NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND INITIAL STUDY FOR THE RIO AMERICANO HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM IMPROVEMENTS

DATE: January 5, 2026

TO: Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of an Initial Study and Environmental Impact Report for the Rio Americano High School Stadium Improvements Project

The San Juan Unified School District ("San Juan Unified" or "the District") will be the lead agency and will prepare a focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) compliant with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed Rio Americano High School Stadium Improvements Project (also referred to as "the project" or "the proposed project"). An Initial Study has been prepared (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]). In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Notice of Preparation (NOP) provides the project location, a brief project description, and a summary of the potential environmental effects of the proposed project.

The purpose of this NOP is to provide an opportunity to comment on the content of the Initial Study and the scope and proposed content of the EIR. The District will rely on responsible and trustee agencies to provide information relevant to the analysis of resources within the jurisdiction of such agencies. Specifically, input is requested on:

1. **Scope of Environmental Analysis**—guidance on the scope of analysis for this EIR, including identification of specific issues that will require closer study due to the location, scale, and character of the project;

2. **Mitigation Measures**—ideas for feasible mitigation, including mitigation that would avoid, eliminate, or reduce potentially significant or significant impacts; and

3. **Alternatives**—suggestions for alternatives to the proposed project that could potentially reduce or avoid potentially significant or significant impacts.

As outlined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b), each responsible and trustee agency must identify specific environmental issues, alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be explored in the EIR. If there is no response within 30 days, the District will assume that there are no specific environmental issues, alternatives, or mitigation measures that the responsible and trustee agencies believe should be incorporated into the EIR.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Please provide your written comments before February 5, 2026. Comments, along with the name and contact information of the appropriate person in your organization, should be addressed to:

Nicholas Arps, Director of Facilities Construction & Modernization
San Juan Unified School District
3738 Walnut Avenue
Carmichael, CA 95608
(916) 971-7700
construction@sanjuan.edu

Documents related to this project will be available for review on the San Juan Unified website at: sanjuan.edu/riostadium.

SCOPING MEETING

CEQA provides for a lead agency to facilitate one or more scoping meetings, which provide additional opportunity for determining the scope and content of the EIR. San Juan Unified will host a scoping meeting that will include a brief presentation by staff introducing the proposed project, outlining the CEQA process, and highlighting the types of comments sought (i.e., the scope of the environmental analysis, feasible mitigation measures, and alternatives) and how to provide comments. This scoping meeting will be held from 6:00pm-7:30pm on Wednesday, January 7th, 2026 at the Performing Arts Center at Rio Americano High School, 4540 American River Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864. Interested parties may submit comments related to the potential environmental impacts of the project at the public scoping and throughout the 30-day public comment period which begins on January 6, 2026 and ends on February 5, 2026.

PROJECT LOCATION AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

The project site is the existing Rio Americano High School campus property, which is situated in unincorporated Sacramento County, east of the Sacramento City limits, in the urbanized Arden-Arcade community (Exhibit 1). The project site is bounded by American River Drive on the north, private residences adjacent to Whitehall Way on the northeast, private residences adjacent to Morris Drive on the southwest, and the American River Parkway to the south (Exhibit 2). Most of the campus would not be affected by the proposed improvements. The focus of improvements would occur in the area of Raider Stadium and associated paved pedestrian access routes between the stadium and parking areas. The project site is located at 4540 American River Drive (APN 292-0210-019-0000).

The project site is zoned RD-4 (PC) (Low Density Single-Family Residential/Parkway Corridor), and the Sacramento County General Plan land use designation is LDR (Low-Density Residential). The Arden-Arcade Community Plan land use designation is RD-4/PQP (Public/Quasi-Public). Public schools are a permitted, primary use under the current Sacramento County Zoning Code for properties zoned RD-4. The project site was developed as a public school in 1963.

The project site is surrounded by single-family residential development to the northwest, north, and northeast, and the American River Parkway is adjacent to the project site to the south.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

San Juan Unified is proposing to improve the existing Raider Stadium within the existing Rio Americano High School Campus, by adding high mast light standards, additional bleacher seating, an upgraded public address (PA) system, and a new press box. New light standards would also be installed along the existing paved fire lane between the stadium and the main campus parking lot, to provide for pedestrian safety.

PROPOSED FACILITIES

Four permanent high mast light poles would be installed at the existing Raider Stadium. The light poles would be approximately 80 feet tall. In addition, six new approximately 15-foot-tall light poles would be installed between the south end of the existing main parking lot (which is accessed at the campus entrance from American River Drive at Saverien Drive) and the stadium entrance, along the existing paved fire lane, which would serve as the proposed pedestrian travel route; this lighting would provide nighttime visibility for pedestrian safety. The existing bleacher seating would be replaced with new bleacher seating on the north (visitor side) of the stadium and new bleacher seating on the south (home side) of the stadium accommodating a total capacity of approximately 2,500 people. A new press box would also be installed as part of the bleacher seating on the south (home side) of the stadium. The proposed project also includes removing the existing metal storage sheds on the northwest side of the stadium, and a small storage shed on the south side of the stadium. Two existing Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District (SMUD) wood light poles within the campus fire lane (which would be used for pedestrian ingress and egress) would also be removed. Finally, the existing PA system would be upgraded.

CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION

All construction equipment and vehicles would be staged within paved areas and the stadium area of the existing school campus. Project-related demolition and construction is anticipated to take three to four months during the summer of 2027 when school classes are not in session. Construction hours are estimated to be between 7 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday.

Construction and demolition equipment and activities would involve the use of American River Drive to access the project site from the campus' main entrance at the corner of Saverien Drive and American River Drive.

The construction contractor would be responsible for erecting a chain-link fence with fabric screening or webbing around the construction area, to ensure that only authorized construction personnel and District representatives are allowed entry. In addition, warning signs indicating that the construction site poses a hazard to non-authorized personnel along with signs stating "No Admittance" would be posted on the fencing around the site.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

San Juan Unified has identified the following project objectives as required by the CEQA Guidelines Section 15124(b):

- Enhance the Rio Americano High School campus as a Center of Community;
- Provide a facility that is well suited and has the capacity for athletic and non-athletic events, including all-school assemblies, graduation, and other special and regular events;
- Expand the capability of Rio Americano High School to host athletic and non-athletic events and conduct outdoor student activities during cooler parts of the day;
- Enhance the high school athletic experience for students, parents, alumni, and the Rio Americano High School community;
- Increase flexibility for scheduling on-campus outdoor activities over the course of the day and evening; and
- Optimize scheduling opportunities for athletic practices and competitions outside of normal classroom instruction times of the day.

REQUIRED APPROVALS

The proposed project would be reviewed by the Office of Public School Construction of the California Department of General Services, Division of the State Architect, and by the California Department of Education (CDE). The CDE is responsible for approving the proposed site of any public school in California (Education Code Section 17213) to ensure that the location meets certain specific standards for public health and safety.

Approvals required for the proposed project may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- California Department of Education/Division of State Architect—final school site and design approval (per California Education Code Section 17213).

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

INITIAL STUDY

San Juan Unified has prepared an Initial Study (CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]). The Initial Study identifies topics where there would clearly be no impact or a less-than-significant impact, including:

- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

The Initial Study is available for review on the San Juan Unified website at: sanjuan.edu/riostadium.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

San Juan Unified anticipates preparing a "focused EIR" that addresses significant and potentially significant impacts attributable to the proposed project. As required by CEQA, the focused EIR will describe existing conditions and evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed Rio Americano High School Stadium Improvements Project and a reasonable range of alternatives, including the no-project alternative. It will address direct, reasonably foreseeable indirect, cumulative, and growth-inducing effects. The EIR will identify feasible mitigation measures, if available, to reduce significant and potentially significant impacts. San Juan Unified anticipates that the focused EIR will include an analysis of the following topic areas.

- **Aesthetics, Light and Glare**—The EIR will describe the existing visual conditions and evaluate the potential impacts on scenic resources and visual character, and impacts related to light and glare, that may result from the proposed improvements. There are no State or locally designated scenic roadways in the project area.

- **Biological Resources**—The EIR will define the biological resources in the project area, identify existing habitats, and evaluate the project's potential effects on sensitive natural communities, and special-status plant and animal species.

- **Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources**—The EIR will describe any existing cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources and evaluate potential impacts on those resources, including the potential to affect undiscovered resources during excavation. The District anticipates at this time that the EIR will be informed by consultation with one or more California Native American tribes.

- **Noise and Vibration**—The EIR will describe existing noise and vibration conditions and the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed upgrades, along with traffic noise. Noise and vibration levels from construction, and noise levels from operation of the upgraded PA system and traffic before and after events at Raider Stadium, will be estimated and compared with existing ambient noise levels.

- **Transportation**—The EIR will identify existing conditions, existing plus project conditions, cumulative no-project conditions, and cumulative plus project conditions. The EIR will summarize an analysis of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) related impacts of the proposed project, and explain that all adverse physical environmental impacts associated with VMT are included in the air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and other relevant topic sections of the EIR or Initial Study. The proposed project site plan will be evaluated for access and on-site circulation, including interface with the public roadway network, emergency vehicle access and circulation, and pedestrian and bicycle access and circulation within and adjacent to the site.

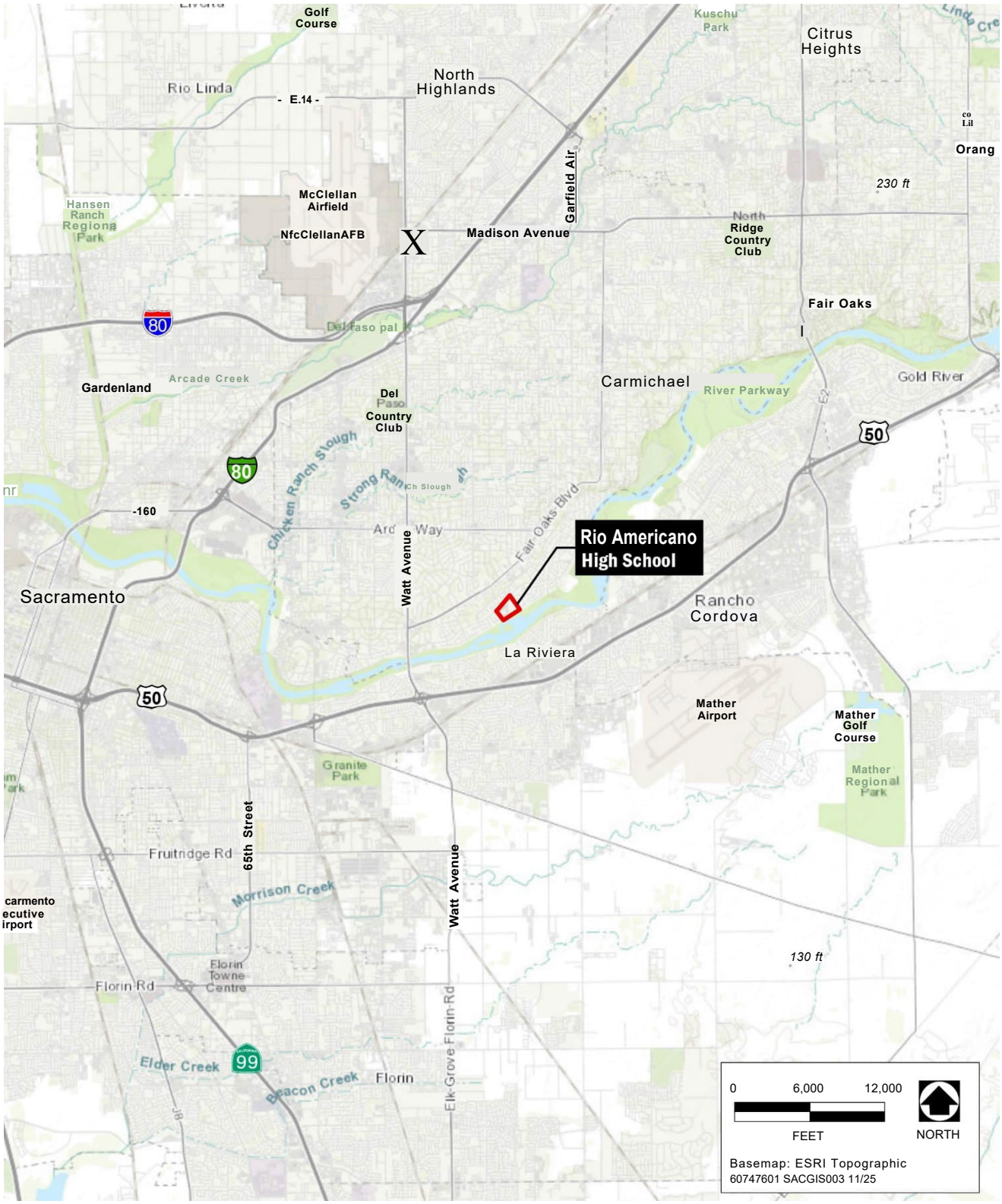

Exhibit 1. Regional Project Location

Exhibit 2. Project Site