

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 7  
100 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUITE 100 | LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
PHONE (213) 897-0362 | FAX (213) 897-0360 TTY 711  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



March 11, 2026

Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard, Deputy Superintendent  
Manhattan Beach Unified School District  
325 South Peck Avenue  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

RE: Mira Costa High School Field Renovation  
Lighting, and Facilities Master Plan  
SCH # 2025090918  
Vic. LA-1/PM 21.919  
GTS # LA-2025-05011-DEIR

Dear Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The project would replace existing field lights at the Waller Football Stadium in the northeast quadrant of the campus; install new field lights at the West Field in the northwest quadrant of the campus; and install new field lights on the softball/baseball fields in the southwest quadrant of the campus. The project would also include the installation of two new e-bike parking areas on campus and include various improvements identified in the District's Mira Costa High School Facilities Master Plan. The project site includes the entire 37-acre campus. The proposed project would not increase student enrollment or capacity at the athletic fields or on the main campus and would not include improvements to the fields beyond the proposed new field lighting.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/#guidelines-updates>

The proposed project would extend existing campus activities into the evening hours without increasing student enrollment, campus capacity, or the number of events in a manner that would substantially impact the performance or safety of adjacent roadways. No new vehicle or pedestrian access points (such as sidewalks or driveways) or new pedestrian facilities that would alter existing circulation patterns on campus will

Dawnalyn Murakawa-Leopard, Deputy Superintendent

March 11, 2026

Page 2

be constructed as part of this project. The campus would continue to utilize its current non-motorized and pedestrian infrastructure. Attendees would maintain use of existing alternative transportation options, including sidewalks, crosswalks, bike lanes, and public transit.

Section 3.11 of the City of Manhattan Beach Transportation Analysis Guidelines establishes screening criteria for the assessment of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for proposed projects. The threshold for non-retail projects is 110 daily vehicle trips; projects generating fewer trips are exempt from VMT analysis. The proposed Mira Costa High School field renovation is forecasted to generate 143 daily vehicle trips, exceeding this threshold and requiring further review. The second criterion allows exemption for projects located within a half mile of a major transit stop; however, the available bus service does not meet this requirement for the campus.

The project does not fit standard land use categories (office, residential, retail) and is classified as a unique land use. The guidelines permit a reasonable methodology for VMT screening in such cases. According to CEQA and State guidance, locally serving projects consistent with the City's General Plan and the RTP/SCS such as schools may be screened out from further VMT analysis. The proposed field improvements will support locally serving sports activities, primarily attracting local residents and relocating existing trips within the South Bay area rather than generating new ones. Therefore, the project is anticipated to result in less-than-significant impacts related to VMT.

Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Any large-size truck trips should be limited to off-peak commute periods for the construction phase and operation phase. Construction truck loads should be covered with a tarpaulin cover.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles County. Please be mindful that projects should be designed to discharge clean run-off water.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2025-05011-DEIR.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Higgins*

Anthony Higgins

Acting LDR Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse