

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Subject: Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
Project: **San Marcos High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project**
Lead Agency: San Marcos Unified School District
Review Period: March 17, 2026 to April 16, 2026 (30 days)

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

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: Pursuant to Public Resources code Section 21083 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15087, the IS/MND will be available for a 30-day public review from **Tuesday, March 17, 2026 through Thursday, April 16, 2026**. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.4, responsible and trustee agencies must submit any comments in response to this notice no later than 30 days after receipt.

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

San Marcos Unified School District
Facilities Planning & Development
Department
255 Pico Avenue, Suite 100
San Marcos, CA 92069

San Marcos High School – Front Desk
1615 W. San Marcos Blvd.
San Marcos, CA 92078

Discovery Elementary School – Front Desk
730 Applewilde Drive
San Marcos, CA 92078

The document can also be accessed online at:

https://www.smusd.org/departments/facilities_planning_and_development/public_notices

WRITTEN COMMENTS: We ask that any person wishing to comment on the MND provide written comments by the end of the public review period at 5:00 p.m., **Thursday, April 16, 2026**. You may send comments by email to Dena Williams, Administrative Secretary II - Facilities Planning and Development (dena.williams@smusd.org) or mail to the District's Facilities Planning and Development Department (see address above). Please include "**San Marcos High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project**" in the subject line.

PROJECT LOCATION: San Marcos High School is at 615 W. San Marcos Blvd. in the City of San Marcos, San Diego County (Assessor's Parcel Numbers 221-032-4800). The San Marcos High School Sitewide Athletic Improvements Project would be developed within the existing school campus.



PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project includes the following:

- Stadium like-for-like replacement of the existing artificial turf and the synthetic track.
- Multi-purpose field replacement of the existing natural grass with synthetic turf and the installation of permanent, non-directional LED lighting to replace current temporary lights.
- Relocation of the shot-put area from the south end of the stadium to the multi-purpose field.
- Addition of three beach volleyball courts.

The proposed project would not result in changes to student, staff, or bleacher capacity, and no additional lighting or Public Address (PA) systems would be added to the stadium, multi-purpose field, and volleyball courts. The proposed volleyball games are anticipated to have 2-8 spectators.

The District is proposing to add permanent nighttime sports lighting to the existing multi-purpose field at the south end of the site. The proposed lighting improvements are prompted by the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 328, which requires high schools to start no earlier than 8:30 am. Instituting a later start time is expected to reduce the negative impacts of sleep deprivation on adolescents and give them multiple health, safety, and learning benefits. However, with the later start time, schools will also end later, which will affect sports activities. Currently, the multi-purpose field is lit for evening use using temporary lights. The multi-purpose field would be used for practice only. San Marcos High School would be able to have practice onsite instead of using other locations, such as Palomar Community College, San Marcos Middle School, and Woodland Park Middle School.

The existing stadium in the northeast portion of the site would be resurfaced to allow for the continued use of the track and field for football, soccer, boys and girls lacrosse, field hockey, and flag football; no changes to games or events at the stadium would occur. The proposed project would install ball control netting at each of the end zones, as well as remove and replace: long/triple jump take-off boards, base mat at the perimeter of the field. The proposed project may also include installing new slot drains on the north and south track straights.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES: The IS/MND analyzed all 20 topical areas and determined that, with the implementation of mitigation measures, impacts to cultural resources, soils, noise, and tribal cultural resources, would be less than significant.

Lead Agency: San Marcos Unified School District

Consulting Firm: Dudek

Date: March 17, 2026

Signature: _____

Tova Kay Corman, Executive Director