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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Athletic Infrastructure Additions and Improvements Project

Date: October 7, 2026

To: State Clearinghouse
Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
Alameda County Clerk
Responsible and Trustee Agencies
Interested Individuals and Organizations

From: John Calise
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Berkeley Unified School District
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The Berkeley Unified School District (District) will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Athletic Infrastructure Additions and Improvements Project (proposed project). The District is soliciting written comments from responsible and trustee agencies regarding the scope and content of the environmental document. The public is also invited to submit written comments regarding the scope of the EIR and issues that should be addressed as the document is prepared.

The District is accepting written responses within the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-mandated 30-day comment period that begins on **October 7, 2026,** and ends **no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 6, 2026.** Public agencies should indicate a contact person in their response to this Notice of Preparation. This Notice of Preparation and the Initial Study are available on the District's website at:

- Notice of Preparation: https://www.berkeleyschools.net/2026/10/notice-of-preparation-of-draft-environmental-impact-report-athletic-infrastructure
- Initial Study: https://www.berkeleyschools.net/2026/10/initial-study-athletic-infrastructure-additions-and-improvements-project

Comments should be submitted to the address listed above or via email to: capitalprojects@berkeley.net.

Project Location and Setting: The project site includes the existing Tim Moellering Field property, which comprises approximately 4 acres at 2652 Milvia Street in the City of Berkeley, Alameda County, California (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 55-1818-1). The project site is bounded by Carleton Street to the north, Milvia Street to the east, Derby Street to the south, and Martin Luther King Jr Way to the west. The majority of the project site is currently developed with a fenced baseball field in the central portion of the site, including dugout, bullpen, and storage spaces on the eastern and southern sides of the field. Spectator bleacher seating is provided behind the backstop on Derby Street. The eastern portion of the project site, east of the baseball field along Milvia Street, is an open grass-covered green space with trees and a paved walkway leading from the sidewalk to the eastern side of the baseball field. The western

portion of the project site contains a large, fenced-in green space that is used as additional practice space. The southwest corner of the project site contains a basketball court. The project site is zoned for Residential Multi-Unit 2A (R-2A), which allows for school uses with a Use Permit. It should be noted, however, that public school districts like BUSD and its school sites and facilities, such as Moellering Field, are governed by California state law and are not subject to local zoning ordinances. The area surrounding the project site is characterized by low-density residential neighborhoods and neighborhood-serving institutional and recreational areas.

Project Description: The proposed project would involve the construction of five new tennis courts and a new restroom/changing room building, and the relocation of the existing basketball court. The proposed project would also replace the existing grass field covering at the baseball field with synthetic turf. In addition, the proposed project would install new facility and sports lighting, fencing, outfield netting, gates, and improved drainage facilities throughout Moellering Field. While the proposed athletic facilities would be primarily used by the Berkeley High School (BHS) athletics program, the Berkeley Technology Academy and Berkeley Independent Study programs would also utilize the baseball field and basketball court. Public use of the tennis courts and basketball court would also be permitted outside of BHS's scheduled activities. Upon completion, the proposed project would allow the BHS athletics program to return to new and improved facilities located near the high school, while also providing recreational amenities to the surrounding student population and community. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to begin in June 2027 following the conclusion of BHS's baseball season. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 14 months to complete, concluding in July 2028.

Potential Environmental Effects: In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, an Initial Study has been prepared and the District has determined that the proposed project may potentially result in significant environmental impacts. Therefore, an EIR will be prepared for the proposed project. Potential impacts associated with the proposed project that will be addressed in the EIR include, but may not be limited to, the following: Aesthetics (Light and Glare); Noise; Transportation; and Mandatory Findings of Significance.

Environmental Effects Not Likely to Require Further Analysis: Based on the Initial Study prepared for the proposed project, construction and operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to result in significant environmental effects in the following areas: Agriculture and Forestry Resources; Air Quality; Biological Resources; Cultural Resources; Energy; Geology and Soils; Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Hydrology and Water Quality; Land Use and Planning; Mineral Resources; Population and Housing; Public Services; Recreation; Tribal Cultural Resources; Utilities and Service Systems; and Wildfire. These topics are not anticipated to be analyzed in detail in the EIR.