that DTSC formerly listed under HSC Section 25356 would not be a hazard to people on or near the site.

There is no listing pursuant to DTSC under HSC Section 25356 on the Project Sites based on the EDR Report's comprehensive lists of contaminated sites (**Appendix D**), including the DTSC EnviroStor database. The proposed Projects would involve the placement of lighting fixtures into the ground surrounding the PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS high school fields.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There is no listing pursuant to DTSC under HSC Section 25356 on the Project Sites based on the EDR Report's comprehensive lists of contaminated sites (**Appendix D**), including the DTSC EnviroStor database.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

o. Does the Project Site contain a current or former hazardous waste disposal site or solid waste disposal site and, if so, have the wastes been removed?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project Sites are at existing campuses; there are no other schools within one-quarter mile of them.

Under EDC Section 17213(a)(1), a school district is prohibited from acquiring any of the following: current or former hazardous waste disposal site, or solid waste disposal site unless the site is a former solid waste

¹⁴⁶ Health and Safety Code (HSC), Division 20. Miscellaneous Health and Safety Provisions, Chapter 6.8 Hazardous Substance Account, Article 5. Use of the State Account, Section 25356, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=25356.&nodeTreePath=23.20.5&lawCode=HSC, Accessed March 2023.

disposal site and the wastes have been removed.¹⁴⁷ No current or former hazardous waste disposal sites exist in the Project Site based on the EDR Report's comprehensive lists of contaminated sites (Appendix D), including the DTSC EnviroStor and SWRCB Geotracker databases.

Construction would involve the use and handling of hazardous materials, including fuels, lubricants, coatings, grease, and PCBs containing materials. The use and handling of these hazardous materials would be in accordance with regulatory standards and protocols (see sections 5.9(a) and 5.9(b)) and would not be in such quantities or stored in such a manner as to pose significant safety hazards.

Emissions from construction activities associated with the proposed Project, including exhaust and dust, would be generated from the operation of equipment and vehicles. As analyzed in Section 5.3(c), these emissions generated during construction would not result in impacts the local environment, including school occupants (students, faculty, and staff) at any of the campuses.

No hazardous materials would be used during the operation of the proposed Project.

Emissions generated during operation of the lights would be minimal. As analyzed in Section 5.3(c), these emission sources would not result in impacts to the local environment, including school occupants.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. As previously stated, under EDC Section 17213(a)(1), a school district is prohibited from acquiring any of the following: current or former hazardous waste disposal site. Minimal hazardous materials would be used for the installation of the lighting fixtures, and would be handled in accordance with regulatory standards and protocols. No hazardous materials would be used during the operational phase of the Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

p. If prepared, has the risk assessment been performed with a focus on children's health posed by a hazardous materials release or

¹⁴⁷ California Education Code (EDC), Sec. 17213, https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC§ionNum=17213.#:~:text=17213.%20The%20governing%20board%20of%20a%20school%20district,school%20district%2C%20unless%20all%20of%20the%20following%20occur%3A. Accessed March 2023.

threatened release, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials on the school site?

Less than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors include students, staff, and faculty at the existing campus for periods of the day; impacts from construction activities could result in health impact.

As shown in **Section 5.3 Air Quality**, the proposed Project would not result in impacts on human health. Additionally, prior to the issuance of a building permit, the District must comply with DTSC or other regulatory agencies that oversee health-related issues.

As noted previously, there are no known hazardous materials that would affect the health of site occupants.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no hazardous materials on the school campuses, or released by the proposed Project, which would not pose a threat to the health of children and other sensitive receptors.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

q. Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?

Less Than Significant Impact. The EDR Report (**Appendix D**) noted some mapped sites on a Cortese-related database or other related database within 2,000 feet of the proposed Project Sites at the three campuses.

Palm Springs High School

At PSHS, there are 3 recorded hazardous waste disposal sites, one being Palm Springs High School itself. The other sites are Palm Springs Oil #4 (Mobile Sunrise) at 166 N Sunrise Way, and Mesquite Golf & Country Club Corp. at 2700 East Mesquite Avenue.

Desert Hot Springs High School

There were no recorded hazardous waste disposal t hazardous waste disposal sites within 2,000 feet of Desert Hot Springs High School.

Cathedral City High School

There are three active hazardous waste disposal sites within 2,000 feet of CCHS include Palm Springs Mirror & Glass at 34040 Date Palm Drive, Walgreens #5301 at 33975 Date Palm Dr., and Tower Mart #956 at 33441 Date Palm Drive. These are very standard uses and disposal sites, consisting of a glass

manufacturer, pharmacy, and gas station (in that specific order), and thus would not generate substantial amount of hazardous waste. All three sites are at lower elevation than the Project site, meaning any potential hazardous spill-over is highly unlikely to affect CCHS. Market Place Shell at 34021 Date Palm Drive currently has a preliminary site assessment underway.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. PSHS has three recorded hazardous waste disposal sites, DHSHS had none, and CCHS has three sites within 2,000 feet, as well. The proposed Project would comply with the standards set forth by DTSC, which would result in no impact on the high school campuses.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

r. Is the proposed school site within two miles, measured by air line, of that point on an airport runway or potential runway included in an airport master plan that is nearest to the site? (Does not apply to school sites acquired prior to January 1, 1997.)

No Impact. The closest airport is the Palm Springs International Airport, which is located 1.2 miles northeast from PSHS, approximately 5 miles northwest of CCHS, and about 18.8 miles south of DHSHS.

As the CCHS and DHSHS are located farther than 2 miles from the nearest airport, the proposed Project would not conflict with an airport land use plan or operation of nearby airports.

PSHS was built prior to 1997 (1980), thus the 2-mile hazards radius included in airport master plans does not apply to this site.¹⁴⁸ The proposed Project would not pose a safety hazard to people at the Project Site.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. PSHS is within 2 miles of an airport runway, but as it was built prior to January 1, 1997, the potential hazards do not apply to the school campus. CCHS and DHSHS are both located over 2 miles away from the nearest airport.

¹⁴⁸ California Department of Education, California School Directory, Palm Springs High, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/SchoolDirectory/details?cdscode=33671733335130>. Accessed April 2023.

No Impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:				
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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:				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

Less than Significant Impact. New construction can result in two types of water quality impacts: (1) short-term impacts due to the discharge of eroded soil and other pollutants during construction, and (2) long-term impacts due to the creation of impervious surfaces (buildings, roads, parking lots, and walkways) that prevent the percolation of water into the ground, thereby increasing the rate and volume of stormwater runoff. Impervious surfaces can also increase the concentration of pollutants in stormwater runoff, such as oil, fertilizers, pesticides, trash, soil, and animal waste. Runoff from short-term construction and long-term operation can flow directly into nearby receiving waters such as streams, lakes, and man-made drains and channels.

The Project Site is in the jurisdiction of the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRBRWQCB).

Construction

The proposed Project would not expose large areas of pervious surfaces or increase runoff that would violate water quality standards. Additionally, the proposed Project does not propose any activities that would result in direct impacts to water quality.

Given that the construction areas are not greater than one acre nor would they result in a total disturbance of one or more acres of soil, the District's construction contractor would not be required to obtain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) from the CRBRWQCB.¹⁴⁹

The District would comply with applicable local, State, and federal regulations to prevent any indirect construction impacts on stormwater runoff in order to ensure that water quality is uncompromised during construction.

Operation

Operation of the proposed Projects would include additional field lighting implemented on the high school fields of PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS. The proposed Project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality during operation.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. It would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, as the construction areas are less than one acre, which means a SWPPP is not required. The proposed Project would also not degrade surface or groundwater quality, as there are no actions that directly affect water.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede substantial groundwater management of the basin?

No Impact. The proposed Project would not involve changes to groundwater supplies. No groundwater removal is proposed and the amount of new impervious surface (associated with 33 to 35 standard

149 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Water: Permitting (NPDES), <https://www.epa.gov/npdes>. Accessed March 2023.

foundations for the lighting fixtures on each campus) would be negligible as a result of the Project implementation.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Changes or disturbances of groundwater supplies are not proposed, therefore not depleting groundwater supplies or interfering with groundwater recharge.

No impacts to groundwater supplies and recharge would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures would be required.

c. Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site;

Less than Significant Impact. The closest river is Whitewater Channel, which is approximately 3 miles east of PSHS, 3 miles south of DHSHS, and 1.5 miles west of CCHS.¹⁵⁰

As noted above, construction of the proposed Project would comply with applicable local, State, and federal regulations to prevent any indirect construction impacts on stormwater runoff in order to ensure that water quality is uncompromised during construction. Following completion of the ground-disturbance during construction of the Project, the existing grass turf groundcover would be replaced and no long-term impacts due to erosion and siltation would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. This would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site, as any ground disturbances would be replaced with grass turf groundcover to reduce any potential impacts. Additionally, there are no rivers within a mile of each of the Project sites.

The Project would not impact streams or rivers.

Impacts would be less than significant.

¹⁵⁰ USFWS, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>. Accessed March 2023.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

ii. *Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?*

Less than Significant Impact. No streams or rivers are located within the boundaries of or adjacent to the campuses for each of the Project Sites.

The proposed Project would result in temporary ground disturbance, but would not alter the local topography and only negligible changes would occur in total impervious surfaces from implementation. There would be no alteration to the existing drainage pattern of the sites, including the course of a stream or river. Moreover, there would also be no substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off site.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The installation would temporarily disturb the ground, but not result in a change of topography. As there are no bodies of water near the school campuses, and ground disturbance is minimal, it would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which result in flooding on- or off-site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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;*

Less Than Significant Impact. Impervious areas would be minimal and would only occur where concrete would be added to hold the light fixtures in place. Runoff water would drain around these structures and follow its natural drainage system.

The proposed Project would not create or contribute to runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. This would not create or contribute to exceeding the capacity of the current drainage systems. Minimal effects would be related to the impervious nature of the concrete used to hold the lighting fixtures in place.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

iv. impede or redirect flood flows?

Less than Significant Impact. The Project Sites do not intersect with, nor is it within the vicinity of, any streams or rivers. Stormwater collected on the Project Sites would be released into existing drains.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. This would not impede or redirect flood flows.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. The campuses for each of the Project Sites are designated as “Area of Minimal Flood Hazard” Zone X within the Federal Emergency Management Agency.¹⁵¹ Additionally, the campuses are not located near the ocean or any large enclosed, or semi-enclosed, bodies of water. Therefore, the Project Sites are not within designated tsunami or seiche zones.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. These high schools are designated as “areas of minimal flood hazard,” as they are not near any large bodies of water, and such do not pose a risk to students or faculty on-site. The proposed Project would not increase the risk or be affected by floods, tsunamis, or seiche zones, or potentially release pollutants in the event of such natural occurrences.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

¹⁵¹ FEMA, “National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL),” <https://msc.fema.gov/>. Accessed March 2023.

e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less than Significant Impact. Under the California Water Code, the State of California is divided into nine regional water quality control boards (RWQCBs), which govern the implementation and enforcement of the California Water Code and the Clean Water Act. The campuses are located within the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRBRWQCB) region.

The CRBRWQCB implements the Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin (Basin Plan). The Basin Plan is designed to preserve and enhance water quality and protect the beneficial uses of all regional waters. Specifically, the Basin Plan (i) designates beneficial uses for surface and ground waters, (ii) sets narrative and numerical objectives that must be attained or maintained to protect the designated beneficial uses and conform to the State's antidegradation policy, and (iii) describes implementation programs to protect all waters in the Region.¹⁵² In addition, the Basin Plan incorporates all applicable State and Regional Board plans and policies and other pertinent water quality policies and regulations.

As discussed in Section 5.10.a, the District would comply with applicable federal, State, and local regulations pertaining to water quality. Construction and operation of the Project would adhere to the Basin Plan and would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the plan.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Construction and operational phases would adhere to the [Colorado River] Basin Plan, and would not conflict or obstruct the implementation of the water management plans. The District would comply to applicable federal, state, and local regulations pertaining to water quality.

Impacts would be less than significant impacts.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

¹⁵² State of California CRBRWQCB, Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/coloradoriver/water_issues/programs/basin_planning/. Accessed March 2023.

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Would the proposed school conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Physically divide an established community?

No impact. The proposed Project would not divide any established residential communities as development would occur within a developed campus. No new roadways or infrastructure would be constructed that would bisect or transect the surrounding neighborhoods.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The proposed Project would occur on existing high school campuses, and not breach the schools' property lines. It would not divide established communities.

There would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Conflict with 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?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Palm Springs High School

Palm Springs High School is situated in the city of Palm Springs, which follows the city of Palm Springs General Plan zoning map. The General Plan designates PSHS as “O” for Open Land Zone, which means the land is designated for parks, schools, or rural residential neighborhood.¹⁵³ The proposed Project is allowed use under the P/S land use designation and zoning.

The impact of the proposed Project on land use, policy, or regulation, is less than significant.

Desert Hot Springs High School

Desert Hot Springs High School is situated in the city of Desert Hot Springs, which follows the city of Desert Hot Springs General Plan zoning map. The General Plan designated DHSHS as “P” for Public or Institutional, which means the land is designated for publicly owned property, property owned by quasi-public or public service entities, and property used or planned to be used for certain institutional facilities.¹⁵⁴ The proposed Project is allowed use under the P/S land use designation and zoning.

The impact of the proposed Project on land use, policy, or regulation, is less than significant.

Cathedral City High School

Cathedral City High School is situated in the city of Cathedral City, which follows the city of Cathedral City General Plan zoning map. The General Plan designated CCHS as “RR” Resort Residential, which means the land is designated for a low-density use, agricultural use, and for single family residences¹⁵⁵ The proposed Project is allowed use under the P/S land use designation and zoning.

¹⁵³ City of Palm Springs. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/26522/637515977161430000>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁵⁴ City of Desert Hot Springs. GIS Viewer, Zoning Map. Available at: <https://deserthotsprings.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=09a2838a17c2457dbf854ec9f441c9a2>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁵⁵ City of Cathedral City. Zoning Map. Available at: <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/5350/636245721641900000>

The impact of the proposed Project on land use, policy, or regulation, is less than significant.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Each of the high school campuses is built within an appropriate zone for educational/school use. The installation of field lights would not affect zoning, as it is an improvement to existing approved-use facilities.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Would the proposed school conflict with any existing or proposed land uses, such that a potential health or safety risk to students would be created?

No Impact.

Palm Springs High School

There are no existing or proposed land uses surrounding PSHS that would pose a health or safety risk to students or faculty. Land use designation surrounding PSHS includes open space-parks/recreation, residential, mixed-use, commercial, and offices.

Desert Hot Springs High School

There are no existing or proposed land uses surrounding DSHS that would pose a health or safety risk to students or faculty. Land use designation surrounding DSHS includes residential, mixed-use, open space, commercial, and institutional.

Cathedral City High School

There are no existing or proposed land uses surrounding CCHS that would pose a health or safety risk to students or faculty. Land use designation surrounding CCHS includes institutional, residential, open space, and commercial.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no conflicting land-uses around the existing high school campuses that would pose a potential health or safety risk to the student. No new school structures are proposed.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State?

No Impact.

Palm Springs High School

According to the Palm Springs General Plan Recreation, open Space and Conservation Element, the Project Site is located within Mineral Resource Zone 3 (MRZ-3).¹⁵⁶ This designation indicates an area where development has limited the ability to determine the presence or amount of mineral resources. There have been no known records of mineral resources within the Project Site and the existing campus is already developed. As such, there would be no disruption of existing mining operations, and there would be no loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

No impact would occur.

¹⁵⁶ Palm Springs, General Plan, Recreation, Open Space and Conservation Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/government/departments/planning/general-plan>

Desert Hot Springs High School

The Desert Hot Springs General Plan, Open Space and Natural Resource Element, categorizes the city as an MRZ-3, including the Project Site.¹⁵⁷ There have been no known records of mineral resources within the Project Site and the existing campus is already developed. As such, there would be no disruption of existing mining operations, and there would be no loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

No impact would occur.

Cathedral City High School

Cathedral City is zoned as an MRZ-3, per the Draft Comprehensive General Plan, Open Space and Conservation Element.¹⁵⁸ There have been no known records of mineral resources within the Project Sites and the existing campuses are already developed. As such, there would be no disruption of existing mining operations, and there would be no loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no known mineral resources within or near PSHS, DHSHS, or CCHS, and such no loss of potentially valuable mineral regions.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No impact.

The existing school campuses and associated high school fields are within MRZ-3 and include developed school campuses. There are no known mineral resource recovery sites in the vicinity (within 0.5 mile).

¹⁵⁷ Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Open Space and Natural Resource Element, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁵⁸ Cathedral City, Draft Comprehensive General Plan, Open Space and Conservation Element, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/services/community-development-department/gpupdate>. Accessed March 2023.

The Project Sites are also not designated as a mineral resource recovery site,¹⁵⁹ but there is a permitted aggregate mine adjacent to the north side of DSHS.^{160,161,162}

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There are no known mineral resource recovery sites within 0.5 miles of PSHS, DSHS, or CCHS. The Project would not affect local mineral resources.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

¹⁵⁹ Cathedral City, General Plan. "Land Use Map."
<https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/2813/636245721641900000>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁶⁰ City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Open Space, Natural, and Cultural Resources Element,
<https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁶¹ City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Land Use Element,
<https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/1969/635545493507830000>. Accessed March 2023.

5.13 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
NOISE - Would the project:				
a. Generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?***

Less than Significant with Project Mitigation.

Environmental Setting

Human response to noise varies widely depending on the type of noise, time of day, and sensitivity of the receptor. The effects of noise on humans can range from temporary to permanent hearing loss and can induce mild stress and annoyance due to such things as speech interference and sleep deprivation. Prolonged stress, regardless of the cause, is known to contribute to a variety of health disorders. Noise, or the lack thereof, is a factor in the aesthetic perception of some settings, particularly those with religious or cultural significance. Certain land uses are particularly sensitive to noise, including schools, hospitals, rest homes, long-term medical and mental care facilities, and parks and recreation areas. Residential areas are also considered noise-sensitive, especially during the nighttime hours.

The Project Sites, as they are existing school campuses, would be considered on-site sensitive receptors as they would continue to operate during construction. Additionally, the off-site sensitive receptors are located within the vicinity of the Project Sites.

The nearest sensitive receptors to the PSHS Project Site include Medium Density Residential to the north and south along Ramon Road and Baristo Road respectively, Estate Residential uses to the east along Compadre Road, and Open Space - Parks/Recreation uses along South Pavilion Way.

The nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the DSHS Project Site includes Residential Low (R-L) uses to the east and west along Golden Eagle Way and Cholla Drive, Residential High (R-H) and Open Space (OS) along Cholla Drive, and Residential High (R-H) along Pierson Boulevard.

The nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the CCHS Project Site includes Open Space-Public (OS-P) to the west along Date Palm Drive, Medium Density Residential (RM) and Low Density Residential (RL) to the south along Dinah Shore Drive, and Resort Residential (RR) to the north along Dave Kelley Road.

Regulatory Setting

Palm Springs High School

The City of Palm Springs General Plan Noise¹⁶³ element includes guidelines to determine noise compatibility for specific land uses. These guidelines are shown in **Table 5.13-1: Palm Springs Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure** and depict the CNEL ranges of allowable exterior ambient noise levels for various land uses at buildout. As shown in **Table 5.13-1**, noise levels for schools are considered “normally acceptable” up to 65 dBA.

TABLE 5.13-1 PALM SPRINGS LAND USE COMPATIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY NOISE EXPOSURE							
Land Use Categories	Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)						
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes							
<i>Normally Acceptable: Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.</i>							
<i>Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.</i>							
<i>Normally Unacceptable: New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.</i>							
<i>Clearly Unacceptable: New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.</i>							

Source: Palm Springs General Plan, Noise Element (2007)

Section 11.74 of the Palm Springs Municipal Code¹⁶⁴ established noise regulations within the City. The Municipal Code establishes interior and exterior noise limits for residential areas within the City which are outlined below in **Table 5.13-2: Palm Springs Exterior Noise Limits**. At the boundary line between a residential property and a commercial and industrial property, the noise level of the quieter zone plus five is used by the City.

¹⁶³ City of Palm Springs General Plan, Noise Element, 2007

¹⁶⁴ Palm Springs Municipal Code. Title 11. Ch. 11.74. Sec. 11.74.031.

**TABLE 5.13-2
PALM SPRINGS EXTERIOR NOISE LIMITS**

Land Use	Time Periods	Noise Level Standard (dBA)
Residential	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	50
	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	45
	10:00 PM - 7:00 AM	40
Commercial	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	60
	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	55
	10:00 PM - 7:00 AM	50
Industrial	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	65
	6:00 PM - 10:00 PM	60
	10:00 PM - 7:00 AM	55

Source: Palm Springs Municipal Code. Title 11. Ch. 11.74. Sec. 11.74.031.

To control noise impacts associated with the construction of a project, Palm Springs has established limits to the hours of construction in Section 11.74.011 of the Municipal Code.¹⁶⁵ Specifically, the City limits construction to the hours of 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM Monday through Friday, and 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday. Construction is prohibited on Sundays and holidays.

Desert Hot Springs High School

The City of Desert Hot Springs General Plan Noise Element¹⁶⁶ includes guidelines to determine noise compatibility for specific land uses. These guidelines are shown in **Table 5.13-3: Desert Hot Springs Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure** and depict the CNEL ranges of allowable exterior ambient noise levels for various land uses at buildout. As shown in Table 5.13-3, noise levels for schools are considered “normally acceptable” up to 60 dBA.

Section 8.12 of the Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code (DHSMC)¹⁶⁷ established noise regulations within the City. The DHSMC states that in residential areas, no exterior noise level shall exceed 65 dBA.

To control noise impacts associated with the construction of a project, Desert Hot Springs has established limits to the hours of construction in Section 9.04.030 of the DHSMC.¹⁶⁸ Specifically, the City limits construction to the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday when daylight savings is no in

¹⁶⁵ Palm Springs Municipal Code. Title 11. Ch. 11.74. Sec. 11.74.031.

¹⁶⁶ Desert Hot Springs City General Plan, Noise Element, Adopted May 26, 2020.

¹⁶⁷ Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code. Title 17. Ch. 17.40. Sec. 17.40.180.

¹⁶⁸ Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code. Title 9. Ch. 9.04. Sec. 9.04.030.

effect, and the hours of 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM when daylight savings is in effect. Construction is prohibited on Sundays.

TABLE 5.13-3 DESERT HOT SPRINGS LAND USE COMPATIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY NOISE EXPOSURE							
Land Use Categories	Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)						
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes & Convalescent Hospitals							
<i>Normally Acceptable: With no special noise reduction requirements assuming standard construction.</i>							
<i>Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.</i>							
<i>Normally Unacceptable: New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.</i>							
<i>Land Use Discouraged: New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.</i>							

Source Desert Hot Springs General Plan, Safety and Noise Element. May 26, 2020.

Cathedral City High School

The City of Cathedral City General Plan Noise Element¹⁶⁹ includes guidelines to determine noise compatibility for specific land uses. These guidelines are shown in **Table 5.13-4: Cathedral City Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Exposure** and depict the CNEL ranges of allowable exterior ambient noise levels for various land uses at buildout. As shown in **Table 5.13-4**, noise levels for schools are considered “normally acceptable” up to 65 dBA.

TABLE 5.13-4 CATHEDRAL CITY LAND USE COMPATIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY NOISE EXPOSURE							
Land Use Categories	Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)						
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes							
<i>Normally Acceptable: Specified land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise insulation requirements.</i>							
<i>Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.</i>							

¹⁶⁹ City of Cathedral City General Plan, Noise Element, Adopted July 31, 2002, Amended June 24, 2009.

TABLE 5.13-4
CATHEDRAL CITY LAND USE COMPATIBILITY FOR COMMUNITY NOISE EXPOSURE

Normally Unacceptable: New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made and needed noise insulation features included in the design.

Clearly Unacceptable: New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.

Source: Cathedral City General Plan Update Noise Background Study,” Endo Engineering, 2001: California Department of Health Services, “Guidelines for the Preparation and Content of the Noise Element of the General Plan,” 1990.

Section 11.96 of the Cathedral City Municipal Code (CCMC)¹⁷⁰ established noise regulations within the City. The CCMC establishes interior and exterior noise limits for residential areas within the City which are outlined below in **Table 5.13-5: Cathedral City Exterior Noise Limits**. At the boundary line between a residential property and a commercial and industrial property, the noise level of the quieter zone is used by the City.

TABLE 5.13-5 CATHEDRAL CITY EXTERIOR NOISE LIMITS		
Land Use	Time Periods	Noise Level Standard (dBA)
Residential	7:00 AM - 10:00 PM	65
	10:00 PM - 7:00 AM	50
Commercial/Industrial	7:00 AM - 10:00 PM	85
	10:00 PM - 7:00 AM	55

Source: Cathedral City Municipal Code, sec. 11.96.030.

To control noise impacts associated with the construction of a project, Cathedral City has established limits to the hours of construction in Section 11.96.070 of the CCMC.¹⁷¹ Specifically, the City limits construction to the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday, and 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, between October 1st through April 30th. Moreover, construction is limited to the hours of 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM Monday through Friday, and 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturday, between May 1st through September 30th. Construction is prohibited on Sundays and holidays.

The municipal codes of each city do not establish a numeric maximum of acceptable construction source noise levels at potentially affected receivers. A quantified determination for CEQA constitutes as the generation of noise levels in excess of standards, or as a substantial temporary or periodic noise increase. Therefore, this report identifies a construction noise level threshold to evaluate these potential impacts.

¹⁷⁰ Cathedral City Municipal Code. Title 11. Ch. 11.96. Sec. 11.96.030.

¹⁷¹ Cathedral City Municipal Code. Title 11. Ch. 11.96. Sec. 11.96.070.

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Transit Noise and Vibration Assessment Manual identifies detailed assessment criteria including an eight-hour construction noise level threshold of 80 dBA Leq during daytime at residential uses, and 85 dBA Leq during daytime hours at commercial uses.¹⁷² Therefore, this report relies on the FTA daytime noise level threshold of 80 dBA for residential uses.

Construction

Off-Site

Construction activities that would occur during the construction phases would generate both steady-state and episodic noise that would be heard both on and off the Project Site at each campus. The proposed Project would comply with the established limits to the hours of construction established by each of the cities' municipal codes.

The potential noise impact generated during construction depends on the phase of construction and the percentage of time the equipment operates over the workday. However, construction noise estimates used for the analysis are representative of worst-case conditions because it is unlikely that all the equipment contained on site would operate simultaneously. Construction of the proposed Project would require the use of heavy-duty equipment with the potential to generate audible noise above the ambient background noise level.

The proposed Project's construction noise levels at the nearest off-site sensitive receptors are shown in **Table 5.13-6: Construction Maximum Noise Estimates**. As shown, construction noise levels would result in a maximum increase of 1.6 dBA at the residential uses along Dave Kelley Road, exceeding the daytime significance of 80 dBA.

Impacts would be potentially significant.

¹⁷² Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual (September 2018), https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/118131/transit-noise-and-vibration-impact-assessment-manual-fta-report-no-0123_0.pdf. Accessed February 2022.

TABLE 5.13-6
CONSTRUCTION MAXIMUM NOISE ESTIMATES

Site	Nearest Off-Site Sensitive Receptors	Distance from Project Site (feet)	Max Leq	Significance Threshold (dBA)	Maximum Noise Increase over Significance Threshold without Regulatory Compliance Measures (dBA)
PSHS	Residential uses to the north along Baristo Road	65	80.2	80.0	+0.2
DHSHS	Residential uses along Golden Eagle Way	80	78.4	80.0	N/A
CCHS	Residential uses along Dave Kelley Road	55	81.6	80.0	+1.6

Source: FHWA, RCNM, version. 1.1.

Refer to Appendix F.1 for Construction noise output sheets

On-Site

Similar to the off-site sensitive receptors, the Project would expose on-site receptors, including students and faculty, to increased ambient exterior noise levels during construction. Construction noise during the construction may reach up to 88.9 dB when measured at a reference distance of 25 feet from the construction activity.¹⁷³ This could interfere with certain educational programming and learning activities when school is in sessions.

Impacts would be potentially significant.

Operation

Construction activities would occur within close proximity to sensitive receptors. Sensitive receptors are found on site (students and faculty).

The proposed Project involves the installation of field lighting to comply with recent legislation requiring that public high school classes begin no earlier than 8:30 A.M., causing the times of use for high school fields to be later in the day. As such, the operational noise levels would not change.

Noise-sensitive receptors (students) would be exposed to elevated construction noise levels when activities occur in proximity to these receptors. As discussed previously, construction noise during the heavier initial periods of construction may reach up to **88.9** dB when measured at a reference distance of 25 feet from the construction activity.¹⁷⁴

¹⁷³ Refer to Appendix G for construction noise worksheets

¹⁷⁴ Refer to Appendix G for construction noise worksheets

Project-related construction activities would occur during the hours specified in the City's municipal codes Monday through Friday. Because schools are typically in session from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, activities would occur during the most sensitive timeframe. If the Project's construction activities were required on Saturdays, these activities would occur during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. These construction hours are consistent with the Municipal Codes of each city.

To further reduce exposure of noise-sensitive receptors (both on and off campus) from the proposed Project's construction-related activities, the proposed Project would coordinate the noisiest construction activities to occur during periods when school is not in session.

The District would work to limit the majority of the site preparation and grading activities. The start of new building construction would occur during the school's summer session or during school vacation periods.

Because construction activities would occur over an approximate continuous 18-month period, noise at the nearby sensitive receptors would constitute a potentially temporary noise impact. Noise levels on the Project Site would be considered high for intermittent periods of time and would occur during the most-sensitive times during the day (8:30 AM to 3:30 PM).

Summary

Noise impacts have the potential to affect on-site and off-site receptors during the construction phase of the proposed Project. Each City has established their own set of noise guidelines and limits in order to reduce potential impacts to sensitive receptors. These guidelines include a "normally acceptable" noise level of up to 65 dBA at PSHS and CCHS, and 60 dBA at DHSHS. Construction noise may reach up to 88.9 dBA on these campuses, exceeding the thresholds. In addition, the FTA identifies a construction noise threshold of 80 dBA for residential uses. The maximum noise level at residential uses surrounding the Project Sites is 81.6 dBA, exceeding the threshold. Noise levels on the Project Site would be considered high for intermittent periods of time and would occur during the most-sensitive times during the day.

Impacts would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures have been identified to reduce impacts to less than significant:

MM N-1 The District shall direct construction activities that result in noise above 60 dB(a) to correspond with the school's schedules to minimize noise and vibration impacts when classes are in session, and to avoid critical (testing) periods. Intensive construction activities such as demolition and grading shall be scheduled to occur after 2:30 PM Monday through Friday.

MM N-2 The District's construction contractor shall ensure that construction equipment is properly muffled according to industry standards and is in good working condition.

- MM N-3** The District's construction contractor shall utilize diesel generators and compressors that are listed as "quiet units" by the manufacturer.
- MM N-4** For all noise- and vibration-generating construction activity on the Project Site, the District's construction contractor shall employ additional noise and vibration attenuation techniques to reduce noise and vibration levels. Such techniques may include, but are not limited to, the use of sound blankets on noise-generating equipment and the construction of temporary sound barriers between construction sites and nearby sensitive receptors.
- MM N-5** The District's construction contractor shall turn off all idling equipment when not in use for more than 5 minutes.
- MM N-6** The District's construction contractor shall disconnect backup alarms on vehicles that require them.
- MM N-7** The District's construction contractor shall utilize temporary noise deflector walls during construction, where feasible.
- MM N-8** The District's construction contractor shall place noise- and vibration-generating construction equipment, as well as locating construction staging areas, away from sensitive uses, including operating classrooms, where feasible.
- MM N-9** The District's construction contractor shall coordinate the reduction of construction activities with nearby classrooms during exam periods to minimize noise and vibration. The District's construction contractor shall provide construction activity schedules to try to minimize noisy activities when construction is taking place to the fullest extent practicable.

b. Is the proposed school site located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the educational program?

Less than Significant Impact. The California Education Code states that a busy traffic corridor is defined as having 50,000 or more average daily trips (ADT) in a rural area or 100,000 or more ADT in an urban area.¹⁷⁵

Palm Springs High School

There are no freeways within 500 feet of the Palm Springs High School campus. The closest freeway, I-10, is approximately 3.8 miles northeast of the Project Site.

¹⁷⁵ California Education Code (EDC), Sec. 17213, accessed February 2022.
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC§ionNum=17213.#:~:text=17213.%20The%20governing%20board%20of%20a%20school%20district,school%20district%2C%20unless%20all%20of%20the%20following%20occur%3A March 2022.

Desert Hot Springs High School

There are no freeways within 500 feet of the Desert Hot Springs High School campus. The closest freeway, I-10, is located approximately 4.2 miles southwest of the DHSHS Project Site.

Cathedral City High School

There are no freeways within 500 feet of the Cathedral City High School campus. The closest freeway, I-10, is located approximately 2.3 miles northeast of the CCHS Project Site.

Additionally, the proposed Project would not generate an increase of daily vehicle trips, as analyzed in Section 5.17: Transportation. The school campus and Project Sites are not within one-quarter mile of a freeway or other busy traffic corridor as defined by the California Education Code.¹⁷⁶

Summary

None of the three campuses are located adjacent to or near a major arterial roadway or freeway whose noise generation may adversely affect the education program.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

c. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less than Significant Impact.

Construction

Off-Site

Construction machinery and operations can generate varying degrees of ground vibration, depending on the construction procedures and the construction equipment used. The operation of construction equipment generates vibrations that spread through the ground and diminish in amplitude with distance from the source. The effect on buildings located in the vicinity of a construction site often varies depending on soil type, ground strata, and construction characteristics of the receptor buildings. The results from vibration impacts can range from no perceptible effects at the lowest vibration levels, to low rumbling sounds and perceptible vibration at moderate levels, to slight damage at its highest levels. Groundborne vibration from construction activities rarely reaches the levels causing damage to

¹⁷⁶ California Education Code (EDC), Sec. 17213, accessed February 2022.
https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EDC§ionNum=17213.#:~:text=17213.%20The%20governing%20board%20of%20a%20school%20district,school%20district%2C%20unless%20all%20of%20the%20following%20occur%3A. March 2022.

structures. Potential building damage occurs when construction activities cause groundborne vibration levels to exceed 0.5 inches per second peak particle velocity (PPV) at the nearest off-site sensitive receptors.

Heavy construction equipment may generate substantial levels of vibration that would cause annoyance to on- and off-site vibration-sensitive receptors. However, vibration dissipates quickly with distance. As heavy construction equipment moves around the site, average vibration levels at the nearest sensitive receptors on the campus and in adjacent residences would diminish rapidly with increased distance between the receptors and the equipment.

A vibration velocity of 75 VdB is the approximate threshold between barely perceptible and distinctly perceptible levels for many people. The residential neighborhoods directly surrounding the Project Site with regard to construction activities would not be affected as a result of the attenuation of groundborne vibration, given their distance from where ground-disturbing activities would occur on the site. Construction activities would be restricted to daytime hours, which is when the surrounding off-site residences are the least sensitive to vibration intrusions.

Table 5.13-7: Construction Vibration Impacts—Building Damage presents vibration impacts associated with on-site construction in terms of building damage. As shown in Table 5.13-7, the forecasted vibration levels due to on-site construction activities would not exceed the building damage significance threshold at the nearby sensitive receptors.

Off-site vibration impacts would be less than significant.

**TABLE 5.13-7
CONSTRUCTION VIBRATION IMPACTS—BUILDING DAMAGE**

Nearest Off-Site Building Structures		Estimated Vibration Velocity Levels at the Nearest Off-Site Structures from the Project Construction Equipment		Significance Threshold (PPV ips)	Exceeds Threshold?
		Caisson Drilling	Loaded Trucks		
FTA Reference Vibration Levels at 25 feet					
		0.089	0.076	—	
PSHS	Residential uses along Baristo Road (65 ft)	0.021	0.018	0.5	No
DHSHS	Residential uses along Golden Eagle Way (80 ft)	0.016	0.013	0.5	No
CCHS	Residential uses along Dave Kelley Road (55 ft)	0.027	0.023	0.5	No

Source: US Department of Transportation, Federal Transportation Authority, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment

Source: Refer to Appendix F.2 for Construction vibration output sheets.

On-Site

Similar to the off-site sensitive receptors, the proposed Project would expose on-site buildings at each of the campuses to increased vibration levels during construction. As shown in Table 5.13-7 above, the forecasted vibration levels due to on-site construction activities would not exceed the building damage significance threshold at a reference-distance of 25 feet.

On-site vibration impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

Operation

The proposed uses would be stationary and would not generate substantial groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

Operational vibration impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

Construction equipment has the potential to create vibration impacts to on-site and off-site receptors, however, vibration dissipates quickly with distance. As such, residential uses surrounding the Project Site would not be affected by the vibration due to their distance from the ground disturbing activities. The

on-site buildings at each of the campuses would be exposed to increased vibration levels during construction, however the construction activities would not exceed the building damage significance threshold. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

d. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airstrip 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?

No Impact.

Palm Springs High School

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Palm Springs International Airport is located approximately 0.6 miles to the northwest. PSHS is located outside of the 60 Community Noise Equivalent Level Zone (CNEL) that is designated by the 2015 Palm Springs International Airport Master Plan.¹⁷⁷ As such, the existing Project Site would not expose people residing in or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels.

Desert Hot Springs High School

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Palm Springs International Airport is located approximately 8.0 miles south. Therefore, the Project Site is not within two miles of a public airport or public-use airport that would expose people residing in, or working in, the Project area to excessive noise levels.

Cathedral City High School

The closest airport to the Project Site is the Palm Springs International Airport is located approximately 2.6 miles northwest. Therefore, the Project Site is not within two miles of a public airport or public-use airport that would expose people residing in, or working in, the Project area to excessive noise levels.

Summary

While the DHSHS campus and CCHS campus are not located within two miles of a private airstrip or public airport, the PSHS campus is located 0.6 miles from Palm Springs International Airport. However, PSHS is

¹⁷⁷ Palm Springs International Airport, Master Plan Update (2015)

located outside of the 60 CNEL designated by the 2015 Palm Springs International Airport Master Plan.¹⁷⁸ As such, no people residing or working in the project area would be exposed to excessive noise levels.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

¹⁷⁸ Palm Springs International Airport, Master Plan Update (2015)

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:				
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

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)?

No impact. The proposed Project would not increase enrollment capacity at the schools nor involve the development of new homes or businesses. As such, it would not introduce new populations to the areas.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. This would not increase enrollment capacity at the school or nearby businesses, thus not introducing new populations to the areas around PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No impact. No housing exists on the Project Sites since the sites are within existing school campuses. The proposed Project would not demolish any existing housing. The existing campuses would not expand into the surrounding development and would not require the movement of already-established housing. Therefore, the proposed Project would not displace any existing people or housing.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Construction and operations would only occur within school grounds. No housing would be displaced, and such no replacement housing is needed.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No impact. The Project Sites are developed as high school fields on existing school campuses and would not displace existing housing or people. The number of jobs and types of jobs provided by the campus would also remain the same. Construction of the small-scale improvements would be able to draw upon a locally available workforce. Due to the limited scale and duration of the construction effort, even if a non-local contractor were retained, long-term construction employment opportunities would not result from the Project. Therefore, the proposed Project would not displace any people, jobs, or housing.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. No people would be displaced as a result of this Project, and no replacement housing is necessary.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
PUBLIC SERVICES				
Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting within existing high school fields at three PSUSD high school campuses (PSHS, DHSHS and CCHS).

a. Fire protection?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The light poles would be constructed of steel, which is not combustible. The baseball field area is planted in grass, which is periodically mowed, therefore minimizing fire risk. The addition of lighting to the existing high school fields would not introduce new students or the resident population to the vicinity. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the demand for fire protection services.

The local fire departments would continue to serve the PSUSD and each campus with existing equipment and personnel.

Palm Springs High School

Fire protection and emergency medical services are provided in Palm Springs primarily by the Riverside County Fire Department (RCFD), but the Palm Springs Fire Department (PSFD) is the closest station to Palm Springs High School. Fire Station Number (No.) 2 is located at 300 N. El Cielo Rd, approximately 1.2

miles northeast of the high school. There are a total of 18 on-duty firefighting personnel available during each 24-hour period.¹⁷⁹

Desert Hot Springs High School

Fire protection and emergency medical services in the City of Desert Hot Springs are provided by Riverside County Fire Department. The nearest station to the Desert Hot Springs High School is Battalion 10 at Station No. 37. Station No. 37 is located at 65958 Pierson Blvd, approximately 0.5 miles southeast of the school. A total number of 29 members work at the station, most of which consist of volunteers.¹⁸⁰

Cathedral City High School

Fire protection and emergency medical services in Cathedral City are provided by the Cathedral City Fire Department (CCFD). The nearest station to the Project Site (CCHS) is Fire Station 412 (Cathedral City), located at 32100 Desert Vista Rd, approximately 1.5 miles northwest from Cathedral City High School. Fire Department staff includes 43 sworn fire personnel (42 firefighters and 1 Fire Chief), including 14 on-duty, 2 administrative personnel and 1 full-time fire inspector.¹⁸¹

During construction and subsequent operation, the proposed Project would not interfere with any of the daily operations of the Emergency Plans within the respective cities, nor would it require additional staff from the PSFD, RCFD, or CCFD.^{182,183,184} All construction activities, including staging, would occur on Project Site and be performed per the District's, city's, and fire department's standards and regulations. Construction activities would not cause any road closures and in effect would not decrease the fire department's accessibility to the high schools or the surrounding developments.

¹⁷⁹ Palm Springs, Palm Springs 2007 General Plan, Safety Element, Page 6-56.

¹⁸⁰ Desert Hot Springs, County Office, Riverside County Fire Department Station 37, <https://www.countyoffice.org/riverside-county-fire-department-station-37-desert-hot-springs-desert-hot-springs-ca-7ec/>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁸¹ Cathedral City, General Plan (2040 Update). "Public Services and Facilities Element." <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁸² Cathedral City, Draft Comprehensive General Plan, Safety Element, Emergency Preparedness Sub-Element, <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>, Accessed March 2023.

¹⁸³ The City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Safety Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/government/departments/planning/general-plan>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁸⁴ The City of Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Safety and Noise Element, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The proposed lighting fixtures would not increase the fire risk on the campuses, thus not increasing the need for fire-personnel on campus.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Police protection?

Less than Significant Impact.

Resident population in this region of the County would not be increased by the proposed Project, and the lighting equipment would not be expected to represent a target for vandalism. The local law enforcement agencies would continue to provide police protection to the PSUSD staff and students at each campus and the proposed Project would not result in any increase in the demand for police protection services. The proposed Project would not require the construction of new or expanded police facilities.

The PSUSD also has a Security Department specifically assigned to all schools within the District. School security personnel work collaboratively with allied law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of students and staff.¹⁸⁵ Security would be provided by campus security guards during construction activities of the proposed Project. All construction workers would be required to wear identification badges and checked in through the school office prior to each day's construction activities. Construction areas would be separated from the rest of the campus by temporary fencing, secured by locks and security guards.

The proposed Project would not change the number of students or faculty on site. No additional law enforcement services would be necessary.

Palm Springs High School

Police protection services in Palm Springs are provided by the Palm Springs Police Department, located at 200 S Civic Dr, approximately 0.7 miles northeast of the Project Site. The Department is staffed by a

¹⁸⁵ Palm Springs Unified School District, Security Department, <https://www.psusd.us/Page/234>. Accessed March 2023.

Chief of Police, 2 captains, 5 Lieutenants, and an administrative assistant, along with 16 sergeants and 76 officers.¹⁸⁶

Desert Hot Springs High School

Police protection services in Desert Hot Springs are provided by the Riverside County Sheriff's department, located at 65950 Pierson Blvd, approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the Project Site.¹⁸⁷

Cathedral City High School

Police protection services in Cathedral City are provided by the Cathedral City Police Department, which is located within the City Hall Building at 68700 Avenida Lalo Guerrero, approximately 3.0 miles southwest of the Project Site. The Department is staffed by 52 sworn officers, 35 non-sworn support, administrative personnel, and 6 reserve officers.¹⁸⁸

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Police services would not be significantly impacted, as student or faculty capacity would not increase as a result of the proposed Project. Police might be called to the high schools later in the day, as the facilities would be actively used later than previously once lighting fixtures are installed.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Schools?

Less than Significant Impact.

The addition of lighting to the existing baseball field would not introduce new students or resident population to any of the schools as the new lighting is intended to serve the exiting school population and student activities and sports programs. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the demand for school resources.

¹⁸⁶ The City of Palm Springs, Police Department, Command Staff, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/government/departments/police/command-staff>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁸⁷ The City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Safety Element, <https://www.palmspringsca.gov/government/departments/planning/general-plan>. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁸⁸ Cathedral City, General Plan (2040 Update). "Public Services and Facilities Element." <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed March 2023.

The addition of lighting to the baseball field would have no effect upon enrollment capacity of the school or participation capacity of high school programs at any of the schools. However, the lighting would increase programming schedule flexibility for practices and games, a beneficial impact.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There would be no increase in school enrollment or change in educational or high school participation capacity. The proposed Project would result in a beneficial impact- more flexibility of practice and game scheduling as the lights provide more time in the day to participate.

Impacts to school facilities would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Parks?

No impact. Demand for parks and recreational facilities are usually determined by an area's population.

The addition of lighting to the existing high school fields would not introduce new resident population to the vicinity. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in an increase in demand for park resources or the need for more parks.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. This would not increase the demand for park and park-related resources.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Other public facilities?

No impact.

No off-campus construction would occur, and the vicinity residential population would not be increased by the Project; therefore, no public facilities would be impacted.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. As no off-campus construction would occur, no public facilities would be impacted by the proposed Project.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?

No Impact. The proposed Project would not result in an increase in school enrollment or population and would not construct any dwelling units. The District recognizes that its' facilities and grounds are a community resource and can authorize their use by community groups for purposes provided for in the Civic Center Act, only when such use does not interfere with school activities.¹⁸⁹ Pursuant to District policies, facilities available for use as follows:

- Subject to district policies and regulations (BP/AR1330), school facilities and grounds are available to citizens and community groups as a civic center as specified in Education Code 32282, 38131.
- All school-related activities shall be given priority in the use of facilities and grounds under the Civic Center Act and take precedence over a non-school group. The District reserves the right to revoke a use of facilities permit at any time.

No off-campus construction would occur, and the vicinity residential population would not be increased or decreased by the proposed Project. Use of school facilities would adhere to District policy. Therefore, no joint use of school facilities would be impacted.

Evening high school games and evening high school practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There is no promotion of joint use of parks, libraries, museums, or other public services, nor does it impact the joint use of school facilities.

No impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

¹⁸⁹ Palm Springs Unified School District (PSUSD) Policies. Section 1330. Available at: <http://www.gamutonline.net/district/palmsprings/displayPolicy/436513/>. Accessed March 2023.

5.16 RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
RECREATION - Would the project:				
a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

Less Than Significant Impact. Demand for parks and recreational facilities are usually determined by the area's population.

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of exterior lighting at existing high school fields at three PSUSD high school campuses. Resident population in this region of Riverside County and the respective cities would not be increased as a result of the proposed Project. There would be no increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, and no project-resultant physical deterioration of these existing recreation facilities would occur or be accelerated.

Implementation of the proposed Project would only upgrade and modernize existing facilities without increasing local population, student capacity, employment opportunities, or housing. Therefore, demand for recreational facilities would remain the same, and no substantial physical deterioration of the existing facilities would occur due to implementation of the proposed Project. There may be possible short-term impacts to recreational facilities on school property if recreational facilities are open to the public during non-school hours or for local programs. These would be temporarily unavailable during construction.

During the construction of the proposed Project, workers would typically commute to work on site and leave the local area after the workday. Any use of either park would be negligible. Additionally, the recreational facilities in the vicinity of the Project Site would continue to be operational during construction so there would be no overcrowding of other nearby parks. Therefore, demand for recreational services on a short-term and long-term basis would remain the same, and deterioration to recreational facilities would not occur. Other local recreational facilities available during construction are noted for each campus.

Palm Springs High School

The City of Palm Springs has 10 city parks, totaling 163.5 acres.¹⁹⁰ Sunrise Park lies adjacent to the west of the Project Site, with a total area of 38-acres. Baristo Park is a local park approximately 1.4 miles west of the high school, covering a modest 2 acres.

Desert Hot Springs High School

The city of Desert Hot Springs has 7 existing recreational public parks for a total of 40 acres.¹⁹¹ Wardman Park is approximately 1 mile northeast of the Project Site and includes a total of 7.06 acres of recreational space. Guy Tedesco Park is also located approximately 1 mile away from DHSHS (southeast), which includes a total of 9.03 acres of recreational space.¹⁹²

Cathedral City High School

Existing recreational facilities in the city include 11 parks for a total of 73 acres.¹⁹³ The Dennis Keat soccer Park is located approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the Project Site and includes a total of 19.25 acres of recreational space. Additionally, Century Park is located approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Project Site and includes 7.02 acres of recreation space.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Demand for recreational services on a short-term and long-term basis would remain the same, and deterioration to recreational facilities would not occur, as no facilities outside of school grounds would be affected by

190 City of Palm Springs, General Plan, Recreation, Open Space & Conservation Element, <https://www.psgeneralplan.com/general-plan-basics#:~:text=Open%20Space%3A%20Intends%20to%20provide%20a%20plan%20for,Space%20Element%20is%20merged%20with%20the%20Conservation%20Element>. Accessed March 2023.

191 Desert Hot Springs, General Plan, Parks, Recreation, and Trails, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/11/Desert-Hot-Springs-General-Plan-Adopted-07-2020-Small.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

192 City of Desert Hot Springs, City Parks, <https://storage.googleapis.com/proudcity/deserthotspringsca/uploads/2021/08/City-of-Desert-Hot-Springs-City-Parks-1.pdf>. Accessed March 2023.

193 Cathedral City, General Plan (2040 Update). "Parks and Recreation Element." <https://www.cathedralcity.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/8159/636989460828370000>. Accessed March 2023.

the proposed Project. If any recreational facilities at the high school campuses are open to the public, these may be temporarily halted during construction.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No impact. Development of the proposed Project would implement additional field lighting on the existing high school fields at PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS, providing lighting at the field would increase spectator opportunities in the evening, raising the recreational value of the facility. No new recreational facilities would be constructed in the community.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. No new recreational facilities would be constructed, rather existing ones would increase in value to the community and high school students. This would have no adverse physical effect on the environment.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.17 TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:				
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g. Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Construction

Construction-related traffic would be short-term and would cause a nominal increase in vehicle trips associated with workers commuting to and from the site and trucks delivering material or equipment. After construction of the proposed Project, daily traffic associated with the high school fields is not expected to materially increase, although some trips may occur later in the day as a result of being able to hold practices or games after dark (which is not feasible currently).

The proposed Project would not make any changes to the circulation system, would not decrease roadway capacity, would not generate appreciable additional traffic or change traffic patterns that could cause an impact to the circulation system including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

Palm Springs High School

Due to the proximity of the Project Site to I-10 freeway, most construction workers would access the Project Sites from I-10, exiting off Ramon Road if coming from the east and exiting off Date Palm Drive if coming from the west. Additionally, SR-111 would be used for local travel from east to west. Ramon Road, which runs east to west and is south of the Project site, would be the primary street used to access the high school campus. It may be accessed via South Farrell Drive, South Sunrise Way, or East Baristo Road, directly adjacent to the Project site.

Construction workers typically arrive and leave work sites between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM, and not during peak school hours (8 AM to 3 PM), thus minimizing any traffic increases for students, parents, and faculty. This would not affect student drop off and pick up but may result in a shortage of parking during the construction period, if the workers were to park within the schools' main lot. Pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicles lanes would not be affected or disrupted by the Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Desert Hot Springs High School

Regional access to DSHS would be from exit 117 or 120 of the I-10 when traveling eastbound, exit 123 when traveling westbound. DSHS can also be accessed by SR-62 near White Water. Additionally, SR-111 would be used for local travel from east to west. Pierson Boulevard, which runs east to west and is south of the Project site, would be the primary street used to access the high school campus. The school also lies adjacent to Golden Eagle Road and Cholla Drive, which intersect Pierson Boulevard from the north.

Construction workers typically arrive and leave work sites between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM, and not during peak school hours (8 AM to 3 PM), thus minimizing any traffic increases for students, parents, and faculty. This would not affect student drop off and pick up but may result in a shortage of parking during the construction period, if the workers were to park within the schools' main lot. Pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicles lanes would not be affected or disrupted by the Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Cathedral City High School

Due to the proximity of the Project site, construction workers would access the Project Sites from I-10, exiting off Ramon Road if coming from the east and exiting off Date Palm Drive if coming from the west. Additionally, SR-111 would be used for local travel from east to west. Dinah Shore Drive, which runs east to west and is south of the Project site, is the primary street used to access the high school campus. Date Palm Drive lies west of the high school campus and intersects with Dinah Shore, providing another major roadway to access the high school campus.

Construction workers typically arrive and leave work sites between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM, and not during peak school hours (8 AM to 3 PM), thus minimizing any traffic increases for students, parents, and faculty. This would not affect student drop off and pick up but may result in a shortage of parking during the construction period, if the workers were to park within the schools' main lot. Pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicles lanes would not be affected or disrupted by the Project.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

The proposed Project would not make any changes to the circulation systems, would not decrease roadway capacity, would not generate appreciable additional traffic or change traffic patterns that could cause an impact to the circulation system including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.

Once the construction of the proposed Project is complete, traffic operations would return to their previous normal operations at PSHS, DSHS, and CCHS. However, with the addition of the lighting fixtures around the high school fields, activities that previously occurred earlier in the day (prior to the installation of lights) would occur at later hours. This would not result in an increase in programs or activities, or residual traffic, but it may shift normal traffic patterns back a few hours. Otherwise,

operations would not conflict with the Cathedral City, Palm Springs, or Desert Hot Springs circulation plans, ordinances, policies, or the performance of the surrounding roadways.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The construction and operational phase would not conflict with programs, plans, ordinances or policies addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. The construction period would involve a small increase of VMT, as construction workers must go to and from the Project site, but VMT conditions would return back to previous normal conditions during the operational phase.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Less Than Significant Impact. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 was developed in response to Senate Bill 743, which eliminated auto delay, LOS, and similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 is a basis for determining impacts. The new criteria “shall promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses” (PRC Section 21099(b)(1)).¹⁹⁴ Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is the new indicator of the travel levels on the roadway system by motor vehicles.

As discussed previously, the proposed Project would include installation of exterior lighting at existing high school fields at the PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS campuses and would not expand the existing enrollment-capacity.

Construction of the proposed Project would result in a nominal increase in local traffic as a result of construction-related worker traffic, material and equipment deliveries, and construction activities. VMT generated from construction-related traffic would cease once construction is completed, and VMT levels would return to pre-project conditions. Therefore, vehicle miles generated from construction traffic would be temporary and short term. The proposed Project would not result in an increase in VMT.

¹⁹⁴ Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13. Environmental Quality, Chapter 2.7. Modernization of Transportation Analysis for Transit-Oriented Infill Projects, Section 21099, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=21099.&lawCode=PRC. Accessed March 2023.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. It would not conflict with CEQA Guidelines section 10564.3, subdivision (b), as the proposed improvements would not result in increased VMT during operations. There would be a minimal increase of VMT during the construction, but this would be temporary and minimal.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The proposed Project would not include any off-site construction or improvements; the Project would therefore not result in new roadway design features, new geometric design features, new sharp curves, or new dangerous intersections. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase hazards due to a roadway design feature or incompatible uses.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The proposed improvements would not increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses, as there are no proposed changes to the surrounding roadways.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant impact. The proposed Project consists of the installation and operation of lighting within existing high school fields at three PSUSD high school campus; no off-site improvements, construction or physical alterations are proposed, and the lighting standards would not be located within areas of the campuses that supports vehicle access.

Emergency response vehicles have direct access adjacent to the spectator areas of the high school at each campus would be the same as currently exists. No increase in spectator capacity is proposed under the proposed Project that could result in an increase in the demand for emergency response related to accidents or medical condition incidents. The proposed Project would therefore not result in inadequate emergency access.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Emergency access would not be altered, it would remain as it currently exists. This would not result in inadequate emergency access.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e. Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual?

No Impact. The proposed Project would implement improvements that would only affect nighttime visibility on high school fields. The proposed Project would not make changes to the bicycle system, roadways, or traffic lanes. All proposed improvements would be contained within the existing campuses.

The proposed Project would not increase the exposure of students to traffic and pedestrian hazards at any of the campuses. Surrounding roadways are already marked with appropriate school zone signs and crosswalks.

The proposed Project would comply with Caltrans traffic control requirements for school areas.¹⁹⁵

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. There would be no increase in exposure of traffic or pedestrian to hazards, as the proposed improvements would be contained within the existing campuses, not on any roadways. The proposed Project would comply with Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

¹⁹⁵ California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) (2021), <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd/camutcd-files>. Accessed March 2023.

f. Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?

No Impact. The proposed Project would implement improvements that would only affect nighttime visibility on high school fields. The proposed Project would not make changes to the bicycle system, roadways, or traffic lanes. All proposed improvements would be contained within the existing campuses.

The proposed Project would implement improvements that would only affect nighttime visibility on high school fields. The proposed Project would not make changes to the bicycle system, roadways, or traffic lanes. All proposed improvements would be contained within the existing campuses.

No buildings, structures, or landscaping would be introduced near any of the existing driveways, which would impair visibility at all of the campuses. Clear and uninterrupted access to the campus would continue to be provided through existing driveways.

The circulation for each of the campuses is described below.

Palm Springs High School

Construction access would be located along East Baristo Road to the north and South Farrell Drive to the east. These roads would provide access to the proposed Project for the construction activities. No changes are proposed to the surrounding road system or on-site vehicular circulation system and driveways.

No buildings, structures, or landscaping would be introduced near any of the existing driveways, which would impair visibility. Clear and uninterrupted access to the campus would continue to be provided through existing driveways.

Desert Hot Springs High School

Construction access would be located along Cholla Drive to the east and Pierson Boulevard to the south. These roads would provide access to the proposed Project for the construction activities. No changes are proposed to the surrounding road system or on-site vehicular circulation system and driveways.

Cathedral City High School

Construction access would be located along Dave Kelley Road to the north. This road would provide access to the proposed Project for the construction activities. No changes are proposed to the surrounding road system or on-site vehicular circulation system and driveways.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. All three sites are easily accessible by arterials and minimal peripherals for driveways would be maintained, as

there are no proposed changes to the surrounding road systems or on-site vehicular circulation systems and driveways.

There would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

g. Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?

No Impact. The existing campuses for PSHS, DSHS and CCHS are not located within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement. The nearest railroad track easement is approximately 1.0 mile from PSHS and CCHS, and 6.1 miles from DSHS.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The high school campuses are not within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement; thus, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion

a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the

landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or***

Less Than Significant Impact. "Tribal cultural resources," as defined in PRC Section 21074, are: sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe.¹⁹⁶ Additionally, PRC section 5020.1(k) defines "local register of historical resources" as a list of properties officially designated or recognized as historically important by a local government pursuant to a local ordinance or resolution.¹⁹⁷

As discussed in Section 5.5: Cultural Resources, the Project Sites are not identified on a local historic landmark list, the California Historical Landmarks register, or the California Points of Historical Interest register. Additionally, the proposed Project would not impact the permanent classrooms on each site as only the high school fields would be altered during construction.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The three high school campuses are not identified on any historical registers or landmark lists, thus are not recognized as historically important.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measure is required.

- ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public***

¹⁹⁶ Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13. Environmental Quality, Chapter 2.5 Definitions, Section 21074, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC§ionNum=21074. Accessed March 2023.

¹⁹⁷ Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 5. Parks and Monuments, Chapter 1. State Parks and Monuments, Article 2. Historic Resources, Section 5020.1, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=5020.1.&lawCode=PRC . Accessed March 2023.

Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation. Public Resource Code Section 5024.1(c) includes criteria to be used for listing a resource in the California Register. As discussed above, the Project Sites are not listed or not eligible for listing as a historic resource.

As the proposed Project's construction and demolition activities would involve limited earthmoving work, and the site is previously graded and developed portions of the campus, it is unlikely that subsurface items would be discovered during construction.

Assembly Bill (AB 52) establishes a formal consultation process for California Native American tribes on development projects. AB 52 notification letters were sent by the District to the Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians (ACBCI) and Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla tribes on March 22, 2023. Only the Agua Caliente Tribe responded.

On March 27, 2023, the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians contacted the District. Xitlaly Madrigal, a Cultural Resource Analyst of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, requested the presence of an approved Agua Caliente Native American Cultural Resource Monitor(s) during any ground disturbing activities as the Project takes place within the Tribe's Traditional Use Area.

Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the Monitor(s) may request that destructive construction halt and the Monitor(s) shall notify a Qualified Archaeologist (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines) to investigate and, if necessary, prepare a mitigation plan for submission to the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Agua Caliente Tribal Historic Preservation Office. Copies of the AB 52 notification letters and response are provided in **Appendix G**.

While no tribal cultural resources were identified in the records search, construction activities associated with the proposed Project could have the potential to unearth undocumented tribal cultural resources beneath the Project Sites during ground disturbing activities (such as drilling and trenching).

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. As the sites have previously been graded and developed, there is a low likelihood of unearthing tribal cultural resources during the Project's construction phase. MM TCR-1 must be implemented to ensure the proper monitors and steps are taken to reduce any potential harm to tribal cultural resources.

Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures would reduce potentially significant impacts to tribal cultural resources to below significance.

MM TCR-1 The District will notify the tribes two weeks prior to the start of construction activities when ground disturbing work will begin.

The District allows access for tribal monitors (at no cost to the District) during any ground disturbing activities (including archaeological testing and surveys). Should buried cultural deposits be encountered, the tribal monitor may request that construction activities in the immediate area of the discovery be halted, and the monitor shall investigate to assess if the discovery includes tribal cultural resources, or human remains that may be of tribal descent. If the tribal monitor determines that the discovery does include tribal cultural resources or human remains that may be of tribal descent, then the monitor shall notify the District and plan for recovery of the remains be prepared. If Native American resources are discovered or are suspected, each of the consulting tribes for the Project will be notified and as dictated by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, PRC Section 5097.98, and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5(e).

If human remains are discovered, the District shall also notify the Riverside County coroner's office to remove the remains.

No further work in the immediate area may resume until the tribal cultural resources or human remains are removed.

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonable foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new water or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater, drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction of which relocation could cause significant environmental effects?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of exterior lighting at existing high school fields at existing PSHS, DHSHS, and CCHS campuses. The campuses are currently connected to basic utilities, including electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and sewage.

Operation of the lighting system during practices or games would not result in direct or indirect increases in the demand for potable water, wastewater treatment, stormwater conveyance, natural gas, or telecommunications. The operation of the lighting system would result in modest electrical consumption below all applicable thresholds and would not lead to the need for construction of new electrical generation facilities.

As previously noted, the proposed Project would not increase the number of students and faculty, nor would it require the construction or expansion of wastewater treatment facilities.

The proposed Project would not increase the demand for additional utility systems, and the existing utilities would be sufficient. The proposed Project would not trigger the need for new or expanded utility systems. The proposed Project would be constructed to meet Title 24 and CalGreen requirements,^{198,199} and would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new utilities.

¹⁹⁸ California Code of Regulations, California Building Standards Code, Title 24, <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/Codes>, Accessed March 2023.

¹⁹⁹ California Code of Regulations, California Green Building Standards Code, Part 11, Title 24, <https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/CALGreen#codes>. Accessed March 2023.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The main high school campuses have existing basic utility connections, which would be sufficient to provide electricity to the proposed lighting fixtures.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonable foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) provides water to the Project Sites.

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting systems at existing high school fields for three campuses within the PSUSD. The lighting system would not have direct or indirect effects upon water supplies or demands.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. A water supply is not required or necessary for the proposed Project, thus not increase the demand for water.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No impact. The proposed Project would not generate industrial wastewater or new point sources of wastewater that would require permits from the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board.

No alterations to existing restrooms or locker rooms are proposed, and the existing spectator capacity at any of the high school fields or campuses would not be increased. Therefore, the lighting system project would not have direct or indirect effects upon wastewater generation or treatment demand capacity.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. It would not generate industrial wastewater or a new source of wastewater, as no alterations are made to existing restrooms or locker rooms, and spectator capacity is not expected to increase at the high school fields.

There would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting systems at existing high school fields.

No demolition is required in order to install the lighting and the lighting fixtures would be prefabricated. Therefore, construction-related wastes are not anticipated. Spectator capacity at the high school fields would not be increased and therefore no increases in solid waste generation associated with campuses are anticipated.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. Construction-related waste are not anticipated, as no demolition is required, and the lighting fixtures would be prefabricated. It would not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

e. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting systems at existing high school fields.

No increases in solid waste generation associated with the campuses are anticipated as a result of the Project. Consequently, the Project would be in compliance with solid waste regulations.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. It would comply with federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste, as there would be no increase in solid waste generation associated with the proposed Project.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

5.20 WILDFIRE

If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildlife risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting systems at existing high school fields at the PSUSD high school campuses (PSHS, DHSHS and CCHS).

No off-site improvements, construction or physical alterations are proposed, and the lighting standards would not be located within an area of the campus that supports vehicle access. No increase in spectator

capacity is proposed under the Project that could result in an increase in the demand for emergency response or evacuation. The Project would therefore not result in impairment of adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. Impacts are less than significant.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, as no off-site construction is proposed, nor would it increase capacity at the three high school campuses.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildlife risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No Impact. The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting systems at existing high school fields at the PSUSD high school campuses (PSHS, DHSHS and CCHS).

All three campuses are located in areas designated as Non-VHFHSZ, as it is in a heavily developed area.²⁰⁰ Therefore, project implementation would not exacerbate wildlife risks due to wildfire.

Due to the location of the proposed Project in a school /residential neighborhood setting, and the absence of combustible components, the proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project would not exacerbate wildfire risk or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire, as the three high school campuses are located in Non-VHFHSZ areas.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

²⁰⁰ CalFire, Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection's Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP), <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>. Accessed March 2023.

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?

No Impact. The proposed Project would include the installation of a lighting system within existing high school fields. No additional infrastructure would be constructed in association with the Project, nor would improvements be necessary to any existing infrastructure system to serve the demands of the Project.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. The Project would not include the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk, or result in ongoing impacts to the environment.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project Sites are located at existing high school campuses and are not located near a potential flooding area that would result in potential drainage changes.

No structures are proposed with the proposed Project. Further, no increase in spectator capacity is proposed that could result in exposure of a greater number of people to existing wildfire risks, or risk that would result from the aftereffects of wildfire such as downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the three high schools. It would not expose more people or structures to significant risk of flooding or landslides, as the existing high school campuses are not located near a potential flooding area.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Project Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Does the project:				
<p>a.</p> <p>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, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>b.</p> <p>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.)</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>c.</p> <p>Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion

- 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, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?***

Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation. The Project Sites are entirely developed and disturbed with existing school campuses and high school fields. Additionally, each of the campuses have varying surrounding land uses. PSHS is surrounded by residential uses, mixed uses, and open space uses. There is also some pockets of undeveloped land to the northwest of the Project Site. DSHS is surrounded by residential uses, open space uses, and commercial uses. There is also undeveloped land to the north, south, east, and west of the Project Site. CCHS is surrounded by residential and open spaces uses, as well as undeveloped land to the norther and east. Preconstruction surveys would be required under **MM BIO-1** to reduce potential impacts to migratory birds who may be nesting within the Project Sites.

With respect to cultural resources, the proposed Project would be implemented in areas that have been graded and developed with school uses. The proposed Project sites have been studied previously and no historic or prehistoric resources have been identified. However, with ground disturbing activities, there is always a potential for inadvertently encountering unknown cultural resources. In order to reduce potential impacts to cultural resources, **MM CUL-1** and **MM CUL-2** would be implemented. These would ensure that all construction personnel and monitors are equipped to properly identify and follow proper procedures of any cultural resources or human remains.

In addition, no tribal cultural resources have been identified on the Project Sites, however, some construction would take place in the Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indian's Traditional Use Area. As mentioned above, it is unlikely that subsurface items would be discovered during construction, nonetheless there is always some potential for encountering undocumented tribal cultural resources during ground disturbing activities. In order to reduce potentially significant impacts to tribal cultural resources that could be unearthed during Project activities, **MM TCR-1** would be implemented to allow for a tribal monitor on site during ground disturbing activities to ensure that any subsurface Native American resources are protected accordingly to reduce Project impacts on tribal cultural resources to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures: The above mitigation measures are proposed to reduce impacts to less than significant.

Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?²⁰¹

Less Than Significant with Project Mitigation. In addition to the proposed Project, the District continues to maintain and modernize other schools that it operates. Where applicable, the analysis conducted in the Initial Study considers the environmental effects of the other schools, as well as other past, current, and probable future development projects. With the incorporation of the biological resources (MM BIO-1), cultural resources (MM-CUL-1, MM CUL-2), tribal cultural resources (MM TCR-1), and noise (MM N 1-8) mitigation measures, specified herein, the proposed Project would not result in environmental impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. Therefore, impacts are less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures: The above mitigation measures are proposed to reduce impacts to less than significant.

c. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less than Significant with Project Mitigation. The proposed Project's potential impacts to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, and other environmental issues have been evaluated and found that development and operation of the proposed Project would result in less than significant adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Minimal spillover of lighting outside of the school boundaries may occur due to the installation of the new lighting structures.

Further, although construction activities would take place within the allowed hours of construction designated by each city's municipal code, MM N-1 through MM N-8 would be implemented to further reduce noise levels below 80 dBa and MM N-9 to further limit vibration impacts.

Implementation mitigation measures would limit potential effects that construction of the Project could have on human beings. With mitigation, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The above mitigation measures are proposed to reduce impacts to less than significant.

²⁰¹ "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.

6.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

LEAD AGENCY

Palm Springs Unified School District

Julie Arthur, Executive Director of Facilities Planning & Development

Ernesto Dominguez, Project Manager

Kent Hems, Project Manager

HMC Architects

Beb Kim, Principal

Brandon Gullotti, Architect

MUSCO Lighting

Brendan McQuillen

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION PREPARATION

Meridian Consultants LLC

Joe Gibson, Partner

Michelle Fleishman, Project Manager

Lisa Vaiman, Staff Planner

Nikki Heredia, Staff Planner

Lisa Maturkanic, Administrative Manager

Melanie Dow, Production Coordinator

Tom Brauer, Graphics Coordinator

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8.0 TERMS, DEFINITIONS, AND ACRONYMS

AB	assembly bill
ACBCI	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
AFY	acre-feet per year
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
ASL	above sea level
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin
BMP	Best Management practice
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CBC	California Building Code
CCFD	Cathedral City Fire Department
CCHS	Cathedral City High School
CCMC	Cathedral City Municipal Code
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CHRIS	California Historic Resource Information System
CNDBB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Survey
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
CRBRWQCB	Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
CVAG	Coachella Valley Association of Governments
CVMSHCP	Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan
CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DHSHS	Desert Hot Springs High School
DSA	Division of the State Architect
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EIC	Eastern Information Center
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EMFAC	CARB on-road vehicle emissions model
ESA	Endangered Species Act

8.0 Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

FIND	Facility Information Detail
GC	General Commercial
GHG	greenhouse gases
HAZNET	Hazardous Waste Information System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HSC	Health and Safety Code
HVAC	heating/ventilating/air conditioning
HWTS	Hazardous Waste Tracking System
I	Interstate
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LST	Localized Significance Threshold
MM	Mitigation Measure
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Plan
NOx	nitrogen oxide
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
OFFROAD	CARB off-road emissions model
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PM10	particulate matter less than 10 microns
PM2.5	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
PSFD	Palm Springs Fire Department
PSHS	Palm Springs High School
PSUSD	Palm Springs Unified School District
R1	Single Family Residential
RCALUC	Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission
RCALUCP	Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan
RCDEH	Riverside County Department of Environmental Health
RCFD	Riverside County Fire Department
RL	Low Density Residential

8.0 Terms, Definitions, and Acronyms

RM	Medium Density Residential/Multiple Family Residential
RTP/SCS	Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy
RWQCB	regional water quality control boards
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SOx	sulfur oxide
SR	State Route
SSAB	Salton Sea Air Basin
SSES	Sunny Sands Elementary School
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TLC	Total Light Control
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VOC	volatile organic compound
VSQGs	Very Small Quantity Generators
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
WMP	construction waste management plan