

# LOS GATOS - SARATOGA UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

### I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The Los Gatos-Saratoga Union High School District proposes lighting the Saratoga High School (SHS) softball field and adjacent multi-use field to provide better, safer sports lighting on the multi-use field and enable the high school to hold lit evening high school softball games, practices, and camps on the softball field. The District would also rent the softball field for private games, practices, and camps up to 15 evenings per year.

The proposed project would install sports lighting at the existing Saratoga High School softball field and adjacent multi-use field for use Monday through Sunday during the months of October through April. All lit events at the softball and multi-use fields would end by 9:00 PM, and the lights would be turned off no later than 9:30 PM. All existing use of the softball and multi-use fields currently takes place during the daylight hours, except for soccer, lacrosse, field hockey, football practice, and band, which also take place on the multi-use field using portable lights. The proposed sports lighting would replace the portable sports lighting that is currently used at the multi-use field during the proposed time period for the same proposed uses; therefore, the proposed project would not increase use of the multi-use field. The proposed lighting of the softball field would allow uses than currently occur on the field during the daylight hours to occur during the evening until 9:00 PM. While the overall use of the softball field would incrementally increase (e.g., up to 15 evening rentals per year), existing bleacher capacity at the softball field would not be increased and overall spectator attendance is not expected to substantially increase. A public address (PA) system is not proposed by the project.

### II. LOCATION OF THE PROJECT

The project is proposed on the existing SHS softball field and adjacent multi-use field. Saratoga High School is located in the City of Saratoga at the intersection of Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and Herriman Avenue, in the southeast quadrant. The softball field and adjacent multi-use field are located in the southeast corner of the campus.

### III. FINDING

An Initial Study has been prepared by the District. On the basis of the Initial Study, the District has determined that the proposed project will not result in a significant effect on the environment because the mitigation and standard measures described in the Initial Study are included in the project to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. The mitigation and standard measures described in the Initial Study and included in the proposed project are listed below.

**A. Air Quality**

**MM AIR – 1:** The BAAQMD has prepared lists of feasible construction dust control measures that can reduce construction impacts to a level that is less than significant.<sup>1</sup> The following construction practices shall be implemented to the extent feasible during the proposed project:

- All exposed surfaces shall be watered two times per day.
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered.
- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
- All excavation, grading, and/or demolition activities shall be suspended when average wind speeds exceed 20 mph.
- If vegetative ground cover is present prior to construction, it shall be restored as soon as possible.
- Sandbags or other erosion control measures shall be installed to prevent silt runoff to public roadways.
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the District regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

**B. Cultural Resources**

**MM CUL – 1:** The following measure is proposed to reduce impacts to buried cultural resources to a less than significant level:

- If cultural resources are uncovered during construction of the project, excavation will stop within 25 feet of the find and the Superintendent of Schools will be notified. The find will be evaluated by a professional archaeologist, and if the find is significant, treatment recommendations will be developed and implemented.

**C. Geology and Soils**

**Standard Measures:** The proposed project will implement the following measures to reduce and avoid impacts related to soil and geologic conditions:

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<sup>1</sup> Bay Area Air Quality Management District, *CEQA Guidelines*, 2012, pages 8-3 and 8-4.

- A qualified professional geologist shall complete a design-level geotechnical investigation for the proposed project. The specific design features identified in the geotechnical investigation will be incorporated into the project design.
- The project shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the 2013 California Building Code, which contains regulations that govern the construction of structures in California. Adherence to the 2013 California Building Code will ensure the proposed improvements resist minor earthquakes without damage and major earthquakes without collapse.
- The design-level drawings, geotechnical investigation, and all accompanying documentation, including all structural elements of the proposed sports field lighting will be subject to the California Division of the State Architect's (DSA) review and approval process. The primary role of the DSA is to ensure that California's K-12 schools and community colleges are seismically safe and accessible to all. DSA fulfills this role by reviewing construction project plans for structural safety, fire and life safety, and accessibility (that is, access by disabled persons).