CEQA COMPLIANCE

FIELD LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS AT FIVE DISTRICT PLAYING FIELDS

WILLIAM S. HART UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prepared for:

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NOVEMBER 2023

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

William S. Hart Union High School District ("WSHUHSD" 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 WSHUHSD Field Lighting Improvements at Five District Playing Fields ("proposed Project" or "Project").

The District is proposing high school field lighting improvements on five of the District's high school campuses: Golden Valley High School (GVHS), West Ranch High School (WRHS), Hart High School (HHS), Saugus High School (SHS), and Castaic High School (CHS).

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 football, soccer, and lacrosse fields. Each high school lighting improvement includes practice fields.

1.2 AUTHORITY

WSHUHSD, 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 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.

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1 Senate Bill (SB) 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.

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: Energy Calculations
- Appendix E: Geotechnical Reports
- Appendix F: EDR Reports
- Appendix G: Noise Calculations
- Appendix H: AB 52 Notification Letters

1.4 PUBLIC AND AGENCY REVIEW OF THE DRAFT MND/IS

The District is providing a 30-day period for review and comment on the Draft MND/IS herein and online at https://www.hartdistrict.org/

Interested individuals, organizations, trustee and responsible agencies, and other agencies can provide written comments to the address below.

William S. Hart Union High School District
Facilities, Planning & Construction
21380 Centre Pointe Parkway
Santa Clarita, CA 91350
Contact: Michael Otavka, Director
Fax: 661-287-1984
E-mail: motavka@hartdistrict.org

Please include "**Field Lighting Improvements at Five District Playing Fields**" 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, WSHUHSD will evaluate the comments on environmental issues received and prepare written responses, which will be considered for adoption by the WSHUHSD Board of Education.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The William S. Hart Union High School District ("District" or "WSHUHSD") is proposing to install field lighting at five of the existing high schools in response to recent changes in State law. The WSHUHSD Field Lighting Improvements at Five District Playing Fields (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 AM, 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 practice fields on WSHUHSD 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 five of the District's high schools: Golden Valley High School (GVHS), West Ranch High School (WRHS), Hart High School (HHS), Saugus High School (SHS), and Castaic High School (CHS).

The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing practice fields for several sports teams including football, soccer, and lacrosse. 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 SITE

The William S. Hart Union High School District is a school district in the Santa Clarita Valley of Los Angeles County, California; the District's boundary is shown in **Figure 2.0-1: Hart High School District Boundary**. It serves all of the valley's high school students (grades 9–12) and most of its junior high school students (grades 7–8). As of 2022-23, the total number of enrolled students (in 17 schools – 10 high schools, 6 junior high schools and 1 adult school) was 20,967 students.

The District is proposing to install new LED field lighting using a four-pole lighting configuration at five (5) of the District practice fields (these fields are used for athletic practice fields). This configuration has recently been installed at two District stadiums, Canyon High School, and Valencia High School. However, District practice fields at the five high schools will be used for practice only and would not be used as stadiums. The list of schools and their locations in which field lights would be added include the following:

1. **Golden Valley High School (GVHS)**: 27051 Robert C. Lee Pkwy, Santa Clarita, CA 91350
2. **West Ranch High School (WRHS)**: 26255 Valencia Boulevard, Santa Clarita, CA 91381
3. **Hart High School (HHS)**: 24825 Newhall Avenue, Santa Clarita, CA 91321
4. **Saugus High School (SHS)**: 21900 Centurion Way, Santa Clarita, CA 91350
5. **Castaic High School (CHS)**: 31575 Valley Creek Road, Castaic, CA 91384

The proposed Project Sites are shown in **Figure 2.0-2: Project Campus Locations**.

The District previously (2013) completed similar changes for the Saugus High School Auditorium and Athletic Field Lighting Project; CEQA review of that efforts assessed impacts for addition of four 80-foot-tall lighting standards to the existing athletic field. However, the previous CEQA document provides an outdated lighting study (dated 2009) and does not take into account advances in recent lighting technology.

2.2 PROPOSED FIELD LIGHTING SYSTEM

The Project proposes to install new pole mounted lighting fixtures around the perimeter of the sport fields within the campuses of the five high schools (GVHS, WRHS, HHS, SHS and CHS) to provide illumination for evening use of the fields to support sports practices and league games. New field lighting would be installed on the practice fields for each school.

The proposed lighting would consist of light fixtures/poles for all practice fields around the perimeter of each field. Light poles would be located around the perimeter of the fields and would extend from 50 feet to 90 feet high (depending on specific field and campus requirements. **Figure 2.0-5, Figure 2.0-7, Figure 2.0-9, Figure 2.0-11,** and **Figure 2.0-13** illustrate the proposed lighting configuration on each field.

Outdoor sports lighting is a type of site light fixture that is commonly used to illuminate large areas for sporting events or other large outdoor events and activities, such as concerts. Sports light fixtures are typically mounted on poles 40 to 100 feet tall, with between 1-12 fixtures mounted on each pole.

Each lighting pole would feature differing number of luminaires depending on the specific filed lighting requirements; see **Figure 2.0-3: Light Structure System**. Mounting heights for the luminaires are typically from 16 feet, 50 feet, 60 feet, 70 feet, 80 feet, and 90 feet depending on specific field requirements for illumination.

The new lighting poles would have 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 regard to “distributing” light, LED sport light fixtures commonly utilize “multi-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 footcandle 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."

Golden Valley High School Field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at Golden Valley High School (GVHS) on the football and track practice field. The existing high school field is shown on **Figure 2.0-4: GVHS Existing Campus Map**.

The proposed lighting would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-5: GVHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 70 feet (two poles – F1 and F2) to 80 feet (two poles – F3 and F4) tall. The poles would have a total of 48 lighting fixtures at various heights ranging from 16 feet to 80 feet. (Note: See details in **Appendix A.1: GVHS Lighting Study).**

West Ranch High School Field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at West Ranch High School (WRHS) on the football field and track field (Stadium), and practice field. The existing high school field is shown on **Figure 2.0-6: WRHS Existing Campus Map**.

The proposed lighting would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-7: WRHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 70 feet (four poles – F1, F2, F3 and F4) tall. The poles would have a total of 48 lighting fixtures at various heights ranging from 16 feet to 70 feet). (Note: See details in **Appendix A.2: WRHS Lighting Study)**.

Hart High School field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at Hart High School (HHS) on the football and track practice field. The existing high school field is shown on **Figure 2.0-8: HHS Existing Campus Map**.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-9: HHS Proposed Lighting Plan** shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 80 feet (three poles—F1, F3, and F4)

to 90 feet (one pole—F2) tall. The poles would have a total of 48 lighting fixtures at various heights ranging from 16 feet to 90 feet. (Note: See details in **Appendix A.3: HHS Lighting Study**).

Saugus High School Field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at Saugus High School (SHS) on the football and track practice field. The existing high school field is shown on **Figure 2.0-10: SHS Existing Campus Map**.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-11: SHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 80 feet (four poles – F1, F2, F3 and F4) tall. The poles would have a total of 48 lighting fixtures at various heights ranging from 16 feet to 80 feet). (Note: See details in **Appendix A.4: SHS Lighting Study).**

Castaic High School Field Lighting

New field lighting would be installed at Castaic High School (CHS) on the football and track practice field. The existing high school field is shown on **Figure 2.0-12: CHS Existing Campus Map**.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-13: CHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 70 feet (four poles – F1, F2, F3 and F4) tall. The poles would have a total of 48 lighting fixtures at various heights ranging from 16 feet to 70 feet). (Note: See details in **Appendix A.5: CHS Lighting Study)**.

Schedule of Uses

The proposed Project is intended to expand the timing and use of the existing practice fields for sports teams including football, soccer, and lacrosse 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 practice field would remain the same.

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.

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

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

Evening games and practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams. Use of lighting during and following athletic practices would generally end by 8:00 PM. Most athletic 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 accommodate residents to the west, the District will attempt to schedule activities, to the degree possible, on the practice fields so that the light can be turned off by 9:00 PM and as soon as possible thereafter.

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] 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.

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 3 to 6 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; if needed, Saturday construction hours would be limited to between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and no construction would occur on Sundays. Construction crews would be required to be on site prior to 7:00 AM in the morning to avoid interfering with student drop-off; as such no construction traffic would be permitted from 7 :00 AM to 9:00 AM weekdays. Likewise, construction crews would be required to leave the site prior to 2:30 PM or after 4:00 PM weekdays to avoid disrupting afterschool pickup traffic.

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.

During construction, all areas would be fenced off to avoid unauthorized personnel from entering the areas. In addition, any open trench would be covered at the end of each day to prevent individuals and/or wildlife from entering the trench. Fencing would also prevent wildlife in the area from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections prior to the start of construction would occur to identify any wildlife that inadvertently entered the construction zone or trench. In the event that wildlife was

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2 William S. Hart Union High School District. Civic Center / Terms of Use. Accessed October 2023, https://www.facilitron.com/terms/wshuhsd91350.

observed, a biologist would be called to remove the wildlife from the construction zone and re-locate it to suitable areas.

Construction equipment and materials would be staged on site in an area of the campus or on adjoining District property to the north that are not in use. These areas would also be fenced off through the duration of construction.

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 the Spring of 2024 and would be complete by the end of August 2024. Construction activities would take 3 to 6 months total.

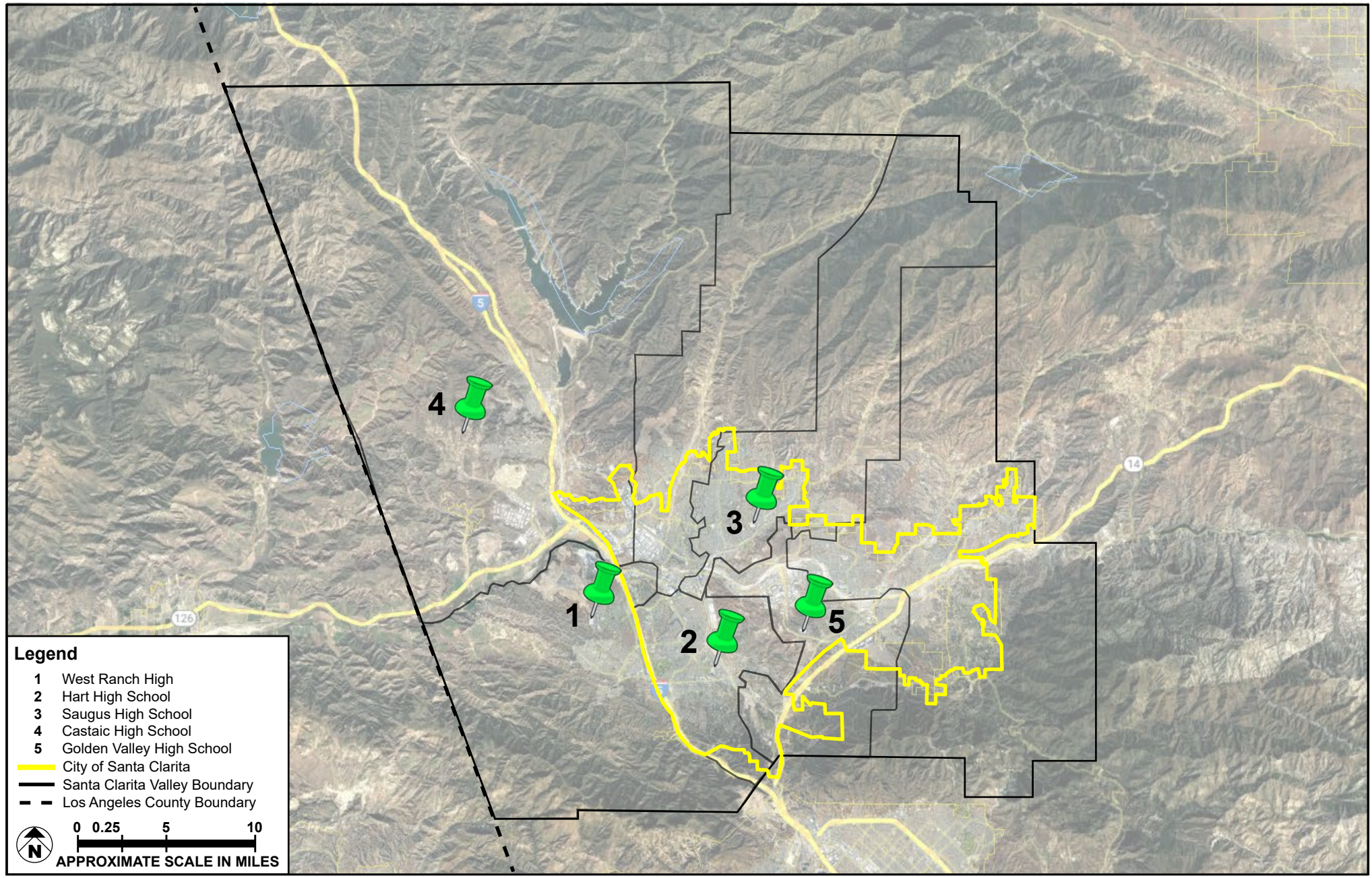
Construction activities would be staggered among the various high school fields to accommodate ongoing practice and field needs at each campus.

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 WSHUHSD, responsible and reviewing agencies, and interested parties to make informed decisions. The anticipated approvals for this proposed Project are:

Lead Agency	Action
WSHUHSD Board of Education	MND/IS Adoption and Project Approval
Reviewing Agencies	**Action**
California Department of Education (CDE)	Review School Design and Program
Division of the State Architect(DSA)	Review Building and Construction Plans
Department of Toxic Substance's Control (DTSC)	Hazardous materials Review



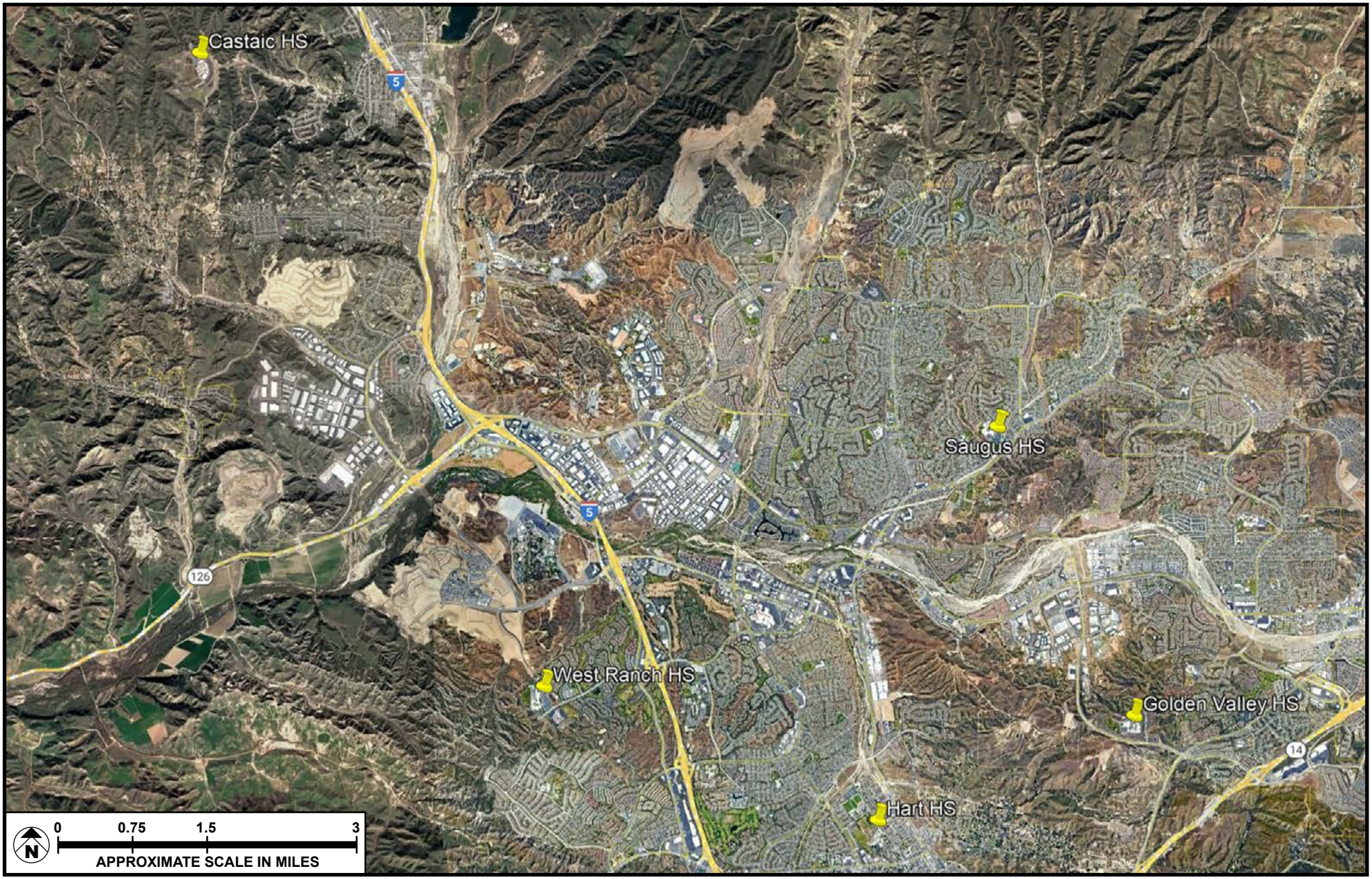
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2022

FIGURE **2.0-1**

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Hart High School District Boundary

029-003-22



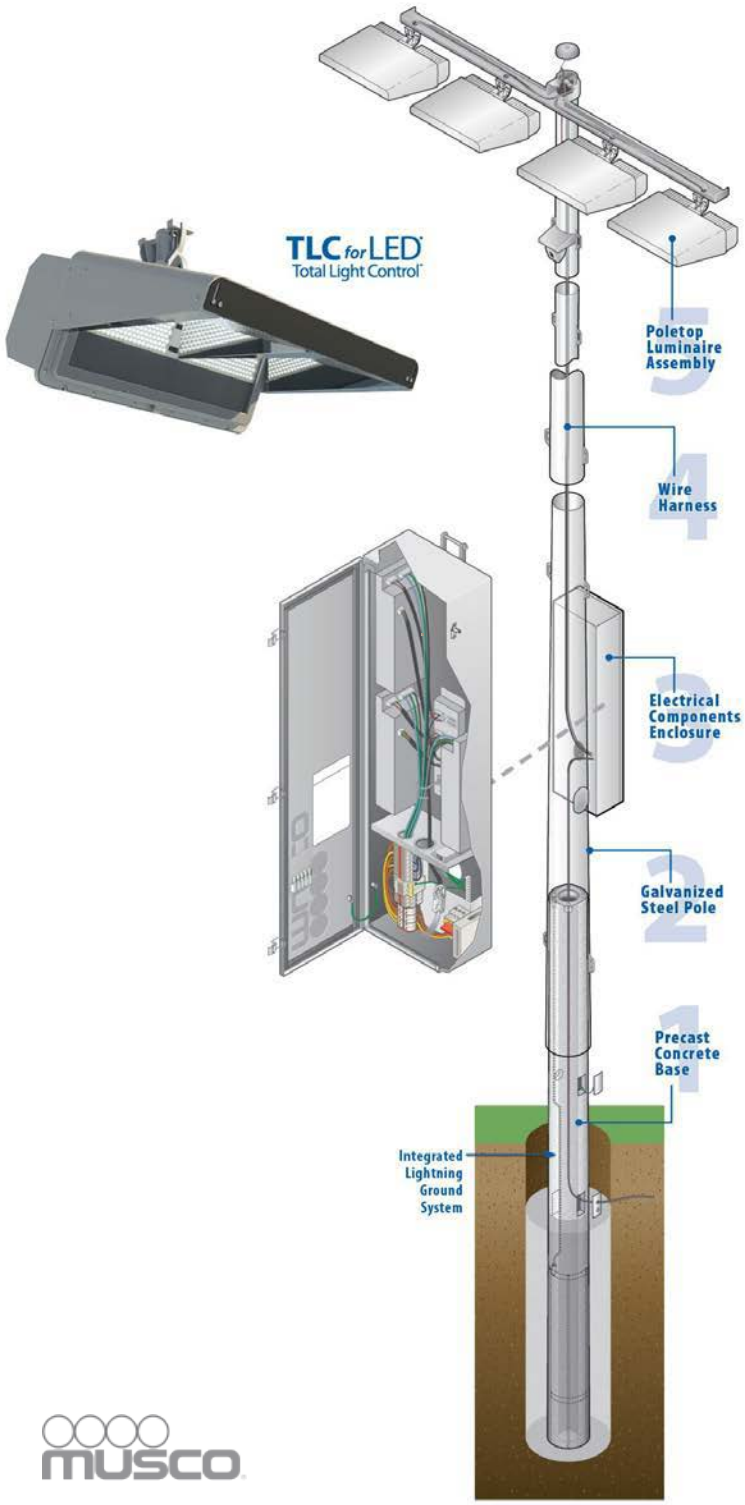
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2022

FIGURE **2.0-2**

Meridian Consultants

Project Campus Locations

029-003-22



SOURCE: MUSCO - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-3**

Meridian Consultants

Light Structure System



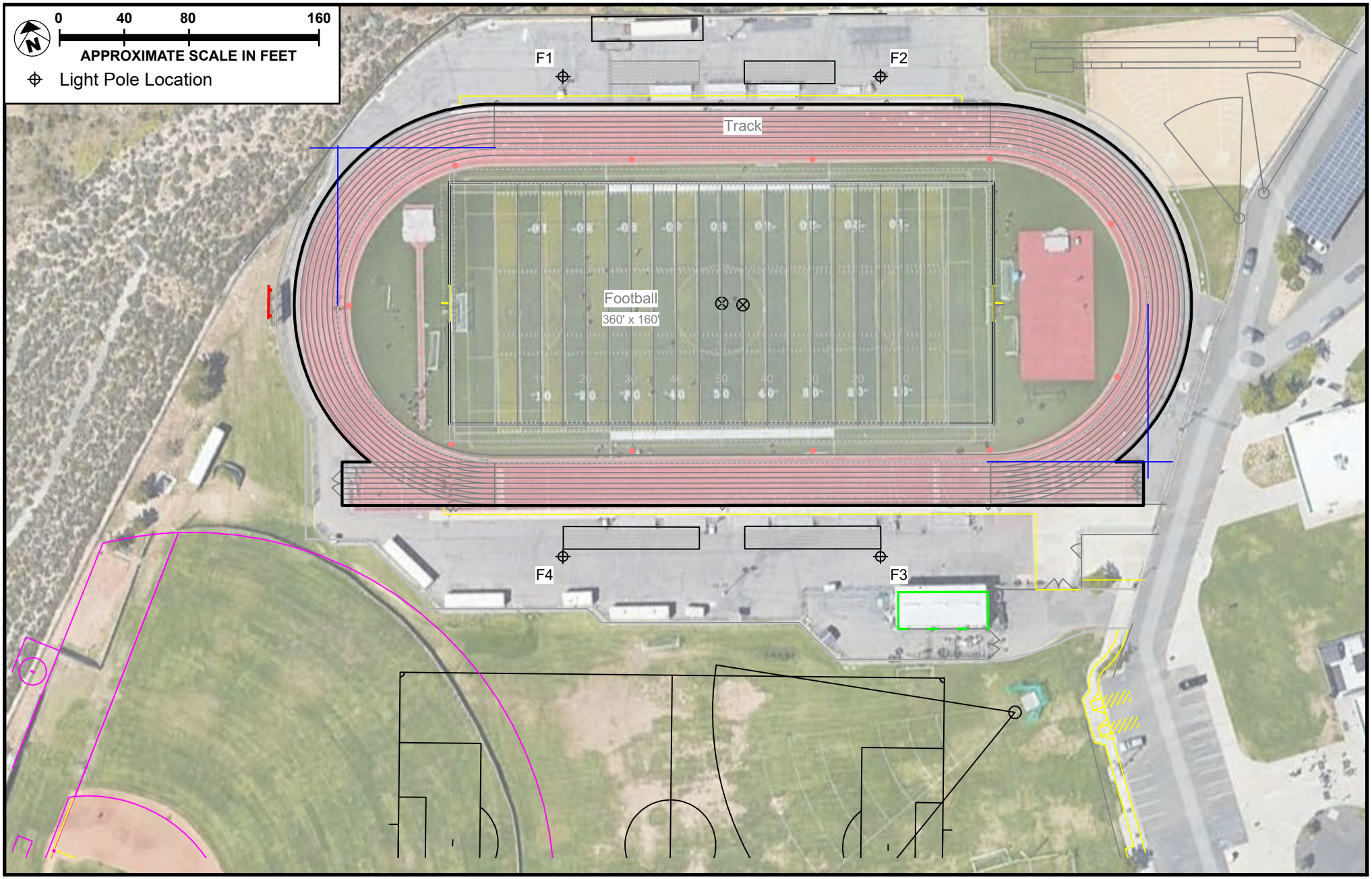
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2022

FIGURE **2.0-4**

Meridian Consultants

GVHS Existing Campus Map

029-003-22



SOURCE: MUSCO Lighting - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-5**

Meridian Consultants

GVHS Proposed Lighting Plan

029-003-22



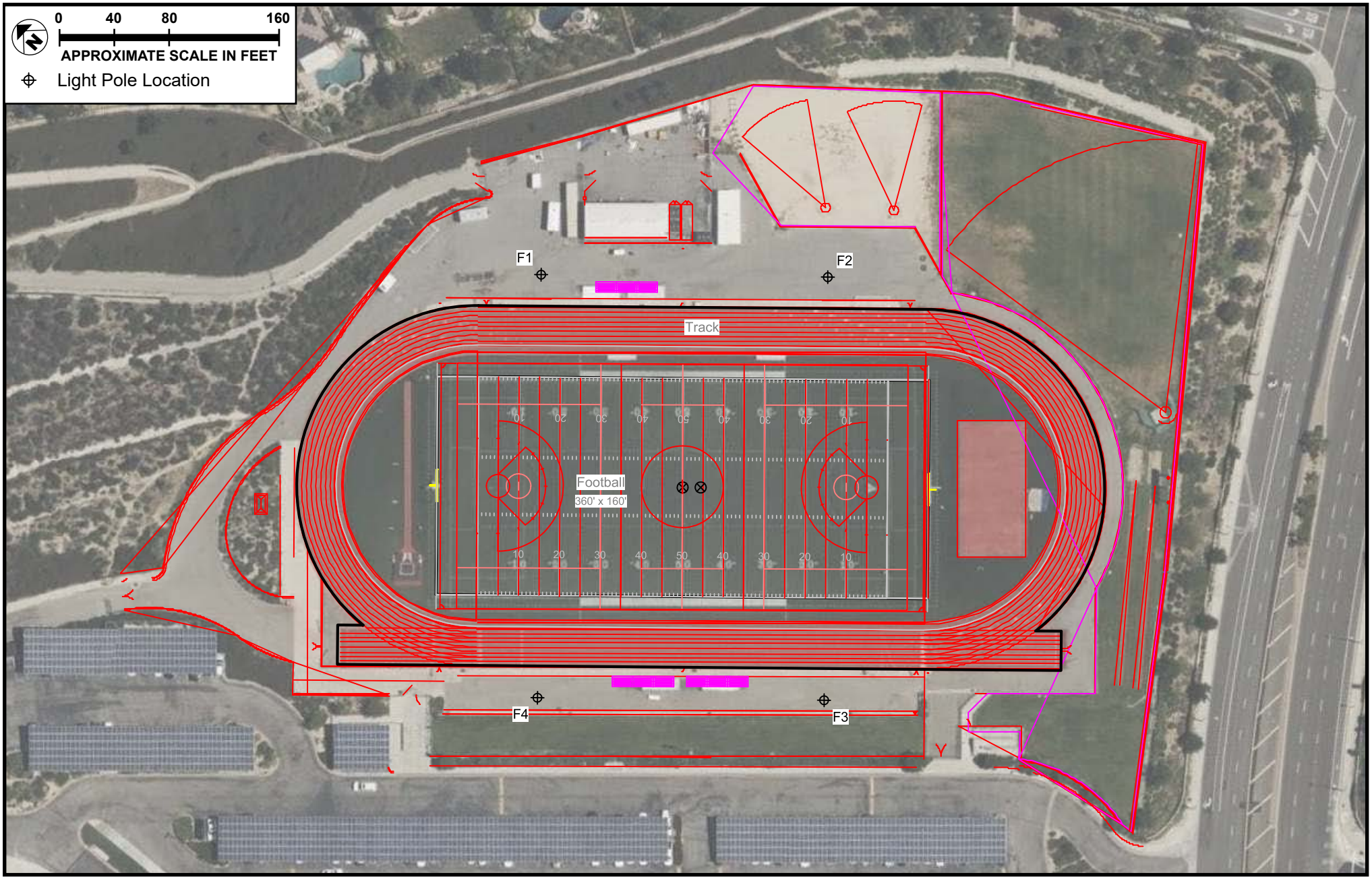
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2022

FIGURE **2.0-6**

Meridian Consultants

WRHS Existing Campus Map

029-003-22



SOURCE: MUSCO Lighting - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-7**

Meridian Consultants

WRHS Proposed Lighting Plan

029-003-22



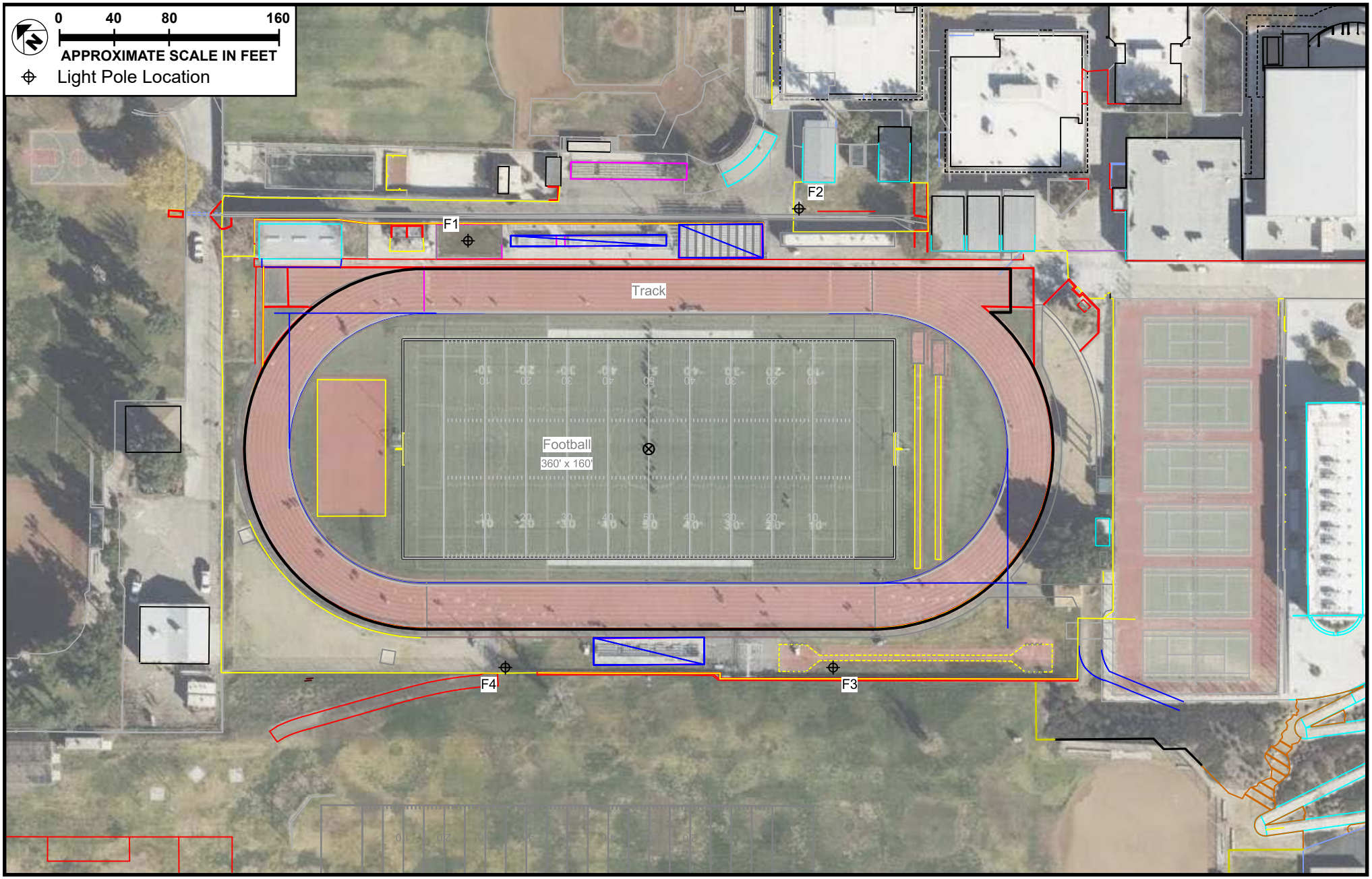
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-8**

Meridian Consultants

Hart HS Existing Campus Map

029-003-22



SOURCE: MUSCO Lighting - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-9**

Meridian Consultants

HHS Proposed Lighting Plan

029-003-22



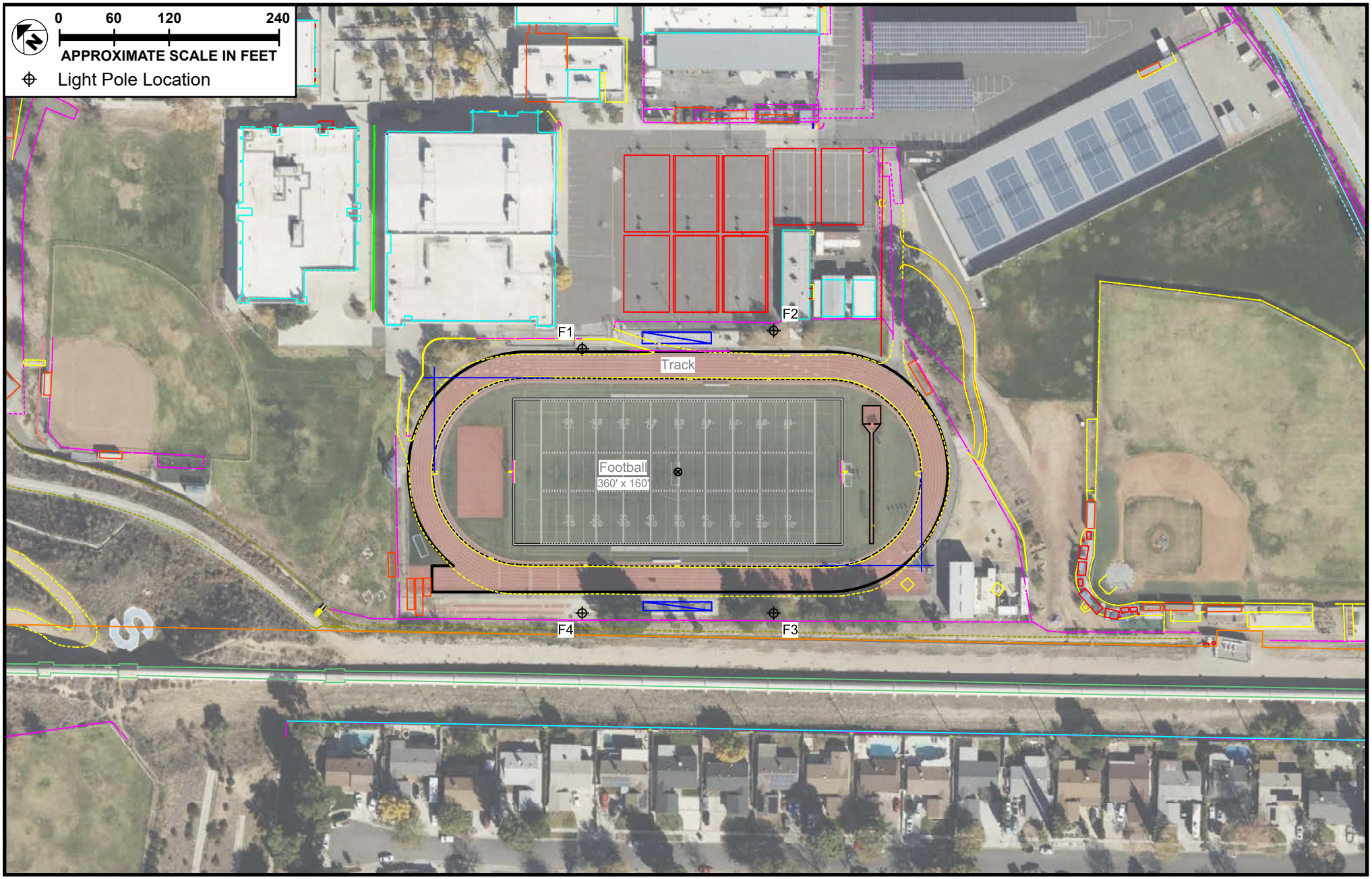
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-10**

Meridian Consultants

Saugus HS Existing Campus Map

029-003-22



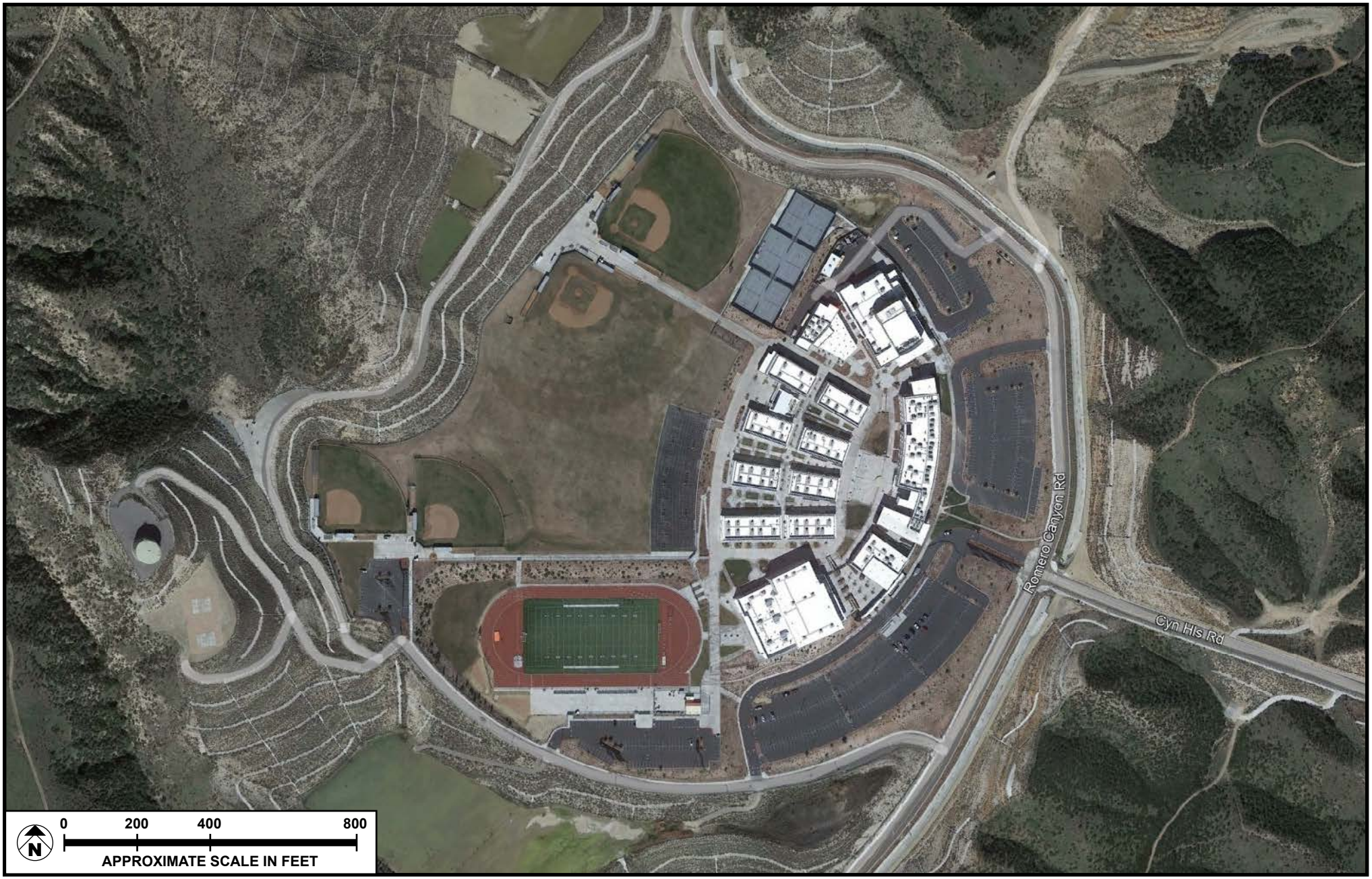
SOURCE: MUSCO Lighting - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-11**

Meridian Consultants

SHS Proposed Lighting Plan

029-003-22



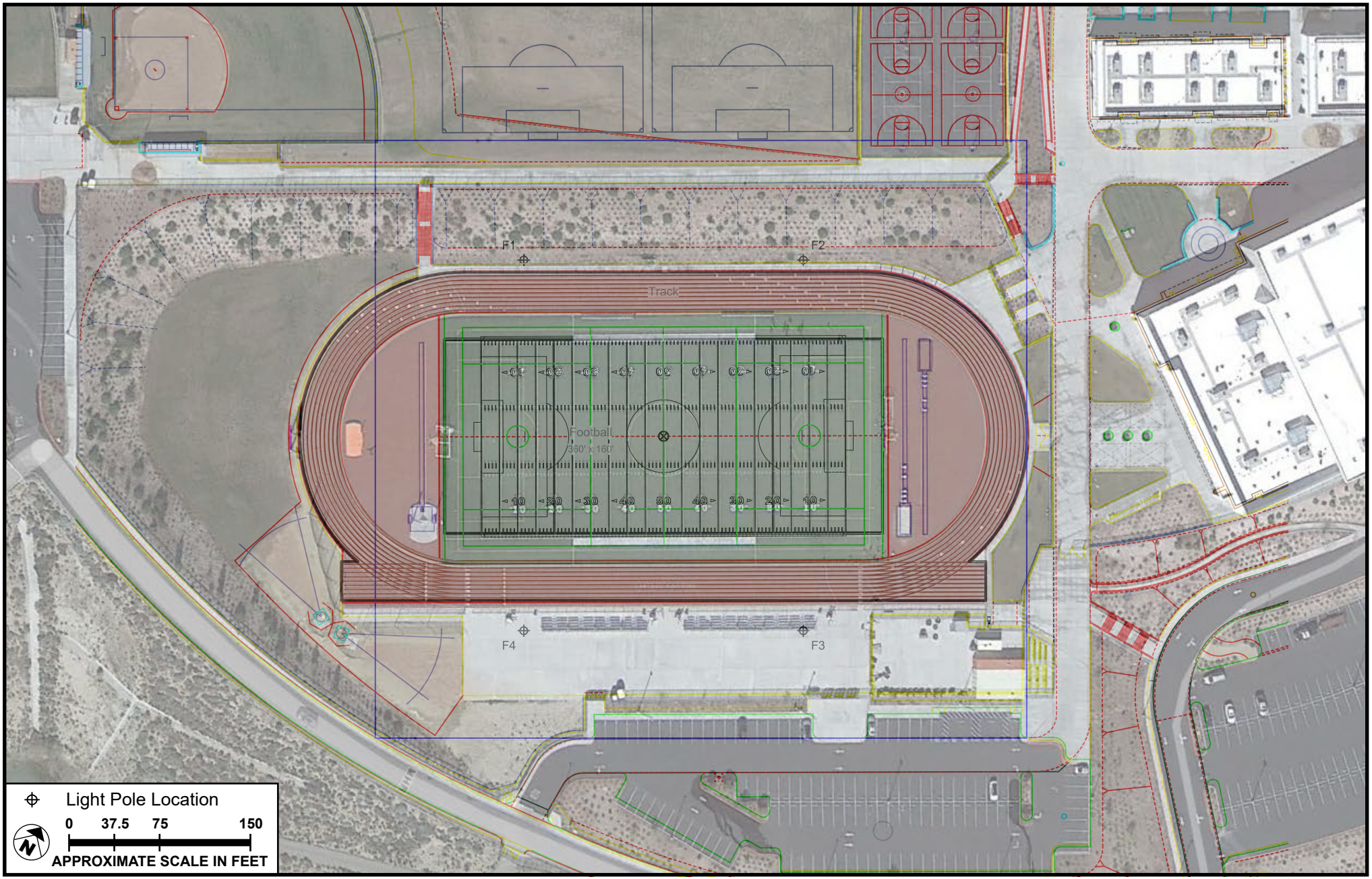
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-12**

Meridian Consultants

Castaic HS Existing Campus Map

029-003-22



SOURCE: MUSCO Lighting - 2023

FIGURE **2.0-13**

Meridian Consultants

CHS Proposed Lighting Plan

029-003-22

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 WILLIAM S.HART HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

3.1.1 Overview

The William S. Hart Union High School District (District), located in the northern part of Los Angeles County, serves approximately 21,000 students in grades seven through twelve in the Santa Clarita Valley.

The District's facilities include seven comprehensive high schools, a continuation school, early college high school, independent study school, six junior high schools, an adult school, and a unique program serving students with significant emotional issues. The District serves all of the Santa Clarita Valley's high school students (grades 9–12) and most of its junior high school students (grades 7–8). As of 2022-23, the total number of enrolled students (in 17 schools – 10 high schools, 6 junior high schools and 1 adult school) was 20,967 students.

The District boundaries and attendance areas for each of its schools are shown on **Figure 3.0-1: Hart District Boundary and Attendance Areas**.

3.1.2 District Plans and Policies

Faculties Master Plan

The District has an adopted Facilities Master Plan (Plan) that provides direction and guidance for the use and of District facilities and campuses.[3]

The Plan requires that the superintendent or designee shall prepare educational specifications for school design to support the educational program as determined by district goals, objectives, policies, and community input. These specifications shall define:

1. The enrollment of the school and its grade level configuration.
2. The emphasis in curriculum content or teaching methodology that influences the school design.
3. The type, number, size, function, special characteristics of each space, and spatial relationships of the instructional areas are consistent with the educational program.
4. Community functions that may affect the school design.

Facilities plans shall conform with state standards as specified in the CCR 5 14030.[4] These standards are briefly and partially summarized below:

1. Sites shall be arranged so that parent drop off, bus loading areas, and staff parking are separated to allow students to enter and exit the school grounds safely.

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3 Wm. S. Hart Union High School District, Civic Center/Facility Use. https://www.hartdistrict.org/apps/pages/civic-center

4 Cal. Code Regs. Tit. 5, § 14030 - Standards for Development of Plans for the Design and Construction of School Facilities.

2. Playgrounds and field areas shall be adequate to accommodate physical education requirements for the planned student enrollments.
3. Delivery and service areas shall be located so as to provide vehicle access without jeopardizing the safety of students and staff.
4. Site layouts shall have capability for expansion without substantial alterations to existing structures or playgrounds.
5. The placement of buildings shall be compatible with their functions and with the functions of other buildings.
6. Unless otherwise justified, classrooms at new school sites shall be not less than 960 square feet or shall provide not less than 30 square feet per student, with conduit/cabling and outlets related to planned and potential educational functions.
7. Specialized classrooms shall be designed to reflect the function planned for that portion of the educational program, such as small-group instruction and special education.
8. Laboratories shall be designed for the planned curriculum, allowing for storage, ventilation, teacher preparation areas, proper outlets and power sources, safety equipment, proper hazardous materials management, and room to move around fixed learning stations.
9. Gymnasiums and shower/locker areas shall be designed to accommodate multiple use activities in accordance with the planned enrollment, with the gymnasium secured from other parts of the campus for evening, weekend, and public use purposes.
10. Auxiliary areas such as multipurpose cafeterias, administrative offices, and library/media center shall be adequately sized, allow adaptation for changing technology and communication systems, and provide security for technology and media equipment.
11. Lighting shall be designed to provide comfortable and adequate levels of illumination in each educational space.
12. Hearing conditions shall complement the educational functions by good sound control.
13. Restrooms shall be sufficient to accommodate the maximum planned enrollment and located on campus to allow for supervision.

Plans shall also comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act[5] and its implementing regulations which require that facilities be designed and constructed so that they are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

Plans shall also comply with state requirements for appropriate space to accommodate before- and after-school childcare programs.

Facility User – Hold Harmless and Indemnification Agreement

The District maintains a Facility User Agreement (available on the District website: https://www.facilitron.com/terms/wshuhsd91350) for use by outside parties for District facilities. The Agreement includes the follow Rules and Regulations:

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5 Title 42 - The Public Health and Welfare Chapter 126 - Equal Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities, American with Disabilities Act of 1990.

- An approved permit will be emailed to you after the application has been approved by the District Office. Permission to use facilities is not final until you receive your copy of the approved application.
- Any permit may be immediately revoked in the case of conflicting dates when the facility is needed for a public-school purpose. In general, permits may be revoked at any time upon reasonable notice.
- Facility users are required to obtain liability insurance.
- Provide an insurance certificate issued that indicates:

a. $1,000,000 (one million dollars) liability insurance and
b. names the Wm. S. Hart Union High School District as an additional insured and certificate holder. In addition, a copy of the additional insured endorsement naming the Wm. S. Hart Union High School District as the additional insured is required. Insurance is also available to purchase.

- Minimum cost fees apply only for qualified non-profit organizations (501c3) under circumstances outlined in Board Policy 1330.
- Whenever minimum cost use is granted, there must be no admission fee charged. If no admission fee is charged, the meeting shall be non-exclusive and shall be open at no cost to the general public. There must be no soliciting of funds, no free-will offering, nor sale of literature or other items by the organization using the school facilities.
- Labor and utility costs may be billed to minimum cost users according to District Board Policy which is on file at the school and the District Office.
- Payment of estimated fees is required 7 days prior to the use of facilities. Any fees incurred above and beyond the estimated fees are due next 30 days. Failure to pay in a timely manner will result in denial of future use.
- In all cases except qualified minimum cost use, a rental fee as listed in Exhibit 1330 (Board Policy book) will be charged. The list of rental fees approved by the Board is available at the school or District Office.
- The charges for custodial overtime are estimated; users may be billed for custodial time required prior or subsequent to the requested hours of usage, including setup/cleanup time.
- The cancellation and change policy are as follows: Prior to 7 days of the first date the user is on-site: 100% refund of facility fees and 100% refund of custodial/tech fees.
- Within 7 days of the first date the user is on-site or no show: the user/organization will be charged for all facility fees AND a 2-hour minimum for both custodial and tech fees.
- If it rains on the day you are utilizing our fields, we will cancel that day of usage and the following 3 days (depending upon the severity of the rain) to allow for drying. A refund will be applied.
- If the renter does not formally cancel and does not show up for scheduled event, the renter will be obligated to pay 2 hours of custodial overtime and 10 percent of the reservation.
- The custodian will open the building for renter only when you present your approved application.
- The use of school premises shall not be granted when there is a possibility of damage to school property. If damage does occur, the person or group signing the request for use of the premises shall be fully responsible and liable for the amount of loss.
- There shall be no smoking. No intoxicants or narcotics shall be used, nor shall profane language, quarreling, fighting, immodest behavior, or gambling be permitted. Violation of this rule will be cause for immediate revocation of permits.

- A school custodian shall always be on duty when school facilities are in use. The custodian's duty is to enforce these rules and regulations and to report violations to the principal. Should these rules and regulations be violated, the permit to use the school facility will be revoked.
- Juvenile organizations must have full-time responsible adult sponsorship and supervision.
- Sections 40040-400047 of the California Education Code and detailed Policies and Administrative Regulations of the Governing Board are the basis of the above stated rules and are hereby incorporated into this application. These documents are on file in school administrative offices and in the District Office.
- All Civic Center users must be in compliance with the City of Santa Clarita's noise ordinance: http://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClarita11/SantaClarita1144.html. As defined by the City, "Day" shall mean the time period from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and "Night" shall mean the time period from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.
- Track and turf user guidelines:

- No Smoking or Tobacco of Any Kind
- No Gum or Seeds
- No Food (Including Candy)
- No Drinks (Except Water and/or Sports' Drinks)
- No Glass
- No Animals of Any Kind
- No Vehicles
- No Stakes (Including to Keep Tents Down)
- No Chairs
- No Confetti, Silly String, or Other Celebration Items
- All Staging and/or Tables Must be on a Mat or Plywood
- Teams Must Access the Turf Using Rubber Pathways Only
- No Storage of Any Equipment/Materials Inside Field Gates
- No Bicycles, Rollerblades, Scooters, Skates or Skateboards
- No Markers or Paint of Any Kind
- No Sticky Tape of Any Kind
- No Golfing
- No Source of Fire or Flames
- Cheer Boxes Must Have a Mat or Be Covered with Carpet Material on the Bottom
- Track Shoes Must Have 3/16" or Less Spikes
- Obey All Posted Signs

Relations With Local Agencies

The District maintains Policy 7131[6] regarding relations with local agencies. The Policy noted that the District's Board recognizes the importance of collaborating and communicating with other local agencies in order to provide the best possible school facilities and to allocate facility resources in an effective and efficient manner. The Board and District staff shall consult and coordinate with local agencies as required by law and whenever the expertise and resources of these agencies can assist the District in the planning, design, and construction of facilities.

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6 Wm. S. Hart High School District, Policy 7131, Relations with Local Agencies, adopted August 11, 1993, and revised March 2, 2022.

Pursuant to California Government Code 65352.2,[7] following notification by a city or county of proposed action to adopt or substantially revise a general plan, the Board may request a meeting with the local planning agency to discuss possible methods of coordinating planning, design and construction of new school facilities and school sites.

3.2 CAMPUS DESCRIPTIONS

3.2.1 Golden Valley High School

Existing Conditions

The Golden Valley High School (GVHS) campus is situated on a 39-acre site in the City of Santa Clarita as shown in **Figure 3.0-2: Golden Valley High School Campus Map**. GVHS consists of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 2836-013-917, with the street address 27051 Robert C Lee Parkway, Santa Clarita, California. GVHS serves students from grades nine through twelve. The existing practice field supports activities on the west end of the campus and includes a practice field for lacrosse, football, and soccer.

GVHS has a student population of 2,138 as of the 2021/2022 school year, per the school's Accountability Report Card.[8] Of that, approximately 524 students participate in afterschool activities including the use of outdoor practice fields (see **Table 3.0-1: Golden Valley High School Afterschool Participant Count).**

Surrounding Uses

The GVHS campus is bound by industrial and urban residential uses to the northwest, urban residential and mixed uses to the east, mixed use to the south, and open spaces to the west as shown in **Figure 3.0-3: Golden Valley High School Campus Surrounding Uses**. GVHS site is located south of the Santa Clarita Sheriff's station and commercial retail uses facing the street along Golden Valley Road. Northeast and east of GVHS consists of existing residential developments. A vacant lot is west of the site. South of the GVHS campus lays a temporarily closed oil field.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City of Santa Clarita comprises an incorporated area of approximately 52 square miles, with the City's sphere of influence consisting of another 29 square miles.[9]

According to Santa Clarita's General Plan, GVHS is designated as "Public/Institutional," as shown in **Figure 3.0-4: Golden Valley High School Land Use Map**. The City's General Plan designations to the north of the GVHS campus are designated for industrial use under "Business Park" and for medium to high-density "Urban Residential" use, or "UR5." The UR5 designation allows for residential developments

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7 California Government Code - Title 7 – Planning and Land Use, Division 1 – Planning and Zoning, Chapter 4 -Local Planning.

8 William S. Hart Union High School District, "Accountability Reports," Accessed September 2023, https://www.hartdistrict.org/apps/pages/accountability-reports.

9 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 1: Introduction. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/2%20-%20Land%20Use%20Element.pdf.

up to a density of 30.0 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). To the east of the GVHS campus is designated "Mixed Urban Residential" and "Mixed Use Neighborhood" use. South of the GVHS campus is designated as "Mixed Urban Residential" with up to 18.0 du/ac, "Medium to High-density" residential use, and "Neighborhood Commercial." To the west of the GVHS campus, the area is designated for "Neighborhood Commercial" use.[10]

The Santa Clarita Zoning Map designates GVHS as the "Public/Institutional Zone," or "PI" as shown in **Figure 3.0-5: Golden Valley High School Zoning Map**. Permitted uses under the zone "PI" includes institutions that require community assembly such as schools.[11]

3.2.2 West Ranch High School

Existing Conditions

West Ranch High School (WRHS) serves students from grades nine through twelve from the communities of Santa Clarita, Valencia, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. WRHS consists of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 2826-009-902, with the street address 26255 Valencia Boulevard, Stevenson Ranch, California. The campus is situated on a 47-acre site with an existing practice field on the east end to support sports activities such as track and field, football, lacrosse, soccer, and band practice. See **Figure 3.0-6: West Ranch High School Campus Map.**

WRHS has a student population of 1,875 students as of the 2021/2022 school year, per the school's Accountability Report Card.[12] Of that, approximately 675 students participate in afterschool activities including the use of outdoor practice fields **(see Table 3.0-2: West Ranch High School Afterschool Participant Count).**

Surrounding Uses

The campus is bound by residential development to the north, west, and east, and public/institutional use and residential use to the south, as shown in **Figure 3.0-7: West Ranch High School Campus Surrounding Uses.** West and south of WRHS contains open space. To the southeast there is a junior high school, and to the north and east there are existing residential developments.

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10 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 2: Land Use. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/2%20-%20Land%20Use%20Element.pdf.

11 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code. Title 17 ZONING, Chapter 17.45 Public and Semi-Public Use Types. Section: 17.45.010. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/html/SantaClarita17/SantaClarita1745.html.

12 William S. Hart Union High School District, "Accountability Reports," Accessed September 2023, https://www.hartdistrict.org/apps/pages/accountability-reports.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City of Santa Clarita includes an unincorporated area encompassing 197 square miles, with a sphere of influence consisting of 29 square miles.[13]

According to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, WRHS is designated as "Public/Semi-Public," or "P," as shown in **Figure 3.0-8: West Ranch High School Land Use Map.** Area Plan designations to the west are largely reserved for "Urban Residential," or "H2" uses. This designation allows for residential development at a density of up to 2.0 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). The north, east, and south of the WRHS campus are designated for "Urban Residential," or "H5" uses. This designation allows for residential development at a density of 5 du/ac. The southeast region of WRHS is designated for "Conservation," or "OS-C" uses. This designation identifies open space that is to be preserved or used as passive recreation.[14]

The Santa Clarita Zoning Map designates WRHS as "Heavy Agricultural," or "A," as shown in **Figure 3.0-9: West Ranch High School Zoning Map.** Allowed uses within this zone include schools and related facilities.[15]

3.2.3 Saugus High School

Existing Conditions

The Saugus High School (SHS) campus is located on a 37-acre site in the City of Santa Clarita as shown in **Figure 3.0-10: Saugus High School Campus Map**. SHS consists of Parcel Numbers 2808021900, with the street address 21900 Centurion Way, Santa Clarita, California, 91350. SHS serves students from grades nine through twelve. The existing practice field supports activities on the southwest end of the campus and includes a practice field for track and field, football, cross country, lacrosse, soccer, and band practice.

SHS has a student population of 2,454 as of the 2021/2022 school year, per the school's Accountability Report Card.[16] Of that, approximately 815 students participate in afterschool activities including the use of outdoor practice fields (see **Table 3.0-3: Saugus High School Afterschool Participant Count)**.

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13 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 1: Introduction. Accessed September 2023, https://case.planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf.

14 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

15 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. TITLE 22 Planning and Zoning, Division 3, Chapter 22.16, Section 22.16. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances.

16 William S. Hart Union High School District, "Accountability Reports," Accessed September 2023, https://www.hartdistrict.org/apps/pages/accountability-reports.

Surrounding Uses

The campus is bound by a recreational park to the north, residential developments in the east and southwest, and a church in the southeast. To the west, there is a public elementary school, as shown in **Figure 3.0-11: Saugus High School Campus Surrounding Uses**.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City of Santa Clarita comprises an incorporated area of approximately 52 square miles, with the City's sphere of influence consisting of another 29 square miles.[17]

According to the Santa Clarita General Plan, SHS is designated as "Public/Institutional," or "PI," as shown in **Figure 3.0-12: Saugus High School Land Use Map**. General Plan designations to the west, north, and east primarily allow for "Urban Residential" or "UR2" uses. The UR2 designation allows for up to 5.0 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). In pockets throughout the north, east, and largely in the south, are areas designated for "Open Space," or "OS." Directly to the west is a designation for "Public/Institutional" use.[18]

The Santa Clarita Zoning Map designates SHS and the west as areas for "Public/Institutional," or "PI," as shown in **Figure 3.0-13: Saugus High School Zoning Map**. Permitted uses under the zone "PI" includes institutions that require community assembly such as schools.[19]

3.2.4 Castaic High School

Existing Conditions

Castaic High School (CHS) serves students from grades nine through twelve on a 41-acre site, serving the communities of Santa Clarita, Castaic, and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. CHS consists of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3247-068-903, with the street address 31575 Valley Creek Road, Castaic, California, 91384. The existing practice field is situated on the southwest end of the campus and supports sports activities including track and field, lacrosse, soccer, and band practice. See **Figure 3.0-14: Castaic High School Campus Map.**

CHS has a student population of 1,026 as of the 2021/2022 school year, per the school's Accountability Report Card. Of that, approximately 483 students participate in afterschool activities including the use of outdoor practice fields (see **Table 3.0-4: Castaic High School Afterschool Participant Count**).

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17 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 1: Introduction. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/2%20-%20Land%20Use%20Element.pdf.

18 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

19 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code. Title 17 ZONING, Chapter 17.45 Public and Semi-Public Use Types. Section: 17.45.010. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/html/SantaClarita17/SantaClarita1745.html.

Surrounding Uses

The campus is bound by open space to the west, north, and east. To the east and south, there are some residential developments, as shown in **Figure 3.0-15: Castaic High School Campus Surrounding Uses**.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City of Santa Clarita includes an unincorporated area encompassing 197 square miles, with a sphere of influence consisting of 29 square miles.[20]

According to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, CHS is designated as "Public/Semi-Public," or "P," as shown in **Figure 3.0-16: Castaic High School Land Use Map**. Area Plan designations surrounding all CHS allow for "Rural Land, Non-Urban," or "RL2" uses. The RL2 designation allows for residential development of up to one dwelling unit per 2 acres (du/ac).[21]

The Los Angeles County Zoning Map designates CHS and all surrounding areas as "Heavy Agriculture," or "A-2," as shown in **Figure 3.0-17: Castaic High School Zoning Map**. Allowed uses within this zone include facilities such as schools, which require a conditional use permit.[22]

3.2.5 Hart High School

Existing Conditions

The Hart High School (HHS) campus is located on a 42-acre site in the City of Santa Clarita as shown in **Figure 3.0-18: Hart High School Campus Map.** HHS consists of Parcel Numbers 2855006903, with the street address 24825 Newhall Avenue, Santa Clarita, California, 91321. HHS serves students from grades nine through twelve. The existing practice field supports activities on the west end of the campus and includes a practice field for track and field, football, lacrosse, soccer, and band practice.

HHS has a student population of 2,146 as of the 2021/2022 school year, per the school's Accountability Report Card.[23] Of that, approximately 575 students participate in afterschool activities including the use of outdoor practice fields **(see Table 3.0-5: Hart High School Afterschool Participant Count).**

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20 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 1: Introduction. Accessed September 2023, https://case.planning.lacounty.gov/assets/upl/data/pd_santa-clarita-area-plan-2012.pdf.

21 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

22 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. TITLE 22 Planning and Zoning, Division 3, Chapter 22.16, Section 22.16. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances.

23 William S. Hart Union High School District, "Accountability Reports," Accessed September 2023, https://www.hartdistrict.org/apps/pages/accountability-reports.

Surrounding Uses

The campus is bound by a recreational park to the north and west, residential developments in the east and south, and a grocery store in the southwest. To the north, there is a public junior high school, as shown in **Figure 3.0-19: Hart High School Campus Surrounding Uses**.

General Plan and Existing Zoning

The City of Santa Clarita comprises an incorporated area of approximately 52 square miles, with the City's sphere of influence consisting of another 29 square miles.[24]

According to the Santa Clarita General Plan, the HHS is designated as "Public/Institutional," or "PI," as shown in **Figure 3.0-20: Hart High School Campus Land Use Map**. General Plan designations to the west allow for "Urban Residential," or "UR2" uses. The UR2 designation allows for up to 5.0 dwelling units per acre (du/ac). Open space use is designated to the north of HHS, which allows up to 0.025 units per gross acre. To the east and southeast of the HHS are primarily "Urban Residential," or "UR3" uses, with a pocket designated for "UR4." UR3 uses which allows up to 11.0 du/ac., while UR4 uses allow up to 18.0 du/ac. HHS is also bound to "Community Commercial," or "CC" use, which allows for businesses providing retail and service uses to serve the local market.[25]

The Santa Clarita Zoning Map designates the HHS as "Public/Institutional," or "PI," as shown in **Figure 3.0-21: Hart High School Zoning Map.** Permitted uses under the zone "PI" includes institutions that require community assembly such as schools.[26]

3.3 NEED FOR NIGHT AND DAYLIGHT HOURS

The proposed lighting improvements of the high school fields was prompted by the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 328,27 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 football, soccer, and lacrosse fields. Each high school lighting improvement includes practice fields.

With the change in school start times, after-school activities have been pushed back any wherefrom 30 minutes to an hour. After-school activities now are programmed to start anywhere from 2:30 PM to 3:00

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24 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 1: Introduction. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/2%20-%20Land%20Use%20Element.pdf.

25 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/2%20-%20Land%20Use%20Element.pdf.

26 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code. Title 17 ZONING, Chapter 17.45 Public and Semi-Public Use Types. Section: 17.45.010. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/html/SantaClarita17/SantaClarita1745.html.

27 Senate Bill (SB) 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.

PM after school and last as late as 9:00 PM into the evening. For activities that extend into the months after the end of Daylight Savings Time in the Fall and before it starts again in the Spring, outdoor programs may extend in hours that do not have adequate light; thereby facilitating the need for exterior lighting to be placed on the campus that these activities utilize. DST ends at 2:00 AM the first Sunday in November each year and resumes at 2:00 AM the second Sunday in March the following year; the intermediate time is Standard Time (ST).

Figure 3.0-22: Sun Graph for Santa Clarita, California shows the daylight hours and evening and night-time hours. As illustrated, between the beginning of November and the beginning of March, sunset occurs anywhere from approximately 4:45 PM to about 6:00 PM in the Santa Clarita Valley;[28] as such any out programs during that period would require lights. Before and after the start and end of ST, DST provides and additional hours of sunlight.

28 Time and Date, Santa Clarita, California, USA – Sunrise, Sunset and Day Length. Accessed September 2023, https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/santa-clarita?month=3&year=2024.

TABLE 3.0-1
GOLDEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPANT COUNT

Outdoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Coaches**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Baseball Varsity	20	4	24	Varsity Baseball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Baseball Jr. Varsity	17	4	21	Varsity Baseball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21		
Softball Varsity	17	3	20	JV Softball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		
Track & Field - Girls	27	4	31	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31		
Track & Field - Boys	39	3	42	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42		
Football	117	15	132	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132		
Cross Country	40	4	44	Stadium	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-11/30		44	44	44	44								
Tennis Boys	25	2	27	Tennis Courts	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27		
Tennis Girls	28	2	30	Tennis Courts	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36		
Soccer - Girls	58	5	63	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31					68	68	68	68	68				
Soccer - Boys	67	3	70	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31		70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70		
Band Practice	69	11	80	Stadium/Band Room	7:00am-9:18am	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Outdoor activities	**524**	**60**	**584**	*Sports starting at 3:40 pm are considered afterschool; 6th period is 1:51 pm*				**Total**	**527**	**527**	**527**	**595**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**403**	**403**	**0**	**0**

Indoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Teachers**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Marching Band	69	11	80	Band Room	3:15pm-7:30pm	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Volleyball Girls	45	3	48	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48		
Volleyball Boys	38	2	40	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		
Basketball - Girls	20	4	24	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Basketball - Boys	33	4	37	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37		
Competitive Cheer	52	3	55	Aux Gym / Practice field	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Year Round	8/8-3/31		55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55			
Fall Play Production	11	1	12	Theater/ 601/ Dressing rooms	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-12/15		12	12	12	12	12							
Show Choir	22	2	24	Theater/ 608/ Dance Room	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24			
Spring Musical Production	11	1	12	Theater/ 601/ Dressing rooms	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31							12	12	12	12	12		
Dance Team	27	3	30	Dance Room	1:51 pm-3:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/39		30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30		
Indoor Activities	**328**	**34**	**362**					**Indoor**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**270**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**203**		
								Total	**877**	**877**	**877**	**945**	**741**	**753**	**753**	**753**	**685**	**606**		

TABLE 3.0-2
WEST RANCH HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPANT COUNT

Outdoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Coaches**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Baseball Varsity	21	2	23	Varsity Baseball Field	2:5pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Baseball Jr. Varsity	30	2	32	Varsity Baseball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21		
Softball Jr. Varsity	39	4	42	JV Softball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		
Track & Field - Girls	38	4	42	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31		
Track & Field - Boys	83	4	87	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42		
Football	98	14	112	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132		
Cross Country	55	3	58	Stadium	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-11/30		44	44	44	44								
Lacrosse Boys	36	3	39	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round														
Larosse Girls	37	2	39	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round														
Tennis Boys	30	1	31	Tennis Courts	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27		
Tennis Girls	28	1	29	Tennis Courts	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36		
Soccer - Girls	38	2	40	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31					68	68	68	68	68				
Soccer - Boys	61	3	64	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31		70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70		
Band Practice	81	3	84	Stadium/Band Room	7:00am-9:18am	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Outdoor activities	**675**	**47**	**722**	*Sports starting at 3:15 pm are considered afterschool; 6th period is 2:00 pm*				**Total**	**527**	**527**	**527**	**595**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**403**	**403**	**0**	**0**

Indoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Teachers**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Marching Band	81	3	84	Band Room/Theater	3:15pm-7:30pm	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Volleyball Girls	37	4	41	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48		
Volleyball Boys	40	3	43	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		
Basketball - Girls	32	3	35	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Basketball - Boys	54	5	59	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37		
Competitive Cheer	65	4	69	Aux Gym / Practice field	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Year Round	8/8-3/31		55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55			
Fall Play Production	40	2	42	603/Theater/Costume room, Make-up and Dressing rooms	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-12/15		12	12	12	12	12							
Winter/Spring Musical Production	40	2	42	Th 603/Theater/Costume room, Make-up and Dressing rooms	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31							12	12	12	12	12		
Dance Team	12	1	13	Dance Room	1:51 pm-3:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/39		30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30		
Indoor Activities	**401**	**27**	**428**					**Indoor**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**270**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**203**		
								Total	**877**	**877**	**877**	**945**	**741**	**753**	**753**	**753**	**685**	**606**		

TABLE 3.0-3
SAUGUS HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPANT COUNT

Outdoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Coaches**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Baseball Varsity	63	6	69	Varsity Baseball Field	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Baseball Jr. Varsity	43	9	52	Varsity Baseball Field	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21		
Softball Jr. Varsity	93	8	101	JV Softball Field	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		
Track & Field	118	17	135	Turf/Track	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31		
Football	88	10	98	Turf/Upper Field	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132		
Cross Country	51	4	55	Turf/Trach	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-11/30		44	44	44	44								
Lacrosse Boys	47	4	51	Turf/Lower Field	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round														
Lacrosse Girls	27	3	30	Turf/Lower Field	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round														
Tennis Boys	40	3	43	Tennis Courts	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27		
Tennis Girls	60	8	68	Tennis Courts	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36		
Soccer - Girls	79	5	84	Turf/Central Park	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31					68	68	68	68	68				
Soccer - Boys	60	6	66	Turf/Central Park	2:45pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31		70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70		
Band Practice	46	2	48	Turf/Band Room	7:00am-9:30am	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Outdoor activities	**815**	**85**	**900**	*Sports starting at 2:45 pm are considered afterschool; 63/the period is 1:00 pm*				**Total**	**527**	**527**	**527**	**595**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**403**	**403**	**0**	**0**
Indoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Teachers**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Marching Band	59	7	66	Band Room	7:00am-8:30am	Year Round	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Volleyball Girls	44	3	47	Gym	2:45pm - 8:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48		
Volleyball Boys	32	3	35	Gym	2:45pm - 8:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		
Basketball - Girls	31	4	35	Gym	2:45pm - 8:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Basketball - Boys	41	8	49	Gym	2:45pm - 8:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37		
Competitive Cheer	37	2	39	Gym	2:45pm - 5:30pm	Year Round	8/8-3/31		55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55			
Fall Play Production	20	4	24	Forum & Black Box	2:45pm - 5:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-12/15		12	12	12	12	12							
Show Choir	50	5	55	E3051	2:45pm - 5:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24			
Spring Musical Production	30	4	34	Forum & Black Box	2:45pm - 5:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31							12	12	12	12	12		
Dance Team	5	2	7	Gym	7:30am-9:30am	Year Round	8/8-5/39		30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30		
Indoor Activities	**349**	**42**	**391**					**Indoor**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**270**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**203**		
								Total	**877**	**877**	**877**	**945**	**741**	**753**	**753**	**753**	**685**	**606**		

TABLE 3.0-4
CASTAIC HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPANT COUNT

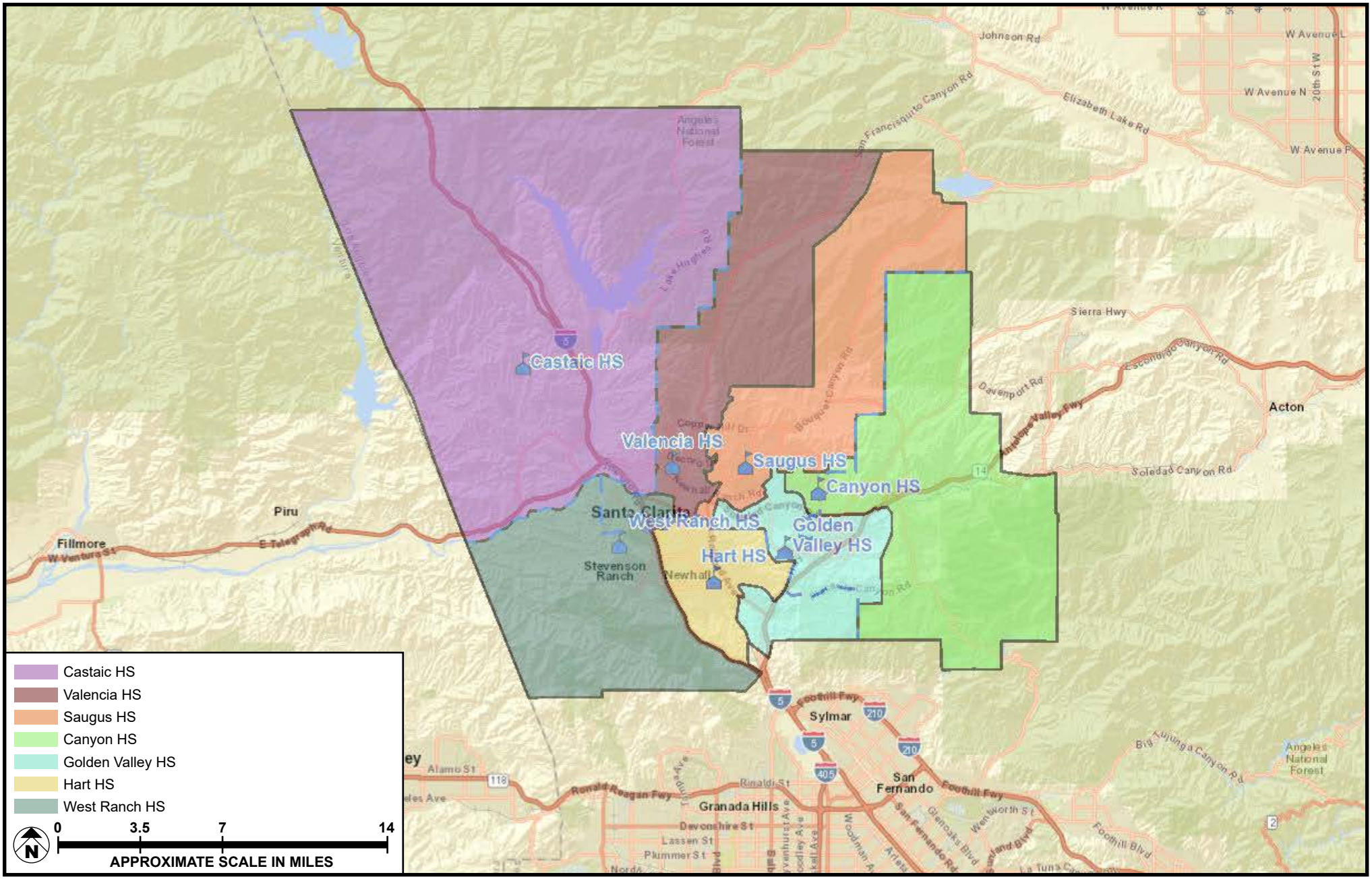
Outdoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Coaches**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Baseball Varsity	54	10	64	Varsity Baseball Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Softball Varsity	20	3	23	JV Softball Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		
Track & Field - Girls	20	4	24	Stadium/Upper Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31		
Track & Field - Boys	30	4	34	Stadium/Upper Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42		
Football	99	12	111	Stadium/Upper Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132		
Cross Country	22	4	26	Stadium	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-11/30		44	44	44	44								
Lacrosse Boys	42	4	46	Stadium/Upper Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Year Round														
Tennis Boys	11	2	13	Tennis Courts	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27		
Tennis Girls	25	2	27	Tennis Courts	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36		
Soccer - Girls	39	4	43	Stadium/Upper Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31					68	68	68	68	68				
Soccer - Boys	41	4	45	Stadium/Upper Field	3:00pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31		70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70		
Band Practice	80	10	90	Stadium/Band Room	8am-10:30am/ 6pm-9pm	July through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Outdoor activities	**483**	**63**	**546**	*Sports starting at 3:00 pm are considered afterschool; 6th period is 1:51 pm*				**Total**	**527**	**527**	**527**	**595**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**403**	**403**	**0**	**0**

Indoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Teachers**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Marching Band	56	1	57	Band Room	8:00am-3:00pm	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Volleyball Girls	24	3	27	Main and Aux Gym	3:00pm–6:00pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48		
Volleyball Boys	40	3	43	Main and Aux Gym	6:00pm - 9:00pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		
Basketball - Girls	24	4	24	Main and Aux Gym	3:00pm –5:00pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Basketball - Boys	47	5	52	Main and Aux Gym	3:00pm –8:00pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37		
Cheer	24	2	26	Main and Aux Gym	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Year Round	8/8-3/31		55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55			
Theater	19	2	21	Auditorium/BlackBox	3:00pm -6:00pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-12/15		12	12	12	12	12							
Choir	25	1	26	Choir Room	8:00am -3:00pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24			
Colorguard	24	3	27	Main and Aux Gym	6:00pm -9:00pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31							12	12	12	12	12		
Dance Team	18	2	20	Dance Room	7:30am-9:30am	Year Round	8/8-5/39		30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30		
Indoor Activities	**301**	**25**	**326**					**Indoor**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**270**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**203**		
								Total	**877**	**877**	**877**	**945**	**741**	**753**	**753**	**753**	**685**	**606**		

TABLE 3.0-5
HART HIGH SCHOOL AFTERSCHOOL PARTICIPANT COUNT

Outdoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Coaches**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Baseball Varsity	25	4	29	Varsity Baseball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Baseball Jr. Varsity	15	4	19	Varsity Baseball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21		
Softball Varsity	14	1	15	JV Softball Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20		
Track & Field - Girls	56	2	58	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31		
Track & Field - Boys	53	3	56	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31		42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42		
Football	106	12	116	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132		
Lacrosse Boys	27	1	28	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round														
Larosse Girls	23	1	24	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round														
Cross Country	34	4	38	Stadium	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-11/30		44	44	44	44								
Tennis Boys	18	1	19	Tennis Courts	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27	27		
Tennis Girls	35	2	36	Tennis Courts	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36		
Soccer - Girls	61	7	68	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31					68	68	68	68	68				
Soccer - Boys	49	5	54	Stadium/Upper Field	2:15pm - 6:30pm	Winter/Spring	11/1-3/31		70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70	70		
Band Practice	59	7	66	Stadium/Band Room	7:00am-9:30am	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Outdoor activities	**575**	**53**	**628**	*Sports starting at 3:40 pm are considered afterschool; 6th period is 1:51 pm*				**Total**	**527**	**527**	**527**	**595**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**471**	**403**	**403**	**0**	**0**

Indoor Program (including practice times)	**# of Students**	**# of Teachers**	**Total People**	**Location**	**Time of Day in Use**	**Dates in Use**	**Months**		**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**	**July**
Marching Band	59	7	66	Band Room	3:15pm-7:30pm	August through November	8/8-11/30		80	80	80	80								
Volleyball Girls	44	3	47	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48	48		
Volleyball Boys	32	3	35	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40		
Basketball - Girls	31	4	35	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24		
Basketball - Boys	41	8	49	Main and Aux Gym	2:15pm - 9:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37	37		
Competitive Cheer	37	2	39	Aux Gym / Practice field	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Year Round	8/8-3/31		55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55	55			
Fall Play Production	20	1	21	Theater/ 601/ Dressing rooms	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Fall/Winter	8/8-12/15		12	12	12	12	12							
Show Choir	50	5	55	Theater/ 608/ Dance Room	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Year Round	8/8-5/31		24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24			
Spring Musical Production	30	2	32	Theater/ 601/ Dressing rooms	2:15pm - 5:30pm	Winter/Spring	1/1-5/31							12	12	12	12	12		
Dance Team	5	2	7	Dance Room	7;30am - 9:30am	Year Round	8/8-5/39		30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30		
Indoor Activities	**349**	**36**	**386**					**Indoor**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**350**	**270**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**282**	**203**		
								Total	**877**	**877**	**877**	**945**	**741**	**753**	**753**	**753**	**685**	**606**		



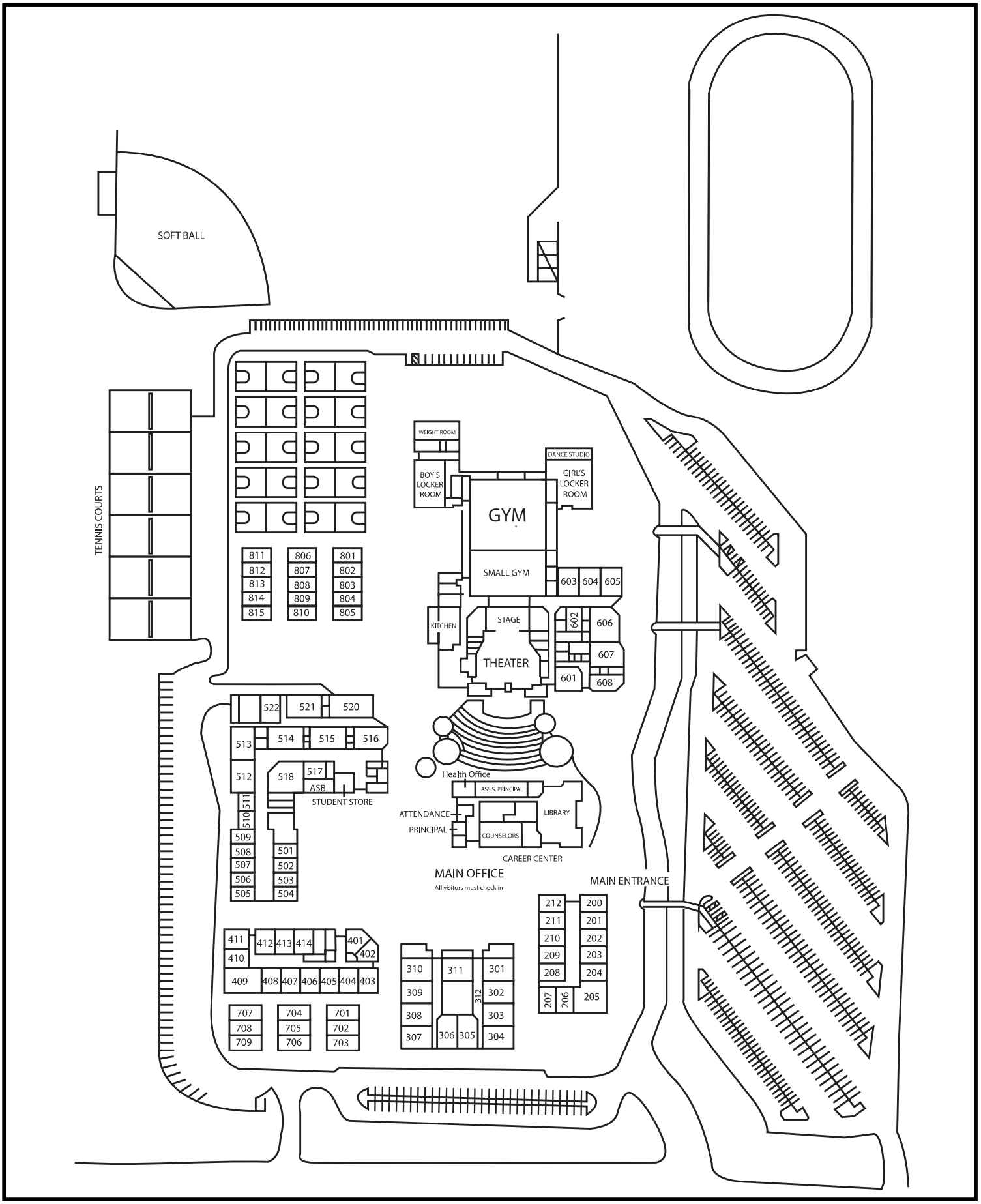
Source: William S. Hart Union High School District, Attendance Boundaries: https://www.hartdistrict.org/apps/pages/attendance-boundaries.

FIGURE **3.0-1**

Meridian Consultants

Hart District Boundary and Attendance Areas

029-003-22

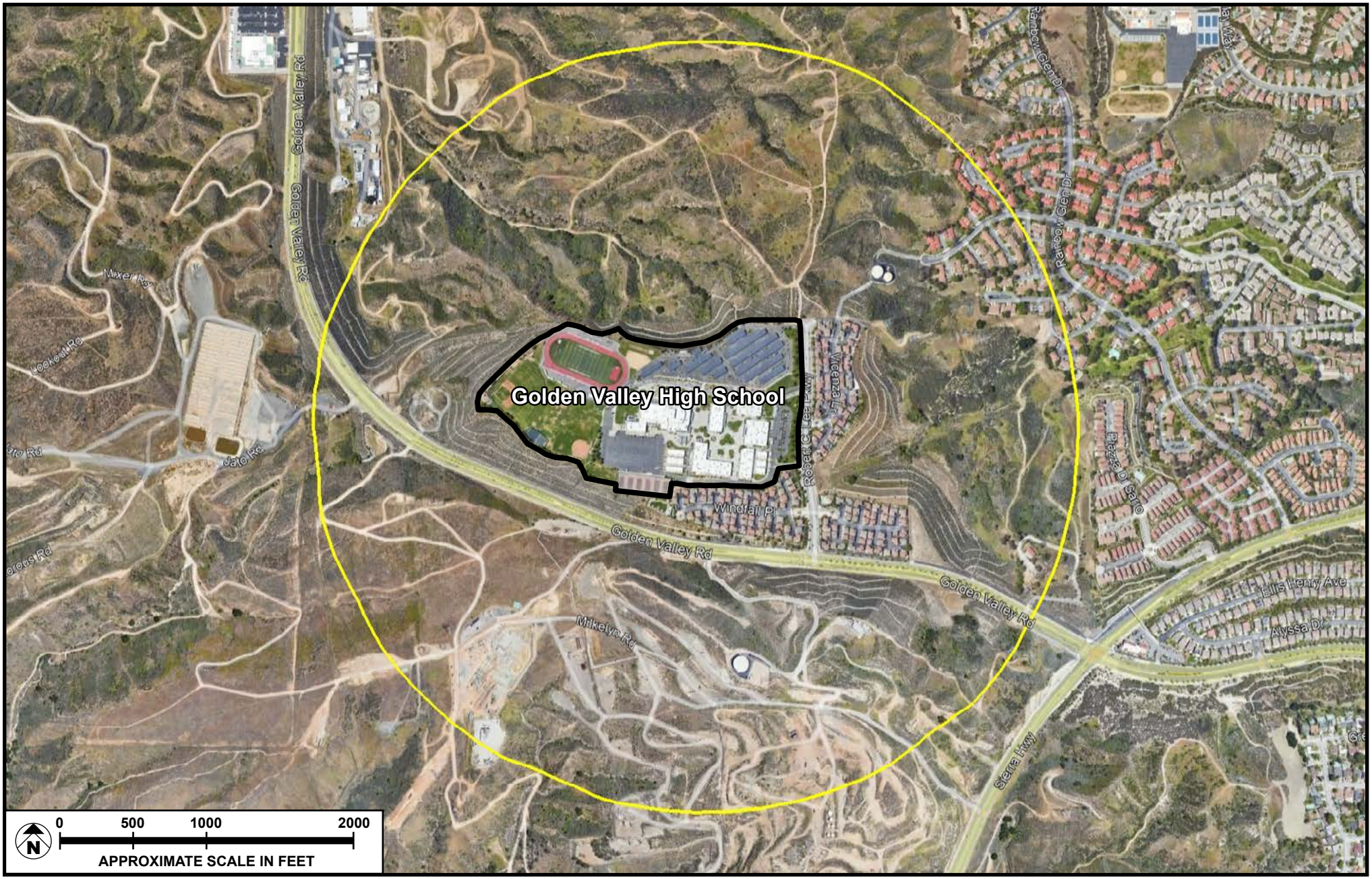


SOURCE: https://www.goldenvalleyhs.org/.

FIGURE **3.0-2**

Meridian Consultants

Golden Valley High School Campus



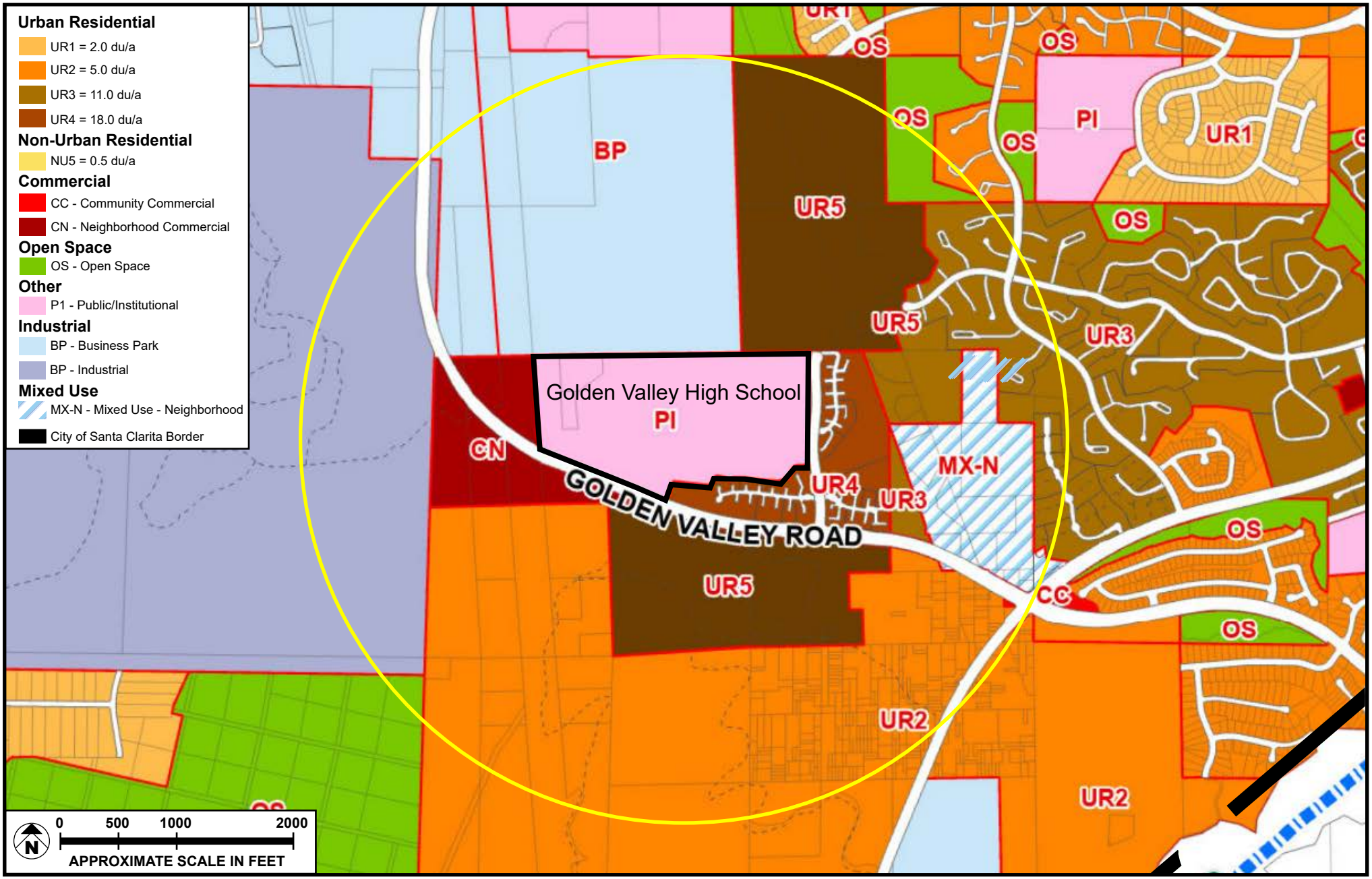
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **3.0-3**

Meridian Consultants

Golden Valley HS Campus Surrounding Uses

029-003-22



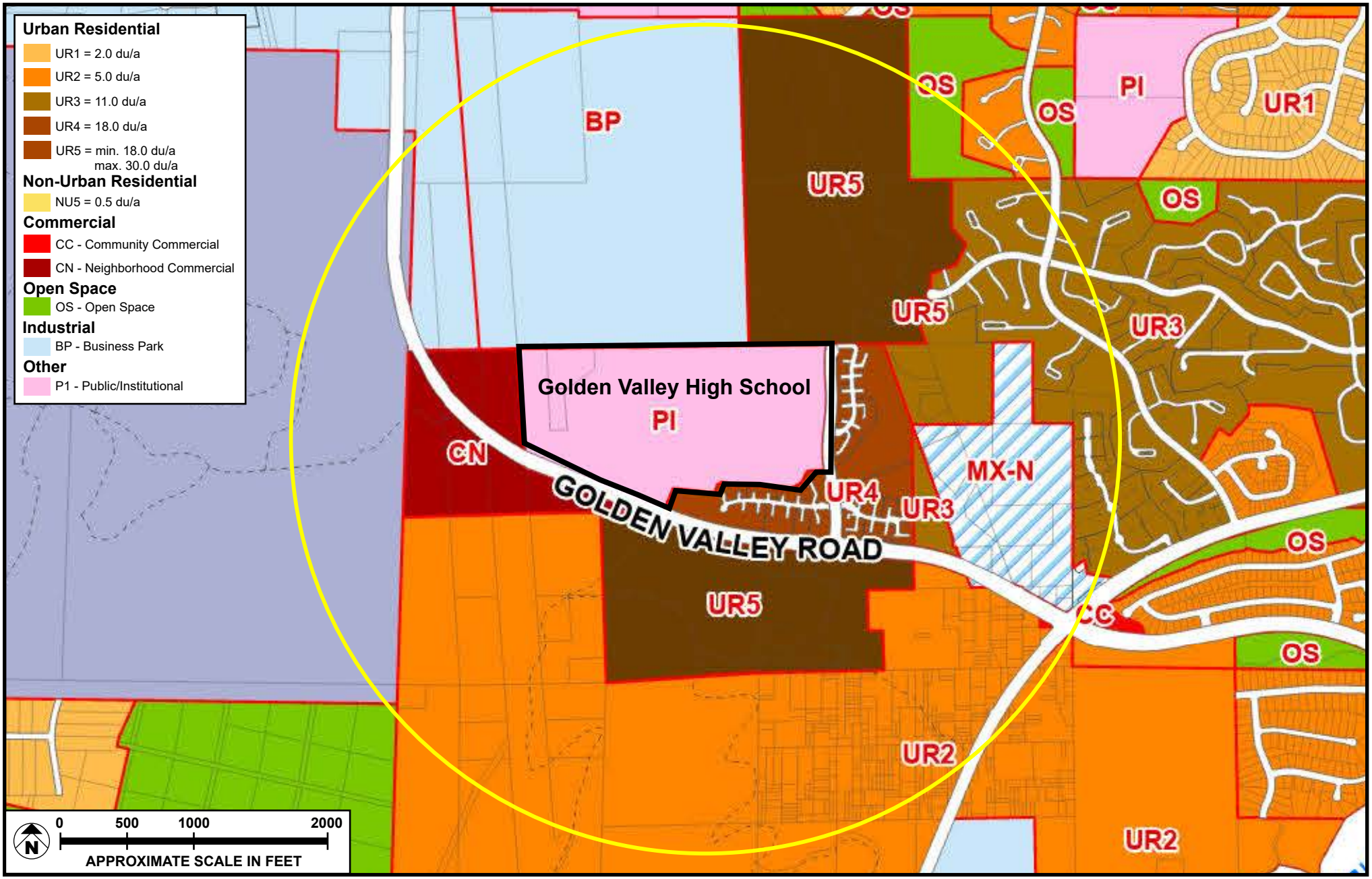
SOURCE: : https://santaclarita.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/migration/genplan_Feb2023.pdf

FIGURE **3.0-4**

Meridian Consultants

Golden Valley High School Land Use Map

029-003-22



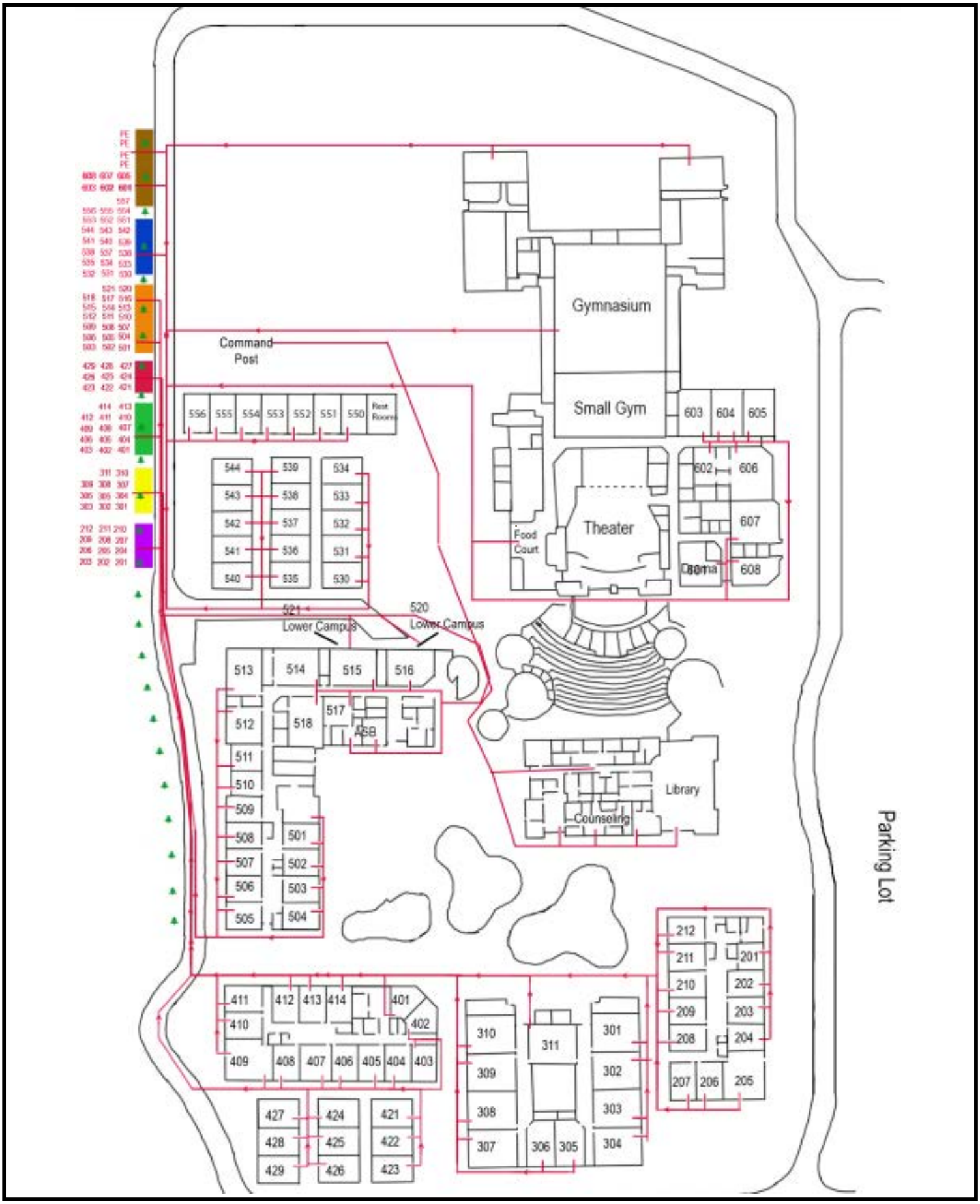
SOURCE: https://santaclarita.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/migration/UDC_zoning_Feb2023.pdf.

FIGURE **3.0-5**

Meridian Consultants

Golden Valley High School Zoning Map

029-003-22



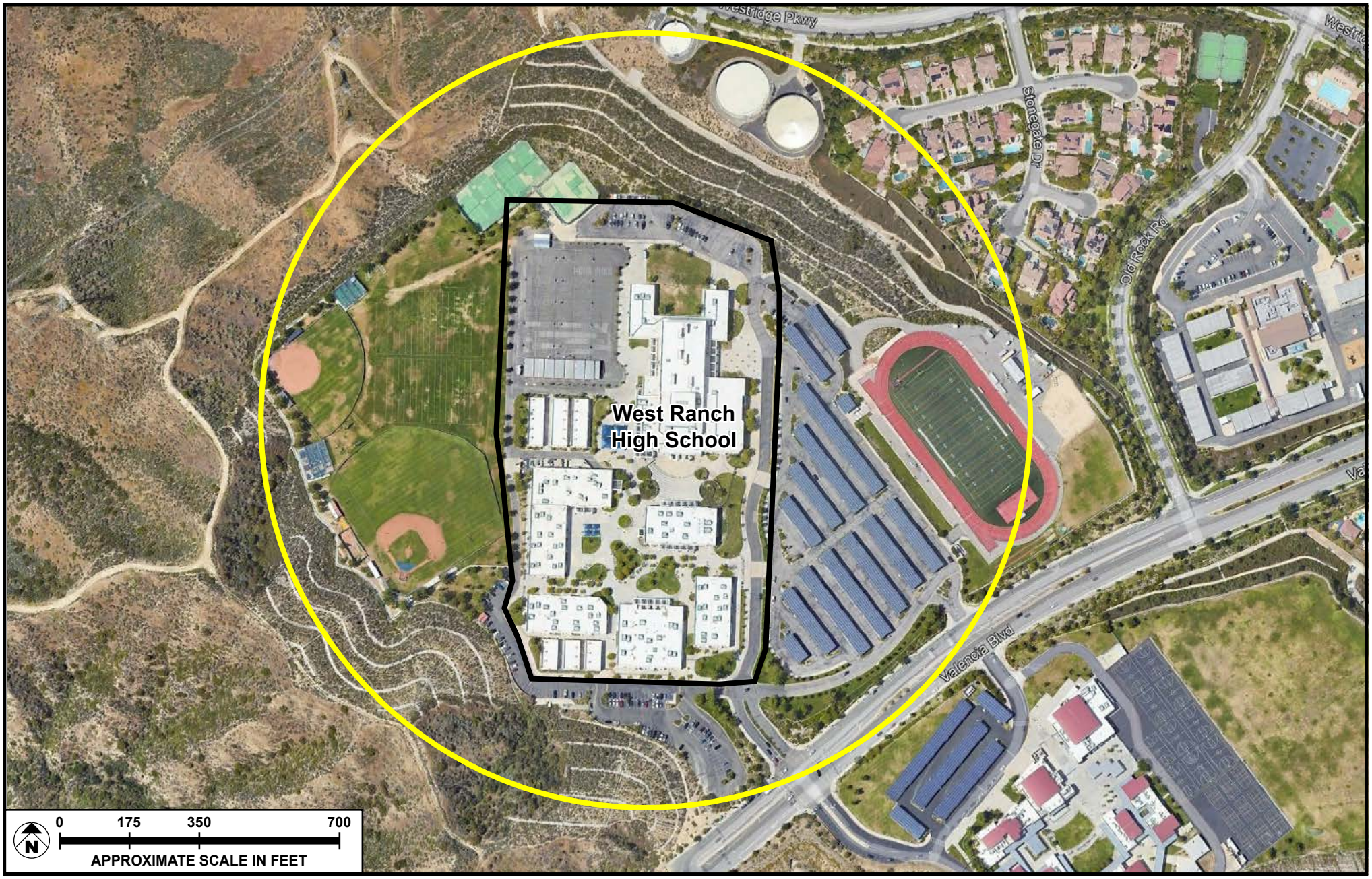
SOURCE: https://www.westranchhighschool.com/

FIGURE **3.0-6**

Meridian Consultants

West Ranch High School Campus Map

029-003-22



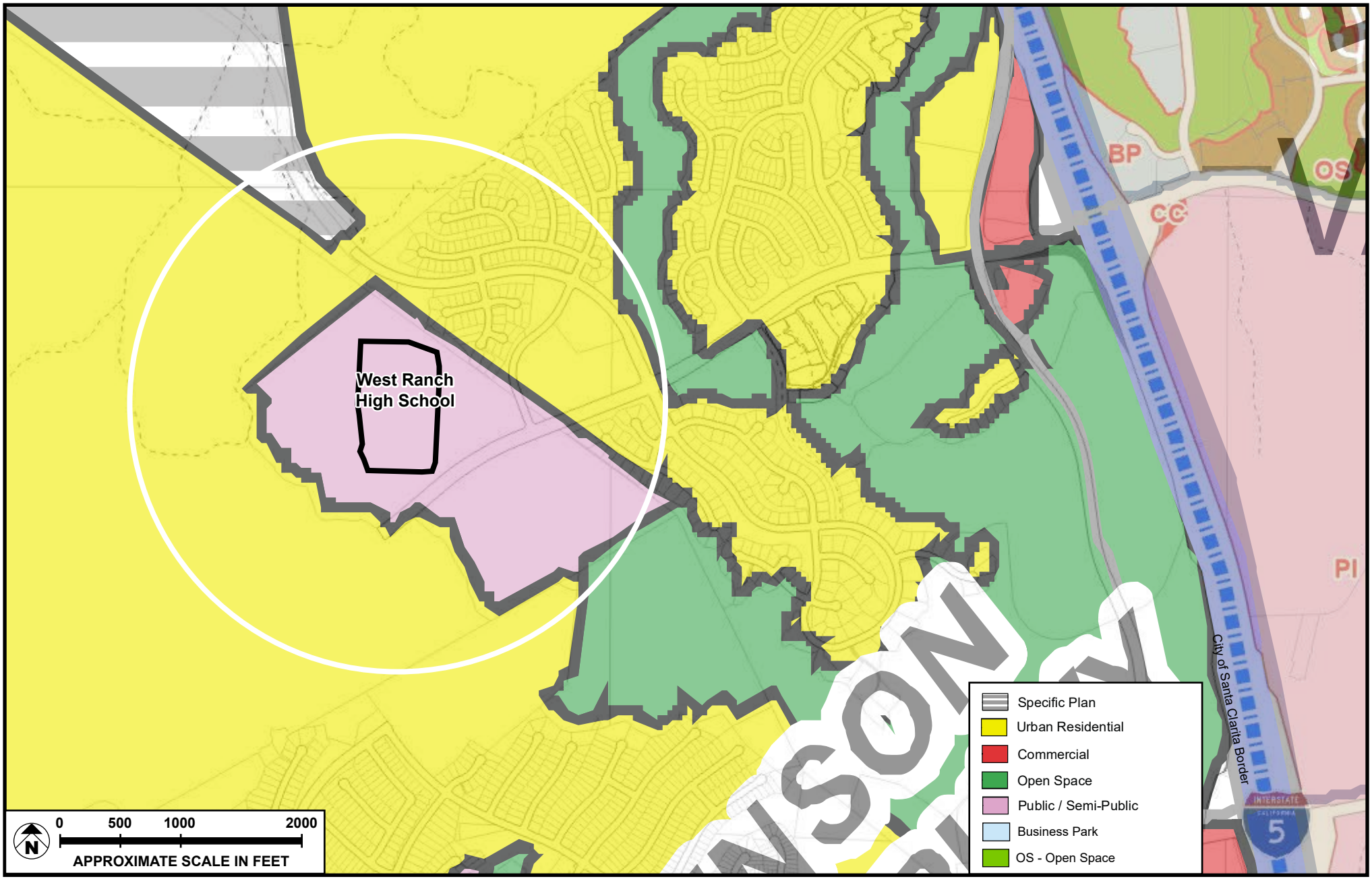
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **3.0-7**

Meridian Consultants

West Ranch HS Campus Surrounding Uses

029-003-22



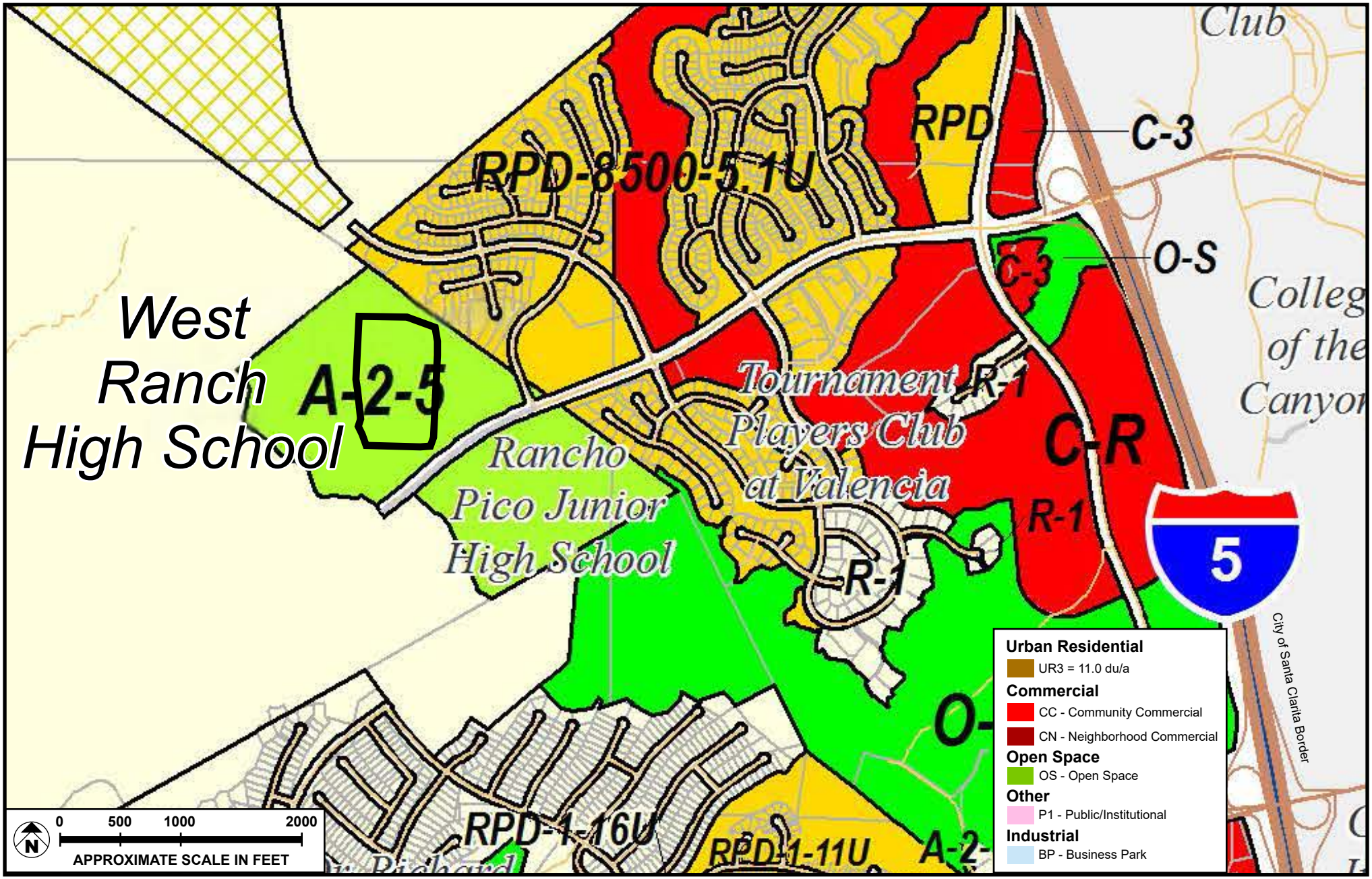
SOURCE: https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

FIGURE **3.0-8**

Meridian Consultants

West Ranch High School Land Use Map

029-003-22



SOURCE: https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

FIGURE **3.0-9**

Meridian Consultants

West Ranch High School Zoning Map

029-003-22



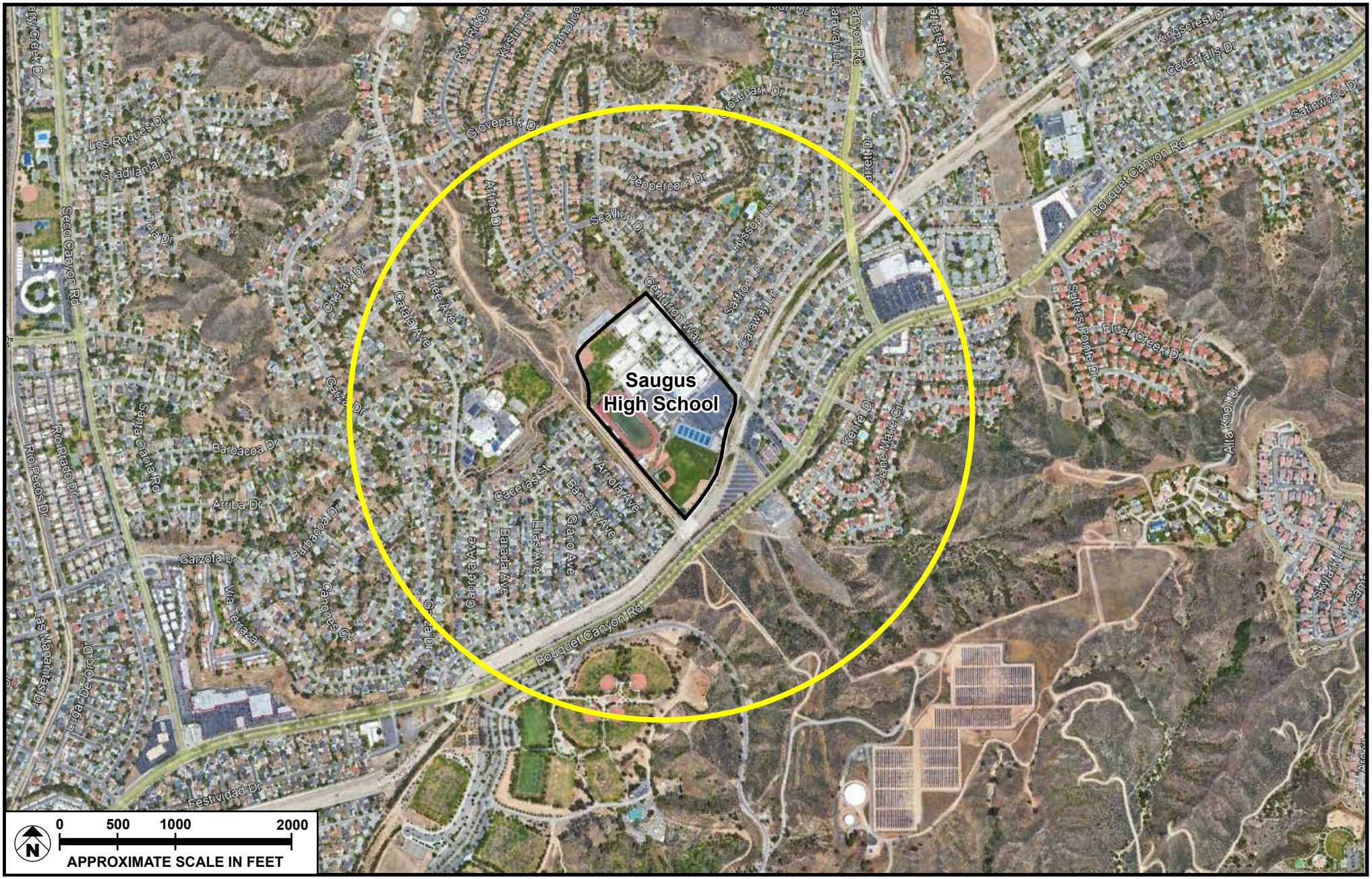
SOURCE: https://www.sauguscenturions.com/.

FIGURE **3.0-10**

Meridian Consultants

Saugus High School Campus Map

029-003-22



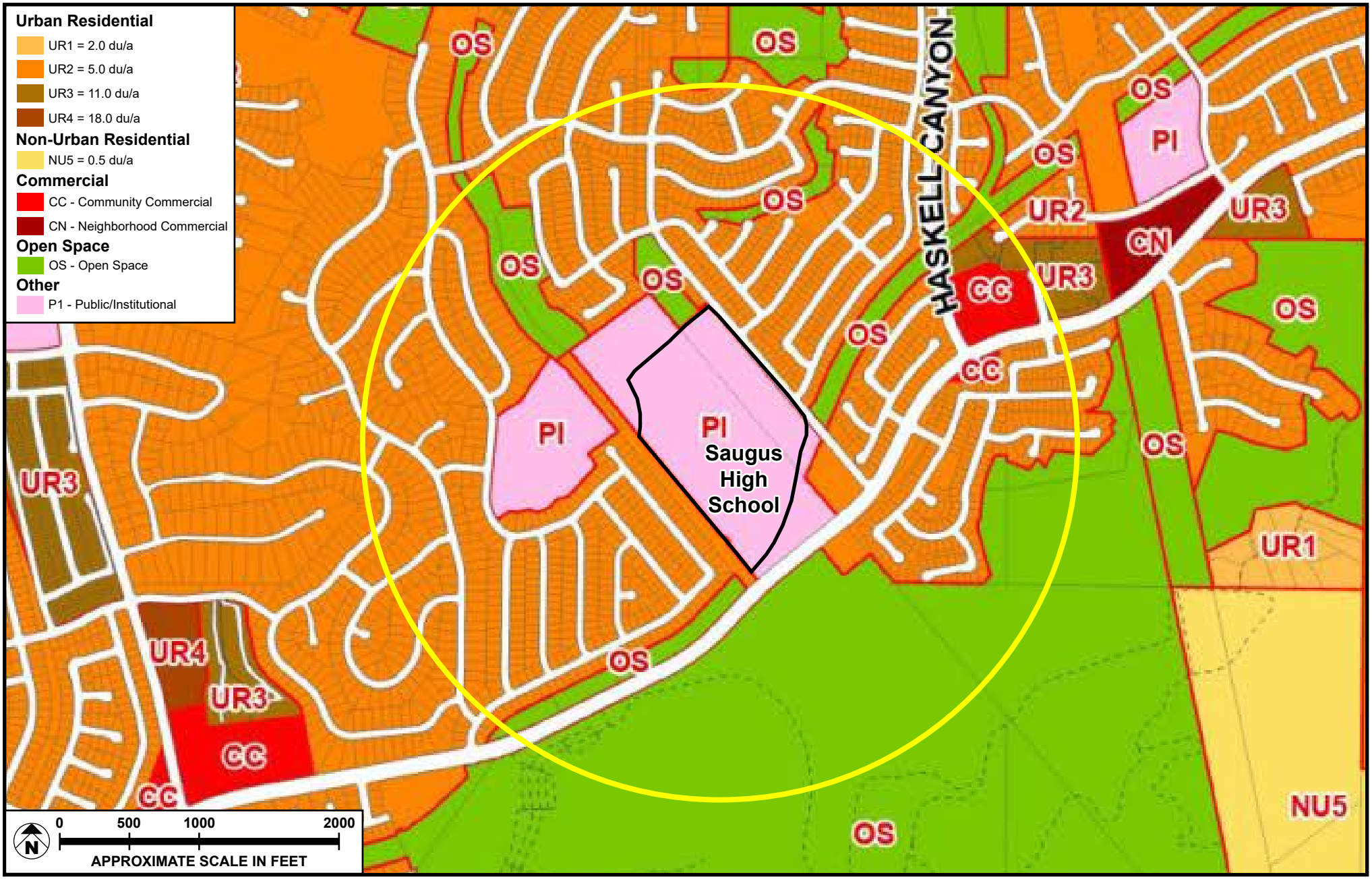
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **3.0-11**

Meridian Consultants

Saugus HS Campus Surrounding Uses

029-003-22



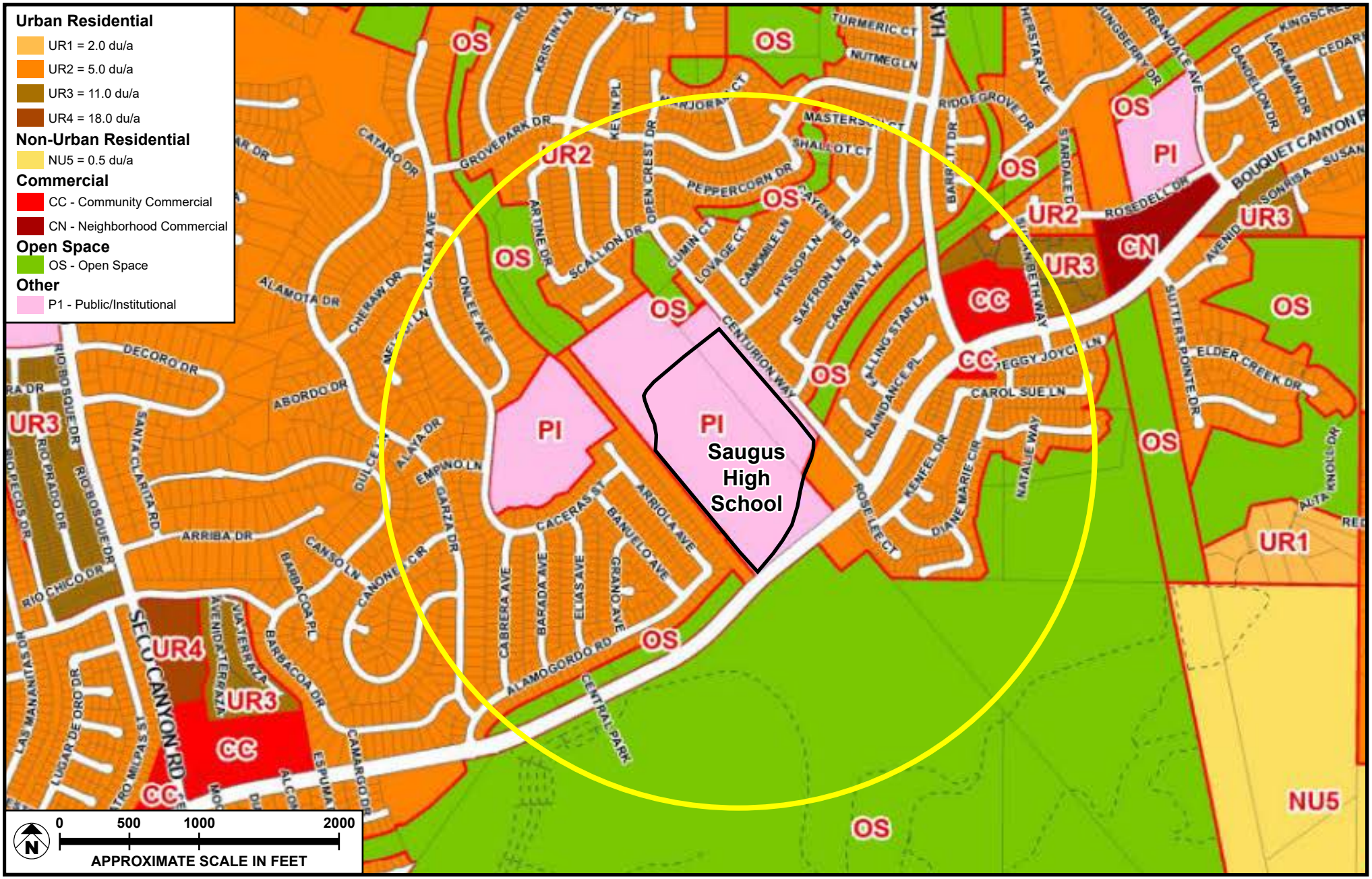
SOURCE: https://santaclarita.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/migration/genplan_Feb2023.pdf.

FIGURE **3.0-12**

Meridian Consultants

Saugus High School Land Use Map

029-003-22



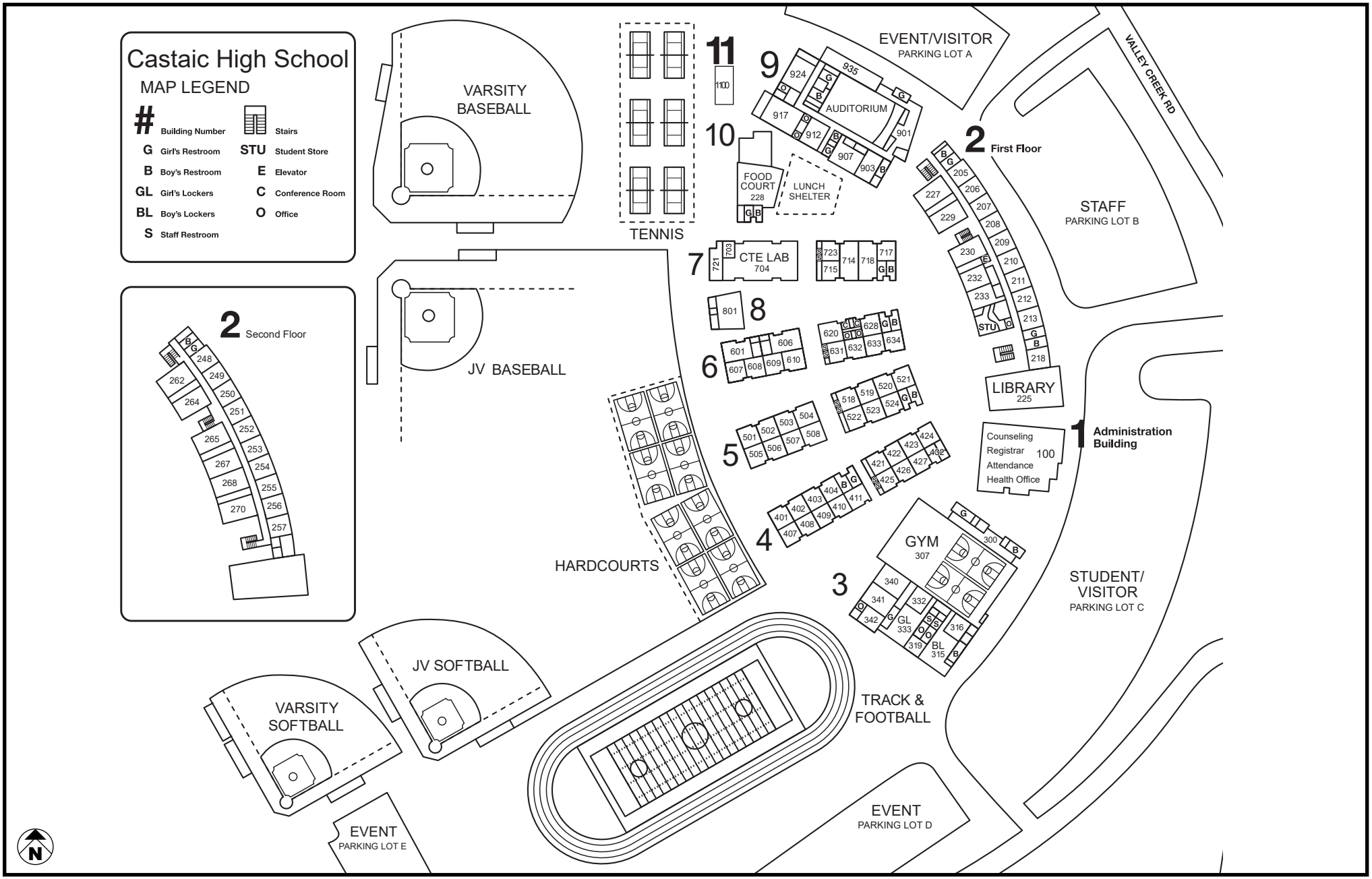
SOURCE: https://santaclarita.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/migration/UDC_zoning_Feb2023.pdf.

FIGURE **3.0-13**

Meridian Consultants

Saugus High School Zoning Map

029-003-22



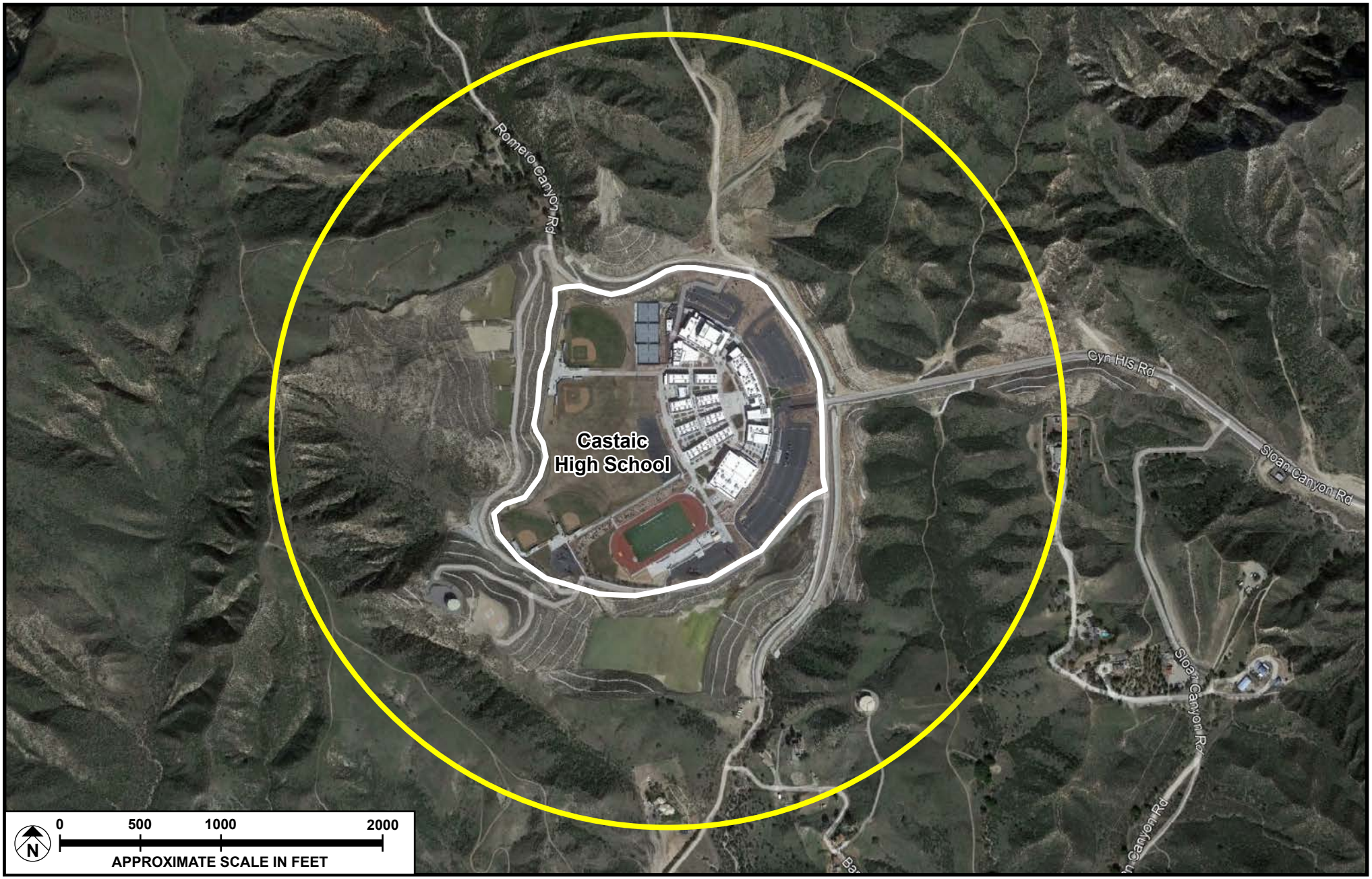
SOURCE: https://www.castaichighschool.org/.

FIGURE **3.0-14**

Meridian Consultants

Castaic High School Campus Map

029-003-22



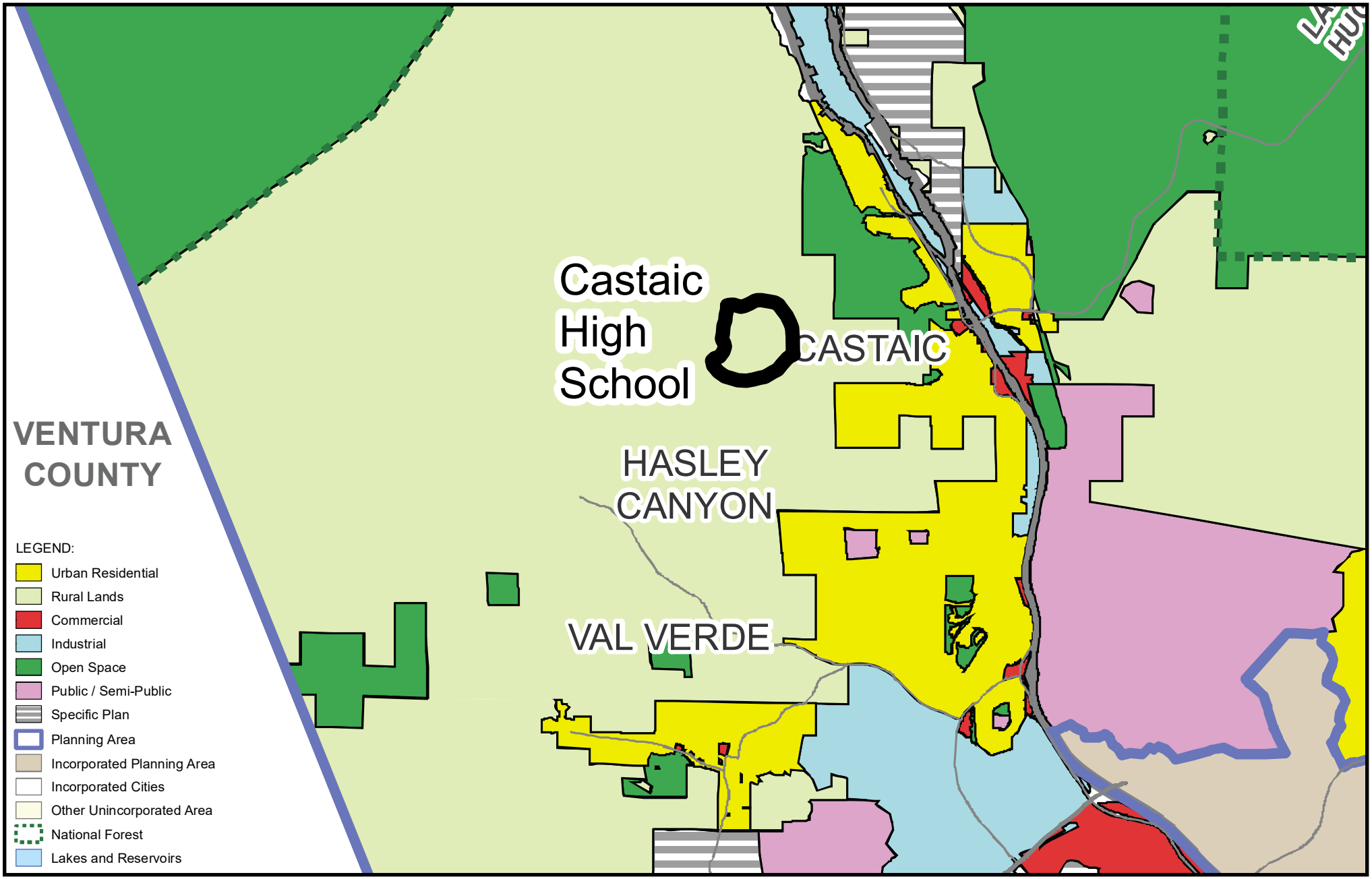
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **3.0-15**

Meridian Consultants

Castaic HS Campus Surrounding Uses

029-003-22



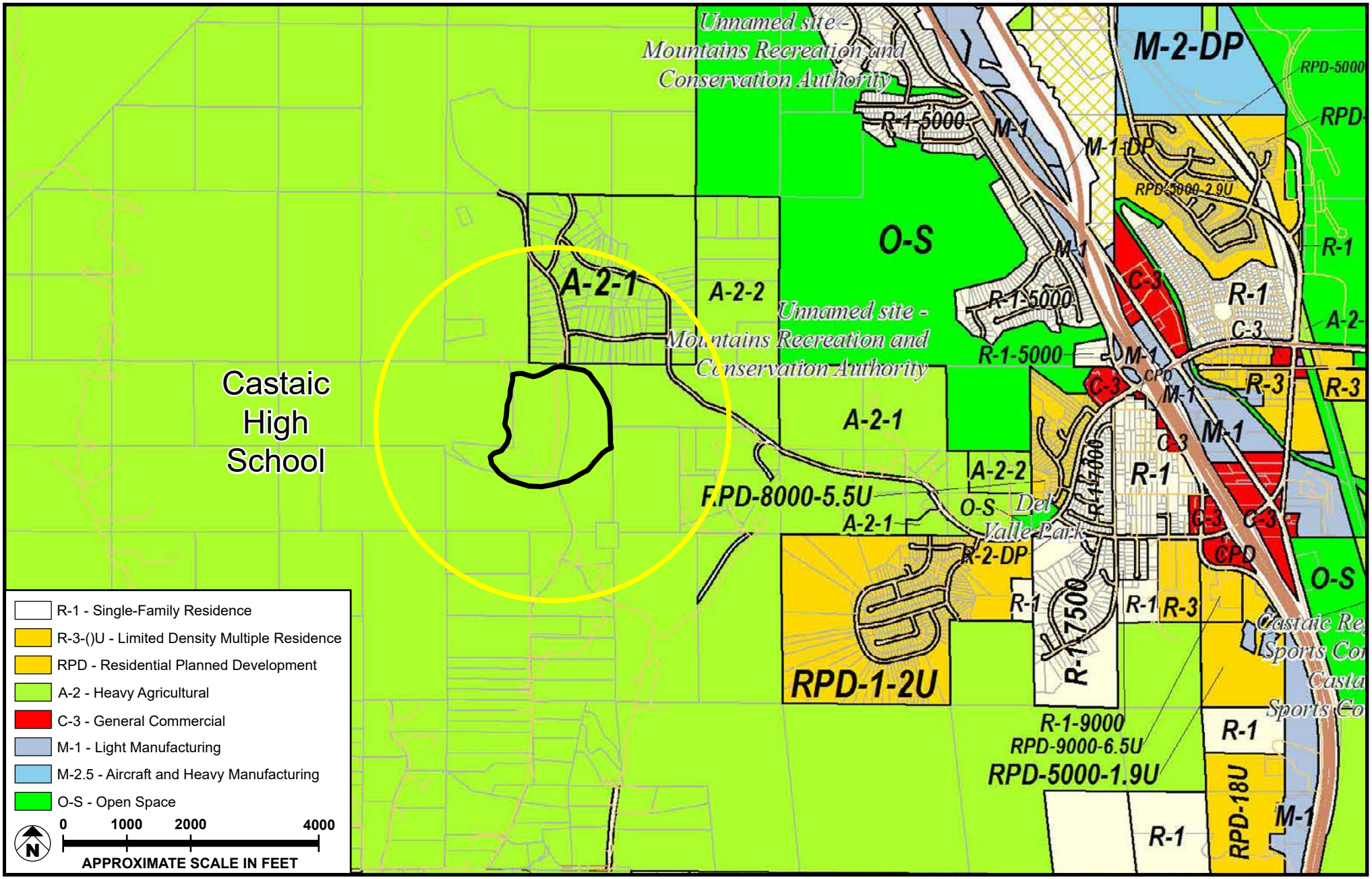
SOURCE: https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf

FIGURE **3.0-16**

Meridian Consultants

Castaic High School Land Use Map

029-003-22



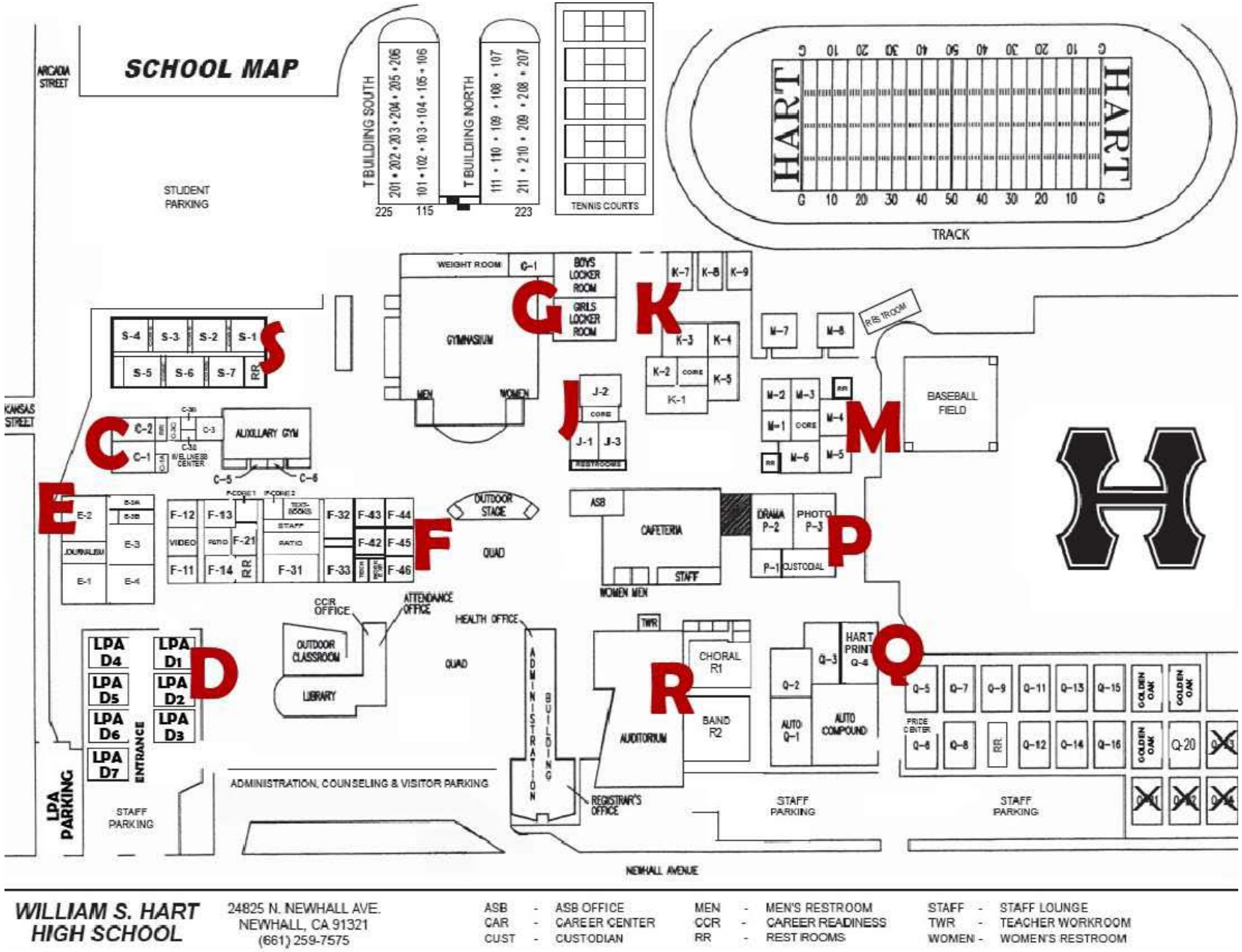
SOURCE: https://planning.lacounty.gov/maps-and-gis/map-catalog/.

FIGURE **3.0-17**

Meridian Consultants

Castaic High School Zoning Map

029-003-22



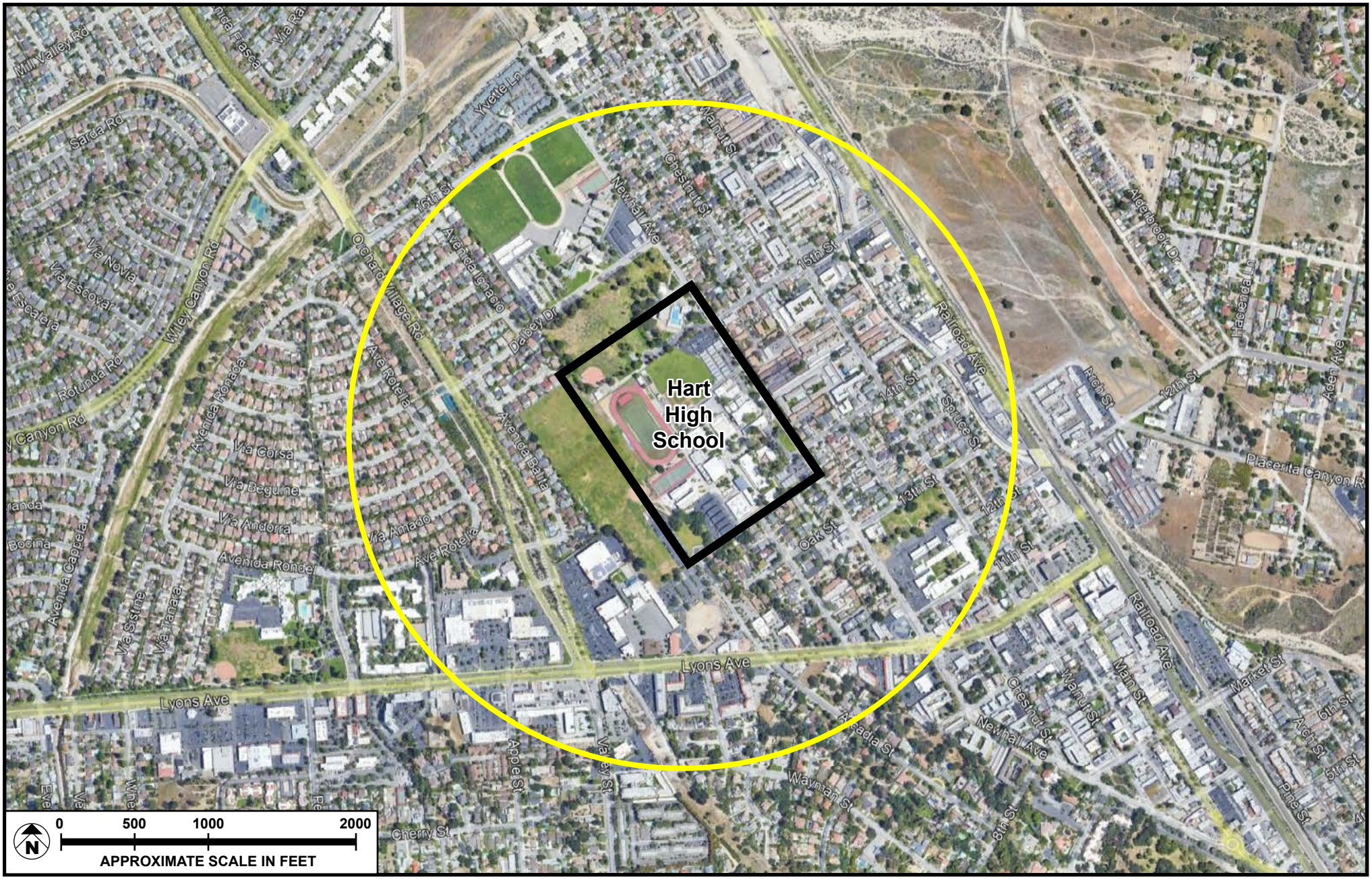
SOURCE: https://www.harthighschool.org/.

FIGURE **3.0-18**

Meridian Consultants

Hart High School Campus Map

029-003-22



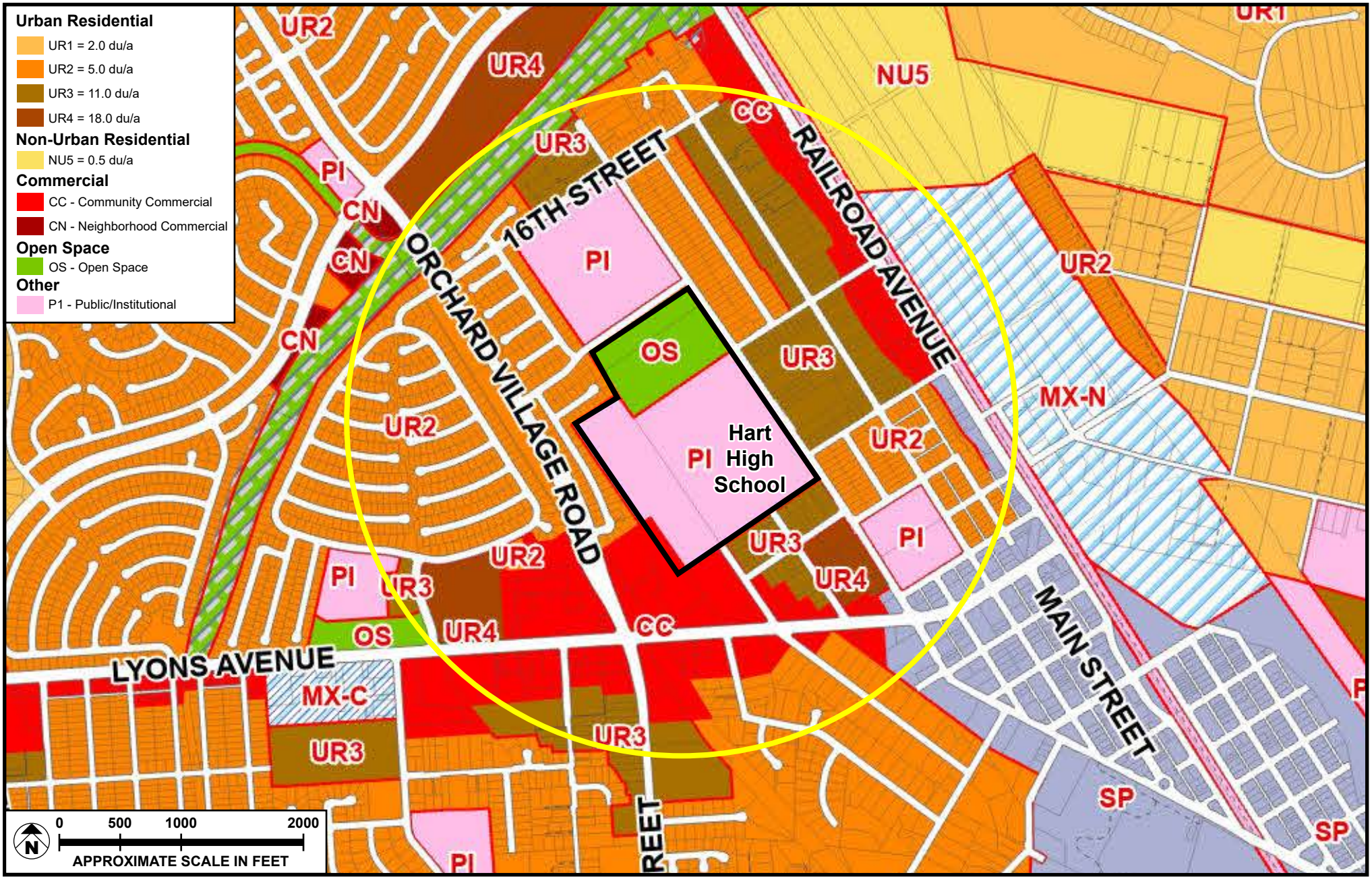
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **3.0-19**

Meridian Consultants

Hart HS Campus Surrounding Uses

029-003-22



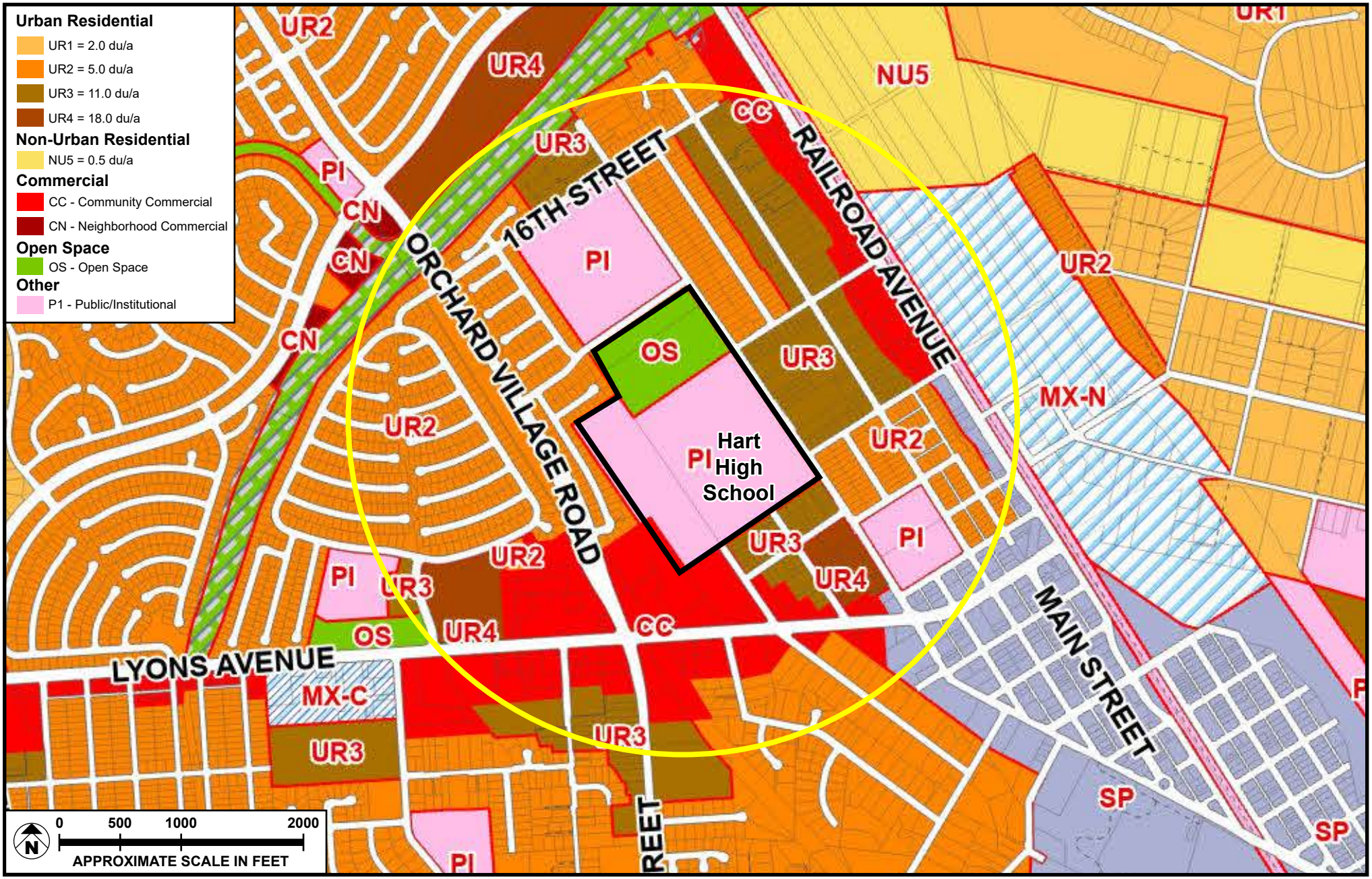
SOURCE: https://santaclarita.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/migration/genplan_Feb2023.pdf.

FIGURE **3.0-20**

Meridian Consultants

Hart High School Land Use Map

029-003-22



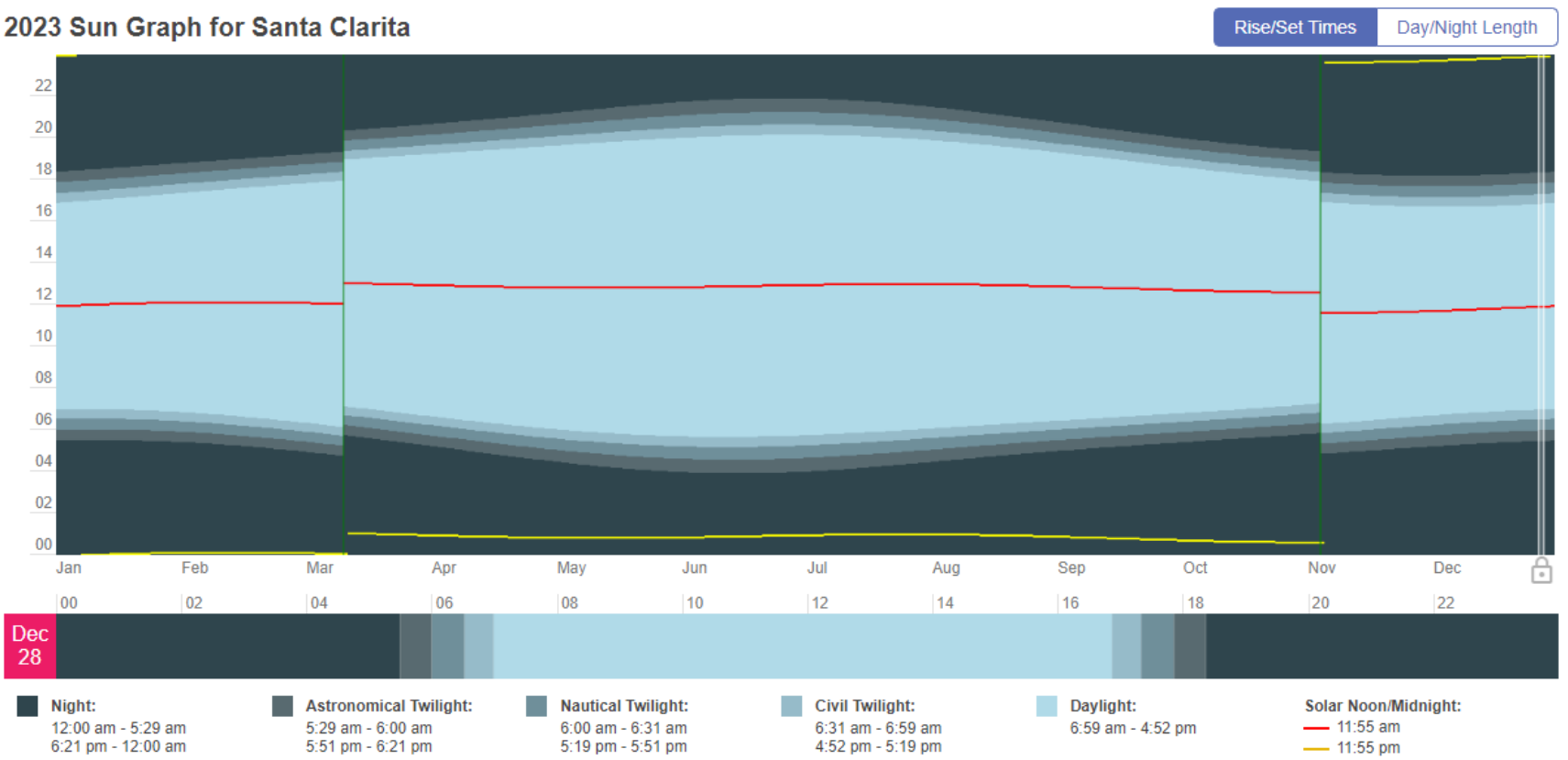
SOURCE: https://santaclarita.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/42/migration/UDC_zoning_Feb2023.pdf.

FIGURE **3.0-21**

Meridian Consultants

Hart High School Zoning Map

029-003-22



SOURCE: https://www.timeanddate.com/sun/usa/santa-clarita

FIGURE **3.0-22**

Meridian Consultants

Sun Graph for Santa Clarita

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

4.1 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

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

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

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐	I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment and is eligible for a Categorical Exemption.
☐	I find that the Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☒	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.
☐	I find that the Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐	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.
☐	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

11/3/2023

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 Schoo**l. 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 5.7: 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 5.7: 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 5.7: 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 5.7: Geology and Soils, Question (a)(v)

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

Topic	Applicable Code	Environmental Checklist
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (h)
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (i)
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (j)
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (k)
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.)	Ed. Code §17215.5 (a)	Section 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (l)
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	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (c)	Section 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (m)

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

Topic	Applicable Code	Environmental Checklist
50–133 kV line; (2) 150 feet of a 220–230 kV line; or (3) 350 feet of a 500–550 kV line?		
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (n)
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (o)
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (p)
Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (t)	Section 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (q)
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 5.9: Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Question (r)
Hydrology and Water Quality		
Is the Project Site subject to flooding or dam inundation?	Ed. Code §17212; CCR, Title 5 §14010 (g)	Section 5.10: Hydrology and Water Quality, Question (f)
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 5.11: Land Use and Planning, Question (c)
Noise		

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 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 5.13: 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 5.15: 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 5.17: Transportation/Traffic, Question (e)
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 5.17: Transportation/Traffic, Question (f)
Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?	CCR, Title 5 §14010 (d)	Section 5.17: Transportation/Traffic, Question (g)

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This section provides an evaluation of the environmental impacts of topics contained in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G.

A brief explanation for the determination of significance is provided for all impact determinations except "No Impact" determinations that are adequately supported by the information sources the Lead Agency (WSHUHSD) 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, then the checklist indicates 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.

"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.

5.1 AESTHETICS

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

Discussion

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

The Santa Clarita Valley General Plan Conservation Element notes that Urban development has the potential to impair scenic resources if not carefully planned and controlled.[29] Increasing development pressures could impact the quantity, quality, and variety of scenic vistas in the Valley through increased smog and light pollution, development on prominent ridgelines and hillsides, obstruction of scenic views along various roadways, signage and streetscape clutter, and aesthetically deficient development.

This MND attempts to identify goals for information purposes only, not for evaluation purposes.

29 City of Santa Clarita General Plan, Conservation Element, June 2011.

The California Code, Government Code § 53094(b),[30] provides the following:

- *Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the governing board of a school district, that has complied with the requirements of Section 65352.2*[31] *of this code and Section 21151.2 of the Public Resources Code,*[32] *by a vote of two-thirds of its members, may render a city or county zoning ordinance inapplicable to a proposed use of property by the school district.*[33]

As the District is a separate jurisdiction and has taken action under the Government Code as noted above, it is exempt from land use planning requirements of the City. Further, the District has identified significance thresholds that are appropriate for the Project and the intended uses, and that do not conflict with adjoining uses.

The Conservation Element lists objectives and policies to protect scenic vistas including:

Objective CO 6.5:	Maintain the scenic character of designated routes, gateways, and vista points along roadways.
Policy CO 6.5.1:	In approving new development projects, consider scenic views at major entry points to the Santa Clarita Valley, including gateways located at the Newhall Pass along Lake Hughes Road, Route 126, Bouquet Canyon Road, Sierra Highway, State Route 14, and other locations as deemed appropriate by the reviewing authority.
Policy CO 6.5.2:	Establish scenic routes in appropriate locations as determined by the reviewing agency and adopt guidelines for these routes to maintain their scenic character.

The Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan for Los Angeles County notes a similar description:[34]

> *Viewsheds and scenic vistas may include views of both natural and built environments, and are also considered important scenic resources.*

Similar to the City's General Plan, the Area Plan identifies goals, objectives and policies to protect scenic resources:

Goal CO-6: Scenic Resources	Preservation of scenic features that keep the Santa Clarita Valley beautiful and enhance quality of life, community identity, and property values.

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30 California Government Code, Section 53094(b),Regulation of Local Agencies by Cities and Counties.

31 California Section 65352.2 - Coordinating planning, design, and construction of new school facilities.

32 2021 California Code, Public Resources Code – PRC, Environmental Quality Chapter 4 - Local Agencies Section 21152.1.

33 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.

34 Los Angeles County, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012.

Objective CO-6.1	Protect the scenic character of local topographic features.
Objective CO-6.2	Protect the scenic character of view corridors.
Policy CO-6.2.1:	Where feasible, encourage development proposals to have varied building heights to maintain view corridor sight lines.
Objective CO-6.5	Maintain the scenic character of designated routes, gateways, and vista points along roadways.
Objective CO-6.6	Limit adverse impacts by humans on the scenic environment.
Policy CO-6.6.4:	Where appropriate, require new development to be sensitive to scenic viewpoints or viewsheds through building design, site layout and building heights.
Policy CO-6.6.5:	Encourage undergrounding of all new utility lines and promote undergrounding of existing lines where feasible and practicable.

Project Impacts

Each of the five campuses are fully developed. Four of the five (HHS, SHS, GVHS and WRHS) are located in established neighborhoods that are not near gateways or accessible to scenic vistas. CHS is located west of the I-5 in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is isolated from other development. As such, it is not near any gateways or other scenic vistas.

The proposed Project involves installing lights at the practice fields at each of the five high schools on existing campuses. Construction on each campus would be short-term and would not require large equipment that would obstruct views of the vistas. Further, the location of light poles would not obstruct views of surrounding residents.

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.[35]

Because the City and County are working together to promote comprehensive planning for the Santa Clarita Valley, opportunities exist for the One Valley One Vision effort to identify means of preserving

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35 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California State Scenic Highway Map, "Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (D) Routes." Accessed October 2023, https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa.

and enhancing the scenic environment through a common approach to streetscape design and landscaping along arterial streets and high-ways and major gateways. In addition, preservation and enhancement of significant ridgelines, hillsides, and the Santa Clara River provide opportunities for beautification efforts throughout the Valley.[36]

The City of Santa Clarita's General Plan[37] nor the Los Angeles County Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan do not designate any scenic highways or scenic roadways within the City's planning area.[38] The Area Plan contains a Scenic Highways Plan and plans for Trails and Bikeways, along with goals and policies to promote preservation of open space and conservation of resources.

In addition, there are no designated or eligible State scenic highways in proximity to any of the subject high school campuses.[39] Further, there are no trees, rocks, or historic buildings near any of the campuses that would be impacted by the proposed Project.

The proposed 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 practice fields at the five high school campuses.

Each of the five campuses are fully developed. Four of the five (HHS, SHS, GVHS and WRHS) are located in established neighborhoods that are not near gateways or accessible to scenic vistas. CHS is located west of the I-5 in unincorporated Los Angeles County and is isolated from other development. As such, it is not near any gateways or other scenic vistas.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. The placement and height of the lighting fixtures would not conflict with applicable zoning or other

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36 Los Angeles County, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012.

37 City of Santa Clarita, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Conservation and Open Space Element.

38 Los Angeles County, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012.

39 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), California State Scenic Highway Map, "Eligible (E) and Officially Designated (D) Routes." Accessed October 2023, https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa.

regulations governing scenic quality in either the City of Santa Clarita or Los Angeles County. 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 GVHS, WRHS, HHS, SHS and CHS, by allowing evening-hour use for students to participate in 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.[40]

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.

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

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

Evening games and practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams. Use of lighting during and following athletic practices would generally end by 8:00 PM. Most athletic 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 accommodate residents to the west, the District will attempt to schedule activities, to the degree possible, on the practice fields so that the light can be turned off by 9:00 PM and as soon as possible thereafter.

Light sources currently exist on each of the campuses. Existing sources of glare include reflected light from windows of campus buildings and vehicles in the adjacent parking lots during the daytime.

The proposed Project would introduce up to four (4) new light poles at each campus ranging in height from 70 to 80 feet tall and would include fixtures to individually shield lights (luminaries) as well as reflective housing around the lamps to control glare. The lighting fixtures will be designed such that they

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40 William S. Hart Union High School District. Civic Center / Terms of Use. Accessed October 2023, https://www.facilitron.com/terms/wshuhsd91350.

are directed downward to limit glare off the site and minimize impacts to surrounding areas. The proposed lighting fixtures would project downwards toward the fields and glare from the lights would be localized within the existing high school campus.

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

- Minimum lighting level for high school practice fields is typically set at 500 lux or about 45 foot-candles; and
- Lighting uniformity is a crucial factor in ensuring the safety and visibility of players on a practice field. Regulations for lighting uniformity typically specify the maximum allowable difference in lighting levels between different areas of the field. This helps to ensure that players have consistent visibility and are not disadvantaged by uneven lighting.

Each pole would have a number of Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires (light fixtures) with solid "hoods" referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise athletic 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. (See **Figure 5.1-1: Light Hood Controls).**

The new lighting poles would result in the use of 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. LEDs generate light via a semi-conductor, as opposed to the consumption of a "fuel source" like in HID lamps. In regard to "distributing" light, LED sport light fixtures commonly utilize "multi-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 footcandle distribution from the LED conversion. In addition to the even distribution of light, LEDs are available in a range of intensities, and as a result provide a range of options to increase the visual perception of "brightness."

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 footcandle 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." LED technology is an improvement over prior field lighting. The LED system results in more focused light direction and avoids substantial glare. See example in **Figure 5.1-2: LED versus older Technology Lighting Example.**

It should also be noted that the prosed Musco LED lighting has been approved by the Dark Sky International Association.[41] The Dark Sky approved program provides for lighting systems that meet certain objectives for lighting. This includes minimizing glare, reducing light trespass, and reducing light pollution. To be certified, lighting must restrict the amount of upward-directed light, avoid glare, avoid over-lighting, utilize dimming and other appropriate lighting controls, and minimize short-wavelength light in the nighttime environment.

As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 1.0-footcandle.[42] Illumination offsite that exceed the 1.0-footcandle threshold was used to analyze the impact of the new LED lighting that restrict time of use or lights. For high school field use, fields are rented per field in accordance with the District's standard use agreement.

This MND attempts to identify goals for information purposes only, not for evaluation purposes.

The California Code, Government Code § 53094(b),[43] provides the following:

- *Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the governing board of a school district, that has complied with the requirements of Section 65352.2[44] of this code and Section 21151.2 of the Public Resources Code,[45] by a vote of two-thirds of its members, may render a city or county zoning ordinance inapplicable to a proposed use of property by the school district.[46]*

As the District is a separate jurisdiction, and has taken action under the Government Code as noted above, it is exempt from land use planning requirements of the City. Further, the District has identified significance thresholds that are appropriate for the Project and the intended uses, and that do not conflict with adjoining uses.

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41 International Dark Sky Association. Accessed September 2023, https://darksky.org/who-we-are/.

42 A footcandle is a measure of luminance. One footcandle 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.

43 California Government Code, Section 53094(b), Regulation of Local Agencies by Cities and Counties.

44 California Section 65352.2 - Coordinating planning, design, and construction of new school facilities.

45 2021 California Code, Public Resources Code – PRC, Environmental Quality Chapter 4 - Local Agencies Section 21152.1.

46 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 City of Santa Clarita upholds a policy that looks to maintain the nighttime environment:[47]

> Policy CO 6.6.1: Enhance views of the night sky by reducing light pollution through use of light screens, downward directed lights, minimized reflective paving surfaces, and reduced lighting levels, as deemed appropriate by the reviewing authority.

Los Angeles County passed the Rural Outdoor Lighting District (ROLD), Title 22, Chapter 22.80 of the Municipal Code in 2019.[48] As noted in the Code, the ROLD is established as a supplemental district for the rural areas of the County to promote and maintain dark skies for the health and enjoyment of individuals and wildlife by:

1. Curtailing light pollution and preserving the nighttime environment.

2. Permitting reasonable uses of outdoor lighting for nighttime safety, security, productivity, and enjoyment, while protecting the natural environment from the adverse effects of excessive outdoor nighttime lighting from artificial sources.

3. Conserving energy and resources.

4. Minimizing adverse offsite impacts of outdoor lighting, such as light trespass.

As noted in the Code, it is applicable to the following;

- Outdoor lighting for new land uses, structures, buildings, or developments.
- Outdoor lighting for all portions of any structure, building, or development following a major addition thereto.
- New streetlights.
- Abandoned uses that are resumed.

Per the Code, the following types of outdoor lighting shall be prohibited within the ROLD:

- Drop-down lenses.
- Mercury vapor lights.
- Ultraviolet lights.
- Searchlights, laser lights, or other outdoor lighting that flashes, blinks, alternates, or moves.

Finally, the Code established the following additional standards for Commercial, Industrial, and Mixed Uses:

- Building Entrances. All building entrances shall have light fixtures providing light with an accurate color rendition so that persons entering or exiting the building can be easily recognized from the outside of the building.

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47 City of Santa Clarita, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Conservation and Open Space Element.

48 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances, Title 22, Chapter 22.80, Rural Outdoor Lighting District. https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV4COZOSUDI_CH22.80RUOULIDI.

- Hours of Operation.

– Outdoor lighting shall be turned off between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and sunrise every day, unless the use on the involved property operates past 10:00 p.m., and then the outdoor lighting shall be turned off within one hour after the use's operation ends for the day. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the use on the involved property requires outdoor lighting between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise every day for safety or security reasons, outdoor lighting shall be allowed during these hours, but only if:

– Fully shielded motion sensors are used to turn the outdoor lighting on after 10:00 p.m., and these sensors turn the outdoor lighting off automatically no more than 10 minutes after the involved area has been vacated; or

– Where the use is commercial or industrial, at least 50 percent of the total lumen levels for the outdoor lighting are reduced, or 50 percent of the total number of outdoor light fixtures are turned off, between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise.

- Exemption from Hours of Operation. Outdoor lighting shall be exempt from the hours of operation requirements of Subsection B.1, above, if such lighting:

– Is required by Title 26 (Building Code) for steps, stairs, walkways, or points of ingress and egress to buildings; or

– Is governed by an approved discretionary permit which specifically provides for different hours of operation.

- Automatic Controls. Outdoor lighting shall use automatic control devices or systems to turn the outdoor lighting off so as to comply with the applicable hours of operation requirements of Subsection B.1, above. These devices or systems shall have backup capabilities so that, if power is interrupted, the schedule programmed into the device or system is maintained for at least seven days.

Golden Valley High School

Existing sources of light around GVHS 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.

The proposed lighting would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-5: GVHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 70 feet to 80 feet tall. (Note: See details on **Figure 2.0-5)**.

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 may be visible at night and could potentially be a bother to residents nearby.

As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 1.0-footcandle.[49] Illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the SHS campuses. Illumination of no greater than 1.0-footcandles is maintained within school grounds and does not cross over Windfall Place on the southern side of the campus or Robert C. Lee Parkway to the east of the campus.

The District prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the GVHS fields and adjacent areas. As shown in **Figure 5.1-3: Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis – Golden Valley High School**, properties around the practice field may experience light spill from the new lighting that could exceed 1.0-foot candles. The complete analysis including the lighting design sheets and specifications can be found in **Appendix A: Lighting Studies**.

Spill-over lighting would be reduced to offsite areas through the use of hood shields placed on the luminaries to control the direction and glare of the lights. Based on preliminary design and modeling, offsite light spillage would be reduced to the 1.0-foot-candle threshold or less for all adjacent properties. As such, impacts from light spill are considered to be less than significant.

The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now.

Impacts would be less than significant.

West Ranch High School

Existing sources of light around WRHS 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 practice field lighting. All new lighting proposed would be focused and any potential spill-over the school boundaries would be minimal.

The proposed lighting would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-7: WRHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 70 feet tall.(Note: See details on **Figure 2.0-7)**.

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 practice fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. Even with this addition, the luminaires would still be

[49] A footcandle is a measure of luminance. One footcandle 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.

visible at night and could potentially be a bother to residents nearby as they begin their evening relaxation.

As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 1.0-footcandle.[50] Illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the WRHS campuses. Illumination of no greater than 1.0-footcandles is maintained within school grounds, and does not cross over Valencia Road on the southern end of campus, the Old Road to the East of the campus, and residence along Stonegate Drive and Knoll Court to the northeast.

The District prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the WRHS practice field and adjacent areas. As shown in **Figure 5.1-4: Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis – West Ranch High School**, properties east of the practice field may experience light spill from the new lighting; however, as shown the spill analysis, the light would be reduced to less than 1.0-foot candles for al residences. The complete analysis including the lighting design sheets and specifications can be found in **Appendix A: Lighting Studies**.

As noted in the preliminary design, light poles and accompanying fixtures would be located adjacent to some residences uses east of the high school campus. Spill-over lighting would be reduced to offsite areas though the use of hood shields placed on the luminaries to control the direction and glare of the lights. Based on preliminary design and modeling, offsite light spillage would be reduced to the 1.0-foot-candle threshold or less for all impacted properties. As such, impacts from light spill are considered to be less than significant.

The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Hart High School

Existing sources of light around HHS 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.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-9: HHS Proposed Lighting Plan** shows the proposed

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50 A footcandle is a measure of luminance. One footcandle 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.

location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 80 feet tall. (Note: See details on **Figure 2.0-9)**.

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 including Avenida Biana to the west, Newhall Road to the east, 15th Street to the north and 14th Street to the south of the campus. The luminaires would not be visible at night and would not be a bother to residents nearby.

As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 1.0-footcandle.[51] Illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the HHS campuses. Illumination of no greater than 1.0-footcandles is maintained within school grounds, and does not cross over street surrounding the campus.

The District prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the CHS fields and adjacent areas. As shown in **Figure 5.1-5: Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis – Hart High School**, properties around the practice field will not experience light spill from the new lighting that could exceed 1.0-foot candles in the backyards. The complete analysis including the lighting design sheets and specifications can be found in **Appendix A: Lighting Studies**.

Spill-over lighting would be reduced to offsite areas though the use of hood shields placed on the luminaries to control the direction and glare of the lights. Based on preliminary design and modeling, all offsite light spillage would be reduced to the 1.0-foot-candle threshold for all offsite properties. As such, impacts from light spill are considered to be less than significant.

The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Saugus High School

Existing sources of light around SHS 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 practice field lighting. All new lighting proposed would be focused and any potential spill-over the school boundaries would be minimal.

The proposed lighting for the practice field would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-11: SHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the

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51 A footcandle is a measure of luminance. One footcandle 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.

proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 80 feet tall. (Note: See details on **Figure 2.0-11)**.

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 practice field. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and residences. The luminaires may be visible at night and would potentially be a bother to residents nearby.

As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 1.0-footcandle.[52] Illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the SHS campuses. Illumination of no greater than 1.0-footcandles is maintained within school grounds, and does not cross Centurion Way on the east side of the campus or Arriola Avenue on the southwestern side of the high school campus which is adjacent to a residential neighborhood.

The District prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the CHS fields and adjacent areas. As shown in **Figure 5.1-6: Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis – Saugus High School**, properties around the practice field may experience light spill from the new lighting that could exceed 1.0-foot candles in the backyards. This is specifically a result of light spill from poles on the practice field. The complete analysis including the lighting design sheets and specifications can be found in **Appendix A: Lighting Studies**.

As noted in the preliminary design, light poles and accompanying fixtures would be located adjacent to residences uses on Arriola Avenue on the southwestern side of the high school campus. Spill-over lighting would be reduced to offsite areas through the use of hood shields placed on the luminaries to control the direction and glare of the lights. Based on preliminary design and modeling, all offsite light spillage would be contained within the campus boundary and offsite spill would be reduced to the 1.0-foot-candle threshold or less. As such, impacts from light spill are considered to be less than significant.

The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Castaic High School

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

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52 A footcandle is a measure of luminance. One footcandle 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.

The proposed lighting for each field would consist of a total of 4 light fixtures/poles located around the perimeter of the football/track field. **Figure 2.0-13: CHS Proposed Lighting Plan**, shows the proposed location of the poles in relation to the field. These poles would be 70 feet tall. (Note: See details on **Figure 2.0-13)**.

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 practice field. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets. Even with this addition, the luminaires would still be visible at night and could potentially be a bother to roadway users on nearby roads.

As Lead Agency under CEQA, the District established a threshold of 1.0-footcandle.[53] Illumination offsite was used to analyze the impact of the proposed action on residents adjacent to the CHS campuses. Illumination of no greater than 1.0-footcandles is maintained within school grounds, and does not cross over the Valley Creek Road to the east of the campus or Romero Canyon Road to the south of the campus. There are no residential neighborhoods near the campus.

The District prepared a photometric analysis of the illumination that would be produced within the CHS fields and adjacent areas. As shown in **Figure 5.1-7: Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis – Castaic High School**, properties around the practice field may experience light spill from the new lighting that could exceed 1.0-foot candles in areas near the practice field; however, all spills will be contained within the campus boundary. The complete analysis including the lighting design sheets and specifications can be found in **Appendix A: Lighting Studies**.

As noted in the preliminary design, light poles and accompanying fixtures would be located adjacent to residences uses to the western side of the high school campus. Spill-over lighting would be reduced to offsite areas though the use of hood shields placed on the luminaries to control the direction and glare of the lights. Based on preliminary design and modeling, all off site light spillage would be reduced to the 1.0-foot-candle threshold and remain within the campus boundary. As such, impacts from light spill are considered to be less than significant.

The proposed Project would not generate more lighting than what is currently existing there now.

Impacts would be less than significant.

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53 A footcandle is a measure of luminance. One footcandle 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.

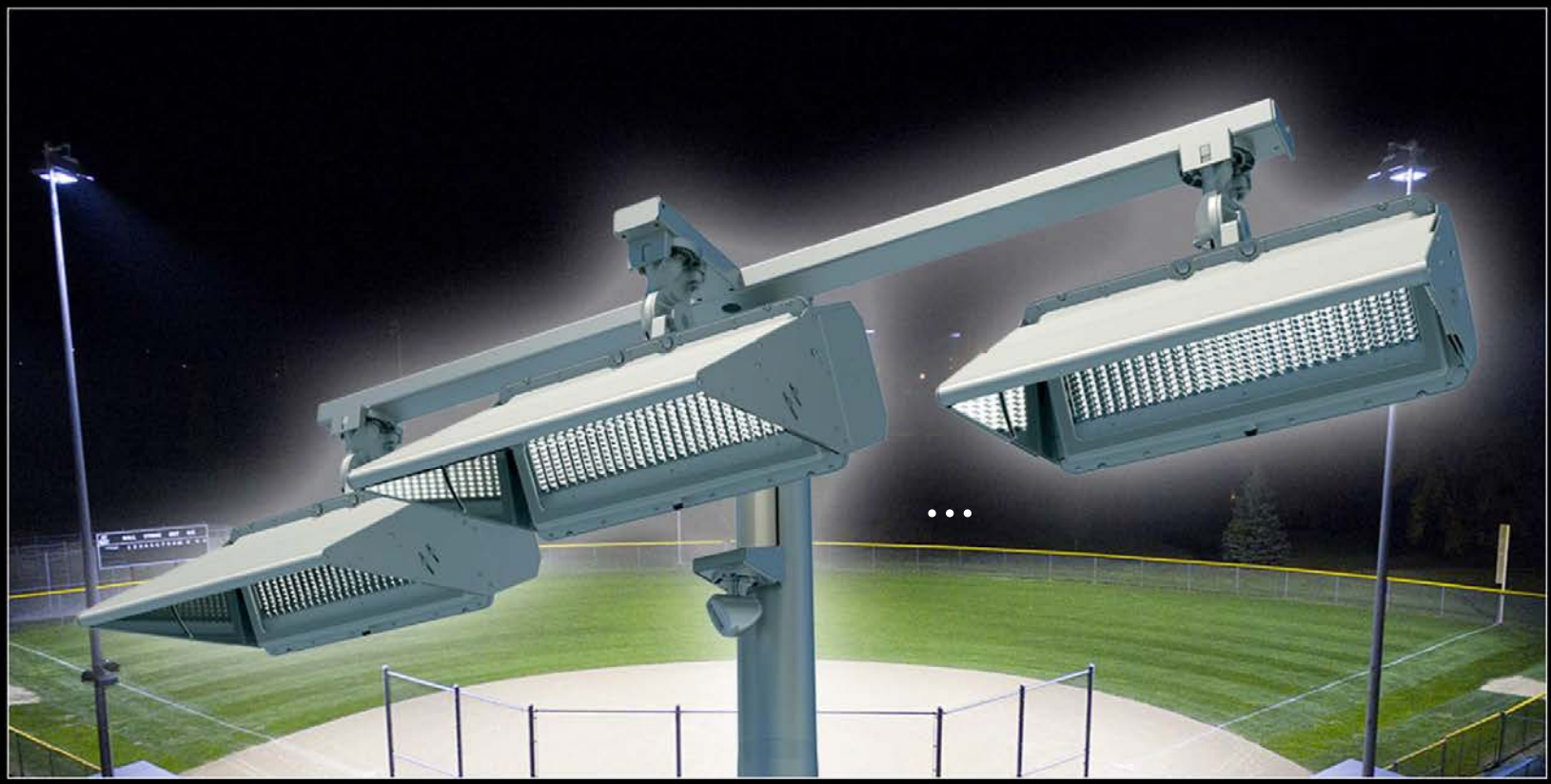
Summary

For all of the high schools, 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 PM. Most high school practices 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 practice completion. To minimize any light-nuisances, lighting will be extinguished as soon as possible following practices 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 PM. 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 involves installing lights on the practice school fields at the five high schools. This would create a new source of light during the nighttime, around all five high school campuses. If a 1.0-footcandle 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 CHS, HHS, SHS, GVHS and WRHS.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

LED Hood System



SOURCE: – 2022

FIGURE **5.1-1**

Meridian Consultants

Light Hood Controls

029-003-22



SOURCE: – 2022

FIGURE **5.1-2**

LED versus Older Technology Lighting Example

029-003-22

Golden Valley High School Football

Santa Clarita,CA

GRID SUMMARY	
Name:	**150' Off-Set Spill**
Spacing:	30.0'
Height:	3.0' above grade

ILLUMINATION SUMMARY	
MAX VERTICAL FOOTCANDLES	
	Entire Grid
Scan Average:	0.0343
Maximum:	0.09
Minimum:	0.01
No. of Points:	81
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits:	A
No. of Luminaires:	**40**
Total Load:	49.72 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

F1 F2 F3 F4

0 40 80 160

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET

ENGINEERED DESIGN By: B Thompson · File #148456C · 29-Mar-23

EQUIPMENT LIST FOR AREAS SHOWN

				Pole		Luminaires			
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY / POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
2	F1-F2	70'	-	15.5'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
				50'	TLC-RGBW	2	0	2
				70'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
2	F3-F4	80'	-	15.5'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
				60'	TLC-RGBW	2	0	2
				80'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
4	TOTALS					48	40	8

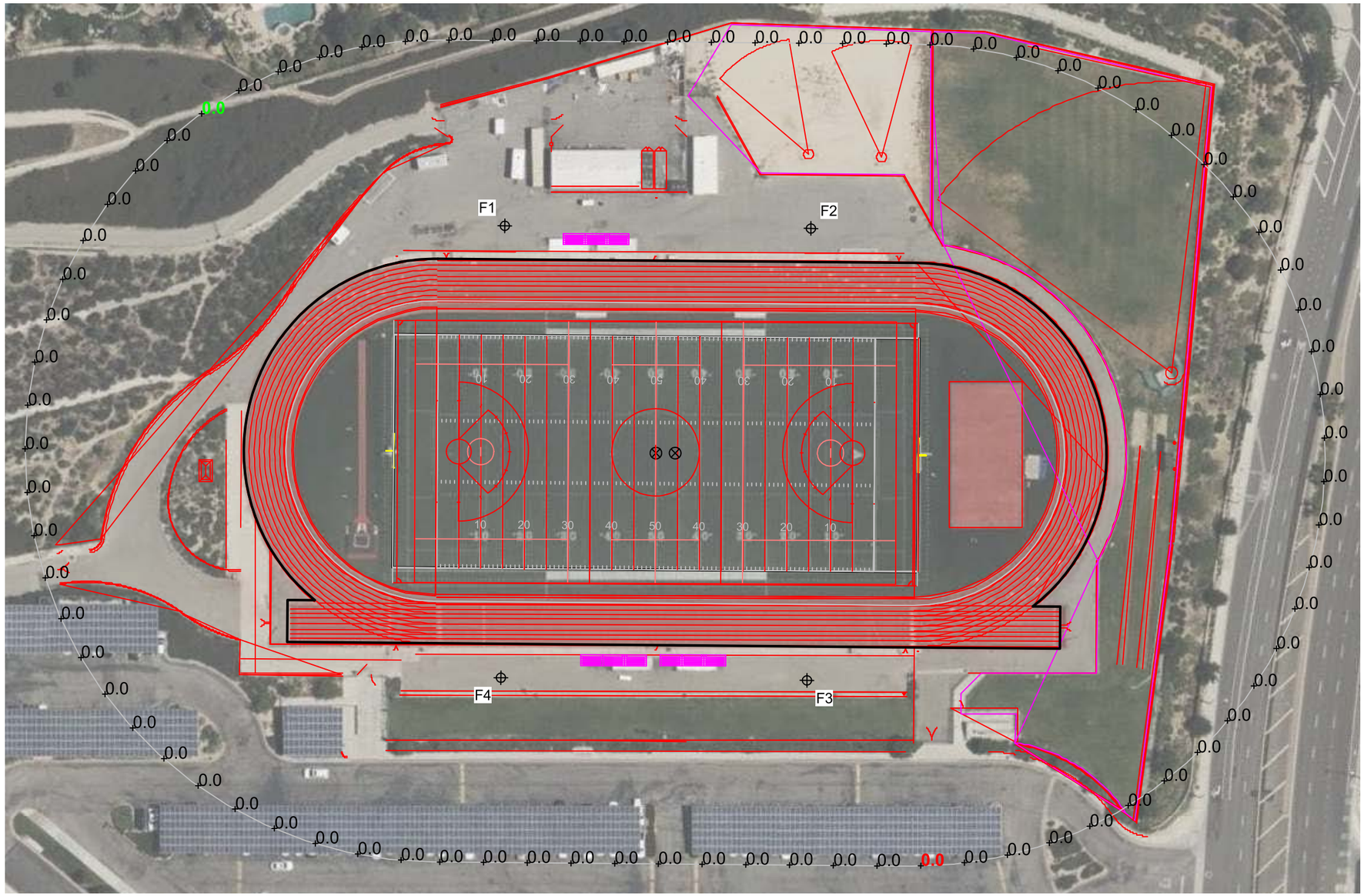
SOURCE: MUSCO - 2023

FIGURE **5.1-3**

Meridian Consultants

Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis - Golden Valley High School

029-003-22



West Ranch High School Football Track

Stevenson Ranch,CA

Grid Summary

Name	**150' Off-Set Spill**
Spacing	30.0' x 30.0'
Height	3.0' above grade

Illumination Summary

	MAINTAINED HORIZONTAL FOOTCANDLES
	Entire Grid
Scan Average	**0.0059**
Maximum	0.01
Minimum	0.00
CU	0.00
No. of Points	81
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A
No. of Luminaires	**40**
Total Load	49.72 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

0 40 80 160

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET

Equipment List For Areas Shown

Pole				Luminaires				
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY/POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
4	F1-F4	70'	-	70'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
				50'	TLC-RGBW	2	0	2
				16'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
4	Totals					48	40	8

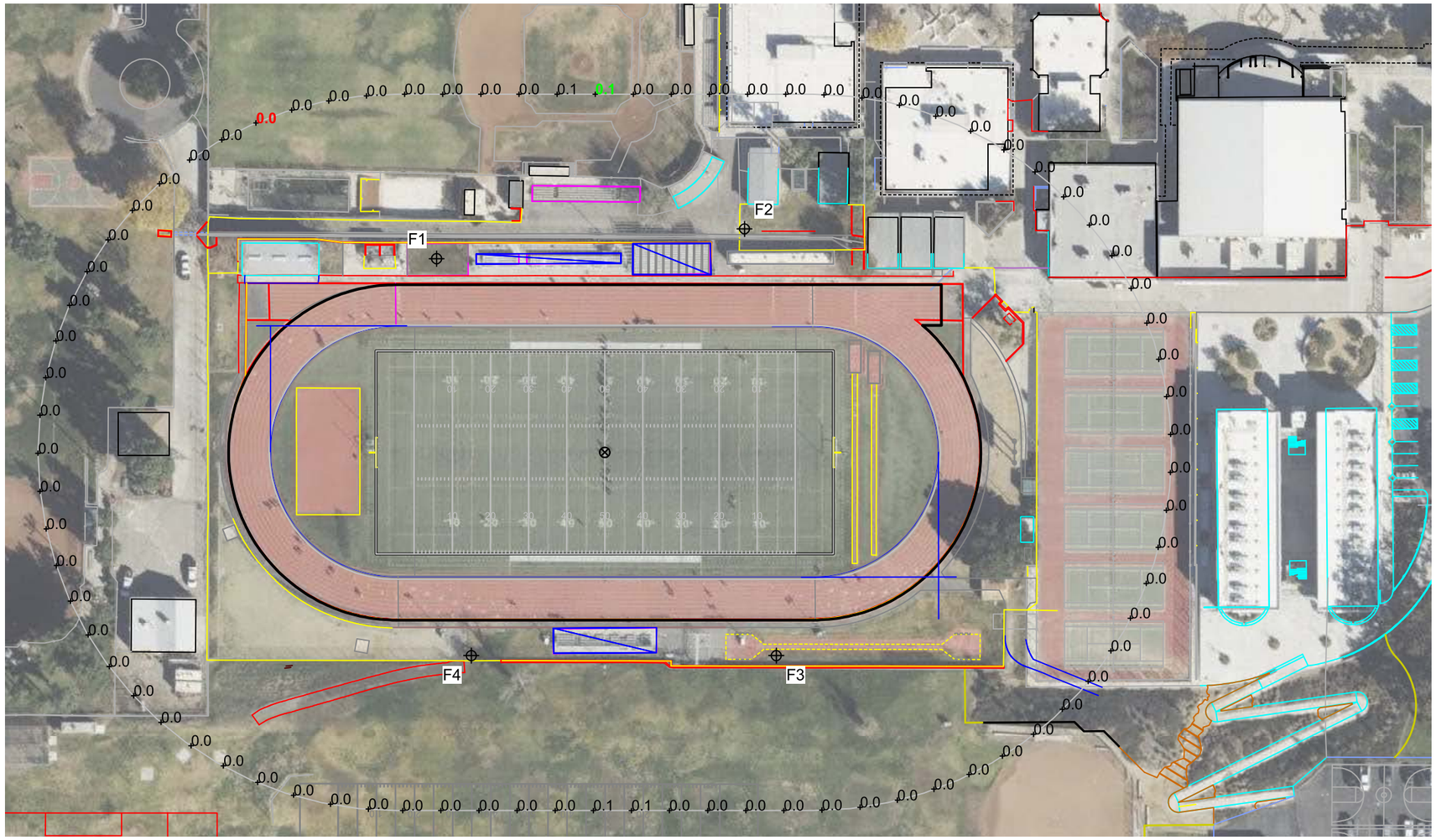
SOURCE: MUSCO - 2023

FIGURE **5.1-4**

Meridian Consultants

Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis - West Ranch High School

029-003-22



Hart High School Football

Newhall,CA

Grid Summary

Name	**150' Off-Set Spill**
Spacing	30.0' x 30.0'
Height	3.0' above grade

Illumination Summary

	MAINTAINED HORIZONTAL FOOTCANDLES
	Entire Grid
Scan Average	**0.0125**
Maximum	0.06
Minimum	0.00
CU	0.00
No. of Points	81
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A
No. of Luminaires	**40**
Total Load	49.72 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

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

0 50 100 200

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET

Equipment List For Areas Shown

Pole				Luminaires				
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY/POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
1	F1	80'	-	80'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
				60'	TLC-RGBW	2	0	2
				23'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
1	F2	90'	-	90'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
				60'	TLC-RGBW	2	0	2
				23'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
2	F3-F4	80'	-	80'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
				60'	TLC-RGBW	2	0	2
				16'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
4	Totals					48	40	8

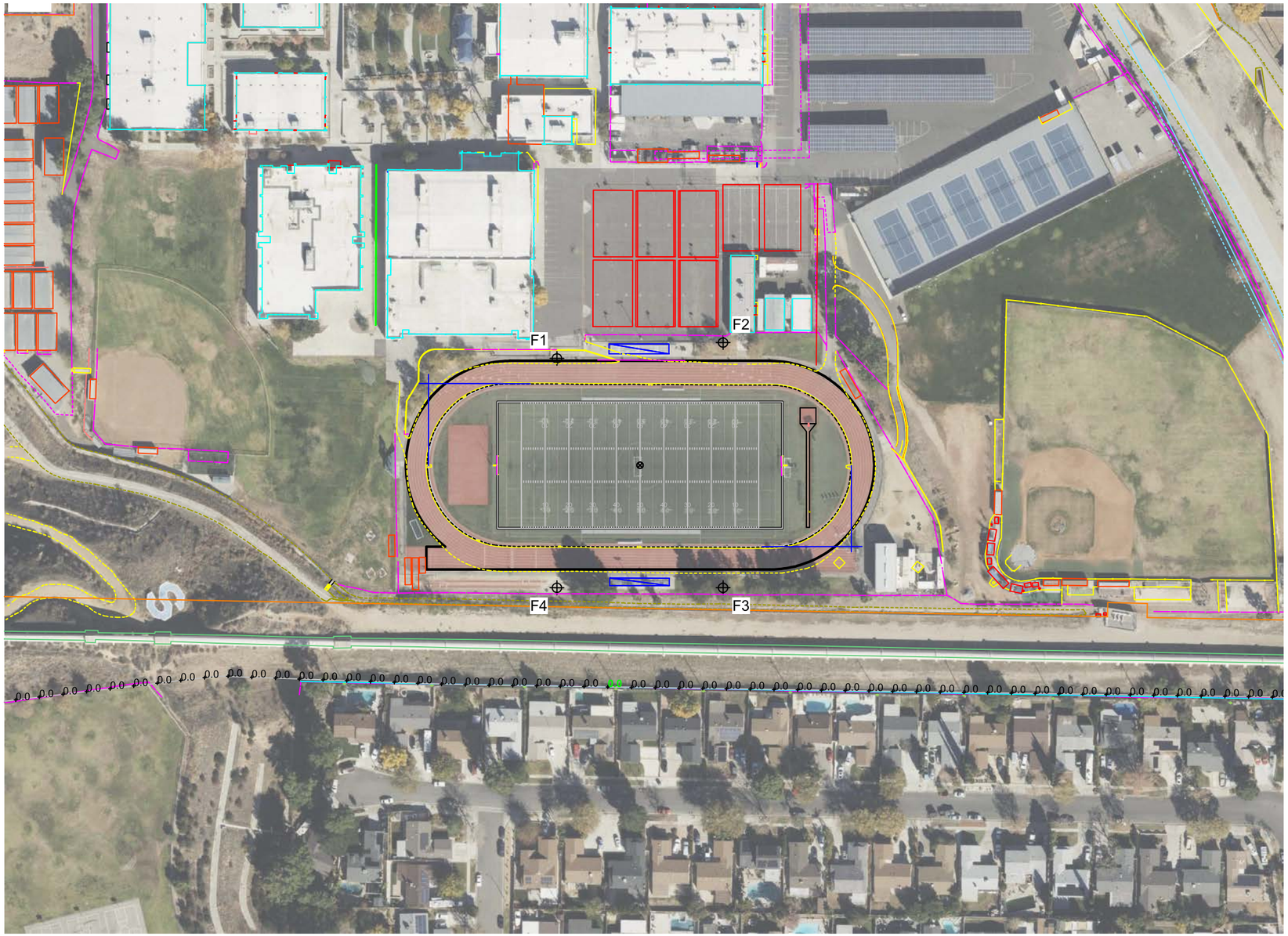
SOURCE: MUSCO - 2023

FIGURE **5.1-5**

Meridian Consultants

Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis - Hart High School

029-003-22



Saugus High School Football

Santa Clarita,CA

Grid Summary

Name	**Property Spill Line**
Spacing	30.0' x 10.0'
Height	3.0' above grade

Illumination Summary

	MAINTAINED HORIZONTAL FOOTCANDLES
	Entire Grid
Scan Average	**0.0070**
Maximum	0.04
Minimum	0.00
CU	0.00
No. of Points	69
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A,B
No. of Luminaires	**48**
Total Load	54.84 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

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

0 75 150 300

APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET

Equipment List For Areas Shown

Pole				Luminaires				
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY/POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
4	F1-F4	80'	-	80'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
				60'	TLC-RGBW	2	2	0
				16'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
4	Totals					48	48	0

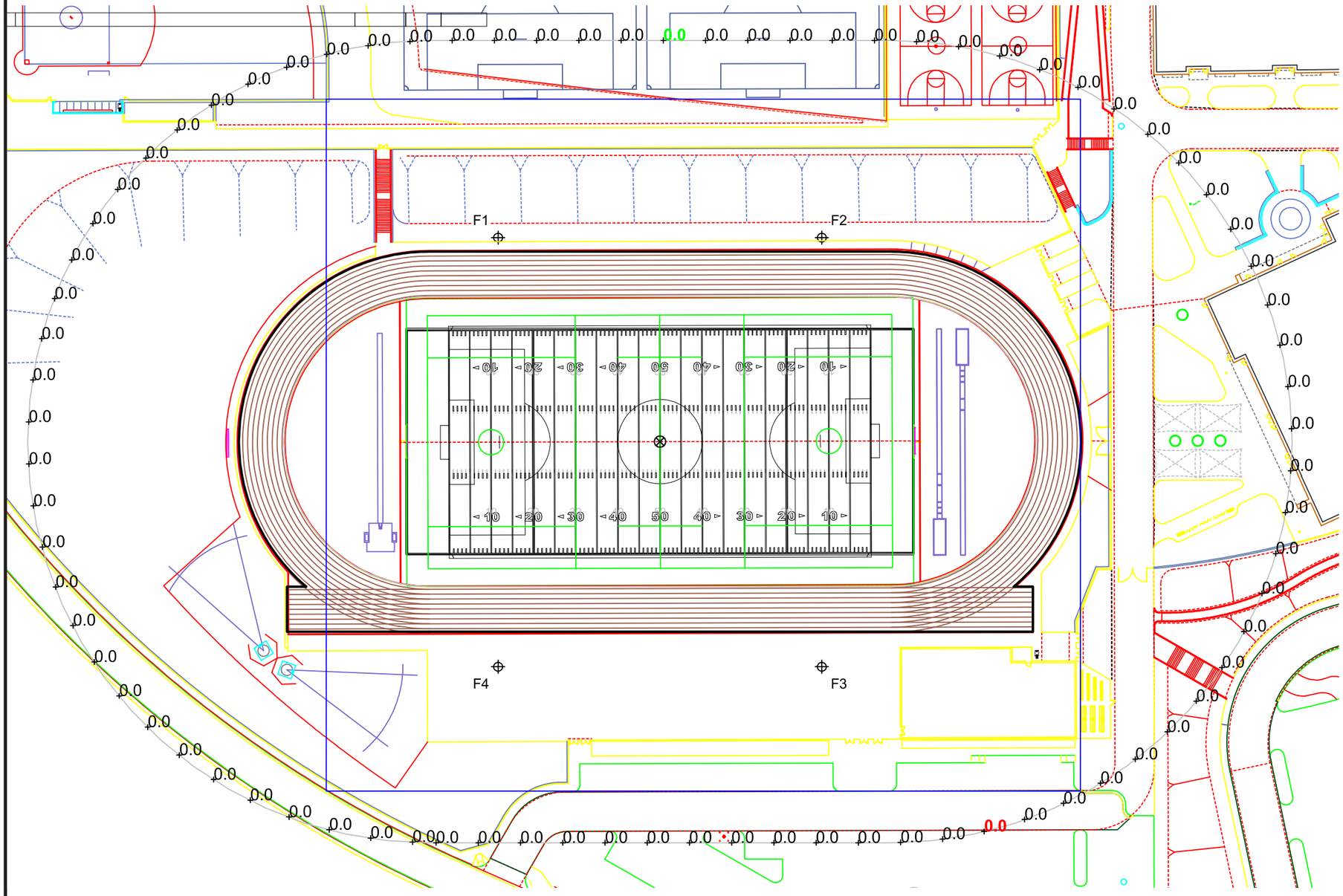
SOURCE: MUSCO - 2023

FIGURE **5.1-6**

Meridian Consultants

Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis - Saugus High School

029-003-22



Castaic High School Stadium

Castaic,CA

Grid Summary

Name	**150' Off-Set Spill**
Spacing	30.0' x 30.0'
Height	2.9' above grade

Illumination Summary

	MAINTAINED HORIZONTAL FOOTCANDLES
	Entire Grid
Scan Average	**0.0086**
Maximum	0.03
Minimum	0.00
CU	0.00
No. of Points	82
LUMINAIRE INFORMATION	
Applied Circuits	A
No. of Luminaires	**40**
Total Load	49.72 kW

Guaranteed Performance: The ILLUMINATION described above is guaranteed per your Musco Warranty document and includes a 0.95 dirt depreciation factor.

Field Measurements: Individual field measurements may vary from computer-calculated predictions and should be taken in accordance with IESNA RP-6-15.

Electrical System Requirements: Refer to Amperage Draw Chart and/or the **"Musco Control System Summary"** for electrical sizing.

Installation Requirements: Results assume ± 3% nominal voltage at line side of the driver and structures located within 3 feet (1m) of design locations.

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

0 40 80 160
APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET

Equipment List For Areas Shown

Pole				Luminaires				
QTY	LOCATION	SIZE	GRADE ELEVATION	MOUNTING HEIGHT	LUMINAIRE TYPE	QTY/POLE	THIS GRID	OTHER GRIDS
4	F1-F4	70'	-	70'	TLC-LED-1500	8	8	0
				50'	TLC-RGBW	2	0	2
				16'	TLC-BT-575	2	2	0
4					Totals	48	40	8

SOURCE: MUSCO - 2023

FIGURE **5.1-7**

Meridian Consultants

Proposed Project Light Spill Analysis - Castaic High School

029-003-22

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Sa, AND FORESTRY RESOURCES—Would the project:					
a.	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c.	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code [PRC] section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d.	Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to nonforest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a. 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.

According to the California Department of Conservation's "California Important Farmland Map," [54] none of the five campuses are designated as Prime, Unique or Farmland of local Importance.

Golden Valley High School (GVHS), West Ranch High School (WRHS), Saugus High School (SHS), and Hart High School (HHS) campuses are all listed as "Urban and Built-Up Land." [55] Urban and Built-Up Land is

54 California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder. Accessed September 2023, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/.

55 California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder.

defined as occupied by structures with a building density of approximately six structures per 10-acre parcels. Castaic High School (CHS) is designated as Grazing Land; Grazing Land contains existing vegetation that is suited to the grazing of livestock.[56]

None of the campuses or areas are currently used for agriculture.

The proposed Project would not convert farmland to non-agricultural use. The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at five campuses. This Project would not convert or affect farmland, as the proposed Project involves existing developed high schools surrounded by urbanized communities, and/or open space.

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 contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use.

GVHS, SHS, and HHS are within the City of Santa Clarita's Boundary and zoned as "PI" for "Public/Institutional" Zone, which identifies lands that are used for various public and or community serving facilities, such as schools. Please refer to **Figure 3.05. 3.0-13, and 3.0-21 for the Zoning Map of GVHS, SHS, and HHS**.

As noted above, each of these campuses are designated as "Urban Built-Up Land" by California's Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Finder.[57] The California State Portal reports that none of these high schools are under a Williamson Act Contract.[58] As such, there is no conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract.

WRHS and CHS are within the boundaries of Los Angeles County, and within the Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area. WRHS and CHS are zoned as "A-2" for Heavy Agricultural Zone, which provides the land

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56 California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder.

57 California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder.

58 California State Portal. California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder. Accessed September 2023, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/WilliamsonAct/App/index.html.

to permit public and institutional facilities, such as schools.[59] Please refer to **Figure 3.0-9** and https://www.hartdistrict.org/for the zoning map of WRHS and CHS. Santa Clarita, WRHS, and CHS are under the jurisdiction of the WSHUHSD within Los Angeles County.

WRHS is designated as "Urban Built-Up Land" by the California's Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Finder, while CHS is designated as Grazing Land.[60] The California State Portal reports that neither of these campuses are under a Williamson Act Contract.[61] As such, there is no conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act Contract.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on practice fields at five high school campuses. All five of the schools do not conflict with zoning for agricultural uses and are not under the Williamson Act Contracts. Therefore, the implementation of the proposed Project would not conflict with existing land use designations for agricultural use or any Williamson Act Contract.

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.

None of the five campuses and associated Project sites are not used for forestland or timberland. As previously stated, each of the campuses are developed as operating high schools, and conform to the local land use and zoning designation of either the City of Santa Clarita (for GVHS, SHS and HHS) or the County of Los Angeles (CHS and WRHS).

The proposed Project involves installing lights on practice fields at five high schools. There is no conflict with existing zoning, or cause for rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production as the campuses are not zoned for any of these categories.

No impact would occur.

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59 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. (Ord. 2019-0004 § 1, 2019.). Chapter 22.16: Agricultural, Open Space, Resort, and Recreation, and Watershed Zones. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV3ZO_CH22.24RUZO_22.24.020RUZODE.

60 California Department of Conservation Important Farmland Finder.

61 California State Portal. California Williamson Act Enrollment Finder.

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 nor contain forestland. Furthermore, the proposed Project would not result in the loss of, or conversion of, forestland to nonforest use.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on practice fields at five high schools. There is no conversion of forestland to nonforest use, as the five 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 campuses of GVHS, SHS, and HHS are within the City of Santa Clarita and are not zoned for agricultural or forestland use. Both WRHS and CHS are within unincorporated Los Angeles County and are zoned "Agricultural" use, which permit uses for "Public Institutions," according to Los Angeles County's Municipal Code.[62] As such, none of the five campuses where the proposed Project would be implemented would result in the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or forestland to nonforest use.

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

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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62 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. Municipal Code: (Ord. 2019-0004 § 1, 2019.). Chapter 22.16: Agricultural, Open Space, Resort, and Recreation, and Watershed Zones.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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:				
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the agency responsible for attaining State and federal clean air standards in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin). Both the City of Santa Clarita, where GVHS, SHS, and HHS are located, and the portions of unincorporated Los Angeles County where WRHS and CHS are located, all fall within the jurisdiction of the Basin.

The SCAQMD adopted an updated air quality management plan (AQMP) in December 2022.[63] 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 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.

Construction activities would last approximately 3 to 6 months beginning in Spring of 2024 and ending in August 2024. The proposed Project includes trenching to install wiring between the poles and electrical

63 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Final 2022 Air Quality Management Plan, Accessed September 2023.

control panels and installation of the light fixtures. Construction staging would last the entire 3 to 6 months.

Construction staging would occur on each field over the course of approximately 3 to 6 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 would be staggered among the various athletic fields to accommodate ongoing practice and field needs at the campus. The staging area would change for each field and would place the area away from active school areas.

Construction activities at each campus would occur during normal weekday working hours, between 7:00 AM and 5:30 PM; if needed, Saturday construction hours would be limited to between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and no construction would occur on Sundays. Construction crews would be required to be on site prior to 7:00 AM in the morning to avoid interfering with student drop-off; as such no construction traffic would be permitted from 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM weekdays. Likewise, construction crews would be required to leave the site prior to 2:30 PM or after 4:00 PM weekdays to avoid disrupting afterschool pickup traffic.

The proposed Project at each campus would use off-road diesel-powered equipment such as tractors, loaders, backhoes, trenchers, cement and mortar mixers, cranes, and excavators during construction. Emissions of air quality would also result from the combustion of fossil fuels from on-road vehicles such as vendor trucks delivering materials, and construction worker vehicles commuting to and from the Project Site.

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,[64] which includes

64 Southern California Association of Governments, Connect SoCal: 2020–2045 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies. Accessed September 2023, https://scag.ca.gov/read-plan-adopted-final-plan.

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 GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS. 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 South Coast Air Basin is currently designated as nonattainment for O3, PM2.5, 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 South Coast Air Basin.

As shown in **Table 5.3-1: Maximum Construction Emissions**, temporary emissions associated with construction of the proposed Project on any given campus for each of the five campuses. The individual emissions from one campus, as well as the cumulative emissions for all five campuses, would be below regional thresholds and impacts for daily emissions 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 any of the campuses. 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.

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 for each campus individually and all five campuses cumulatively. AAs shown, daily emissions are below the regional thresholds both individually and cumulatively, 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 South Coast Air Basin is currently designated as nonattainment for O3, PM2.5, and PM10.

To determine the significance of a 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."[65] 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.

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 at each of the five campuses 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 each campus location. In addition, fugitive dust emissions would result from construction activities.

Construction of the proposed Project at each campus must comply with SCAQMD Rules which are mandatory for all construction projects in SCAQMD jurisdiction within SSAB. The emission calculations take into account compliance with Rule 403 by incorporating the watering of exposed surfaces and unpaved roads three times daily, reducing speed on unpaved roads to less than 15 mph, and sweeping

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

loose dirt from access roadways. Rule 403, Fugitive Dust.[66] Rule 403 requires the use of stringent best available control measures (BACMs) to minimize PM10 emissions during grading and construction activities. NOx emissions would result from the use of off-road construction equipment.

The District will comply with the applicable SCAQMD rules 403 regarding construction emissions and equipment and fugitive dust. Although there are significant impacts with regard to construction emissions, the District will require construction contractors to implement the following best management practices as appropriate:

- Treated and stabilized soil where activity will cease for at least four consecutive days;
    - Require construction earth moving operations shall cease when winds exceed 25 miles per hour;
    - Water site and equipment morning and evening and during all earth-moving operations
    - Operate street-sweepers on impacted paved roads adjacent to site;
    - Establish and strictly enforce limits of grading for each phase of construction;
    - Wash off trucks as they leave the project site to control fugitive dust emissions;
    - Cover all transported loads of soils, wet materials prior to transport, provide freeboard (space from the top of the material to the top of the truck) to reduce PM10 and deposition of particulate matter during transportation; and
    - Use track-out reduction measures such as gravel pads at project access points to minimize dust and mud deposits on roads affected by construction traffic.

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**). An average of 1,956 students (the average student population for the 2022/2023 school year for all five of the schools under consideration) was used to estimate the emissions for each school.

In addition, the construction contract for the District would be required to abide by or SCAQMD and BARB Rues include:

- CARB Rule 2449 requires off-road diesel vehicles to limit nonessential idling to no more than five consecutive minutes.[67]

- SCAQMD Rule 1186 (PM10 Emissions from Paved and Unpaved Roads, and Livestock Operations). This rule applies to owners and operators of paved and unpaved roads and livestock operations. The rule is intended to reduce PM10 emissions by requiring the cleanup of material deposited onto paved roads, use of certified street sweeping equipment, and treatment of high-use unpaved roads (see also Rule 403).

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66 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Rule 403. Fugitive Dust. Accessed September 2023, https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/rule-iv/rule-403.pdf?sfvrsn=4.

67 CARB. Final Regulation Order: Regulation For In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets. Accessed September 2023, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/our-work/programs/use-road-diesel-fueled-fleets-regulation.

The proposed Project would be subject to SCAQMD rules and regulations to reduce specific emissions and to mitigate potential air quality impacts.

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 five high school campuses. As shown in **Table 5.3-1**, the individual construction emissions would not exceed the regional VOC, NOx, CO, SOx, PM10, and PM2.5 concentration thresholds. Cumulative emissions were also estimated, although construction at each campus is not expected to occur simultaneously. Cumulative emissions at all five campuses for the proposed Project would not exceed the regional VOC, NOx, CO, SOx, PM10, and PM2.5 concentration thresholds.

Construction impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

TABLE 5.3-1
MAXIMUM CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS

Source	VOC	NOx	CO	SOx	PM10	PM2.5
	pounds/day					
Maximum Construction Emissions for each school	1.4	10.0	16.9	<0.1	2.1	0.8
Cumulative Construction Emissions[1]	7.0	50.0	84.5	0.2	10.5	4.0
SCAQMD Mass Daily Threshold	75	100	550	150	150	55
Threshold exceeded?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**

[1] Cumulative emissions combine emissions for all five campuses, and assume construction would occur concurrently at each school and represents the worst-case scenario.
CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxides; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns; SOx = 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 at any of the five campuses. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Operational impacts would be less than significant.

Summary

The South Coast Air Basin is currently designated as nonattainment for O3, PM2.5, and PM10. The proposed Project's construction-period daily air quality emissions were estimated and concluded to not exceed the regional VOC, NOx, CO, SOx, PM10, and PM2.5 concentration thresholds. Additionally, operational daily 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 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) methodology[68] 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. While all five of the campuses are within the greater Santa Clarita Valley, four of the campuses (WRHS, GVHS, SHS and HHS) are within SRA 13, designated as "Santa Clarita Valley,"[69] while the fifth campus, CHS, is located in SRA 15, which is designated as "San Gabriel Mountains."[70]

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 both the Santa Clarita Valley and the San Gabriel Mountains, SRA 13 and 15, were used for ambient conditions in determining appropriate threshold levels. The LST mass-rate lookup tables are applicable to NOx, CO, PM10, and PM2.5 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**, individual emissions at each school and 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.

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

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

70 SCAQMD, General Forecast Areas and Air Monitoring Areas, map.

TABLE 5.3-2 LOCALIZED CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS				
	NOx	CO	PM10	PM2.5
Source	On-Site Emissions (pounds/day)			
Maximum Construction Emissions for each school	7.8	7.9	0.3	0.3
Cumulative Construction Emissions[1]	39.0	39.5	1.5	1.5
LST threshold[2] (Santa Clarita Valley locations [])	246	1,644	12	6
Threshold Exceeded?	**No**	**No**	**No**	**No**
LST threshold[2] (San Gabriel Mountains location [CHS])	246	1,644	**12**	**6**
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.
[2] Thresholds are based off of 5-acre project site and distance of 25 feet from sensitive receptors.
CO = carbon monoxide; NOx = nitrogen oxide; PM10 = particulate matter less than 10 microns; PM2.5 = 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.

Golden Valley High School

As shown in **Figure 5.3-1: Golden Valley High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the GVHS campus includes urban residential uses to the northwest and east and open space 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 GVHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

West Ranch High School

As seen in **Figure 5.3-2: West Ranch High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the WRHS campus includes a residential development to the north, south, east, and west, existing residential to the northwest, Rancho Pico Junior High School to the south, and open space uses to the west and south.

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 WRHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Saugus High School

As seen in **Figure 5.3-3: Saugus High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the SHS campus include residential uses to the north, east, and southwest, a church to the southeast, and Highlands Elementary School 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 SHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Castaic High School

As seen in **Figure 5.3-4: Castaic High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the CCHS campus includes residential developments to the east and south, and open space uses to the west, north, and 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 CHS campus. As such, the proposed Project would not generate additional air quality emissions during operation.

Hart High School

As seen in **Figure 5.3-5: Hart High School Sensitive Receptors**, the nearest sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the HHS campus includes residential developments to the east and south, open space uses to the north and west, and Placerita Junior High School to the north.

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 HHS 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 in the vicinity of each of the five high school campuses at each of the five school campuses would be less than significant.

Summary

SCAQMD provides the LST thresholds as a method of asses air quality impacts in the vicinity of the five high school campuses. **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."[71] 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.

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 at any of the five high school campuses that would cause odors that could affect a substantial number of people.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Operation of the proposed Projects at each pf he five high school campuses includes installation of field lighting improvements on each campus and would not contain any activities that would generate odor.

Therefore, operational impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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71 South Coast Air Quality Management District, Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning, May 2005, 2-2. Accessed September 2023.

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.[72]

There are no freeways within 500 feet of the of any of the campuses. For each campus, the nearest major traffic corridors are:

- Golden Valley High School - State Route (SR) 14, is approximately 2.1 miles southeast of the GVHS Project Site.
- West Ranch High School - I-5, is located approximately 2.3 miles to the east.
- Saugus High School - I-5 is located approximately 4.4 miles to the west.
- Castaic High School - I-5 is located approximately 1.6 miles to the east.
- Hart High School Project Site –I-5 is located approximately 1.4 miles to the west.

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.[73]

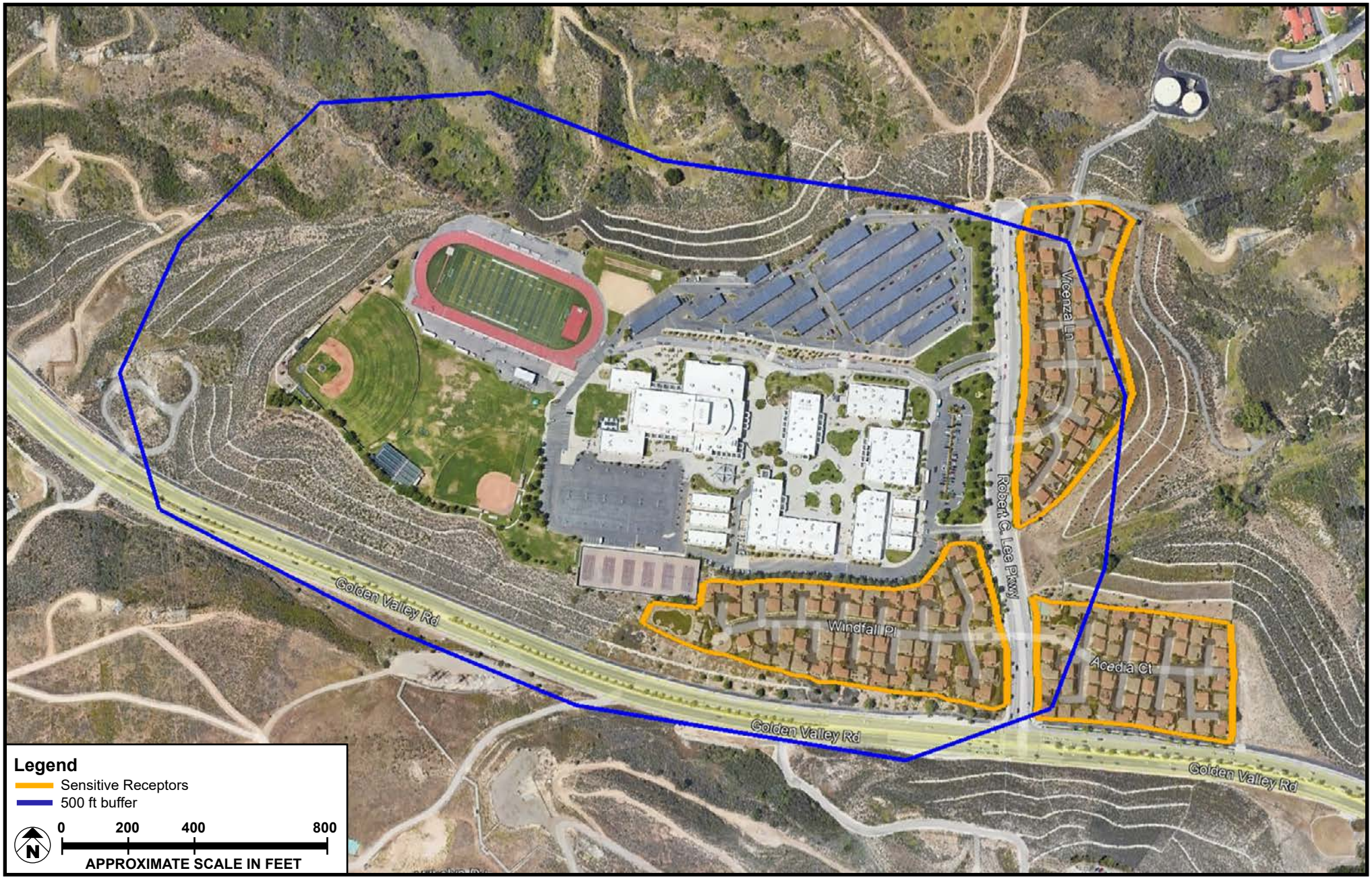
Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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

73 California Education Code (EDC), Sec. 17213.



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **5.3-1**

Meridian Consultants

Golden Valley High School Sensitive Receptors

029-003-22



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **5.3-2**

Meridian Consultants

West Ranch High School Sensitive Receptors

029-003-22



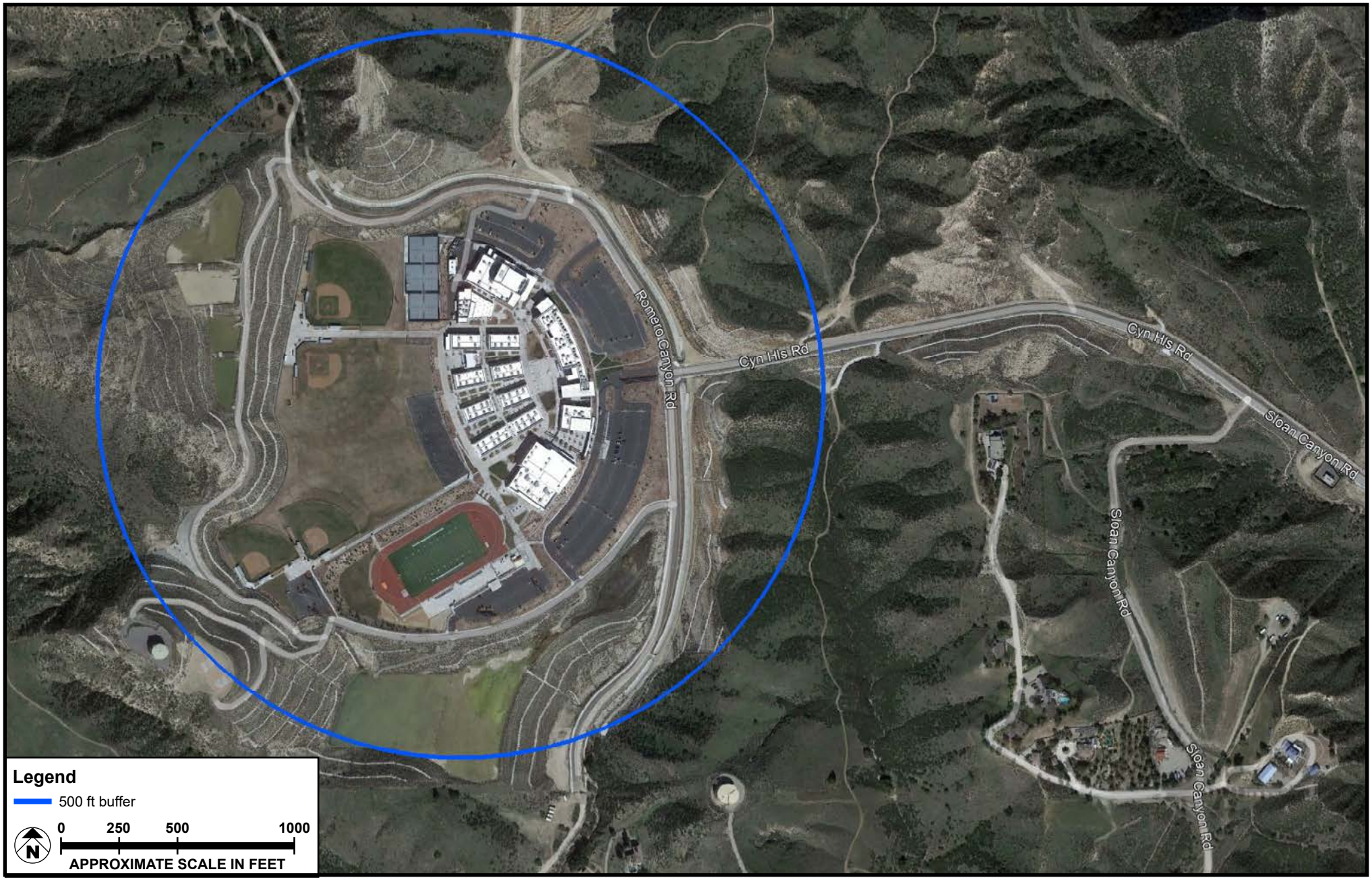
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **5.3-3**

Meridian Consultants

Saugus High School Sensitive Receptors

029-003-22



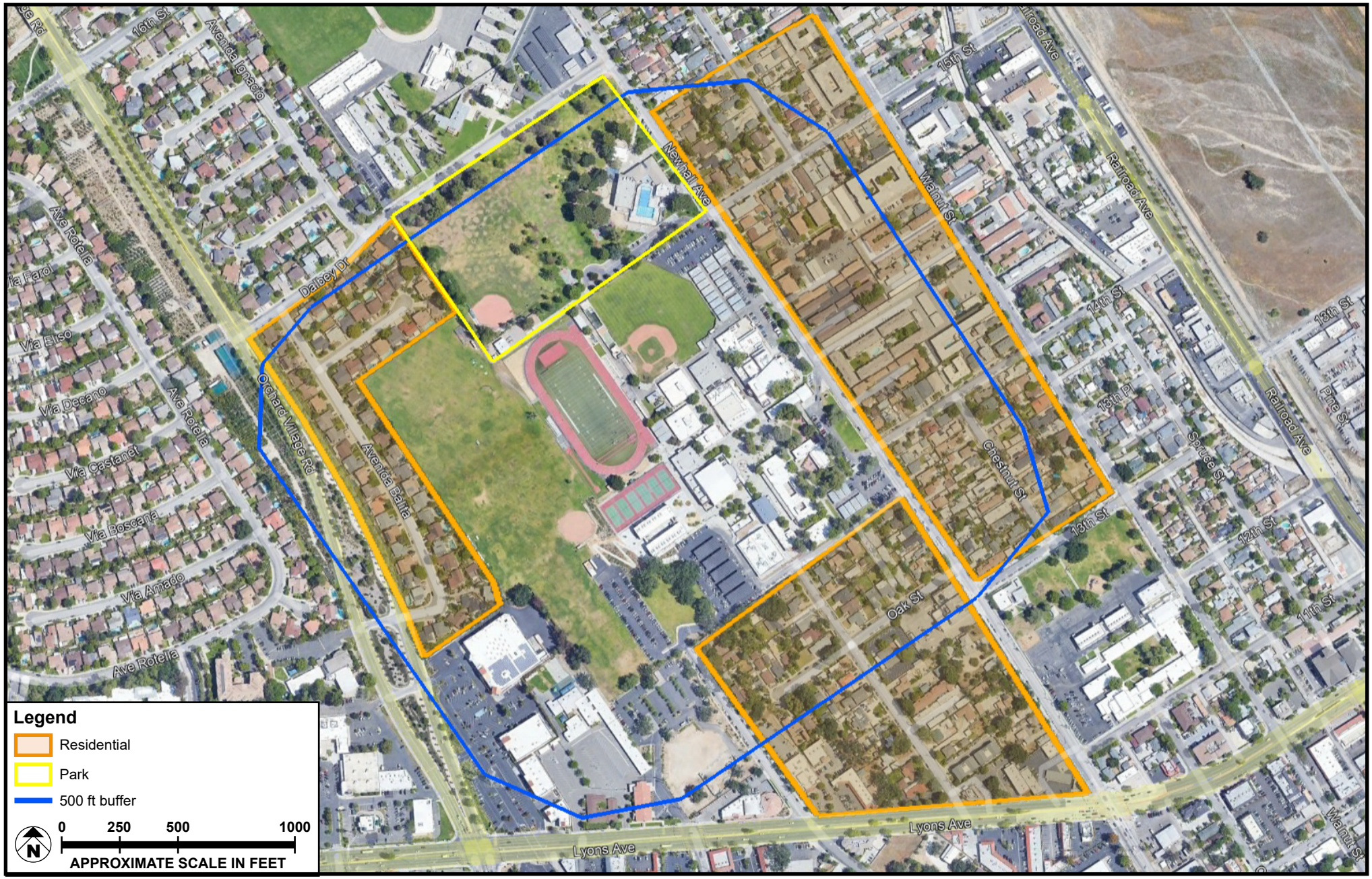
SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **5.3-4**

Meridian Consultants

Castaic High School Sensitive Receptors

029-003-22



SOURCE: Google Earth - 2023

FIGURE **5.3-5**

Meridian Consultants

Hart High School Sensitive Receptors

029-003-22

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES—Would the project:					
a.	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e.	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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 Impact with 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).

Three of the campuses are located in the City of Santa Clarita (GVHS, HHS and SHS), while the remaining two campuses (CHS and WRHS) are located within unincorporated Los Angeles County. All five campuses are located within the greater Santa Clarita Valley.

The greater Santa Clarita Valley area includes various habitats, including mixed chaparral, hardwood and conifer forests, grasslands, and other that support many species of wildlife.[74]

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[75] for the following quadrangle and the eight quadrangles surrounding it (nine total): Newhall, Mint Canyon, Val Verde, Whitaker Peak, Warm Springs Mountain, Green Valley, Santa Susana, Oat Mountain, and San Fernando. The CNDDB search identified 64 animal species listed as either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, with 9 species listed as "Candidate Endangered," as well as 20 plant species listed as either federally, or State, threatened or endangered. (see **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data** for the full list of search results).

The Cornell University 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.[76] eBird was used to identify hotspot locations of birds around each of the campuses. One of the five campuses, SHS, was found to be within 0.5 mile of an identified hotspot.

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74 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

75 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records-search was conducted on September 18, 2023.

76 The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, eBird, About eBird. Accessed September 2023, https://ebird.org/about.

Golden Valley High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around Golden Valley High School yielded a total of 497 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C**[77] were identified within the nine-quadrangle search and included 119 species as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special- status species.

For the CNDDB records-search for the 9-quadrangle around GVHS, a total of 67 species were identified that have a federal conservation status, 52 have a state level conservation status, an additional eight with "Candidate Endangered" status, 210 with CDFW status, and 14 total plant species have a conservation status. The GVHS campus is within the Mint Canyon Quadrangle, which contains 53 animal and plant species. There are 8 wildlife and 3 plant species within the Mint Canyon quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, state, or federal level authority.

GVHS is located within an existing residential community. The proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing GVHS high school practice field. The campus includes maintained landscaping, concrete and asphalt areas, surface parking, and a southern 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 each campus. Additionally, the construction would be concentrated on the northwest side of the campus, which is adjacent to a developed surface parking lot.

CNDDB records did indicate that burrowing owls have been spotted within the Mint Canyon Quadrangle, however RareFind records the nearest sighting of the burrowing owl to GVHS is approximately 1.4 miles away.[78] The animal species listed CNDDB records-search are not likely to occur within the campus considering the entire campus is developed and fully landscaped with an existing school and ongoing school operations.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction staging areas would be located within an actively used part of the campuses and within the fields, away from any potential habitat.

There are no documented significant ecological habitats connecting to the existing school campus.[79] As such, the campus 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 GVHS campus that is developed with turf, and away from any potential habitat. The proposed Project would not result in the destruction of any known habitat.

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77 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 9-Quad Search. Accessed September 2023 (See **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data**).

78 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, RareFind. Accessed October 2023, https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx.

79 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planner, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan (2012), https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf. Accessed September 2023.

Short-term construction would not be anticipated to affect nesting or roosting bird species in the vicinity, because the fields are regularly maintained by a tractor-mounted mower, which produces noise levels similar to the equipment anticipated for trenching and light pole installation. Therefore, bird species that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. Further, the proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) during construction, all areas would be fenced off to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the areas. In addition, any open trench would be covered at the end of each day to prevent individuals and/or wildlife from entering the trench. Fencing would also prevent wildlife in the area from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections prior to the start of construction would occur to identify any wildlife that inadvertently entered the construction zone or trench. In the event that wildlife was observed, a biologist would be called to remove the wildlife from the construction zone and re-locate it to suitable areas. However, the potential exists for wildlife to go unnoticed and become trapped; this could result in a potential significant impact.

The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the operation 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 **Section 3.0: Project Description**, **Figure 2.0-3: Light Structure System**) would focus the light onto the fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

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.

Impacts would be less than significant.

The eBird database research for the GVHS campus does not have recorded sightings of the previously identified endangered, threatened, or candidate species of birds, see **Appendix C**. The campus does not contain the habitat necessary to support all activities of any of the bird species, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the GVHS campus and away from any potential habitat.

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 mowers, 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.

Birds may forage on the campus at times. As such, the introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to birds and other wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species.

Light intensity, light color, and duration of "light-on" periods have the potential to significantly and adversely affect fish and wildlife. Artificial lighting alters ecological processes including, but not limited to, the temporal niches of species; the repair and recovery of physiological function; the measurement of time through interference with the detection of circadian and lunar and seasonal cycles; the detection of resources and natural enemies; and navigation. Many species use photoperiod cues for communication (e.g., bird song), determining when to begin foraging, behavior thermoregulation, and migration (Longcore and Rich 2004). Phototaxis, a phenomenon which results in attraction and movement towards light, can disorient, entrap, and temporarily blind wildlife species that experience it.

As part of the Project's operational controls, the District, during operation of the lights, will reduce to the extent feasible all nonessential lighting throughout the Project area and avoid or limit the use of artificial light during the hours of dawn and dusk when many wildlife species are most active. As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) lighting will be shielded and each pole would have a number of Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires (light fixtures) with solid "hoods" referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise athletic fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. With the use of "hoods" or shields, the proposed Project will ensure that lighting for is cast downward and does not spill over onto other properties or upward into the night sky, or affect wildlife.

This impact would be potentially significant.

West Ranch High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around West Ranch High School yielded a total of 506 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C**[80] were identified within the nine-quadrangle search and included 123 species as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special- status species.

For the CNDDB records-search for the 9-quadrangle around WRHS, a total of 65 species were identified that have a federal conservation status, 58 have a state level conservation status, an additional 12 with "Candidate Endangered" status, 210 with CDFW status, and 19 total plant species have a conservation status. The WRHS campus is within the Newhall Quadrangle, which contains 91 animal and plant species. There are 10 wildlife and 4 plant species within the Newhall quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, state, or federal level authority.

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80 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 9-Quad Search. Accessed September 2023 (See **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data**).

WRHS is located within an existing residential community. The proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing WRHS practice field. The campus includes maintained landscaping, concrete and asphalt areas, and surface parking. It is unlikely for special-status plant species to occur on-site, and all construction would be conducted on Project Site. Additionally, the construction would be concentrated on the east side campus, which is adjacent to a developed surface parking lot and roads.

CNDDB records did indicate that burrowing owls have been spotted within the Newhall Quadrangle, however RareFind records the nearest sighting of the burrowing owl to WRHS is approximately 3.0 miles away.[81] The animal species listed CNDDB records-search are not likely to occur within the campus considering the entire campus is developed and fully landscaped with an existing school and ongoing school operations.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction staging areas would be located within an actively used part of the campuses and within the fields, away from any potential habitat.

There are no documented significant ecological habitats connecting to the existing school campus.[82] As such, the campus 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 WRHS campus that is developed with turf and away from any potential habitat. The proposed Project would not result in the destruction of any known habitat.

Short-term construction would not be anticipated to affect nesting or roosting bird species in the vicinity, because the fields are regularly maintained by a tractor-mounted mower, which produces noise levels similar to the equipment anticipated for trenching and light pole installation. Therefore, bird species that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. Further, the proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) during construction, all areas would be fenced off to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the areas. In addition, any open trench would be covered at the end of each day to prevent individuals and/or wildlife from entering the trench. Fencing would also prevent wildlife in the area from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections prior to the start of construction would occur to identify any wildlife that inadvertently entered the construction zone or trench. In the event that wildlife was observed, a biologist would be called to remove the wildlife from

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81 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, RareFind. Accessed October 2023, https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx.

82 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

the construction zone and re-locate it to suitable areas. However, the potential exists for wildlife to go unnoticed and become trapped; this could result in a potential significant impact.

The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the operation 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 **Section 3.0: Project Description**, **Figure 2.0-3: Light Structure System**) would focus the light onto the fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

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.

Impacts would be less than significant.

The eBird database has recorded a sighting of a Least Bell's Vireo within a half-mile of the high school campus, see **Appendix C**. Least Bell's Vireo are a federally and state listed endangered species. Their preferred habitats include dense shrubs, brushy fields, coastal chaparral, scrub oak salt cedar stands, and mesquite bosques.[83] The Bell's Vireo is not likely to occur on the Project Site or spend much time around WRHS, as the site is disturbed with an existing school and ongoing operations. The Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support all activities of the Least Bell's vireo, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the WRHS campus and away from any potential habitat. The impact of introducing a nighttime light source may be significant to birds.

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 mowers, 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.

Birds may forage on the campus at times. As such, the introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to birds and other wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species.

Light intensity, light color, and duration of "light-on" periods have the potential to significantly and adversely affect fish and wildlife. Artificial lighting alters ecological processes including, but not limited to, the temporal niches of species; the repair and recovery of physiological function; the measurement of time through interference with the detection of circadian and lunar and seasonal cycles; the detection of resources and natural enemies; and navigation. Many species use photoperiod cues for communication

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83 The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds, Bell's Vireo, Life History: Habitat. Accessed September 2023, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bells_Vireo/lifehistory#habitat.

(e.g., bird song), determining when to begin foraging, behavior thermoregulation, and migration (Longcore and Rich 2004). Phototaxis, a phenomenon which results in attraction and movement towards light, can disorient, entrap, and temporarily blind wildlife species that experience it.

As part of the Project's operational controls, the District, during operation of the lights, will reduce to the extent feasible all nonessential lighting throughout the Project area and avoid or limit the use of artificial light during the hours of dawn and dusk when many wildlife species are most active. As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) lighting will be shielded and each pole would have a number of Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires (light fixtures) with solid "hoods" referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise athletic fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. With the use of "hoods" or shields, the proposed Project will ensure that lighting for is cast downward and does not spill over onto other properties or upward into the night sky, or affect wildlife.

This impact would be potentially significant.

Saugus High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around Saugus High School yielded a total of 506 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C**[84] were identified within the nine-quadrangle search and included 123 species as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special- status species.

For the CNDDB records-search for the 9-quadrangle around SHS, a total of 65 species were identified that have a federal conservation status, 58 have a state level conservation status, an additional 12 with "Candidate Endangered" status, 210 with CDFW status, and 19 total plant species have a conservation status. The SHS campus is within the Newhall Quadrangle, similarly to WRHS, which contains 91 animal and plant species. There are 10 wildlife and 4 plant species within the Newhall quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, state, or federal level authority.

SHS is located within an existing residential community. The proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing SHS practice field. 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 westside of the campus, which is adjacent to a residential neighborhood and paved parking lot.

CNDDB records did indicate that burrowing owls have been spotted within the Newhall Quadrangle, however RareFind records the nearest sighting of the burrowing owl to SHS is approximately 2.7 miles

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84 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 9-Quad Search. Accessed September 2023 (See **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data**).

away.[85] The animal species listed CNDDB records-search are not likely to occur within the campus considering the entire campus is developed and fully landscaped with an existing school and ongoing school operations.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction staging areas would be located within an actively used part of the campuses and within the fields, away from any potential habitat.

There are no documented significant ecological habitats connecting to the existing school campus.[86] As such, the campus 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 SHS campus that is developed with turf and away from any potential habitat. The proposed Project would not result in the destruction of any known habitat.

Short-term construction would not be anticipated to affect nesting or roosting bird species in the vicinity, because the fields are regularly maintained by a tractor-mounted mower, which produces noise levels similar to the equipment anticipated for trenching and light pole installation. Therefore, bird species that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. Further, the proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) during construction, all areas would be fenced off to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the areas. In addition, any open trench would be covered at the end of each day to prevent individuals and/or wildlife from entering the trench. Fencing would also prevent wildlife in the area from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections prior to the start of construction would occur to identify any wildlife that inadvertently entered the construction zone or trench. In the event that wildlife was observed, a biologist would be called to remove the wildlife from the construction zone and re-locate it to suitable areas. However, the potential exists for wildlife to go unnoticed and become trapped; this could result in a potential significant impact.

The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the operation 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 **Section 3.0: Project Description**, **Figure 2.0-3: Light Structure System**) would focus the light onto the fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

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85 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, RareFind. Accessed October 2023, https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx.

86 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

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.

Impacts would be less than significant.

The eBird database research for the SHS campus does not have recorded sightings of the previously identified endangered, threatened, or candidate species of birds, see **Appendix C**. The campus does not contain the habitat necessary to support all activities of any of the bird species, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the SHS campus and away from any potential habitat.

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 mowers, 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.

Birds may forage on the campus at times. As such, the introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to birds and other wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species.

Light intensity, light color, and duration of "light-on" periods have the potential to significantly and adversely affect fish and wildlife. Artificial lighting alters ecological processes including, but not limited to, the temporal niches of species; the repair and recovery of physiological function; the measurement of time through interference with the detection of circadian and lunar and seasonal cycles; the detection of resources and natural enemies; and navigation. Many species use photoperiod cues for communication (e.g., bird song), determining when to begin foraging, behavior thermoregulation, and migration (Longcore and Rich 2004). Phototaxis, a phenomenon which results in attraction and movement towards light, can disorient, entrap, and temporarily blind wildlife species that experience it.

As part of the Project's operational controls, the District, during operation of the lights, will reduce to the extent feasible all nonessential lighting throughout the Project area and avoid or limit the use of artificial light during the hours of dawn and dusk when many wildlife species are most active. As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) lighting will be shielded and each pole would have a number of Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires (light fixtures) with solid "hoods" referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise athletic fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. With the use of "hoods" or shields, the proposed Project will ensure that lighting for is cast downward and does not spill over onto other properties or upward into the night sky, or affect wildlife.

This impact would be potentially significant.

Castaic High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around Castaic High School yielded a total of 470 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C**[87] were identified within the nine-quadrangle search and included 113 species as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special- status species.

For the CNDDB records-search for the 9-quadrangle around CHS, a total of 59 species were identified that have a federal conservation status, 54 have a state level conservation status, an additional 10 with "Candidate Endangered" status, 200 with CDFW status, and 16 total plant species have a conservation status. The CHS campus is within the Val Verde Quadrangle, which contains 57 animal and plant species. There are 10 wildlife and 2 plant species within the Val Verde quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, state, or federal level authority.

CHS is located within a rural residential neighborhood. Most of the area around the campus is undeveloped. However, the proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing CHS practice field. 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 southwest side of the campus, which is adjacent to developed surface parking lots and other maintained fields.

The animal species listed CNDDB records-search are not likely to occur within the campus considering the entire campus is developed and fully landscaped with an existing school and ongoing school operations.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction staging areas would be located within an actively used part of the campuses and within the fields, away from any potential habitat.

There are no documented significant ecological habitats connecting to the existing school campus.[88] As such, the campus 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 CHS campus that is developed with turf and away from any potential habitat. The proposed Project would not result in the destruction of any known habitat.

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

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87 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 9-Quad Search. Accessed September 2023 (See **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data**).

88 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. Further, the proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) during construction, all areas would be fenced off to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the areas. In addition, any open trench would be covered at the end of each day to prevent individuals and/or wildlife from entering the trench. Fencing would also prevent wildlife in the area from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections prior to the start of construction would occur to identify any wildlife that inadvertently entered the construction zone or trench. In the event that wildlife was observed, a biologist would be called to remove the wildlife from the construction zone and re-locate it to suitable areas. However, the potential exists for wildlife to go unnoticed and become trapped; this could result in a potential significant impact.

The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the operation 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 **Section 3.0: Project Description**, **Figure 2.0-3: Light Structure System**) would focus the light onto the fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

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.

Impacts would be less than significant.

The eBird database research for the CHS campus does not have recorded sightings of the previously identified endangered, threatened, or candidate species of birds, see **Appendix C**. The campus does not contain the habitat necessary to support all activities of any of the bird species, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the CHS campus and away from any potential habitat.

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 mowers, 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.

Birds may forage on the campus at times. As such, the introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to birds and other wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species.

Light intensity, light color, and duration of "light-on" periods have the potential to significantly and adversely affect fish and wildlife. Artificial lighting alters ecological processes including, but not limited to, the temporal niches of species; the repair and recovery of physiological function; the measurement of time through interference with the detection of circadian and lunar and seasonal cycles; the detection of resources and natural enemies; and navigation. Many species use photoperiod cues for communication (e.g., bird song), determining when to begin foraging, behavior thermoregulation, and migration (Longcore and Rich 2004). Phototaxis, a phenomenon which results in attraction and movement towards light, can disorient, entrap, and temporarily blind wildlife species that experience it.

As part of the Project's operational controls, the District, during operation of the lights, will reduce to the extent feasible all nonessential lighting throughout the Project area and avoid or limit the use of artificial light during the hours of dawn and dusk when many wildlife species are most active. As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) lighting will be shielded and each pole would have a number of Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires (light fixtures) with solid "hoods" referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise athletic fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. With the use of "hoods" or shields, the proposed Project will ensure that lighting for is cast downward and does not spill over onto other properties or upward into the night sky or affect wildlife.

This impact would be potentially significant.

Hart High School

The 9-quadrangle search centered around Hart High School yielded a total of 506 identified animal and plant species. The species identified in **Appendix C**[89] were identified within the nine-quadrangle search and included 123 species as being listed either federally, or State, threatened or endangered, or as a special- status species.

For the CNDDB records-search for the 9-quadrangle around HHS, a total of 65 species were identified that have a federal conservation status, 58 have a state level conservation status, an additional 12with "Candidate Endangered" status, 210 with CDFW status, and 19 total plant species have a conservation status. The HHS campus is within the Newhall Quadrangle, similarly to WRHS and SHS, which contains 91 animal and plant species. There are 10 wildlife and 4 plant species within the Mint Canyon quadrangle identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species by a local, regional, state, or federal level authority.

HHS is located within an existing residential community. The proposed Project would be developed within the perimeter of the existing HHS high school practice field. The campus includes maintained landscaping, concrete and asphalt areas, surface parking, and an eastern adjacent field that is regularly

89 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 9-Quad Search. Accessed September 2023 (See **Appendix C: Biological Resources Data**).

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 northwest side of the campus, which is adjacent to other fields and tennis courts.

CNDDB records did indicate that burrowing owls have been spotted within the Newhall Quadrangle, however RareFind records the nearest sighting of the burrowing owl to HHS is approximately 4.3 miles away.[90] The animal species listed CNDDB records-search are not likely to occur within the campus considering the entire campus is developed and fully landscaped with an existing school and ongoing school operations.

During construction of the proposed Project, construction staging areas would be located within an actively used part of the campuses and within the fields, away from any potential habitat.

There are no documented significant ecological habitats connecting to the existing school campus.[91] As such, the campus 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 HHS campus that is developed with turf and away from any potential habitat. The proposed Project would not result in the destruction of any known habitat.

Short-term construction would not be anticipated to affect nesting or roosting bird species in the vicinity, because the fields are regularly maintained by a tractor-mounted mower, which produces noise levels similar to the equipment anticipated for trenching and light pole installation. Therefore, bird species that elect to nest in the area would already be acclimated to similar noise levels from field maintenance activities. Further, the proposed Project would not remove any native plant species, nor remove any shrubs. The proposed Project would therefore not have direct or indirect impacts upon sensitive or special-status plants.

As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) during construction, all areas would be fenced off to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the areas. In addition, any open trench would be covered at the end of each day to prevent individuals and/or wildlife from entering the trench. Fencing would also prevent wildlife in the area from entering the construction areas. Daily inspections prior to the start of construction would occur to identify any wildlife that inadvertently entered the construction zone or trench. In the event that wildlife was observed, a biologist would be called to remove the wildlife from the construction zone and re-locate it to suitable areas. However, the potential exists for wildlife to go unnoticed and become trapped; this could result in a potential significant impact.

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90 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, RareFind. Accessed October 2023, https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx.

91 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

The introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the operation 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 **Section 3.0: Project Description**, **Figure 2.0-3: Light Structure System**) would focus the light onto the fields and reduce significant impact on nocturnal species.

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.

Impacts would be less than significant.

The eBird database has a recorded sightings of a Swainson's Hawk within a half-mile of the high school campus, see **Appendix C**. Swainson's Hawk are a Federal Species of Concern and are listed as a State-threatened species.[92] Their preferred habitats include grasslands, alfalfa fields, pastures, grain crops, and near agricultural fields and grasslands for nesting.[93] The Swainson's Hawk is not likely to occur on the Project Site or spend much time around HHS, as the site is disturbed with an existing school and ongoing operations. The Project Site does not contain the habitat necessary to support all activities of the Swainson's Hawk, and construction would be located within an actively used part of the HHS campus and away from any potential habitat.

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 mowers, 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.

Birds may forage on the campus at times. As such, the introduction of light fixtures for nighttime use, as part of the proposed Project, may create a distraction and nuisance to birds and other wildlife species, specifically nocturnal species.

Light intensity, light color, and duration of "light-on" periods have the potential to significantly and adversely affect fish and wildlife. Artificial lighting alters ecological processes including, but not limited to, the temporal niches of species; the repair and recovery of physiological function; the measurement of time through interference with the detection of circadian and lunar and seasonal cycles; the detection of resources and natural enemies; and navigation. Many species use photoperiod cues for communication (e.g., bird song), determining when to begin foraging, behavior thermoregulation, and migration

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92 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Swainson's Hawks in California. Accessed September 2023, https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Birds/Swainsons-Hawk.

93 The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, All About Birds, Swainson's Hawk, Life History: Habitat. Accessed September 2023, https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Swainsons_Hawk/lifehistory#conservation.

(Longcore and Rich 2004). Phototaxis, a phenomenon which results in attraction and movement towards light, can disorient, entrap, and temporarily blind wildlife species that experience it.

As part of the Project's operational controls, the District, during operation of the lights, will reduce to the extent feasible all nonessential lighting throughout the Project area and avoid or limit the use of artificial light during the hours of dawn and dusk when many wildlife species are most active. As noted in the Project Description (**Section 2.0**) lighting will be shielded and each pole would have a number of Light Emitting Diode (LED) luminaires (light fixtures) with solid "hoods" referred to as Total Light Control (TLC) that focus the light onto the precise athletic fields. These hoods would help prevent spill-over onto neighboring streets and communities. With the use of "hoods" or shields, the proposed Project will ensure that lighting for is cast downward and does not spill over onto other properties or upward into the night sky, or affect wildlife.

This impact would be potentially significant.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools.

The effects would be less than significant to other plant and wildlife species, as each of the five campuses are fully developed and landscaped, and do not contain adequate habitat for wildlife. The likelihood of encountering a special status species is low.

Impact would be potentially significant impacts to nesting birds.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measure shave been identified to reduce impacts on wildlife species that may occur on the Project Site.

MM BIO-1: **Pre-Construction Surveys for Migratory Bird.** Regardless of the time of year, nesting bird surveys shall be performed by a qualified avian biologist no more than 7 days prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities. Pre-construction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior.

The qualified avian biologist will make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If active nests are found during the pre-construction nesting bird surveys, a qualified biologist shall establish an appropriate nest buffer to be marked on the ground.

Active nests and adequacy of the established buffer distance shall be monitored daily by the qualified biologist until the qualified biologist has determined the young have fledged or the Project has been completed. A qualified biologist has the authority to stop work if nesting pairs exhibit signs of disturbance.

MM BIO-2: **Assessment of Biological Resources for Sensitive Species.** Prior to Project construction activities, an inventory of rare, threatened, endangered, and other sensitive species located within the Project footprint (i.e., each campus) and within immediate offsite

areas for a distance of up to one-quarter mile from the campus, including California Species of Special Concern (CSSC) and California Fully Protected Species (Fish and Game Code § 3511), will be completed. If the surveys identify any species that may result in take of CESA-listed species, CDFW recommends that the District initiate informal consultation with CDFW to seek appropriate remedies or mitigation to avoid "take" prior to Project construction.

MM BIO-3: **Wildlife Entrapment**. Project-related excavations shall be secured to prevent wildlife entry and entrapment. To prevent injury, mortality, or inadvertent entrapment, the District, or their contractor, shall ensure all excavated areas (e.g., trenches, bore holes, pits, etc.) are covered, backfilled, fenced, or are monitored while not actively in use. All open holes and trenches shall be inspected daily and prior to back-filling.

At the end of each workday, the District, or their contractor, shall place an escape ramp at each end of trenches to allow any animals that may have become trapped in the hole or trench to climb out overnight. The ramp may be constructed of either dirt fill or wood planking or other suitable material that is placed at an angle no greater than 30 degrees. If any worker discovers that wildlife have become trapped, they shall halt construction activities and notify the qualified biologist immediately. Project personnel shall allow the individual to escape unimpeded if possible, or a qualified biologist shall move the induvial out of harm's way before allowing work to continue. Only qualified biologists with appropriate authorization by CDFW shall move CESA-listed or other special-status species.

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.[94] 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 significant ecological habitats connecting to the existing five school campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, or HHS).[95]

There are no riparian habitats at any of the five high school campuses.[96] Project implementation would not impact riparian habitat or sensitive habitat, and no impact would occur. The existing campuses are

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94 California Department of Fish and Wildlife, "Natural Communities." Accessed September 2023, https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/VegCAMP/Natural-Communities/Background.

95 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

96 U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Wetlands Inventory, Wetlands Mapper. Accessed September 2023, https://fwsprimary.wim.usgs.gov/wetlands/apps/wetlands-mapper/.

fully developed and include well maintained and active practice fields that do not include riparian or other sensitive natural habitat.

Existing uses near each of the campuses are as follows:

- SHS and HHS are surrounded by urban development including residential uses.
- GVHS is adjacent to residential uses on the east and south, and vacant land to the north and southwest.
- WRHS is located next to residential uses to the northeast, an elementary school to the east, and a Junior High School to the south, and vacant land to the northwest, west, and southwest.
- CHS is located within a rural

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. There are no documented riparian or sensitive habitats connected to any of the campuses. Each are operating campuses that are fully landscaped.

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 five campuses are comprised of fully developed landscaped high schools.

According to the USFWS Wetlands Mapper, there are no recorded federally protected wetlands on or near the WRHS, SHS, or HHS campuses.[97] The campuses 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,[98] through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.

GVHS is located 0.1 miles away from identified riverine habitat to the north and to the south of the campus.[99] This wetland habitat is not located within the Project Site and the construction and operation of the proposed field lighting would not require the removal, filling, or interruption of the wetland habitat.

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97 USFWS, Wetlands Mapper. Accessed September 2023, https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html.

98 United States Environmental Protection Agency, Overview of Clean Water Act Section 404. Accessed October 2023, https://www.epa.gov/cwa-404/overview-clean-water-act-section-404.

99 USFWS, Wetlands Mapper. Accessed September 2023, https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html.

CHS has two identified riverine habitats running through the campus.[100] This classification was made based off imagery from 1976.[101] However, the school site has been fully developed and operating as a high school since 2018, as such, there are no wetlands or riparian habitat on site. As such, no federally protected wetlands would be affected.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. There are no federally protected wetlands located on any of the five campuses. As such, the Project would not require the removal, filling, or interruption of any wetland habitat.

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 with Mitigation.

The existing high school fields GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS 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.

The proposed Project does not involve the relocation of existing vegetation and open space areas. Therefore, the likelihood of migratory birds and burrowing owls inhabiting the site is minimal. Burrowing owls are a California Species of Special Concern. Take of individual burrowing owls and their nests is defined by Fish and Game Code section 86,[102] and prohibited by sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513. Fish and Game Code section 3513 makes it unlawful to take or possess any migratory nongame bird except as provided by rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.[103]

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100 USFWS, Wetlands Mapper. Accessed September 2023, https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html.

101 USFWS, Wetlands Mapper. Accessed September 2023, https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html.

102 California Fish and Game Code, Chapter 1: General Definitions, Section 86.

103 California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, Native Bird Protection.

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. The existing fields within the campus lack the constituent elements of a wildlife corridor or habitat linkage, namely linear or patchy habitat connecting adjacent larger patches of habitat. Although the campus is currently developed for school uses, there is a potential for small, highly mobile species to traverse the existing fields and surrounding area. In particular, bird species are anticipated to migrate through the fields and possibly nest in the adjacent vegetation.

The campus 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.

The District will comply with all applicable laws related to nesting birds and birds of prey including Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513.[104]

Golden Valley High School

The GVHS is surrounded by vacant land on the north, west, and southwest. Immediate surroundings to the east and southeast are developed residential neighborhoods. The adjoining natural open space habitat area to the north, west and southwest may allow wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus.

GVHS itself is fenced and does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region. 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.

The proposed Project does not involve the relocation of existing vegetation and open space areas. Therefore, while migratory birds could forage on the landscaped areas and turf of the campus, the likelihood of long-term habitation on the campus grounds or wildlife inhabiting the site is minimal. In particular, bird species have potential to migrate through the fields and possibly nest in the adjacent vegetation.

Impacts would be potentially significant with regard to impacts to migratory birds.

West Ranch High School

The WRHS is surrounded by vacant land on the north, south, and west. Immediate surroundings to the northwest is a residential neighborhood and an elementary school to the east, a junior high school to the

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[104] California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, Native Bird Protection.

southeast. The adjoining natural open space habitat area to the north, south, and west may allow wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus.

WRHS itself is fenced and does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region. 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.

The proposed Project does not involve the relocation of existing vegetation and open space areas. Therefore, while migratory birds could forage on the landscaped areas and turf of the campus, the likelihood of long-term habitation on the campus grounds or wildlife inhabiting the site is minimal. In particular, bird species have potential to migrate through the fields and possibly nest in the adjacent vegetation.

Impacts would be potentially significant with regard to impacts to migratory birds.

Saugus High School

The SHS is surrounded by vacant land on the northwest and south. Immediate surroundings to the north, west, and east are developed residential neighborhoods. The adjoining natural open space habitat area to the northwest and south may allow wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus.

SHS itself is fenced and does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region. 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.

The proposed Project does not involve the relocation of existing vegetation and open space areas. Therefore, while migratory birds could forage on the landscaped areas and turf of the campus, the likelihood of long-term habitation on the campus grounds or wildlife inhabiting the site is minimal. In particular, bird species have potential to migrate through the fields and possibly nest in the adjacent vegetation.

Impacts would be potentially significant with regard to impacts to migratory birds.

Castaic High School

The CHS is surrounded by vacant land on the north, south, east, and west. The adjoining natural open space habitat area on all sides may allow wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus.

CHS itself is fenced and does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region. 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.

The proposed Project does not involve the relocation of existing vegetation and open space areas. Therefore, while migratory birds could forage on the landscaped areas and turf of the campus, the

likelihood of long-term habitation on the campus grounds or wildlife inhabiting the site is minimal. In particular, bird species have potential to migrate through the fields and possibly nest in the adjacent vegetation.

Impacts would be potentially significant with regard to impacts to migratory birds.

Hart High School

The HHS is surrounded by a park on the northwest. Immediate surroundings to the north, south, east, and west are developed residential neighborhoods. The adjoining natural open space habitat area to the northwest may allow wildlife movement around the perimeter of the campus.

HHS itself is fenced and does not serve as a significant wildlife corridor or habitat linkage in this region. 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.

The proposed Project does not involve the relocation of existing vegetation and open space areas. Therefore, while migratory birds could forage on the landscaped areas and turf of the campus, the likelihood of long-term habitation on the campus grounds or wildlife inhabiting the site is minimal. In particular, bird species have potential to migrate through the fields and possibly nest in the adjacent vegetation.

Impacts would be potentially significant with regard to impacts to migratory birds.

Summary

The proposed Project would be implemented within the practice fields at five existing high school campuses, and no off-site improvements would occur. None of the campuses contain significant wildlife habitat. However, there is potential for small, highly mobile species, including birds, to traverse the existing fields and surrounding area.

Impacts would be potentially significant with regard to impacts to migratory birds.

Mitigation Measures: Mitigation measure **MM BIO-1, MM BO-2 and MM-BIO-3**, described above, has been identified to reduce impacts on wildlife species that may occur on the Project Site.

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

No Impact.

Both the City of Santa Clarita (the location of GVHS, SHS and HHS) and Los Angels County (the location of (CHS and WRHS) have tree ordinances.

The City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code contains the Oak Tree Preservation policy, which aims to protect and preserve oak trees in the City by prohibiting their removal without a permit.[105]

Los Angeles County Code also protects oak trees that are located within the Master Oak Tree Map,[106] however the campuses are not located within the boundaries of the Master Oak Tree Map.[107] Los Angeles County requires also permits to remove trees within Significant Ecological Areas (SEA);[108] however, the campuses are not located within the boundaries of any SEAs.[109] Additionally, no trees would be removed from the campus.

As previously noted, this MND attempts to identify local jurisdictional policies and regulations for information purposes only, not for evaluation purposes.

The California Code, Government Code § 53094(b),[110] provides the following:

> *Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the governing board of a school district, that has complied with the requirements of Section 65352.2[111] of this code and Section 21151.2 of the Public Resources Code,[112] by a vote of two-thirds of its members, may render a city or county zoning ordinance inapplicable to a proposed use of property by the school district.[113]*

As the District is a separate jurisdiction, and has taken action under the Government Code as noted above, it is exempt from land use planning requirements of the City. Further, the District has identified significance thresholds that are appropriate for the Project and the intended uses, and that do not conflict with adjoining uses.

As the District can exempt itself from the local tree requirements, the proposed Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as tree preservation

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105 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, Section 17.51.040 Oak Tree Preservation. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/SantaClarita17/SantaClarita1751.html#17.51.040.

106 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. Section 22.408.120 Oak Tree Regulations. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV11SPPL_CH22.408UNSTSPPL_22.408.120OATRRE.

107 Los Angeles County, Master Oak Tree Map. Accessed September 2023, https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/75407.pdf.

108 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. Section 22.102.070 Protected Tree Permit. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV5SPMAAR_CH22.102SIECAR_22.102.070PRTRPE.

109 Los Angeles County, Significant Ecological Areas (SEA). Accessed September 2023, https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/lacounty::significant-ecological-area-sea/explore?location=34.410091%2C-118.508536%2C10.38.

110 California Government Code, Section 53094(b), Regulation of Local Agencies by Cities and Counties.

111 California Section 65352.2 - Coordinating planning, design, and construction of new school facilities.

112 2021 California Code, Public Resources Code – PRC, Environmental Quality Chapter 4 - Local Agencies Section 21152.1.

113 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.

requirements. Further, no trees would be removed from any of the school campuses as part of the proposed Project.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is 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?

No Impact.

There are no adopted a Habitat Conservation Plans for the area of any of the five campuses.

Los Angeles County has adopted the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) through Title 22 of the Municipal Code.[114]

SEAs are officially designated areas within LA County with irreplaceable biological resources. The SEA Program objective is to conserve genetic and physical diversity within LA County by designating biological resource areas that are capable of sustaining themselves into the future.

The SEA Ordinance establishes the permitting, design standards, and review process for development within SEAs, balancing preservation of the County's natural biodiversity with private property rights.

The SEA Program, through goals and policies of the General Plan and the SEA ordinance, help guide development within SEAs. The General Plan goals and policies are intended to ensure that privately held lands within the SEAs retain the right of reasonable use, while avoiding activities and developments that are incompatible with the ability of SEAs to thrive in the long term.

There is no conflict with the provisions of the Los Angeles SEA Program as neither WRHS nor CHS are located in a SEA and the proposed Project does not involve disrupting any areas designated as significant ecological areas, but sensitive species may still occur on-site.[115] The Los Angeles County designated SEAs do not apply to the campuses located in the City of Santa Clarita.

The campuses are located on five existing high school campuses, the risk of disrupting a protected habitat is low. As such, the proposed Project would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan.

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114 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. Title 22, Chapter 22.102 Significant Ecological Areas. Accessed October 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances/354460?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV5SPMAAR_CH22.102SIECAR.

115 Los Angeles County, Significant Ecological Areas (SEA). Accessed October 2023, https://egis-lacounty.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/lacounty::significant-ecological-area-sea/explore?location=34.410091%2C-118.508536%2C10.38.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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 Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b.	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c.	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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 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 likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

None of the five high school campuses are listed as local historical landmarks, nor are they on the California Historical Landmarks register or the Points of Historical Interest register. [116] [117] None of the

[116] California State Parks. Office of Historic Preservation. California Historical Landmarks by County. Accessed September 2023, https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21427.

[117] City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Conservation and Open Space Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/6%20-%20Conservation%20and%20Open%20Space%20Element.pdf.

campuses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.[118]

The oldest of the campuses were constructed in 1980 (SHS and HHS) and are less than 50 years of age.[119][120] Thus, none of the existing campuses meet the criteria established by the Secretary of the Interior or the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to be investigated as a historical resource.[121]

The proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5,[122] as none of the campuses are listed in any historical databases.

There would be no impact to historical resources.

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.

The proposed Project would occur within the graded and developed areas of the existing five (GVHS, HHS, SHS, WRHS and SHS) campuses and would not affect the off-site area.

City of Santa Clarita

The City of Santa Clarita's General Plan has Historic Preservation Efforts through the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society, which was formed to identify, preserve, and protect the unique historical sites and structures throughout the Valley. According to the City of Santa Clarita General Plan, there are eight State Historic Landmarks, none of which include any of the campuses considered as part of the proposed Project (GVHS, SHS, and HHS).[123]

As none of the campuses within the City are listed, archeological resources would have been identified at the time of construction, or during renovations – of which no such resources were identified. There

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118 National Park Service. National Register of Historic Places. Accessed October 2023, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/database-research.htm.

119 California Department of Education. California School Directory. Saugus High. Accessed October 2023, https://www.cde.ca.gov/schooldirectory/details?cdscode=19651361931740.

120 California Department of Education. California School Directory. William S. Hart High. October 2023, https://www.cde.ca.gov/SchoolDirectory/details?cdscode=19651361933902.

121 California Office of Historic Preservation. How to Nominate Property as a California Historical Landmark or California Point of Historical Interest. 2-3. Accessed October 2023, https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/pages/1069/files/13%20landmark%20point%20nomination%20instructions.pdf.

122 California State Parks. Office of Historic Preservation. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA Basics. Accessed October 2023, https://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21721.

123 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Conservation and Open Space Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/6%20-%20Conservation%20and%20Open%20Space%20Element.pdf.

are no identified archaeological resources within one-half mile of each campus; as such, the potential for encountering intact archaeological resources is low.

Los Angeles County – Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan

The Los Angeles County's Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, the Santa Clarita Valley Historical Society was formed in to identify, preserve, and protect the unique historical sites and structures throughout the Valley. According to the Los Angeles County's Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, there are eight State Historic Landmarks; none of the campuses (WRHS and CHS) which include the proposed Project are listed.[124]

As all of the campuses are existing schools, archaeological resources would have been identified at the time of construction, or during renovations – of which no resources were identified. There are no identified archaeological resources within one-half mile of each Project site.

The proposed Project would occur on the practice fields, which are graded and developed areas, of the five existing campuses, and would not affect the off-site areas. As such, the potential for encountering intact archaeological resources is low.

In the unlikely event that subsurface resources are identified during earthmoving activities associated with the proposed Project, the District, as Lead Agency, would comply with PRC Section 21083.2(i), which requires the District to make provisions for archaeological resources accidentally discovered during construction. The District would be required to make an immediate evaluation by a qualified archaeologist; if the finding is determined to be a unique archaeological resource, then it must be protected from damage and destruction, and either an archaeological sample be collected or approved avoidance measure be employed, as stated in PRC Section 21083.2. Construction would be allowed in other areas while the archaeological mitigation takes place.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields of five high schools. No archaeological resources were identified at any of the campuses when they were developed and at the time of original grading and construction.

Considering the lack of general archaeological sensitivity on each of the campuses, the fact that portions of and the areas surrounding the high schools have been previously evaluated as part of the environmental review for their original development and that each campus, as part of the development process, has been subject to considerable ground disturbance, the potential for inadvertently encountering cultural resources during ground disturbing activities is unlikely.

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[124] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

However, there is always potential for inadvertently encountering unknown cultural resources. While there is potential to encounter intact archaeological resources during the installation of the proposed lighting fixtures, impacts to resources may be significant if resources are discovered.

Impacts are potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigations have been 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.

WEAP Plan Requirements and Timing: Prior to commencement of project construction, WSHUHSD 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 WSHUHSD 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 by the District or its contractor 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,[125] PRC Section 5097.98,[126] and the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15064.5(e).

Implementation of the mitigation measures would reduce impacts to be 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.

The nearest cemetery is Eternal Valley Memorial Park and Mortuary to each of the campuses as follows:

- Golden Valley High School - 3.4 miles to the southwest.
- West Ranch High School - 10.5 miles to the southeast.
- Saugus High School - 7.3 miles to the south.
- Castaic High School - 18.0 miles to the southeast.
- Hart High School - 2.5 miles to the northwest.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools.

However, there is always potential for inadvertently encountering human remains during excavation activities. While there is potential to encounter such during the installation of the proposed lighting fixtures, impacts to resources may occur if resources are discovered.

Impacts are potentially significant.

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

MM CUL-3: Human Remains. 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.,[127] Section 27491, and Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98.[128]

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125 California Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Part 1, Ch. 2, Section 7050.5. Public Resources Code, Division 5, Ch. 1.75, Section 5097.98. Accessed September 2023, https://nahc.ca.gov/codes/california-public-resources-code-5097-9/.

126 California Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Part 1, Ch. 2, Section 7050.5. Public Resources Code, Division 5, Ch. 1.75, Section 5097.98.

127 California Government Code, Title 3, Division 2, Ch. 10, Sections 27460-27530. Accessed September 2023, https://california.public.law/codes/ca_gov't_code_section_27491.

128 California Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Part 1, Ch. 2, Section 7050.5. Public Resources Code, Division 5, Ch. 1.75, Section 5097.98.

These regulations would require earthmoving activities to halt until the Los Angeles 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 7050.5,[129] 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.

Implementation of the mitigation measures would reduce impacts to be less than significant.

[129] California Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Part 1, Ch. 2, Section 7050.5. Public Resources Code, Division 5, Ch. 1.75, Section 5097.98.

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

Discussion

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 proposed 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 campuses, construction worker travel, haul trips, and delivery trips.

As shown in **Table 5.6-1: Summary of Energy Use During Construction**, approximately 15,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 3,550 gallons of gasoline are estimated to be potentially consumed during construction of the proposed Project on a single campus. For all five campuses, a total of 75,000 gallons of diesel fuel and 17,750 gallons of gasoline may be consumed.

TABLE 5.6-1
SUMMARY OF ENERGY USE DURING CONSTRUCTION

Fuel Type	Quantity per Single Campus Implementation	Total for all School Campuses Implementation
Diesel		
Off-Road Construction Equipment	9,335 gallons	46,675 gallons
On-Road Motor Vehicles	5,682 gallons	28,409 gallons
Total	**15,017 gallons**	**75,084 gallons**
Gasoline		
Off-Road Construction Equipment	0 gallons	0 gallons
On-Road Motor Vehicles	3,551 gallons	17,755 gallons
Total	3,551 gallons	17,755 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 by Southern California Edison (SCE) distribution infrastructure and would be obtained from existing substations and electrical lines in and around each of the five schools.

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 18,568 gallons of petroleum (3,551 gallons of gasoline and 15,017 gallons of diesel fuel) throughout a single campus's construction period. Additionally, for all five Project sites on- and off-road vehicles may consume up to

an estimated 92,839 gallons of petroleum (17,755 gallons of gasoline and 75,084 of diesel fuel). For purposes of comparison, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts a national oil supply of 17.3 million barrels (mb) per day in 2024, which is the first year of construction for the proposed Project;[130] this equates to approximately 6,314 mb per year or 265,188 million gallons (mg) per year.[131]

Construction of the proposed Project would account for less than 0.01 percent of the projected annual oil supply in 2024.

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,[132] 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.[133] The amount of power an electric light would require operating is measured in kilowatts.

As detailed within **Appendix A: Lighting Studies,** the LED lighting at would utilize:

- 54.84 kilowatt (kW) at GVHS,
- 54.84 kW at WRHS,
- 54.84 kW at SHS,

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

131 There are 42 gallons of oil in a barrel.

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

133 Energy Star, Learn About LED Lighting. Accessed September 2023, 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.

- 54.84 kW at CHS, and
- 54.84 kW at HHS.

Evening games and practices would be limited to only school-sanctioned sports teams. Use of lighting during and following athletic practices would generally end by 8:00 PM. Most athletic 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 accommodate residents to the west, the District will attempt to schedule activities, to the degree possible, on the practice fields so that the light can be turned off by 9:00 PM and as soon as possible thereafter.

While the proposed Project would only operate for limited hours each week for the activities that require lights (see Tables 3.01 to 3.05 – Individual school programs and participant counts and program hours), to estimate energy use, the modeling approached assumed that lights would be operated on a worst-case scenario and operate up to 5 hours per day, 365 days per year. As such, the total energy use for the proposed lighting at each school would consume approximately 100,083 kWh/year (.1 Gigawatt hours [GWh]) of electricity. Electricity consumption would total approximately 500,40.0 kWh/year (0.5 GWh) of electricity for all five schools.

SCE estimates that electricity consumption within its planning area for the Santa Clarita Valley would be approximately 115,990 GWh annually by 2025, when the proposed Project would be completed and operational (after 2024).[134] The proposed Project would account for less than 0.01 percent of the 2025 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.

No impact would occur.

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.

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

Summary

Based on the analysis 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.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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

No 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.[135] [136] Therefore, the proposed Project would be consistent with the adopted energy efficiency plans.

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

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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135 California Code of Regulations, California Building Standards Code, Title 24. Accessed October 2023, https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/Codes.

136 California Code of Regulations, California Green Building Standards Code, Part 11, Title 24. Accessed October 2023, https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/CALGreen#codes.

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
GEOLOGY AND SOILS—Would the project:				
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to moderate-to-high liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
v. Would the project involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school building on a site subject to landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems	☐	☐	☐	☒

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				
f.	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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.

None of the campuses are within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Rupture Zone, as delineated by **Appendix E: Geotechnical Reports** conducted by the District for each campus, and information from the California Geological Survey.[137] [138]

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. Implementation of the Project would be conducted in accordance with the 2022 California Building Code (CBC)[139] and the Division of State Architect (DSA) which contain 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.

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137 California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, Regional Geological and Mapping Program. Accessed October 2023, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/.

138 Refer to **Appendices E.1-E.5** for Geotechnical Reports.

139 California Code of Regulations, California Building Standards Code, Title 24.

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.

Each of the school campuses are not within an active earthquake fault zone, yet are in proximity to active faults, such as with most schools in southern California.[140] Therefore, each of the campuses may be subject to ground shaking and potential damage in the event of earthquakes.

According to the Geotechnical Reports completed for each of the campuses for the proposed Project, (**Appendix E**), there are no known active faults or fault traces that underlie the site. Additionally, none of the campuses are within the boundaries of any special studies zone, or within an area designated as geologically hazardous in the safety element of the General Plan, or Los Angeles County's Area Plan for Santa Clarita.[141] [142]

The proposed Project would be required to adhere to the 2022 California Building Code,[143] and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect. The California Building Standards Commission regulates development in California through a variety of tools that reduce hazards from earthquakes to other geologic hazards. Provisions of the 2022 California Building Code (CBC) Title 24 contain requirements to safeguard against major structural failures or loss of life caused by earthquakes or other geologic hazards.[144]

Compliance with the requirements of the 2022 CBC and the Division of the State Architect for structural safety would reduce hazards from strong seismic ground shaking. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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[140] See **Appendices E.1-E.5** for Geotechnical Reports for each campus.

[141] City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/7%20-%20Safety%20Element.pdf.

[142] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012.

[143] California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2. Accessed September 2023, https://codes.iccsafe.org/content/CABC2022P1.

[144] California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2. Accessed September 2023.

iii. 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?

Less Than Significant Impact.

According to the Geotechnical Reports completed for each of the campuses for the proposed Project, (**Appendix E**), there are no active faults known to cross each of the five campuses. Therefore, the probability of damage from surface fault rupture is considered to be low.[145]

The proposed Project does not involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school buildings. Furthermore, none of the school campuses are located along the track of a geological fault.

The proposed Project would also be required to adhere to the 2022 California Building Code[146] and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect, which would reduce hazards from strong seismic ground shaking.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

iv. Would the project 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. Factors known to influence liquefaction potential include composition and thickness of soil layers, grain size, relative density, and both intensity and duration of ground shaking.

According to the Geotechnical Reports completed for each of the campuses for the proposed Project, (**Appendix E**), Castaic High School is within a mapped Seismic Hazards Zone for liquefaction. However, due to the presence of dense alluvial soils underlain by the Saugus Formation, liquefaction hazards are not considered a design constraint.[147]

The campuses at the remaining high schools (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, and HHS) are not mapped within a Seismic Hazards Zone for liquefaction.[148]

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145 See **Appendices E.1-E.5** for Geotechnical Reports for each campus.

146 California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2.

147 See **Appendix E.4: CHS Geotechnical Report**

148 See **Appendices E.1-E.3** and **E.5** for Geotechnical Reports of GVHS, WRHS, SHS and HHS campuses.

The proposed Project does not involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school buildings.

Implementation of the proposed Project would be required to adhere to the 2022 California Building Code,[149] and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect for provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from liquefaction and other seismic-related ground failures.

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 involves installing lights on the practice fields at five high schools. The proposed Project does not involve the construction, reconstruction, or relocation of any school buildings.

According to the Geotechnical Reports completed for each of the campuses for the proposed Project, (**Appendix E**), CHS and HHS are not mapped as having a potential for earthquake-induced landslides. GVHS, WRHS, and SHS are mapped as having the potential for seismic-induced landslides, however, previous grading performed at the developed campuses ensures that potential landslides are not a concern for this proposed Project.[150]

The proposed Project would also be required to adhere to the 2022 California Building Code,[151] and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect to reduce hazards from geological hazards such as landslides.

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.

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[149] California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2.

[150] See **Appendices E.1-E.5** for Geotechnical Reports for each campus.

[151] California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2.

The proposed Project is located on the practice fields of five existing campuses which have been previously developed and graded. Construction activities including minor excavations and borings 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, soil erosion measures required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be implemented. The NPDES permit contains limits on what materials can be discharged, monitoring and reporting requirements, and other provisions to ensure that the discharge does not impact water quality or public health.[152] A SWPPP is utilized to effectively reduce impacts by erosion, sediment, and stormwater pollutants.[153]

Compliance with these erosion control regulations would reduce soil erosion from the proposed Project.

The proposed Project would also be required to adhere to the 2022 California Building Code,[154] and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect which contain provisions for soil preparation to minimize hazards from seismic-related ground failures.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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152 United States Environmental Protection Agency. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Permit Basics. Accessed October 2023, https://www.epa.gov/npdes/npdes-permit-basics.

153 United States Environmental Protection Agency. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Developing a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Accessed October 2023, https://www.epa.gov/npdes/developing-stormwater-pollution-prevention-plan-swppp.

154 California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 2.

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.

The campuses and associated practice fields have a low overall risk of landslides through compliance with the 2022 CBC[155] and DSA-IR A-9. Furthermore, implementation of the proposed Project will occur on relatively flat, graded practice fields.

According to the Geotechnical Reports completed for each of the campuses for the proposed Project, (**Appendix E**) determined that CHS and HHS do not have a potential for earthquake-induced landslides.[156] The campuses at GVHS, WRHS, and SHS are mapped as having the potential for seismic-induced landslides, however, previous grading performed at the developed campuses, in compliance with the according state, local, and federal regulations, ensures that potential landslides are not a concern for this proposed Project.[157]

Impacts related to landslides would be less than significant.

Subsidence is the gradual, local settling or sinking of the earth's surface with little or no horizontal motion. This typically occurs where groundwater or natural gas is extracted. There have been no documented incidents of large-scale subsidence in the City of Santa Clarita. Both the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County have adopted ordinances requiring soil and geotechnical investigations to mitigate potential hazards from soil instability.[158] [159]

Furthermore, according to the Geotechnical Reports completed for each of the campuses for the proposed Project, (**Appendix E**), groundwater was not encountered in borings that were drilled over 40 feet deep for each campus.[160] Implementation of the proposed Project would require a depth of excavation approximately 10 feet into the ground for each light fixture. Thus, the boundaries of the campuses and associated high school practice fields have a low possibility of being affected by subsidence.

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155 California Code of Regulations, California Building Standards Code, Title 24. Accessed October 2023, https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/Codes.

156 See **Appendices E.1-E.5** for Geotechnical Reports for each campus.

157 See **Appendices E.1-E.5** for Geotechnical Reports for each campus.

158 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/7%20-%20Safety%20Element.pdf.

159 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 5: Safety Element. Accessed October 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

160 See **Appendices E.1-E.5** for Geotechnical Reports for each campus.

Impacts related to subsidence would be less than significant.

The phenomenon of liquefaction generally occurs when loosely deposited granular soils and non-plastic silts located below the water table undergo rapid loss of shear strength when subjected to strong seismic ground shaking. As previously mentioned, GVHS, WRHS, and HHS are not located in areas mapped as being potentially susceptible to liquefaction. Furthermore, the dense soil and absence of shallow groundwater underlaying these campuses do not require design considerations for the proposed Project (see **Appendix E: Geotechnical Reports** for each campus).

CHS is mapped within an area mapped as being potentially susceptible to liquefaction. However, based on the results of borings drilled into the campus' soil, the practice field is underlain by dense materials. Thus, liquefaction is not a design consideration for the proposed Project.[161]

SHS is mapped within an area that is susceptible to seismically induced liquefaction.[162] However, the proposed Project would be required to adhere to the 2022 California Building Code (CBC),[163] and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect, 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 on the practice fields at five high schools. Through the adherence to the 2022 CBC, and the DSA, the risk of landslides, liquefication, and subsidence are considered to be very low.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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[161] See **Appendix E.4: CHS Geotechnical Report**.

[162] See **Appendix E.3: SHS Geotechnical Report**.

[163] California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24.

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. Non-expansive soils can be defined as soil having an expansion index of 20 or less in accordance with ASTM International (ASTM) test method D4829.[164]

Implementation of the proposed Project requires the installation of light fixtures on the practice fields of five high schools.

According to the Geotechnical Reports completed for each of the campuses for the proposed Project, (**Appendix E**), the varying soils discovered included asphalt concrete (AC), aggregate base (AB), artificial fill, alluvium gravel, and materials of the Saugus Formation; some of which consist of clay particles. Recommendations provided by the Geotechnical Reports for each campus address the use of non-expansive, imported fill material, which conforms to the "Greenbook" for structure backfill.[165]

Furthermore, the proposed Project would also be required to adhere to the 2022 California Building Code,[166] and the requirements of the Division of the State Architect, 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).

Based on the above, any impacts 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.

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164 ANSI Webstore. ASTM D4829-19, Standard Test Method For Expansion Index Of Soils. Accessed October 2023, https://webstore.ansi.org/standards/astm/astmd482919.

165 Refer to **Appendix E: Geotechnical Reports** for each campus.

166 California Building Code of Regulations, Title 24.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at five 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 practice 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. Any paleontological resources that have been previously recovered at the time of the campus' construction would have already been recovered pursuant to the applicable state, federal and local regulations, or did not exist.

Furthermore, implementation of the Project would require the excavation of approximately 10 feet of soil for each light pole, which does not reach a depth that penetrates bedrock. The City of Santa Clarita and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County have regions of known historical archaeological sites, but none overlap the five campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS). As such, the potential for finding paleontological resources is low.[167] [168]

The proposed Project will be placed on the developed, practice fields of five high school campuses. Thus, it will not directly or indirectly impact unique geologic features.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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[167] City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Conservation and Open Space. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/6%20-%20Conservation%20and%20Open%20Space%20Element.pdf.

[168] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space. Accessed October 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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.[169]

GHG emissions were quantified from construction and operation of the proposed Project using SCAQMD's CalEEMod model (version 2022.1.1.20).[170] CalEEMod is based on outputs from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) off-road emissions model (OFFROAD) and the CARB on-road vehicle emissions model (EMFAC), both of which are emissions estimation models developed by CARB and used to calculate emissions from construction activities, including on- and off-road vehicles.

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169 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. Accessed March 2023.

170 South Coast Air Quality Management District, California, Emissions, Estimator Model. Accessed October 2023, http://www.aqmd.gov/caleemod/home.

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 972 MTCO2e per school site; 630 MTCO2 in total when combined for all five schools.

TABLE 5.8-1
CONSTRUCTION GHG EMISSIONS

Construction Phase	MTCO2e/Year per School	Total MTCO2e/Year
2024	126	630

*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 practice field lighting. As detailed within **Appendix A,** each high school would utilize 54.84 kW for the proposed lighting. As such, the total electricity load under the proposed Project would be 274.2 kW for all five campuses' future lighting.

While the proposed Project would only operate for limited hours each week for the activities that require lights (see Tables 3.01 to 3.05 – Individual school programs and participant counts and program hours), to estimate energy use, the modeling approached assumed that lights would be operated on a worst-case scenario and operate up to 5 hours per day, 365 days per year. As such, the total energy use for the proposed would consume approximately 500,400 kilowatt hours per year (kWh/yr) of electricity. This electricity usage was assumed in CalEEMod (see **Appendix B: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas CalEEMod Output Sheets)**, and would generate approximately 121 MTCO2e per year.

Neither the City of Santa Clarita nor Los Angeles County have adopted a numerical significance threshold for assessing impacts related to GHG emissions. Nor have SCAQMD, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), CARB, California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), or any other state or regional agency adopted a numerical significance threshold for assessing GHG emissions that is applicable to the proposed 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 the proposed Project would not increase local population, student capacity, employment opportunities, or housing at any of the campuses, it 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 five high school campuses would be approximately 630 MTCO2, while operational emissions would be approximately 121 MTCO2 per year.

The proposed Project would not 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.

The proposed Project involves the installation of field lighting on five existing high school campuses. 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 Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
j. Is the proposed school site located near an aboveground water or fuel storage tank	☐	☐	☒	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
or within 1,500 feet of an easement of an aboveground or underground pipeline that can pose a safety hazard to the site?				
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☐
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
q. Is the proposed school site situated within 2,000 feet of a significant disposal of hazardous waste?	☐	☐	☐	☐

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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.)	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

Construction activities may involve the use of hazardous materials, which may include fuels related to construction equipment and activities. However, hazardous materials would be used in accordance with regulatory standards and protocols and would not be in such quantities or stored in such a manner as to pose safety hazards. These activities would also be short-term or one-time in nature and would cease upon project completion.

The transport, storage, and disposal of construction-related hazardous materials would be required to conform to existing laws and regulations. Applicable laws and regulations include CFR, Title 29, Subpart H – Hazardous Materials.[171] This risk is standard, however, on all construction sites, and the Project would not cause greater risks than would occur on other similar construction sites.

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. 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 Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) and its Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD), which serves both the City of

[171] Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 29, Subpart H. Hazardous Materials. Accessed September 2023, https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-29/subtitle-B/chapter-XVII/part-1910/subpart-H.

Santa Clarita[172] and Los Angeles County,[173] would be required throughout the duration of the project construction.

Therefore, 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. As previously mentioned, 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.

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

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields of five high schools. Any materials considered potentially hazardous during construction would be safely stored, transported, or disposed of, in compliance with State and local regulations and Los Angeles County's HHMD. 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.

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172 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/7%20-%20Safety%20Element.pdf.

173 Los Angels County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project would require minor earthwork (e.g., vegetation removal, trenching, borings, and other site work), site preparation (cement bases), and placement of large light fixtures. During construction, the refueling and maintenance of equipment may occur onsite. All activities will be completed in an area that is designated for such and away from any ongoing school programs and open areas that cause impacts to vegetation and wildlife. Such areas will be trapped off to prevent spills from spills from staining or seeping into the ground or pavement. Any spills will be cleaned immediately and disposed of in accordance with appropriate regulations. No hazardous materials would be released into the environment as a result of the proposed Project.

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.

Impacts are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c. 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 proposed Project is located on the practice field of five different operating school campuses, and as such is within one-quarter mile of an operating school.

Construction

As previously mentioned, construction activities may involve the use of hazardous materials, which may include fuels related to construction equipment and activities. However, hazardous materials would be used in accordance with regulatory standards and protocols and would not be in such quantities or stored in such a manner as to pose safety hazards. All activities will be completed in an area that is designated for such and away from any ongoing school programs. These activities would also be short-term or one-time in nature and would cease upon project completion.

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.

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.

The operation of the proposed Project would not result in impacts to the local environment at each campus, including school occupants.

Summary

The use of any hazardous materials during the construction phase will be transported, stored, used, and disposed of in compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing hazardous materials. There will be no hazardous materials or acutely hazardous materials during operation of the proposed Project. Thus, school occupants would not be affected.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact.

According to California's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor List,[174] which notes all Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites within California, none of the four campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, and CHS) are located on or proximate to a hazardous materials site.

Hart High School

Hart High School is located approximately 0.34 miles away from an active Cortese site has been identified (see **Appendix F.5: HHS EDR Report**).[175] [176] The DTSC approved the workplan for the site that addresses groundwater and indoor air sampling, and the first phase of the Post-Remediation Investigation Workplan commenced on May 10, 2023.[177] These activities are ongoing.

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174 California Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor. Accessed September 2023, https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?cmd=search&reporttype=CORTESE&site_type=CSITES,FUDS&status=ACT,BKLG,COM&reporttitle=HAZARDOUS+WASTE+AND+SUBSTANCES+SITE+LIST+%28CORTESE%29.

175 California Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor.

176 See **Appendix F.5: HHS EDR Report**.

177 California Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor. Accessed October 2023, https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=19720018.

Since this Cortese site at 23357 Lyons Avenue and approximately 0.34 miles away from HHS, it is not on the site of the proposed Project, implementation of the proposed Project will not exacerbate or contribute to its existing conditions.

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?

No Impact.

There are no private airports, airstrips or heliport stations within the vicinity of the Project Site. According to City of Santa Clarita's General Plan,[178] and Los Angeles County's Airport Land Use Plan,[179] all five campuses are located outside of any designated airport safety zones. As such, the Project would not have the potential to create a safety hazard for people residing or working in the Project area.

None of the campuses are within 2.0 miles from a public airport or public use airport. Thus, there will be no impact from the proposed Project.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. 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 practice field at the five campuses.

According to the 2022-2023 School Safety Plans for Saugus High School[180] and Castaic High School,[181] the District has identified the practice field as their Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA). At GVHS, WRHS and

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178 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/SantaClaritaGP.html.

179 Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan, December 2004. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/los-angeles-county-airport-land-use-plan/.

180 2022-2023 School Safety Plan. Saugus High School. Accessed September 2023, https://4.files.edl.io/62e2/02/06/23/163431-0328b492-ce08-464a-b03e-5888281518a2.pdf.

181 2022-2023 School Safety Plan. Castaic High School. Accessed September 2023, https://www.castaichighschool.org/apps/pages/Safe-School-Plan.

HHS the District has identified their EAAs in a different location on-campus. In the interim during construction, EAAs on the practice field will be temporarily relocated on-campus. All responsible personnel will be trained and briefed on the relocation of the EAA.

As the proposed lighting will be for practice only, there is no increase in spectator capacity under the Project that could result in an increase in the demand for emergency response or evacuation. 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.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact.

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting systems on existing practice fields at the WSHUHSD campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, HHS).

Within the City of Santa Clarita, Hart High School (HHS) and Saugus High School (SHS) are not located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), as it is in a developed area. According to the City of Santa Clarita's General Plan, Golden Valley High School (GVHS) is located in a Fire Hazard Zone. The City of Santa Clarita's General Plan has established fire prevention strategies for these existing campuses, such as GVHS, which are aimed to reduce wildfire risk potential and ensure public and fire responder safety.[182] Additionally, HHS, SHS, and GVHS will not be adding any combustible components through Project implementation. Therefore, Project implementation would not exacerbate wildfire risks due to wildfire.

Within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, Castaic High School (CHS) and West Ranch High School (WRHS) are both located in zones designated for VHFHSZ. Per CAL FIRE, Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) are classified based on a combination of how a fire will behave, and the probability of flames and embers threatening the building.[183] Los Angeles County has established fire prevention strategies for all existing campuses, such as CHS and WRHS, aimed to reduce wildfire risk potential and ensure public and

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182 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/7%20-%20Safety%20Element.pdf.

183 California Office of the State Fire Marshal. Explore Fire hazard Severity Zones. Accessed October 2023, https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/.

fire responder safety.[184] Additionally, CHS and WRHS will not be adding any combustible components through Project implementation.

All five campuses will not add combustible components onsite through Project implementation and have already established necessary fire prevention strategies. Therefore, the proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire.

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. The proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risk or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire, as the five high school campuses will not include combustible components through Project implementation.

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 urban 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 five campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS), which are existing and developed schools, are the nearest sensitive receptors to the five campuses.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. As shown in **Section 5.3 (d)**, the proposed Project would not have an impact on human health. The proposed Project must comply with the requirements of the Division of the State Architect (DSA) for schools.

Therefore, through 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

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184 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." Chapter 5: Safety Element. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

is a natural gas line that is used only to supply natural gas to that school or neighborhood?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The campuses at GVHS, WRHS, SHS, and CHS do not contain underground or aboveground pipelines that carry hazardous substances or hazardous wastes to the campuses or surrounding neighborhoods.[185] GVHS, WRHS, SHS, and CHS are not near any hazardous pipelines.

There is one known underground hazardous pipeline located on the eastern side of the Hart High School campus on the public street, while the HHS practice field is located opposite on the west.[186] However, the presence of this pipeline will not be impacted by the proposed Project because it will not extend the boundaries of this existing campus. Although HHS campus is adjacent to a hazardous pipeline underneath the public street, the proposed Project will not extend past the boundaries of the campus nor exacerbate any risks to students or staff onsite.

Thus, the Project will not exacerbate any risk or danger to the students or staff onsite, and impacts would be less than significant.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Hart High School

According to California State Water Resources Control Board's (CSWRCB) GeoTracker, there are seven sites listed within 1,500 feet to 0.5 miles from HHS that are categorized by DTSC as a Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Cleanup Site. These seven cases have been closed out, with no further action required.[187]

Additionally, there is one active site 10 feet from HHS at 24869 Newhall Avenue that is utilized by the District's Transportation Department for hazardous substances such as waste oil and diesel. There have been no reported violations. A review of the EDR report for this campus also states that the Los Angeles

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185 See **Appendix F.1-F.5** for EDR Reports for each campus.

186 California State Water Resources Control Board. GeoTracker. Accessed October 2023, https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=Sacramento.

187 See **Appendices F.1-F.5** for EDR Reports for each campus.

County's Fire Department Station #73 (Facility ID: 012414-012545) is approximately one-quarter mile away from HHS and contains an Aboveground Petroleum Storage tank. There have been no reported violations.[188]

Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not exacerbate any risks to onsite or nearby sensitive receptors.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Golden Valley High School

There is one site 0.8 miles northwest from GVHS labeled "Hi-Shear Technology" (Facility ID: 60003193) reported for the Site Cleanup Program with DTSC for their past use of Above Ground Storage Tanks.[189] As of January 22, 2022, DTSC determined there is no further action required and the site is suitable for unrestricted use.

Thus, there is no current safety hazard due by an aboveground water or fuel storage tank or pipeline.

Impacts would be less than significant.

West Ranch, Saugus, and Castaic High Schools

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 campuses of WRHS, SHS, or CHS of the proposed Project.[190]

No impact would occur.

Summary

There are no active aboveground water or fuel storage tanks near the five high school campuses, nor are there any above- or below-ground 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

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188 See **Appendix F.5: HHS EDR Report.**

189 California Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor. 26313 Golden Valley Road. Accessed September 2023, https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60003193.

190 See **Appendix F.2-F.4** for the EDR Report for WRHS, SHS, and CHS campuses.

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.[191]

A review of the EDR Reports for the campuses (see **Appendix F: EDR Reports)**, notes that none of the campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, HHS) show up on the SCAQMD's FIND database.

The five campuses are not identified in the SCAQMD's FIND database nor in any 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 6 pounds/day to 1,644 pounds/day. The maximum emissions for one school ranges from less than 1 pound/day to 8 pounds/day. Cumulative localized construction emissions range from 1 pound/day to 40 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 17 pounds/day, and cumulative emissions do not exceed 85 pounds/day. Neither the maximum/day for one school nor the cumulative emissions exceed the SCAQMD Mass Daily Threshold.

Impacts would be less than significant.

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191 SCAQMD, Facility Information Detail (F.I.N.D.). Accessed September 2023, https://www.aqmd.gov/nav/FIND/facility-information-detail.

Hart High School

Approximately 1,204 feet southeast from the HHS campus, the FIND Database identifies the facility Pacific Bell (Facility ID: 66375) as an owner or operator of air conditioning system(s). As part of South Coast Air Quality Monitoring District's (SCAQMD) Rule 1415 to reduce ozone-depleting refrigerant emissions, regulatory compliance and biennial reporting[192] help to prevent impacts to sensitive receptors due to hazardous emissions.

According to the FIND Database, approximately 1,200 ft. northwest of the HHS campus, there was a violation reported on July 9, 2004, for the facility City of Santa Clarita (Facility ID: 141370) due to failure to report and obtain a permit to operate a pool heater. Pursuant to Rule 222,[193] this requires owners and operators of specified equipment to submit information and data regarding the source of emissions to determine its compliance with applicable District, state, and Federal rules and regulations. The violation was closed on December 28, 2004, and the facility is now in compliance.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Golden Valley, West Ranch, Saugus, and Castaic High Schools

There are no known hazardous air emissions generated from mobile and stationary sources within a quarter-mile radius of these four campuses.

No impact would occur.

Summary

Facilities found within one-quarter mile of HHS are meeting compliance through biennial reporting and the closure of previously opened violations. There are no known hazardous air emissions generated from mobile or stationary sources within one-quarter mile radius of the other campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, or CHS). Thus, the proposed Project would not pose actual or potential endangerment to students or staff at any of the schools.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

(b) Freeways and other busy traffic corridors.

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192 South Coast AQMD. Rule 1415 – Reduction of Refrigerant Emissions from Stationary Air Conditioning Systems. Accessed September 2023, http://www.aqmd.gov/home/rules-compliance/compliance/rule-1415-stationary-air-conditioning-systems.

193 South Coast Air Quality Management District. Rule 222 Filing Program. Accessed October 2023, http://www.aqmd.gov/home/permits/rule-222-filing-program.

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 two primary corridors providing regional access to the Santa Clarita Valley are the Interstate 5 (I-5, or the Golden State Freeway) traversing in a northwesterly direction, and the State Route 14 (SR-14, or the Antelope Valley Freeway) which traverses in a northeasterly direction. These corridors converge to in the Newhall Pass, located in the southerly planning area boundary.[194]

All five campuses are at least 1.0 miles in distance from these roadway systems. Thus, the proposed Project is not within one-quarter mile of a freeway, or any other busy traffic corridor as defined by California Education Code.[195]

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.

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 any of the five campuses. Surrounding land uses include schools, commercial, mixed-use, open recreational spaces (i.e., parks), as well as urban residential uses.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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194 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 4: Circulation Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/4%20-%20Circulation%20Element.pdf.

195 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.legislature.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.

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 City of Santa Clarita General Plan designates the land use and zoning as "P/I," or "Public/Institutional" for GVHS, HHS, and SHS. As such these Project sites are not designated by the General Plan or zoning for agricultural use. GVHS, HHS, and SHS are not zoned or designated for Agricultural production, per the City of Santa Clarita's General Plan.

Los Angeles County's Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan designates the land use for WRHS and CHS as "P," or "Public/Semi-Public." Although WRHS and CHS are zoned for "A-2," or "Heavy Agricultural," per Los Angeles County's Municipal Code,[196] facilities such as schools are an allowable use. While WRHS and CHS are zoned for Agricultural Use, Los Angeles County's Municipal Code states that facilities such as school are an allowable use.

The proposed Project involves installing light fixtures on existing practice fields on campus and will not extend past the boundaries of the campus or overtake neighboring land zoned for agricultural use. There are currently no on-going agricultural operations on neighboring land zoned for agricultural use.

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.

According to California's State GeoPortal on California Electric Transmission Lines, all five campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS) are not located within the prescribed distances of 100 feet of a 50-133 kV line, 150 feet of a 220-230 kV line, or 350 feet of a 500-550 kV line.

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196 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. Title 22, Division 3, Section 16. (Ord. 2019-0004 § 1, 2019.). Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV3ZO_CH22.16AGOPSPREREWAZO_22.16.030LAUSREZOW.

The campuses 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 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,[197] 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.[198] 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 HSCS Section 25356 would not be a hazard to people on or near the site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Golden Valley High School

The GVHS campus is listed in the DTSC EnviroStor database for a Voluntary Clean-up Agreement on April 21, 2000, and a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment Report on May 5, 2000 for a proposed Golden Valley Road Extension project. DTSC EnviroStor states there are no contaminants associated with past land use activities, and that there is no need for cleanup activities.[199]

Impacts would be less than significant.

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197 California Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor.

198 California Department of Toxic Substances Control. Chapter 3: Site Mitigation Process. School Sites. Accessed October 2023, https://dtsc.ca.gov/get-involved/policies-procedures-public-participation-program/pp-manual-ch3/#School%20Sites.

199 Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor. Golden Valley High School. Accessed September 2023, https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=19820020.

Saugus High School

The SHS Auditorium is listed in the DTSC EnviroStor database for a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) conducted to evaluate the site for hazardous substances for a proposed auditorium project. The ESA was approved June 29, 2016, by DTSC with a No Action determination.[200]

Impacts would be less than significant.

West Ranch, Castaic, and Hart High Schools

There is no listing pursuant to DTSC under HSC Section 25356 on the Project site based on the EDR Report's comprehensive lists of contaminated sites,[201] including the DTSC EnviroStor database.

No impact would occur at these campuses.

Summary

The proposed Project would involve installation of light fixtures on the practice fields of five campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS). The proposed Project would comply with federal and State regulations and the City guidelines and procedures outlined for the handling of any possible hazardous substances. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measure: 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.

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 disposal site and the wastes have been removed.[202]

Golden Valley High School

There is no current or former hazardous waste disposal on the Campus. However, a review of the EDR Report for GVHS mapped one site 0.16 miles away from the campus.[203]

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200 Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor. Saugus High School Auditorium. Accessed September 2023, https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report?global_id=60002364.

201 See **Appendix D.1-D.5** for EDR Reports of each campus.

202 California Education Code (EDC). Sec. 17213. Accessed September 2023, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/selectFromMultiples.xhtml?lawCode=EDC&sectionNum=17213.#:~:text=17213.%20T%20he%20governing%20board%20of%20a%20school%20district,school%20district%2C%20unless%20all%20of%20the%20following%20o%20ccur%3A.%20Accessed%20March%202023.

203 See **Appendix F.1: GVHS EDR Report.**

Based on the EDR Report's comprehensive list of contaminated sites,[204] there is one solid waste disposal site (Facility ID: 19-AA-5364) 0.16 miles away from GVHS that may produce or emanate methane gas. Now operationally closed, CalRecycle's latest Inspection Report on January 8, 2016, states that the there is no sign of erosion or settlement, and that that the site is maintained in satisfactory condition and in compliance with the state minimum standards.[205] Implementation of the Project would not exacerbate the existing conditions or increase the potential of impacts of the former solid waste disposal site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

West Ranch, Saugus, Castaic, and Hart High Schools

No current or former hazardous waste disposal sites exist in the Project site based on the EDR Report's comprehensive list of contaminated sites (**Appendices F.1-F.5**), including the DTSC EnviroStor and SWRCB GeoTracker databases.

No impact would occur.

Summary

The proposed Project is on the practice fields of five existing campuses. 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. There are no current or former hazardous waste disposal sites in any of the five campuses. GVHS is within one solid waste disposal site that is no longer in operation and containing no violations to any city, State, or federal regulations. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not exacerbate any risks to onsite or nearby sensitive receptors.

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 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 campuses for periods of the day; construction activities could result in health impact.

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204 See **Appendix F.1: GVHS EDR Report.**

205 CalRecycle. Solid Waste Information System (SWIS), Solid Waste Disposal Site. Accessed September 2023, https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/SiteActivity/Details/3396?siteID=1304.

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 would comply with DTSC or other regulatory agencies that oversee health-related issues.

As noted previously, construction activities may involve the use of hazardous materials, which may include fuels related to construction equipment and activities. However, hazardous materials would be used in accordance with regulatory standards and protocols and would not be in such quantities or stored in such a manner as to pose safety hazards. These activities would also be short-term or one-time in nature and would cease upon Project completion.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at five high schools. 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. Thus, the Project would not pose a threat to the health of children and other sensitive receptors onsite.

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.

Golden Valley High School

As previously mentioned, a review of the EDR Report's comprehensive list of contaminated sites for GVHS campus states there is one solid waste disposal site within 0.16 miles (approximately 844 feet) from GVHS.[206] Now operationally closed, CalRecycle's latest Inspection Report on January 8, 2016 reports that the there is no sign of erosion or settlement, and that that the site is maintained in satisfactory condition and in compliance with the state minimum standards.[207] Implementation of the Project would not exacerbate the existing conditions of the former solid waste disposal site.

Impacts would be less than significant.

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206 See **Appendix F.1: GVHS EDR Report.**

207 CalRecycle. Solid Waste Information System (SWIS), Solid Waste Disposal Site.

West Ranch, Saugus, Castaic, and Hart High Schools

No current or former hazardous waste disposal sites exist on or within 2,000 feet of the of WRHS, SHS, CHS and HHS based on a review of the EDR Report's comprehensive list of contaminated sites for each campus,[208] including the DTSC EnviroStor and SWRCB GeoTracker databases.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields of five existing campuses. GVHS is within one solid waste disposal site that is no longer in operation and containing no violations to any city, State, or federal regulations. WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS are not within 2,000 feet of disposal of hazardous wastes. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not exacerbate any risks than those already exists in current conditions.

No impact would occur.

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.

As previously mentioned, there are no private airports, airstrips, or heliport stations within the vicinity of any of the five campuses; GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS are not within two miles within a public airport or public use airport.

According to City of Santa Clarita's General Plan[209] and Los Angeles County's Airport Land Use Plan,[210] all five campuses are located outside of any designated airport safety zones. As such, the proposed Project would not have the potential to create a safety hazard for people residing or working in the area.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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208 See **Appendix F.1-F.5** for EDR Reports for each campus.

209 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/SantaClaritaGP.html.

210 Los Angeles County Airport Land Use Plan, December 2004.

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f. Is the Project Site subject to flooding or dam inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☐

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 proposed Project is under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board (LACRWQCB).

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 LACRWQCB.[211]

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.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Operation

Operation of the proposed Project would include additional field lighting implemented on the practice fields of GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS. The proposed Project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality during operation.

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. It would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, as the construction areas are less than one acre, which means a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (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.

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211 California Water Boards. Los Angeles Region. Accessed October 2023, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/stormwater/.

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 the 4 standard foundations for the lighting fixtures on each campus) would be negligible as a result of the Project implementation.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. Changes or disturbances of groundwater supplies are not proposed.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

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

Less Than Significant Impact.

The most significant river feature in the Santa Clarita Valley is the Santa Clara River, which flows approximately 100 miles from its headwaters near Acton to the Pacific Ocean.[212] None of the five campuses intersects with the Santa Clara River, or any other water bodies within the City of Santa Clarita and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

Construction of the proposed Project would comply with State and federal regulations to prevent any indirect construction impacts on stormwater runoff in order to ensure that water quality is uncompromised during construction. 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.

Following the completion of ground disturbance during construction and installation of the light fixtures, the proposed Project would comply with the 2022 CBC[213] and appropriate design recommendations by

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212 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Conservation and Open Space. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/6%20-%20Conservation%20and%20Open%20Space%20Element.pdf.

213 California Code of Regulations, California Building Standards Code, Title 24. Accessed October 2023, https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/Codes.

the Division of State Architect (DSA). Therefore, no long-term impacts due to erosion and siltation would occur.

The proposed Project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site, as any ground disturbances would adhere to the 2022 CBC and the DSA.

The Project would not impact streams or rivers.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are 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 the proposed Project.

The proposed Project would result in temporary ground disturbance but would not alter the local topography. Only negligible changes would occur in total impervious surfaces from implementation. There would be no alteration to the existing drainage pattern of the five high school practice fields, 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.

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 would 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.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. 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. As such, it would not create or contribute to exceeding the capacity of the current drainage systems.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

iv. impede or redirect flood flows?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. The five campuses and their associated practice field do not intersect with, nor is in the vicinity of, any streams or rivers. Stormwater collected on the five high school practice fields would be released into existing drains. As such, 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?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Each of the five campuses are located in flood zones as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). According to FEMA's National Flood Hazard Map, the following ae the designation for each campus:[214]

- HHS is located in an "AE Zone," or Special Flood Hazard Area. Special Flood Hazard Areas are high-risk areas that predict there is at least a 1 in 4 chance of flooding during a 30-year time period.
- The SHS campus is on a zone designated as having a 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard. Areas with 0.2% Annual Chance of Flood Hazard are at-risk for floods have a 1 in 500 chance of flooding each year.

  The proposed Project at each of the HHS and SHS practice fields will be constructed on existing, developed land. As such, the existing campuses have complied with the requirements of the Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for flood protection and have established flood control facilities and other measures, thus, the risk of flood inundation is low.
- GVHS, CHS, and WRHS are not located within flood zones.

None of the five high schools are within designated tsunami or seiche zones.

Impacts would be less than significant.

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214 FEMA. National Flood Hazard Layer (NGHL) Viewer. Accessed October 2023, https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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.[215] [216] The campuses are located within the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB) region.

The LARWQCB implements the Water Quality Control Plan for the Santa Clara 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.[217] Additionally, the Basin Plan incorporates all applicable State and Regional Board plans and policies and other pertinent water quality polices 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 its implementation.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. Construction and operational phases would adhere to the Santa Clara 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.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f. Is the Project Site subject to flooding or dam inundation?

Less Than Significant Impact.

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215 California Legislative Information. Water Code. Accessed October 2023, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codesTOCSelected.xhtml?tocCode=WAT&tocTitle=+Water+Code+-+WAT.

216 California Water Boards. Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Title 33, Chapter 26: Water Pollution Prevention and Control. Accessed October 2023, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/fedwaterpollutioncontrolact.pdf.

217 State of California, Regional Water Quality Control Board. LARWQCB Basin Plan. Accessed October 2023, https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/.

As previously mentioned, no streams or rivers are located within the boundaries of or adjacent to the campuses for the proposed Project.

The Santa Clarita Valley is host to two dams, the Castaic and Bouquet Canyon Reservoir. As the five campuses and their associated fields are presently existing, each site would have already met the necessary policies and guidelines for flood control and drainage improvements, thus protecting the public from regional and local flooding, including dam inundation.[218] [219]

The proposed Project would result in temporary ground disturbance but would not alter the local topography. Only negligible changes would occur in total impervious surfaces from implementation. There would be no alteration to the existing drainage pattern of the five high school practice fields, 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.

As such, the proposed Project would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site or dam inundation.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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218 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/7%20-%20Safety%20Element.pdf.

219 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012.

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
LAND USE AND PLANNING – Would the project:				
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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.

The proposed Project involves installing lights in the high school fields at the five high schools. The proposed Project would occur on existing high school campuses and would 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. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

Less Than Significant Impact.

City of Santa Clarita

Three campuses, GVHS, SHS, and HHS, are located within the city of Santa Clarita, which follows the City Santa Clarita's Genera Plan Zoning and Land Use Maps.

The General Plan[220] and Municipal Code[221] designates each of these high schools as **"PI," for Public/Institutional Land Use and Zoning Use**, which means that the land is designated for several types of public or/and community serving facilities, including schools. The proposed Project is an allowed use under the City of Santa Clarita's Land Use and Zoning designations.

No impact would occur.

Los Angeles County – Santa Clarita Valley Area

Two campuses, WRHS and CHS, are located within Los Angeles County and part of the unincorporated Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area.

According to the Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan, WRHS and CHS are designated as **"P," for Public/Semi-Public Land Use**. This Community Serving designation identifies lands in the planning area that are used for several types of public and community serving facilities, including schools.[222] Los Angeles County's Zoning Map designates WRHS and CHS as "A-2," or Heavy Agricultural Zone. Allowed uses within this zone include facilities such as schools, which require a conditional use permit.[223]

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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220 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/2%20-%20Land%20Use%20Element.pdf.

221 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code. Title 17 Zoning, Ch. 17.37 Other Zones, Section 17.37.020 Public/Institutional (PI) Zone. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/SantaClarita17/SantaClarita1737.html#17.37.020.

222 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 2: Land Use Element. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

223 Los Angeles County, Code of Ordinances. Division 3 – Zones, Chapter 22.16. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV3ZO_CH22.16AGOPSPREREWAZO_22.16.020AGZODE.

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.

There are no existing or proposed land uses surrounding any of the five campuses that would pose a health or safety risk to students or faculty.

Land use designations surrounding each of the causes are as follows:

- GVHS includes business park, mixed urban residential, and neighborhood commercial uses.[224]
- WRHS includes urban residential and open space/conservational uses.[225]
- SHS includes urban residential and open space uses.[226]
- CHS includes rural land and non-urban uses.[227]
- HHS include urban residential and community commercial uses.[228]

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.

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224 Refer to **Figure 3.0-4: Golden Valley High School Land Use Map.**
225 Refer to **Figure 3.0-8: West Ranch High School Land Use Map.**
226 Refer to **Figure 3.0-12: Saugus High School Land Use Map.**
227 Refer to **Figure 3.0-16: Castaic High School Land Use Map.**
228 Refer to **Figure 3.0-20: Hart High School Land Use Map.**

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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.

The City of Santa Clarita's planning area contains extensive aggregate mineral resources. Almost 19,000 acres in the planning Area are designated by the State as "MRZ-2," or areas of prime importance due to known economic mineral deposits.[229]

Mining activities in California are regulated by the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). SMARA requires that significant mineral resources be protected from encroachment by incompatible development.[230]

Construction and operation of the Project would occur on previously disturbed, existing land. Mineral resources may or may not exist on any of the five existing high school campuses. As such, any mineral resources that have been previously discovered at the time of the campus' construction would have already been extracted and land reclaimed in a manner that was compatible with SMARA, and adverse environmental impacts previously mitigated.[231]

Thus, impacts would be less than significant. Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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229 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Open Space and Conservation. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/6%20-%20Conservation%20and%20Open%20Space%20Element.pdf.

230 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Open Space and Conservation.

231 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Open Space and Conservation.

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 practice fields are not within "MRZ-3," or "Areas containing known mineral deposits that may qualify as mineral resources."[232] Furthermore, there are no known mineral resource recovery sites in the vicinity (within 0.5 miles).

The five campuses are not designated as a mineral resource recovery site.[233]

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. There are no known mineral resource recovery sites within 0.5 miles of any of the campuses. Thus, the proposed Project would not affect local mineral resources.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

232 California Department of Conservation. SMARA Mineral Land Classification. Accessed October 2023, https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/minerals/mineral-land-classification-smara.

233 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 6: Open Space and Conservation.

5.13 NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
NOISE – Would the project result in:				
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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? 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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.

Sensitive Receptors

The nearest sensitive receptors to each of the campuses are as follows:

- the GVHS campus includes Urban Residential (UR-2, UR-3, UR-4, UR-5) uses to the northeast, east, and south along Golden Valley Road.[234]
- the WRHS campus includes residential development designated as Urban Residential (H2) to the west, and Urban Residential (H5) to the north, south, and east. There are Open Space Conservation (OS-C) uses to the southeast of WRHS. Pico Junior High School is located south of WRHS along Valencia Boulevard and Oak Hills Elementary School is located adjacent across Old Rock Road.
- the SHS campus includes UR-2 uses to the north, east, and west along Bouquet Canyon Road, Caraway Lane, Arriola Avenue, and other neighboring streets. There are also Open Space (OS) uses to the north, northwest, west, south, and east, including Centurion Park. Placerita Junior High School is also located to the northwest of SHS.[235]
- the CHS campus includes some residential uses in areas designated as Rural Land, Non-Urban (RL2).
- the HHS campus includes UR-2 uses to the east and west and UR-3 uses to the northeast and south, and Open Space (OS) uses at Newhall Park to the north.[236]

Regulatory Setting

This MND attempts to identify goals for information purposes only, not for evaluation purposes.

The California Code, Government Code § 53094(b),[237] provides the following:

- *Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the governing board of a school district, that has complied with the requirements of Section 65352.2[238] of this code and Section 21151.2 of the Public Resources*

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234 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan Map. Accessed September 2023, https://www.santa-clarita.com/home/showpublisheddocument/16338/638121386187130000.

235 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan Map.

236 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan Map.

237 California Government Code, Section 53094(b),Regulation of Local Agencies by Cities and Counties.

238 California Section 65352.2 - Coordinating planning, design, and construction of new school facilities.

Code,[239] by a vote of two-thirds of its members, may render a city or county zoning ordinance inapplicable to a proposed use of property by the school district.[240]

As the District is a separate jurisdiction and has taken action under the Government Code as noted above, it is exempt from land use planning requirements of the City. Further, the District has identified significance thresholds that are appropriate for the Project and the intended uses, and that do not conflict with adjoining uses.

Noise

Los Angeles County

The campuses of West Ranch High School and Castaic High School are located in Unincorporated Los Angeles County. Section 12.08.390 of the Los Angeles County Code establishes guidelines to control noise impacts associated with the construction of a project.[241] These guidelines are shown in **Table 5.13-1: Los Angeles County Community Noise Criteria**. Additionally, Section 12.08.440 of the County Code establishes construction noise limits shown in **Table 5.13-2: Los Angeles County Maximum Noise Levels.**

City of Santa Clarita

The campuses of Golden Valley High School, Saugus High School, and Hart High School are located in the City of Santa Clarita. The City of Santa Clarita General Plan Noise Element[242] includes guidelines that have been adopted by the City of Santa Clarita. These guidelines are shown in **Table 5.13-3: Santa Clarita Noise and Land Use Compatibility Guidelines** 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.

The City's Municipal Code, Section 11.44.080,[243] outlines policy to limit unnecessary, excessive, and annoying noise within the City. Specifically, Section 11.44.040 provides noise levels in residential and commercial and manufacturing zones,[244] as noted in **Table 5.13-4: City of Santa Clarita Allowable Noise Levels.** Section 11.44.060 of the Municipal Code allows for construction work to take place between the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. from Monday to Friday.[245] At the boundary line between a residential

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239 2021 California Code, Public Resources Code – PRC, Environmental Quality Chapter 4 - Local Agencies Section 21152.1

240 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.

241 Los Angeles County, Municipal Code. Title 12.08 Noise Control. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT12ENPR_CH12.08NOCO.

242 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 5: Noise Element. 2010. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/5%20-%20Noise%20Element.pdf.

243 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code. Chapter 11.44.080 Special Noise Sources – Construction and Building. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/SantaClarita11/SantaClarita1144.html#11.44.080.

244 City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code. Chapter 11.44.040 Noise Limits. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/SantaClarita11/SantaClarita1144.html#11.44.040.

245 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code, Chapter 11.44.080 Special Noise Sources – Construction and Building.

property and a commercial property and manufacturing property, the noise level of the quieter zone shall be used.

The municipal code in the City does 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.

TABLE 5.13-1
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMUNITY NOISE CRITERIA

Land Use	Time	Allowable Noise Level (dBA)
Noise Sensitive	Anytime	45
Residential	10:00 PM to 7:00 AM	45
	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM	50
Commercial	10:00 PM to 7:00 AM	55
	7:00 AM to 10:00 PM	60
Industrial	Anytime	70

Source : Los Angeles County Code, Section 12.08.390

TABLE 5.13-2
LOS ANGELES COUNTY MAXIMUM NOISE LEVELS

Land Use	Single Family Residential (dBA)	Multi-Family Residential (dBA)	Semi residential / Commercial (dBA)
Maximum noise levels for nonscheduled, intermittent, short-term operation (less than 10 days)			
Daily, except Sundays and Legal holidays, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM	75	80	85
Daily, 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM and all-day Sunday and Legal Holidays	60	64	70
Maximum noise level for repetitively scheduled and relatively long-term operation (10 days or more)			
Daily, except Sundays and Legal holidays, 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM	60	65	70
Daily, 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM and all-day Sunday and Legal Holidays	50	55	60

Source: Los Angeles, County Code, Section 12.08.440

TABLE 5.13-3
SANTA CLARITA NOISE AND LAND USE COMPATIBILITY GUIDELINES

Land Use Categories	Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL)						
	50	55	60	65	70	75	80
Schools, Libraries, Churches, Hospitals, Nursing Homes							

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.

Conditionally Acceptable: New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements is made and noise insulation features included in the design.

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 noise insultation features included in the design.

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

Source: Santa Clarita General Plan, Noise Element (2010)

TABLE 5.13-4
CITY OF SANTA CLARITA ALLOWABLE NOISE LEVELS

Region	Time	Allowable Noise Level (dBA)
Residential Zone	Day	65
Residential Zone	Night	55
Commercial and Manufacturing	Day	80
Commercial and Manufacturing	Night	70

Source: City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code, Chapter 11.44.40 Noise Limits.

Vibration

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.[246]

246 Federal Transit Administration, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual (September 2018). Accessed October 2023, 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.

Therefore, this report relies on the FTA daytime noise level threshold of 80 dBA for residential uses within both the City of Santa Clarita and the County of Los Angeles.

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 at each campus are shown in **Table 5.13-5: Construction Maximum Noise Estimates**. As shown, construction noise levels would result in a maximum increase of 12.8 dBA at Rancho Pico Junior High School, exceeding the daytime significance of 50 dBA.

Impacts would be potentially significant.

TABLE 5.13-5
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)
GVHS	Residential uses along Windfall Place	870	58.0	80.0	N/A
WRHS	Rancho Pico Junior High School along Valencia Boulevard	500	62.8	45.0	+17.8
SHS	Residential uses along Arriola Avenue	130	74.5	80.0	N/A
CHS	Residential uses along Romero Canyon Road	1,100	56.0	50.0	+6.0
HHS	Residential uses along Avenida Balita	500	62.8	80.0	N/A

Source: FHWA, RCNM, version. 1.1.
*Refer to **Appendix G.1** for construction noise output sheets*

On-Site

Similar to the off-site sensitive receptors, the proposed Project would expose on-site receptors at each campus, 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.[247] 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) as well as off-site (residential communities).

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

[247] Refer to Appendix G for construction noise worksheets.

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.[248]

Project-related construction activities would occur during the hours the hours of AM and 7 PM 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 proposed Project's construction activities were required on Saturdays, these activities would occur during the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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.

Construction activities would occur over an approximate continuous 3 to 6-month period for all five campuses (although activities at any campus would be less than 30-days, noise at the nearby sensitive receptors would constitute a potentially temporary noise impact. Noise levels on any of the campuses 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) for school activities when school is in session.

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.

After school activities at each school vary throughout the school year. The addition of field lighting at each campus would not create additional after-school activities, however activities would begin and end 45 minutes later to accommodate the later school start times. **Tables 3.0-1** through **3.0-5** show the activities and their times at each school, including the number of participants. The earliest outdoor activities the GVHS, WRHS, SHS, and HHS campus are scheduled to begin at 7:00 AM. The earliest outdoor activities on the CHS campus are scheduled to begin at 8:00 AM. The latest outdoor activities the GVHS, WRHS, SHS, and HHS campuses are scheduled to end at 6:30 PM. The latest outdoor activities at the CHS campus would end at 9:00 PM. There would not be additional noise created as a result of the Project as the activities are normal operations of the campuses; noise may continue later, not the evening by 45 minutes.

As such, the operational noise levels would be less than significant.

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[248] Refer to Appendix G for construction noise worksheets.

Summary

Noise impacts have the potential to affect on-site and off-site receptors during the construction phase of the proposed Project. 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 74.5 dBA. Noise levels may exceed the local threshold for some residential uses. Noise levels at each of the campuses would be intermittent periods of time and would occur during the most-sensitive times during the day.

Operational noise would remain similar to what is generated today at each campus but may extend further int the evening.

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 each of the campuses, 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.[249] There are no major freeways within 500 feet of any of the campuses. The school campuses are not within one-quarter mile of a freeway or other busy traffic corridor as defined by the California Education Code.[250]

For each of the five campuses the following are the roadway characteristics:

- Golden Valley High School - The closest traffic corridor, State Route (SR) 14, is approximately 2.1 miles southeast.
- West Ranch High School - The closest freeway, I-5, is located approximately 2.3 miles east.
- Saugus High School - The closest freeway, I-5, is located approximately 4.4 miles west.
- Castaic High School - The closest freeway, I-5, is located approximately 1.6 miles east.
- Hart High School - The closest freeway, I-10, is located approximately 1.4 miles west.

Additionally, the proposed Project would not generate an increase of daily vehicle trips, as analyzed in Section 5.17: Transportation.

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.

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

250 California Education Code (EDC), Sec. 17213.

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 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.

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 5.13-6: Construction Vibration Impacts—Building Damage presents vibration impacts associated with on-site construction in terms of building damage. As shown in **Table 5.13-6**, 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.

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 5.13-6**, the forecasted vibration levels due to on-site construction activities would not result in building damage at any of the campuses as the construction activity would be greater than the 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.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

TABLE 5.13-6
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	—	
GVHS	Residential uses along Windfall Place (870 ft)	0.000	0.000	0.5	No
WRHS	Rancho Pico Junior High School along Valencia Boulevard (500 ft)	0.001	0.001	0.5	No
SHS	Residential uses along Arriola Avenue (130 ft)	0.008	0.006	0.5	No
CHS	Residential uses along Romero Canyon Road (1,100 ft)	0.000	0.000	0.5	No
HHS	Residential uses along Avenida Balita (500 ft)	0.001	0.001	0.5	No

Source: US Department of Transportation, Federal Transportation Authority, Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment
*Source: Refer to **Appendix G.2** for construction vibration output sheets.*

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.

The closest airport to the SHS, HHS , CHS and GVHS campuses is the Whiteman Airport is located approximately 10.0 miles south. Therefore, none of these campuses are 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.

No impact would occur.

West Ranch High School

The closest airport to the WRHS campus is Van Nuys Airport is located approximately 13.9 miles south. Therefore, the campus 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.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 on the practice fields at the five high schools. This would not increase enrollment capacity at any of the schools or nearby businesses, thus not introducing new populations to the areas around the campuses.

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 five high 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.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b. Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Does the site promote joint use of parks, libraries, museums, and other public services?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

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:

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting within existing high school fields at five District high school campuses (GVHS, WRHS, HHS, SHS and CHS).

a. Fire protection?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The addition of lighting to the existing high school practice 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 City of Santa Clarita contracts with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) for fire services.[251] [252] LACFD provides urban and wildland fire protection services, fire prevention services,

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[251] City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/7%20-%20Safety%20Element.pdf.

[252] Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed October 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

emergency medical services, hazardous materials services, and urban search and rescue services throughout the city. The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five 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 Los Angeles County and the city of Santa Clarita would not be increased by the proposed Project. The local law enforcement agencies would continue to provide police protection to the District 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.

Communities within the City of Santa Clarita and the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County for all five campuses are served by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which is housed within the Department's Santa Clarita Valley Station, covering an area of 656 square miles.[253] [254]

School security personnel work collaboratively with allied law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of students and staff. 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.

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.

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253 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element.

254 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 5: Safety Element. Accessed October 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

c. Schools?

Less Than Significant Impact.

The addition of lighting on the practice fields of the five campuses would not introduce new students or resident population to any of the schools, as the new lighting is intended to serve the existing school population, student activities, and sports programs. Therefore, the proposed Project would not increase the demand for school resources.

The addition of lighting on the practice fields of the five campuses 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.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five 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 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 on the practice fields of the five campuses would not introduce new resident population to the vicinity. There would be need to relocate any school programs off any of the campuses during construction. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in an increase in demand for park resources or the need for more parks.

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.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. As no off-campus construction would occur, no public facilities would be affected 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. Pursuant to District policies, facilities available for use as follows:

- 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.[255]

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.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five 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.

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255 William S. Hart Union High School District. Civic Center / Terms of Use. Accessed October 2023, https://www.facilitron.com/terms/wshuhsd91350.

5.16 RECREATION

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
RECREATION					
a.	Would the Project 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Does the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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.

City of Santa Clarita

The City of Santa Clarita owns and operates 20 parks in the planning area, totaling 246 acres which provide a wide range of recreational facilities to various communities. Duane R. Harte Park is approximately 2.2 miles northwest of GVHS and includes a total of 5 acres of recreational space. Similarly, Circle J Ranch Park is 2.3 miles west of GVHS and includes a total of 5.3 acres for recreational uses. 0.5 miles southwest of SHS is Central Park, which includes a total of 80 acres of recreational space. Newhall Park borders the northwest boundaries of HHS and includes a total of 14.3 acres for recreational uses.[256]

Los Angeles County – Santa Clarita Valley Planning Area

Los Angeles County owns and operates 13 parks in the planning area, totaling 578 acres and serving multiple communities throughout the Santa Clarita Valley. The Richard Rioux County Park is

[256] City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chater 6: Conservation and Open Space. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/6%20-%20Conservation%20and%20Open%20Space%20Element.pdf.

approximately 0.85 miles south of WRHS and includes a total of 15.5 acres of recreational space. 1.5 miles east of CHS is the Del Valle County Park, which provides a total of 5.8 acres of recreational space.[257]

Project Considerations

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of exterior lighting at existing practice fields at the five high school campuses. Resident population in this region of Los Angeles 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 existing practice fields 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.

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 campuses 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.

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 the proposed Project. If any recreational facilities at the high school campuses are open to the public, these may be temporarily halter 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 five existing high

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257 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 4: Conservation and Open Space Element. Accessed October 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

school fields (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS). Providing lighting on the practice fields would not increase spectator opportunities in the evening, as the only use will be before high school related program practice – no games will be held. As such, there will be no adverse physical impact on the environment.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. No new recreational facilities would be constructed, rather existing ones would increase in value to the 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 Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e. Are traffic and pedestrian hazards mitigated per Caltrans' School Area Pedestrian Safety manual?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f. Is the site easily accessible from arterials and is the minimum peripheral visibility maintained for driveways per Caltrans' Highway Design Manual?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g. Is the proposed school site within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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.

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.

Access to each of the campuses s as follows:

- Due to the proximity of the GVHS campus to SR-14 highway, most construction workers would access the campus from SR-14, exiting off Golden Valley Road. Additionally, Sierra Highway would be used for local travel from north to south. Golden Valley Road, which runs east to west and is south of the campus, would be the primary street used to access the high school campus. It may be accessed via Soledad Canyon Road, Newhall Ranch Road, or Via Princessa.

- Due to the proximity of the WRHS campus to I-5 freeway, most construction workers would access the campus from I-5, exiting off Valenica Boulevard. Valencia Boulevard, which runs east to west and is south of the campus, would be the primary street used to access the high school campus. It may be accessed by The Old Road, McBean Parkway, or Magic Mountain Parkway.

- Due to the proximity of the SHS campus to I-5 freeway, most construction workers would access the campus from I-5, exiting off Valenica Boulevard. Centurion Way, which runs north to south and is east of the campus, would be the primary street used to access the high school campus. It may be accessed from Bouquet Canyon Road.

- Due to the proximity of the CHS campus to I-5 freeway, most construction workers would access the campus from I-5, exiting off Sloan Canyon. Sloan Canyon, which runs east to west and is east of the campus, would be the primary street used to access the high school campus. It may be accessed by The Old Road, Castaic Road, or Lake Hughes Road.

- Due to the proximity of the HHS campus to I-5 freeway, most construction workers would access the campus from I-5, exiting off Lyons Avenue. Newhall Avenue, which runs north to south and is east of the campus, would be the primary street used to access the high school campus. It may be accessed by Lyons Avenue, 16th Street, or Dalbey Drive.

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 GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS. 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 City of Santa Clarita or Los Angeles County circulation plans,[258,259] ordinances, policies, or the performance of the surrounding roadways.

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)).[260] 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 GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS 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.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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258 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plam, June 2011. Chapter 4 : Circulation Element. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/4%20-%20Circulation%20Element.pdf.

259 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Accessed October 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

260 Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13. Environmental Quality, Chapter 2.7. Modernization of Transportation Analysis for Transit-Oriented Infill Projects, Section 21099. Accessed October 2023, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=21099.&lawCode=PRC.

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 on the practice fields at the five 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 five District high school campuses; 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.

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.[261] Additionally, for the schools in the City of Santa Clarita, GVHS, SHS, and HHS, operation of the proposed Project would not interfere with compliance of the Santa Clarita Municipal Code Chapter 12.52.[262] As for the schools in unincorporated Los Angeles County, operation of the proposed Project would not interfere with compliance of the Los Angeles County Code's Traffic Code.[263]

Summary

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five 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.

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261 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Part 7: Traffic Control for School Areas (2021), https://dot.ca.gov/programs/safety-programs/camutcd/camutcd-files. Accessed October 2023.

262 City of Santa Clarita Municipal Code, Chapter 12.52 Crosswalks and Bicycle Lanes, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/html/SantaClarita12/SantaClarita1252.html. Accessed October 2023.

263 County of Los Angeles, Code of Ordinances, Title 15 Vehicles and Traffic, Division 1 Traffic Code. https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT15VETR_DIV1TRCO. Accessed October 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 lighting improvements on practice fields that would only affect nighttime visibility on the 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 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.

No impact would occur.

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 GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS are not located within 1,500 feet of a railroad track easement. The nearest railroad track easement to GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS and HHS is the Antelope Rail line in Santa Clarita. The line is approximately 1.4 miles from GVHS, 3 miles from WRHS, 1.5 miles from SHS, and 8 miles from CHS. Portions of HHS are located approximately 1,400 feet (0.3 miles) from the Antelope line; however, the proposed Project involves installing lights at the high school fields at the high schools, and there are no proposed changes to the railroad track.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. There are no proposed changes to the surrounding railroad system.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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 (PRC) 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 PRC section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 PRC 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.	☐	☒	☐	☐

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.[264] 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.[265]

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 practice fields at each campus would be altered during construction.

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five high schools. The five 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.

264 Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13. Environmental Quality, Chapter 2.5 Definitions, Section 21074. Accessed September 2023, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=21074.

265 Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 5. Parks and Monuments, Chapter 1. State Parks and Monuments, Article 2. Historic Resources, Section 5020.1. Accessed September 2023, https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?sectionNum=5020.1.&lawCode=PRC.

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.*

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 letters were sent by the District to the Barbareño - Ventureño Band of Mission Indians, Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, San Fernando Band of Mission Indians, and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Copies of the AB 52 Notification Letters to each of the listed tribes are provided in **Appendix H: AB 52 Notification Letters.**[266]

Two tribes responded; Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians in an e-mail dated October 6, 2023 and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians in a letter dated October 18, 2023.

The Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, they note that no further consultation on the proposed Project (see **Appendix H.5: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians AB 52 Letter & Correspondence**).

In their response, the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) noted two of the five campuses (West Ranch High School and Saugus High School). These campuses are categorized by the Tribe as low sensitivity, while the other three campuses (Golden Valley High School, Castaic High School, and Hart High School) fall below the threshold for low sensitivity. The FTBMI AB 52 response letter is provided in **Appendix H.3: Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians AB 52 Letter & Correspondence**.

West Ranch High School

The proposed Project location is surrounded by (6) Tribal Cultural Resource (TCRs) sites situated north, east and west of the Project Site. Two of these resources are the FTBMI ancestral village of Chaguayanga and prehistoric Native American trails that were constructed over by the I-5 freeway. The fact that the

266 See **Appendix H: AB 52 Notification Letters.**

Chaguayanga village and area spanned up to 4 miles in cardinal directions and that there are nearby prehistoric trails and nearby TCRs in three separate directions indicates a high probability of ancestral activity at the proposed Project location.

Saugus High School

Intact Tribal Cultural Resources have been discovered less than one half mile from the proposed Project location. There is also a prehistoric site and rock shelter in close proximity to the Project Site.

Summary

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 each of the five campuses during ground disturbing activities (such as drilling and trenching).

The proposed Project involves installing lights on the practice fields at the five 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. However, as noted, there have been discoveries of TCRs near WRHS and SHS; as such, there is potential for TCRs to be discovered.

Impacts are potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures have been identified to reduce potentially significant impacts:

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 shall, in good faith, consult with the Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians (FTBMI) on the disposition and treatment of any Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR) encountered during all ground disturbing activities.

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 tribal monitor shall investigate to assess if the discovery includes tribal cultural resources, or human remains that may be of tribal decent.

MM TCR-2 **In the Event of Inadvertent Discovery, Human Remains** . If human remains or funerary objects are encountered during any activities associated with the Project, work in the immediate vicinity (within a 100-foot buffer of the find) shall cease and the Los Angeles County Coroner shall be contacted pursuant to State Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and that code shall be enforced for the duration of the Project. No further work in the immediate area may resume until the tribal cultural resources or human remains are removed as approved by the County coroner.

Inadvertent discoveries of human remains and/or funerary object(s) are subject to California State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and the subsequent disposition of those discoveries shall be decided by the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), as determined by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), should those findings be determined as Native American in origin.

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, during site ground disturbing activities, 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.

MM TCR-3 **In the Event of an Inadvertent Discovery**. If cultural resources are discovered during project activities, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find (within a 60-foot buffer) shall cease and a qualified archaeologist meeting Secretary of Interior standards retained by the District to assess the find. Work on the portions of the Project outside of the buffered area may continue during this assessment period.

The FTBMI shall be contacted about any pre-contact and/or post-contact finds and be provided information after the archaeologist makes their initial assessment of the nature of the find, to provide Tribal input with regards to significance and treatment.

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b.	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonable foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e.	Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 on the existing high school practice fields at the GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS 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 demand for potable water, wastewater treatment, stormwater conveyance, natural gas, or telecommunication. As discussed in **Section 5.6 (a)**, the operation of the lighting system at each campus

would result in modest electrical consumption below all applicable thresholds and would not lead to the need for construction of new electrical generation facilities.

Furthermore, 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,[267][268] and would not require or result in the relocation or construction of new utilities.

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 Santa Clarita Valley Water District (SCVWD) provides water to the five high schools of the proposed Project.

The proposed Project would include the installation and operation of lighting systems at existing high school fields for five campuses within the District (WSHUHSD). The lighting system does not require a water supply, and thus would not have a direct or indirect effect on water supplies or demands.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures required.

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267 California Code of Regulations, California Building Standards Code, Title 24. Accessed October 2023, https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/Codes.

268 California Code of Regulations, California Green Building Standards Code, Part 11, Title 24. Accessed October 2023, https://www.dgs.ca.gov/BSC/CALGreen#codes.

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 Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board.

No alterations to existing restrooms or locker rooms are proposed, and the existing spectator capacity on any of the practice fields or campuses would not be increased. Therefore, the lighting system of the proposed Project would not have direct or indirect effects upon wastewater generation or treatment demand capacity.

The proposed Project 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 on the practice fields from any programmed activities.

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 on the existing high school practice fields.

No demolition is required in order to install the lighting, and the lighting fixtures would be prefabricated. As such, no construction-related wastes are anticipated. Furthermore, spectator capacity on the practice fields would not be increased, therefore no increases in solid waste generation associated with campuses are anticipated.

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 are 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 on existing practice fields at the five high schools.

No increase in solid waste generation associated with the campuses are anticipated as a result of the proposed Project. As such, the Project would be in compliance with solid waste regulations.

The proposed Project 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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 District high school campuses (GVHS, WRHS SHS, CLS, HHS).

According to the 2022-2023 School Safety Plans for Saugus High School[269] and Castaic High School[270] have outlined the practice field as their Evacuation Assembly Area (EAA), while GVHS, WRHS and HHS have designated their EEAs in a different location on-campus. In the interim during construction, EEAs on the practice field will be temporarily relocated on-campus.

All responsible personnel will be trained and briefed on the relocation of the EEA. There is no increase in student or faculty capacity under the proposed Project at any of the campuses that could result in an increase in the demand for emergency response or evacuation. The proposed Project would therefore

269 2022-2023 School Safety Plan. Saugus High School. Accessed September 2023, https://4.files.edl.io/62e2/02/06/23/163431-0328b492-ce08-464a-b03e-5888281518a2.pdf.

270 2022-2023 School Safety Plan. Castaic High School. Accessed September 2023, https://www.castaichighschool.org/apps/pages/Safe-School-Plan.

not result in impairment of adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. Impacts are less than significant.

Furthermore, the Santa Clarita Valley has freeway access along only three routes – Interstate 5 and State Route 14 going north and south, and State Route 126 going west – to use for evacuation purposes in the event of an emergency. Residents in Stevenson Ranch, containing WRHS, and Castaic, containing CHS, will rely on alternate evacuation routes along the surface streets through and out of Santa Clarita Valley.[271] In the event of an emergency evacuation, the proposed Project will comply with the evacuation protocols, including identifying two means of ingress and egress and traffic control.

The proposed 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 five high schools.

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 District high school campuses (GVHS, WRHS, SHS, CHS, and HHS).

As mentioned above, within the City of Santa Clarita, Hart High School (HHS) and Saugus High School (SHS) are not located in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ), as it is in a developed area. According to the City of Santa Clarita's General Plan, Golden Valley High School (GVHS) is located in a Fire Zone.

The City of Santa Clarita's General Plan has established fire prevention strategies for existing campuses, such as GVHS, aimed to reduce wildfire risk potential and ensure public and fire responder safety.[272] Additionally, HHS, SHS, and GVHS will not be adding combustible components through Project implementation. Therefore, Project implementation would not exacerbate wildfire risks due to wildfire.

Additionally, within the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County, Castaic High School (CHS) and West Ranch High School (WRHS) are both located in zones designated for VHFHSZ. Per CAL FIRE, Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) are classified based on a combination of how a fire will behave, and the probability

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271 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element. Accessed September 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/html/SantaClaritaGP/7%20-%20Safety%20Element.pdf.

272 City of Santa Clarita, Planning Division, General Plan, June 2011. Chapter 7: Safety Element.

of flames and embers threatening the building. Los Angeles County has established fire prevention strategies for all existing campuses, such as CHS and WRHS, aimed to reduce wildfire risk potential and ensure public and fire responder safety.[273] Additionally, CHS and WRHS will not be adding combustible components through Project implementation. Therefore, Project implementation would not exacerbate wildfire risks due to wildfire.

All five campuses will not add combustible components onsite through Project implementation and have already established necessary fire prevention strategies. Therefore, the proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire.

The proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risk or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire, as the five high school campuses will deal with combustible components through Project implementation.

No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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 on existing high school practice 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.

The proposed 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.

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273 Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Santa Clarita Valley Area Plan "One Valley One Vision." 2012. Chapter 5: Safety Element. Accessed September 2023, https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Santa-Clarita-Valley-Area-Plan.pdf.

According to FEMA's National Flood Hazard Map, HHS is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area. Special Flood Hazard Areas are high-risk areas that predict there is at least a 1 in 4 chance of flooding during a 30-year time period.[274] Additionally, the SHS campus is on a zone designated as having a 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard. Areas with 0.2% Annual Chance of Flood Hazard are at-risk for floods have a 1 in 500 chance of flooding each year. The proposed Project on HHS and SHS practice fields will be constructed on existing, developed land. Los Angeles County Flood Control District and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works are the responsible agencies for flood protection and have established flood control facilities and other measures to increase flood protection.

GVHS, CHS, and WRHS are not located within flood zones. Therefore, the proposed Project has a less than significant impact.

The proposed Project would not expose more people or structures to significant risk of flooding or landslides, as construction on the practice fields will occur on existing, developed land.

Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

274 FEMA, Flood Maps and Zones Explained. Accessed September 2023, https://www.fema.gov/blog/fema-flood-maps-and-zones-explained.

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE – Does the project:					
a.	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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b.	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.)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c.	Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

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 proposed Project will be completed on existing District high school campuses (CGS, SHS, HHS, GVHS and WRHS) are entirely developed with existing practice fields. Additionally, each of the campuses have varying surrounding land uses.

As noted above, GVHS is surrounded by residential, business park, and commercial uses. There is a vacant lot west of the campus, and a temporarily closed oil field in the south. Land uses surrounding WRHS include residential and public/institutional uses. There is also open space to the west and south of the campus. SHS is bound by recreational parks and residential uses. There is also a public elementary school to the west. CHS is surrounded by residential and open space uses. The open space surrounds the campus

to the west, north, and east. HHS is surrounded by residential and commercial uses. A recreational park is found to the north and west of the campus. Preconstruction surveys would be required under **MM BIO-1** and **MM BIO-2** to reduce potential impacts to migratory birds who may be nesting within the five campuses.

With respect to cultural resources, the proposed Project would be implemented in areas that have been graded and developed with school uses. As all the campuses are existing schools, archaeological resources would have been identified at the time of construction, or during renovations – of which no resources were 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 any of the five campuses. 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 construction activities, **MM TCR-1** and **MM TCR-2** would be implemented to allow for a Tribal Monitor on site to ensure that any subsurface Native American resources are protected accordingly to reduce Project impacts on tribal cultural resources to a less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: The identified mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

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 herein considers the environmental effects of the other schools, as well as other past, current, and probable future development projects. With the incorporation of the mitigation measures for biological resources (**MM BIO-1, MM BIO-2 and BIO-3**), cultural resources (**MM CUL-1, MM CUL-2**), tribal cultural resources (**MM TCR-1, MM TCR-2**), and noise (**MM N 1-8**), identified 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 identified mitigation measures would 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 the 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 the City of Santa Clarita and Los Angeles County's Municipal Code.[275] [276] Mitigation measures have been identified (see **MM N-1 through MM N-8(that** would 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 identified mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant.

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275 City of Santa Clarita, Municipal Code. Chapter 11.44.080 Special Noise Sources – Construction and Building. Accessed October 2023, https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/SantaClarita/#!/SantaClarita11/SantaClarita1144.html#11.44.080.

276 Los Angeles County, Municipal Code. Title 12.08 Noise Control. Accessed September 2023, https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT12ENPR_CH12.08NOCO.

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8.0 TERMS, DEFINITIONS, AND ACRONYMS

AB	assembly bill
ADT	average daily trips
AFY	acre-feet per year
AQMP	Air Quality Management Plan
ASL	above sea level
BACM	best available control measure
BMP	Best Management practice
CalEEMod	California Emissions Estimator Model
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CBC	California Building Code
CCR	California Code of Regulations
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
CHS	Castaic High School
CNDBB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Survey
CSWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
CO	carbon monoxide
CO2	carbon dioxide
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
DSA	Division of the State Architect
EAA	Evacuation Assembly Area
EDC	California Education Code
EDR	Environmental Data Resources, Inc.
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EMFAC	CARB on-road vehicle emissions model
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESA	Environmental Site Assessment
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHSV	Fire Hazard Severity Zone
FIND	Facility Information Detail

FTBMI	Fernandeño Tataviam Band of Mission Indians
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
GC	General Commercial
GHG	greenhouse gases
GVHS	Golden Valley High School
HAZNET	Hazardous Waste Information System
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HHMD	Health Hazardous Materials Division
HHS	Hart High School
HID	high intensity discharge
HSC	Health and Safety Code
HVAC	heating/ventilating/air conditioning
HWTS	Hazardous Waste Tracking System
I	Interstate
LACFD	Los Angeles County Fire Department
LACRWQCB	Los Angeles County Regional Water Quality Control Board
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LST	Localized Significance Threshold
LUST	Leaking Underground Storage Tank
MLD	Most Likely Descendant
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
PM10	particulate matter less than 10 microns
PM2.5	particulate matter less than 2.5 microns
PPV	peak particle velocity
PRC	Public Resources Code
R1	Single Family Residential
RL	Low Density Residential

RM	Medium Density Residential/Multiple Family Residential
ROLD	Rural Outdoor Lighting District
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
SCVWD	Santa Clarita Valley Water District
SEA	Significant Ecological Areas
SHS	Saugus High School
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975
SOx	sulfur oxide
SR	State Route
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resource
TLC	Total Light Control
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
VOC	volatile organic compound
VSQGs	Very Small Quantity Generators
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
WMP	Waste Management Plan
WRHS	West Ranch High School