GARDEN GROVE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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# NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Subject:** Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
**Project:** **Sports Facilities Lighting Project at Rancho Alamitos High School**
**Lead Agency:** Garden Grove Unified School District
**Review Period:** June 20, 2022 to July 19, 2022 (30 days)

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

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:** Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21083 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, the IS/MND will be available for a 30-day public review from **Monday, June 20, 2022, through Tuesday, July 19, 2022**. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.4, responsible and trustee agencies must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt.

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

Garden Grove Unified School District
District Office
10331 Stanford Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92840

Rancho Alamitos High School
Front Desk
11351 Dale Street
Garden Grove, CA 92841

Garden Grove USD
Facilities Department
11700 Knott Avenue
Garden Grove, California 92841

The document can also be accessed online at: https://www.ggusd.us/departments/facilities

**WRITTEN COMMENTS:** We ask that any person wishing to comment on the IS/MND provide written comments by the end of the public review period at 5:00 p.m., **Tuesday, July 19, 2022.** You may send comments by email or mail to the addresses below:

**Subject: Rancho Alamitos High School Sports Lighting Project**
By email: facilities@ggusd.us

**Subject: Rancho Alamitos High School Sports Lighting Project**
Attn: Kevin Heerschap, Assistant Director
Garden Grove USD – Facilities Department
11700 Knott Avenue
Garden Grove, California 92841

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Rancho Alamitos High School is located at 11351 Dale Street in the City of Garden Grove. The proposed improvements would occur at Rancho Alamitos High School's tennis courts, football field, baseball field, softball field, and the soccer practice field.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The Garden Grove Unified School District plans to light the tennis courts, football field, baseball field, softball field, and the soccer practice field at Rancho Alamitos High School by installing 25 light poles. The proposed lighting improvements are prompted by the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 328, which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 a.m. Instituting a later start time is expected to reduce the negative impacts of sleep deprivation on adolescents and give them multiple, safety, and learning benefits. However, with the later start time, schools will also end later, which will affect sports activities unless the athletic fields and courts are lighted for evening use.

The proposed sports lighting project would allow extended use of the listed athletic facilities into evening hours for the benefit of existing students. No additional student sports programs would be added that could increase participants or spectators. The proposed project would require limited demolition of hardscape and softscape to install lighting poles at the existing sports facilities. No structural demolition would be required.

The lighting has been designed to meet the California Interscholastic Federation field lighting recommendations for competitive events. Sports lighting would consist of concrete bases with galvanized steel poles between 50 and 90 feet tall, with LED luminaires mounted at heights ranging from 16 feet to 80 feet. Construction of the sports lights is anticipated to take five months and is scheduled to start on March 1, 2023, and finish by August 30, 2023.

As with the existing conditions, the newly lit athletic facilities would be available for use by community groups after school hours when the facilities are not in use by students and during weekends, as provided by the District's use policy under the Civic Center Act.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES:** While all potential impact categories are addressed in the Initial Study, the analysis is focused on aesthetics, cultural resources, light and glare, noise transportation and tribal cultural resources. The District has determined that with mitigation identified in the Initial Study, implementation of the proposed project would not result in any significant impacts.

**Project Sponsor:** Garden Grove Unified School District
**Consulting Firm:** PlaceWorks

**Date:** June 20, 2022

**Signature:** _____
Kevin Heerschap, Assistant Director, Facilities Department Garden Grove Unified School District