



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

The Palm Springs Unified School District (District) is proposing to install new field lighting at Rancho Mirage High School playing fields. These fields are used for football, soccer, lacrosse, and other school activities. The proposed lighting improvements would be located on all fields on the north, west, and southwest areas of the campus. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15163, the District as Lead Agency has determined that a focused Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) will be prepared.

California Environmental Quality Act requires an objective, public process where public agencies address and disclose the potential environmental effects of projects under consideration. One of the methods used to inform the public and decisionmakers of potential environmental harm is the preparation of an environmental impact report (EIR), which is circulated for public review to allow comments and input by public agencies, interested parties and the public. An EIR is a detailed statement that describes and analyzes a project's potential significant environmental impacts and proposes ways to mitigate or avoid the negative effects.

PROJECT TITLE: Rancho Mirage High School Field Lighting Project

PROJECT LOCATION: The Project site is located at the existing sport fields at Rancho Mirage High School (RMHS), at 31001 Rattler Road, Rancho Mirage, CA. Specifically, the High School is located northeast of the intersection of Ramon Road and Da Vall Drive, east of Rattler Road, in the City of Rancho Mirage and County of Riverside, California, as shown in **Figure 1, Project Location Map**. The sport fields are located to the north, west, and southwest on the campus.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The District is proposing field lighting improvements at RMHS around the perimeter of the fields, as shown in **Figure 2, Project Site**.

The proposed lighting improvements of the athletic fields was prompted by the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 328, which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 A.M. SB 328 affects sports activities which would require the athletic fields be lighted for evening use. The proposed lights would safely allow use of the athletic fields into the evening hours and the design meets the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) recommended lighting levels.

The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing facilities for several sports (Baseball, Softball, and Soccer). By allowing evening-hour use, the high school would provide enhanced opportunities for students to participate in school-sponsored sports while RMHS student-athletes, students, and all other attendees of nighttime games and practices.

The proposed lighting improvements would include lighting fixtures on poles ranging in height from 50 feet to 100 feet tall for the baseball, softball, and soccer fields, as shown in **Figure 3, Conceptual Project Rendering**. The lighting improvements would occur on the Varsity Baseball Field, Junior Varsity (JV) Baseball Field, Varsity Softball Field, JV Softball Field, Practice Field South, Practice Field North, Soccer Field 1, and Soccer Field 2.

Construction activities would occur for approximately 6 to 9 months and would include the use of equipment such as backhoes, trenching machines and cranes.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

The Supplemental EIR is focused on those effects that relate to the proposed improvements and is tiered of the original for RMHS certified by the District on January 9, 2007 (SCH No. 2006011095). As noted in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15163(b), (b), the supplement to the EIR need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised.

The Supplemental EIR will evaluate the following impacts that would result from the proposed project:

- Aesthetics (Add Lighting to the Existing Lighted Campus Environment);
- Air Quality (Potential Effects on surrounding air quality during construction);
- Biological Resources (Potential Effects on Special-Status Species);
- Cultural Resources (Potential to Accidentally Discover Unknown Buried Historic Resources or Unique Archaeological Resources; Possibility of an Accidental Discovery of Human Remains);
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Construction Activities Could Cause a Substantial Temporary Emissions Increase);
- Noise (Construction Activities Could Cause a Substantial Temporary Noise Increase); and
- Transportation (Inadequate Parking During Limited Nighttime Events with Potential Emergency Access Issues).

SCOPING MEETING: The District will hold a scoping meeting on April 24th, 2023, at the library at Rancho Mirage High School at 31001 Rattler Road, Rancho Mirage, California from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM to address community comments and questions for the project.

COMMENTS: The period for agencies and members of the public to submit comments will be for 30 days commencing on **March 27, 2023**, and ending at 5:00 PM on **April 26, 2023**.


Written comments only need to be sent to District at the following address:

Palm Springs Unified School District
Facilities Planning & Development Department
150 District Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92264
Contact: Julie Arthur, Executive Director

Comments may also be sent by email to facilitiesplanning@psusd.us.

Please put **“Rancho Mirage High School Field Lighting Project”** in the subject line.

Date: 3-21-23



Julie Arthur
Executive Director of Facilities Planning
Palm Springs Unified School District