



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Lead Agency: Irvine Unified School District (IUSD)

Project Title: Northwood High School Field Lighting Improvement Project

Notice of Preparation Review Period: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 to Thursday, June 26, 2025 (30 days)

Scoping Meeting: Tuesday, June 3, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Irvine Unified School District (IUSD or District), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Northwood High School Field Lighting Improvement Project pursuant to the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13, Section 21000 et seq. (CEQA Statute) and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq. (CEQA Guidelines).

The purpose of the Notice of Preparation is to (1) serve as a public notice of an EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be prepared; (2) advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the DEIR to be prepared; and (3) provide notice of the public scoping meeting. The District, as Lead Agency, respectfully requests that any responsible and trustee agencies responding to this notice respond in a manner consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). Comments and suggestions should, at a minimum, identify the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be explored in the EIR, in addition to whether the responding agency will be a responsible or trustee agency for the proposed project, and any related issues raised by interested parties.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d) and 15082, the District will not be preparing an initial study and will begin work directly on the Draft EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Northwood HS campus is located at 4515 Portola Parkway (Assessor's Parcel Numbers [APNs] 527-151-02 and 527-151-03) in the City of Irvine, California. The Northwood High School Field Lighting Improvement Project would be developed within approximately 4.56 acres of the southern portion of the existing 43-acre high school campus (project site). The campus is bound by Twisted Oak to the north, Yale Avenue to the east, Portola Parkway to the south, and agricultural land to the west. Regional access to the Northwood HS is provided by California State Route 261 (CA-261), approximately 1 mile northwest of the campus (see Figure 1, *Regional Location*).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would consist of the installation of four new athletic field lights and a Public Address (PA) system (proposed project). The proposed project may also consist of trenching for the installation of an electrical line to provide electricity for the four athletic field lights. Two light poles with athletic field lights would be located on

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the northwest border of the track and field and two light poles with athletic field lights would be located on the southeast border of the track and field. Each stadium light pole would be approximately 70 feet in height, include 12 light fixtures, and have a load capacity of 66.64 kilowatts (kW).

The proposed project is anticipated to include the installation of a new permanent PA system, which would consist of four (4) speakers with one (1) speaker attached to each lighting pole. The speakers may be oriented towards the audience in the spectator areas (see Figure 2, *Conceptual Site Plan*).

The expansion of hardscaping would be limited to the installation of the athletic field light poles and installation of the power distribution equipment and lighting control equipment. No existing structures would be demolished and no new buildings would be constructed. No changes to the student capacity or number of staff would occur as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project would disturb approximately 1,500 square feet.

The proposed improvements at Northwood HS may be used for sporting events and practices, other school events, and non-school events. Sporting events and practices are anticipated to consist of tackle football, flag football, girls and boys soccer, girl's and boy's lacrosse, track and field, and band. The track and field may also be used for other school events, such as graduation and non-school events. The proposed event scheduling is contingent upon District operational needs and may be modified at the District's discretion.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the District has prepared this NOP to provide agencies, organizations, and interested parties with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects. Consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the following environmental topics may be analyzed in an EIR:

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

The District has determined that the proposed project could potentially affect 10 of the 20 environmental topic areas identified in Appendix G. These 10 topical areas are aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and utilities and service systems. These impacts will be analyzed in detail in the EIR. Feasible mitigation measures will be proposed for impacts that are determined to be potentially significant and reasonable alternatives will be considered. The proposed project is expected to have no impact on agricultural and forestry resources, biological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, and wildfire; therefore, the EIR will not present a detailed analysis of the project's impact on this topic.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The 30-day public review period for the NOP is from **Wednesday, May 28, 2025** to **Thursday, June 26, 2025**. In accordance with the time limits mandated by State law, if there are any concerns about the scope

and content of the information to be addressed in EIR, please send written comments to the District, at the address below, at the earliest possible date but not later than 5:00 p.m. on **Thursday, June 26, 2025**. This NOP is also available at:

- Irvine Unified School District, Facilities Planning and Construction Services Department (address below)
- Irvine Unified School District website: <https://iusd.org/business-services/facilities-planning-construction-services/bidder-information-public-notice>

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Please send your comments to:

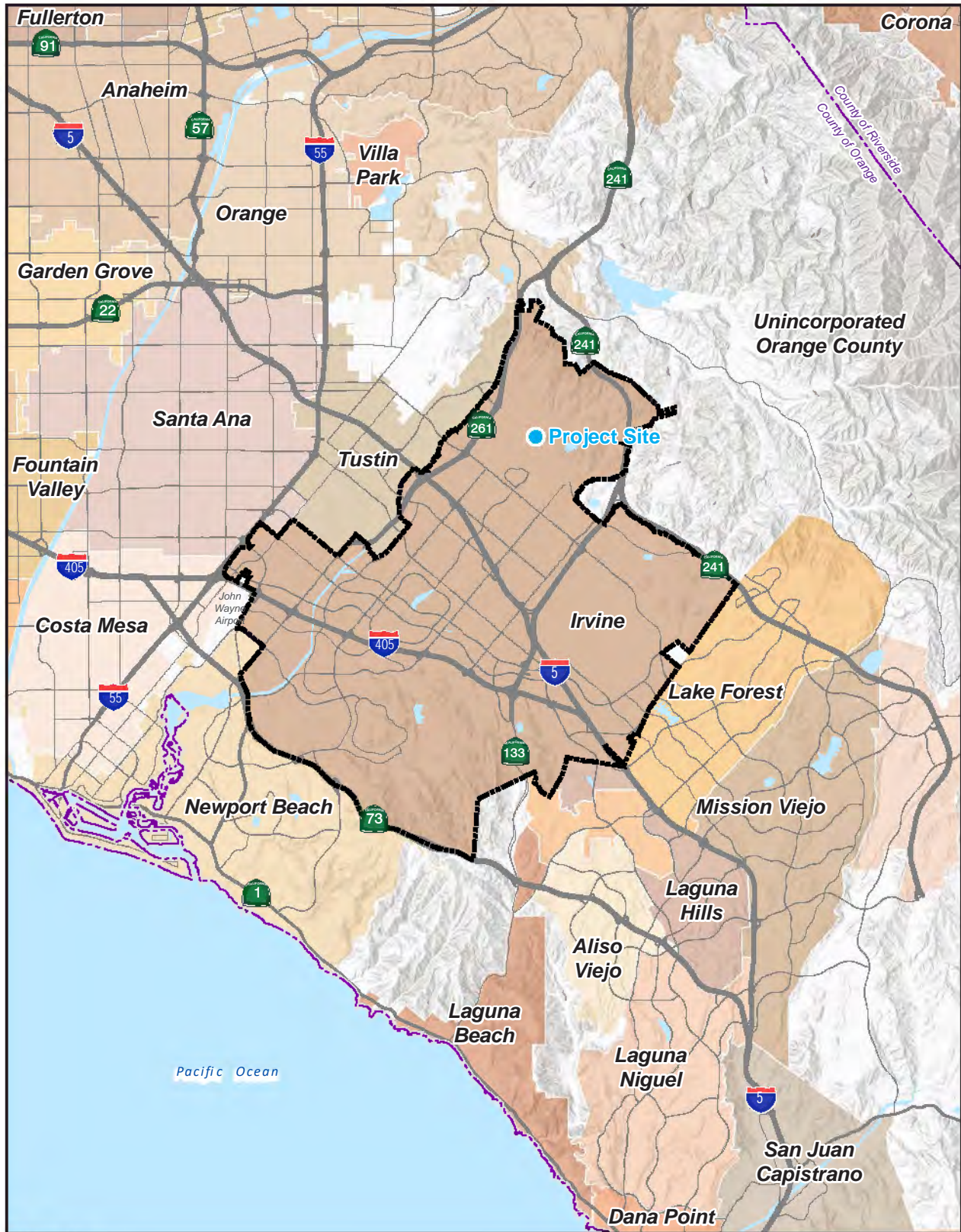
ATTN: Jesse Barron, Coordinator, Facilities Planning
Mailing Address: Irvine Unified School District
Facilities Planning and Construction Services Department
2015 Roosevelt, Irvine, CA 92620

Comments can also be sent via e-mail to jessebarron@iusd.org. Please include **“Northwood High School Field Lighting Improvement Project”** in the subject line. If you require additional information, please contact Jesse Barron at (949) 936-5316.

SCOPING MEETING: The District will hold a scoping meeting at 6:00 p.m., on **Tuesday, June 3, 2025**. The meeting will be held in-person at **4515 Portola Parkway, Irvine CA 92620, in the Northwood High School Theater**.

The purpose of the scoping meeting is to present the proposed project, describe the EIR process, and to receive public comments. The District invites interested parties to participate in the scoping meeting for the proposed project in order to learn more about the project, ask questions, and submit comments.

Figure 1 - Regional Location

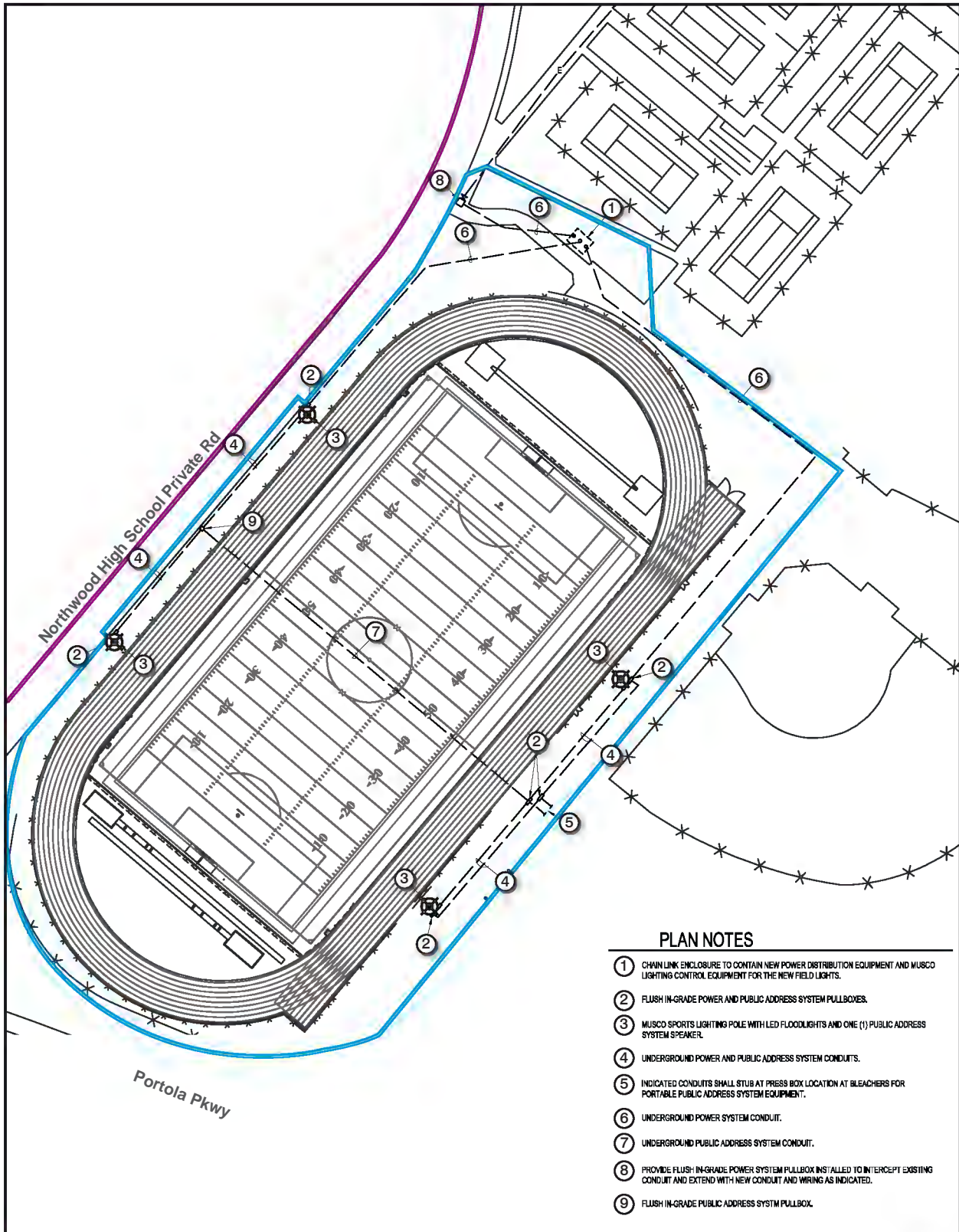


----- Irvine City Boundary

Note: Unincorporated county areas are shown in white.
Source: Generated using ArcMap 2025.



Figure 2 - Conceptual Site Plan



Northwood High School Campus

Light Pole Locations (4)

Project Site

0 100
 Scale (Feet)



Source: Ruhnau Clarke Architects 2025.