INITIAL STUDY FOR THE

NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL NEW STADIUM AND ATHLETIC FIELDS

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Lead Agency:

Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District
12820 Pioneer Boulevard
Norwalk, CA 90650

Prepared by:

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November 2016

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Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District
12820 Pioneer Boulevard
Norwalk, CA 90650

Norwalk High School
11356 Leffingwell Road
Norwalk, CA 90650

City of Norwalk City Hall
Planning Department
12700 Norwalk Boulevard
Norwalk, CA 90650
Hours: Monday–Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (alternating Fridays)

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I. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Legal Authority

This checklist is to be completed for all projects that are subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); refer to Section IV, Environmental Analysis, below. The information, analysis, and conclusions contained in the checklist form the basis for deciding whether an environmental impact report (EIR), a negative declaration (ND), or a mitigated negative declaration (MND) is to be prepared.

1. **Project Title:** Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:**

   Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District
   12820 Pioneer Boulevard
   Norwalk, CA 90650

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:**

   Isela M. Vazquez, Director, Facilities, Planning & Construction
   (562) 868-9014

4. **Project Location:**

   Norwalk High School Athletic Fields
   11356 Leffingwell Road
   Norwalk, CA 90650

5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:**

   Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District
   12820 Pioneer Boulevard
   Norwalk, CA 90650

6. **General Plan Designation:** Open Space/Schools/Public Facilities

7. **Zoning:** R1 (Single Family Residential)

8. **Description of Project:**

Project Background

The Norwalk High School Campus (Norwalk) is located at 11356 Leffingwell Road in the city of Norwalk. The site is approximately one mile east of Interstate 605 (I-605). Roadways surrounding the school are Longworth Avenue to the west, Leffingwell Road to the north, Taddy Street to the south, and Gard Avenue to the east. The project site is surrounded by single family residential uses along the west, east and south sides of the campus. The backyards of the homes along Gard Avenue

and Longworth Avenue border the campus, with an approximately 40-foot setback from all property lines. The campus was established in 1957 and serves grades 9 through 12, with a current enrollment of approximately 2,000 students, and 150 staff members.

The campus is approximately 29 acres in size, with an additional 4.5 acres of surface parking with 344 spaces located across Leffingwell Road to the north of the site. The buildings are arranged in a finger plan, with the buildings orientated to the north-south. Parking and student drop-off occur along both Leffingwell Road and Taddy Street, with the main site access from Leffingwell Road. The typical start time for academic activities is 7:55 a.m., with dismissal occurring at 3:00 p.m. The proposed project would occur at the existing on-site athletic fields, which are located in an L-shaped area along the northeastern, eastern and southern perimeter of the Norwalk High School Campus.

On November 4, 2014, city of Norwalk and La Mirada voters approved a $375 million school construction bond, Measure G. The Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District (NLMUSD or District) identified new construction of the Norwalk High School football stadium, track and field, baseball field and softball field as projects to be conducted under Measure G. A subsequent schematic design for the Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project was prepared and includes conceptual plans for the proposed project (as detailed below).

Existing Athletic Field

The existing athletic field at Norwalk High School is approximately 17.2 acres in size. The field consists of grass fields and contains a practice football field that is also utilized for boys and girls soccer practice and home games; a dirt running track; a softball game field; and a baseball game field. To the northwest of the baseball field there are eight basketball courts that are used for physical education activities. There are eight unlit tennis courts located north of the track. Bleachers are currently limited to the baseball field and the softball field. The athletic fields do not have lights. The athletic fields are surrounded by the Norwalk High School campus to the west and north, Taddy Street to the south, Leffingwell Road to the north of the tennis courts, and the backyards of the residential uses along Gard Street and Longworth Avenue. The athletic fields are separated from the residential uses by an approximately 40-foot ide setback.

The project site is utilized by Norwalk High School students for physical education purposes; high school sports team practices; soccer games, and softball and baseball games. The Norwalk sports teams that practice on the project site include baseball, softball, soccer, football, and track and field. The practice field is typically used by the school between the hours of 6:00 a.m. to dusk on school days and 4:00 p.m. to dusk during the summer. The absence of field lighting on the fields prevents school use of the fields during evening hours. The lack of spectator seating limits the use of the football field to practice uses only, and the Norwalk High School football teams play their home games at other NLMUSD facilities. Similarly, the existing track does not meet current California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) standards, and therefore, Norwalk does not host track and field events on their campus.

Under the existing layout of the athletic fields, the football/soccer and track are located in the northern area of the project site, orientated in a north-south configuration. The baseball field is located south of the football field. The softball field is located west of the baseball field, with the diamond orientated along the west perimeter of the Norwalk campus. Figure 2 shows the existing Norwalk High School campus and athletic field layout.

Project Characteristics

The proposed project involves replacing the existing grass field with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball and track and field. The proposed project would include a new 2,500 seat lighted football/soccer and track and field stadium (stadium or football field) that meets all CIF standards; a practice soccer field; a practice football field; a lighted baseball field that meets all CIF standards; a lighted softball field that meets all CIF standards; eight tennis courts, and seven basketball courts. Approximately 8,162 square feet of support buildings would be constructed, including concession stands, team rooms, restrooms and storage facilities. In addition, the project would result in approximately 91,643 square feet of unprogrammed recreational space within the athletic field footprint. Table 1 provides details for each component of the proposed project.

Table 1 Proposed Athletic Field Facilities

Facility	Components	Size

Football/Soccer/Track and Field	• Synthetic all-weather turf field for football and soccer
	• 9-lane all-weather running track
	• Long jump and triple jump pit
	• High jump area
	• Pole vault area
	• Discus area
	• Two shot put areas
	• 2,500 seat bleachers
	  o 2,000 home side
	  o 500 visitor side
	• Four 80-foot high field lights
	• 300-square-foot press box with public address system and ADA compliant elevator
		212,000 square feet

Baseball Field	• Synthetic all-weather turf baseball field • Home and visitor dugout • Home and visitor bullpen • Home and visitor batting cages • 200-seat bleachers • Storage (624 square feet) • Six 60-80-foot high field lights • 28-foot by 8-foot scoreboard	113,675 square feet
Softball Field	• Synthetic all-weather turf softball field • Home and visitor dugout • Home and visitor bullpen • 200-seat bleachers • Storage (624 square feet) • Six 60-80-foot high field lights • 28-foot by 8-foot scoreboard	49,020 square feet

Facility	Components	Size
Two Practice Fields	• Synthetic all-weather turf football practice field • Synthetic all-weather turf soccer practice field • Four 60-80-foot-high field lights	151,200 square feet/field
Other Turf Areas		91,643 square feet
Basketball Courts	• Demolish asphalt • Grading • Asphalt paving and striping • One equipment unit	48,510 square feet
Tennis Courts	• Demolish existing courts • New courts • Fencing • One equipment unit	55,490 square feet
Total New Field Development		**721,538 square feet**
Concessions	• Five sinks • Six service windows (three on each side)	912 square feet
Home Restrooms	• Nine toilets ○ six women ○ three men ○ one each handicap • Three urinals • Eight sinks ○ Four each men/women • One custodial sink	960 square feet
Away Restrooms	• Nine toilets ○ six women ○ three men ○ one each accessible • Three urinals • Eight sinks ○ Four each men/women • One custodial sink	960 square feet
Home Locker Room		1,230 square feet
Away Locker Room		1,230 square feet
Football Storage		975 square feet
Track and Field Storage		975 square feet

Facility	Components	Size
Soccer Storage		920 square feet
Parking Lot	• Demolish existing buildings (aquatic center) • Grading • Asphalt paving and striping	17,850 square feet
Total New Development		**747,550 square feet**

The existing athletic field area would be reconfigured in order to maximize the available space and take advantage of the prevailing sunset and wind patterns, which affect the vision of the student athletes and the flight of the balls, respectively. In order to accommodate the two new practice fields, the seven basketball courts located to the west of the existing baseball field would be developed into a straight line, which will create more space. Additionally, the tennis courts currently located north of the existing track will be relocated south of the proposed practice fields in order to accommodate the stadium requirements. Refer to Figure 3 for a depiction of the reconfigured athletic field.

The stadium would be developed along the northern portion of the site and orientated in a north-south direction. The home bleachers would be located along the western side of the field, while the visitor bleachers would be along the eastern side of the field. The shot put, triple jump and long jump would be located just past the northern end zone and the high jump, pole vault and discuss area would be located just past the southern end zone. The field lights would be located behind the bleachers on 80-foot-high light poles. The light fixtures would be fitted with visors to direct the light down towards the field and reduce spill light and glare. Average light levels would be 50 foot-candles on the playing field. The 300 square foot press box would be located atop the home bleachers, and would be compliant with American Disability Act (ADA) requirements and accessible with provision of an elevator. Figure 4 provides a detailed view of the proposed stadium. During games and after-school activities, access to the fields will be through a gated entrance between the south side of the campus buildings and to the north of the football stadium.

The practice soccer and football fields would be located south of the stadium. There would be no seating developed for the practice fields; however, four field lights would be provided for evening practices. These field lights would be 80 feet high, and average light levels would be 50 foot-candles. The practice soccer field would be 92,500 square feet and would meet CIF regulations for both football and soccer. It is anticipated that boys and girls junior varsity and junior varsity football would play some home games on the practice field.

The accessory buildings would total 8,162 square feet and would be developed to the south of the stadium and oriented north-south. The accessory buildings would be comprised of storage rooms, restroom, a concession stand, and team rooms. Figure 5 provides additional details and the layout for the accessory buildings.

The baseball field would be located to the southwest of the accessory buildings, along the southern perimeter of the campus, while the softball field would be located to the west of the baseball field

along the western perimeter of the campus. Refer to Figure 6 for a depiction of both the baseball and softball field. The baseball field would be orientated such that the home plate is located along the southwestern portion of the baseball field. The bleachers would be located behind home plate, and would seat 200 spectators. The baseball field would have six field lights, with four 60-foot-tall lights along the infield and baselines, and two 80-foot-tall lights in the outfield. Both the home and visitor dugouts would have a bullpen and batting cage for student athletes to warm up. The softball field would also be orientated with home plate located along the southwestern portion of the field. The bleachers would be located behind home plate and would seat 180 spectators. The softball field would have six field lights, with four 60-foot-tall lights along the infield and baselines, and two 80-foot-tall lights in the outfield. Both the home and visitor dugouts would have a bullpen and batting cage for student athletes to warm up. In addition, to provide storage in close proximity to the baseball and softball fields, 500-square-foot storage rooms are incorporated into the dugout design of the baseball and softball fields. The batting cages would be located between the baseball and softball fields.

Parking

Implementation of the proposed project includes addition of 89 parking spaces to the existing surface parking lot located just north of the campus, across Leffingwell Road. Currently, on the southwestern portion of the parking lot, there exists a vacant, approximately 20,000-square-foot aquatic center that is no longer functional. To increase the existing parking supply available for Norwalk High School, the aquatic center would be demolished, and an additional 89 parking spaces would be provided. This would result in a total of 433 parking spaces in the surface lot.

Construction

Construction activities are anticipated to begin in July 2017. The construction would be completed in one stage, last approximately 18 months, and include the following activities: demolition of the existing aquatic center, grading and excavation of the existing field, including asphalt removal; trenching for site utilities and irrigation; synthetic turf installation; and, building of the stadium and baseball and softball fields.

9. Use and Scheduling

The proposed project would accommodate various sporting practices and events that currently take place on campus or at other District campuses. Table 2, Norwalk High School Sports Field Preliminary Event Schedule, lists the various sporting practices and events to be held at the proposed sports field, which include football, soccer, and track practices and events. The sports field would be used primarily by the Norwalk High School students. No other District campuses would use the sports field on a regular basis. Events would be held at the new facility based on the expected number of spectators, which is based on available historical attendance data. Events that were expected to exceed the seating capacity would be scheduled at other facilities. The existing weekday activities and practices occurring at the Norwalk campus are currently being compiled and will be presented in the EIR.

Table 2 Norwalk High School Sports Field Preliminary Event Schedule

Activity/Use	# of Events	Days of Wk	Time		# Spectators		# of Participants	Outdoor Lighting?
			Start	End	Max	Avg		
FALL ACTIVITIES (Aug 15–Nov 15)								
TRACK:								
HS XC/Track PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri	2pm	4:30pm	25	5	125	No
HS XC/Track PR	5 wkly	Saturday	8am	11am	25	5	50	No
TRACK FIELD:								
Lower Level Football, G&B Soccer, PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri (6th period)	2pm	3pm	-	-	30	No
Football PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri	2pm	5pm	25	5	25–75	No
B&G Soccer PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri	6pm	9pm	25	5	25–75	No
Football PR	1 wkly	Saturday	9am	12pm	25	5	25–75	No
Football Contest - Lower Levels	10	Thurs or Fri	3:15pm	6pm	100	50	40	No
Football Contests Varsity	5	Friday	7:00pm	10pm	1000	500	120	Yes
Public Use[1]	TBD							
WINTER ACTIVITIES (Nov 1–Mar 1)								
TRACK:								
HS Track PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri	2pm	4:30pm	25	5	125	No
HS Track PR	5 wkly	Saturday	8am	11am	25	5	50	No
TRACK FIELD:								
B&G Soccer PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri	2pm	6pm	25	5	150	No
B&G Soccer PR	1 wkly	Saturday	9am	12pm	25	5	150	No
Boys' Soccer Contests	25	TBD	TBD	TBD	400	100	60	Rarely[2]
Girls' Soccer Contests	20	TBD	TBD	TBD	400	100	60	Rarely[2]
Football PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri	2pm	5pm	25	5	25–75	No
Public Use[1]	TBD							
SPRING ACTIVITIES (Feb 1–May 30)								
TRACK:								
HS/MS Track PR	5 wkly	Mon–Fri	2pm	5:30pm	25	5	175	No
HS Track PR	1 wkly	Saturday	8am	11am	25	5	50	No
HS Track Meets	5	Thursday	2pm	7pm	400	100	250	No
MS Track Meets	6	Tues or Thurs	2pm	7pm	400	150	150	No
BASEBALL/ SOFTBALL FIELD:								
Baseball/ Softball PR	5 wkly	Mon-Fri	2pm	5pm	5	0	50	No
Baseball/ Softball Games	2 wkly	Tue/ Fri	3pm	8pm	50	20	40	Yes
Public Use[1]	TBD							

Notes: The anticipated numbers of spectators and participants have been provided by the Norwalk athletic director.
PR = Practice

[1] Regular use of the field by community groups is not anticipated except for occasional use groups involving younger children.

[2] Times of soccer contests have not been determined but they generally start between 3 PM to 5 PM, when outdoor lighting is not required. However, in rare occasions a contest could occur past 6PM at which time the outdoor lighting will be used.

The highest spectator attendance is projected for the fall football games. Currently home football games are played at Excelsior High School with a 5,000-seat capacity. Based on attendance at Norwalk High School football games for the past three years, the average attendance at a varsity

football games were 1,500 spectators. The proposed sports field is designed to accommodate non-high-profile regular games, including varsity football games, with projected attendance of less than 2,500 spectators and expanded practice use. Games that would exceed 2,500 spectators would continue to be played at Excelsior High School

As shown in Table 2, in general, the track and field would be used for school's athletic activities from 2 PM to 9 PM during the week and from 9 AM to noon on Saturdays. No specific schedules for soccer events have been provided, but typical events would end by 9 PM during the winter and spring seasons. Only football games would continue past 9 PM, and they would be scheduled to end by 10 PM. The sports field would be closed when not in use by the District; it would be available for public use under the rules and regulations of Civic Center Act through a permitting process and for a fee. Each request to use the sports field would be reviewed and approved by the Norwalk administration. Therefore, the community use schedule is shown as "TBD" (to be determined) in Table 2.

10. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Surrounding land uses are low-density residential and open space/schools/public facilities to the north, and low-density residential to the south, east, and west. Table 3 provides details regarding the surrounding land uses. Refer to Figure 2 for an aerial view of the project site and the surrounding land uses.

Table 3 Adjacent Land Use, General Plan and Zoning

Location	Current Land Use	General Plan Land Use Designation	Zoning Designation
North	Norwalk High School Parking and Residential	Low-Density Residential and Open Space/Schools/Public Facilities	R1 (Single-Family Residential)
South	Residential	Low-Density Residential	R1 (Single-Family Residential)
East	Residential	Low-Density Residential	R1 (Single-Family Residential)
West	Residential	Low-Density Residential	R1 (Single-Family Residential)

11. Other Public Agencies whose Approval Is Required:

As the lead agency, the NLMUSD has the ultimate authority for project approval or denial. However, the proposed project may require the following discretionary approvals by the following state and local agencies for actions proposed as part of the project:

State of California

- Division of the state Architect (Approval of Construction Drawings)

- Office of Public School Construction
- California Department of Education
- Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)
- California Geological Survey

Regional Agencies

- Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board [National Pollution Discharge Elimination
- System permit; construction stormwater runoff permits]
- Los Angeles County Fire Department
- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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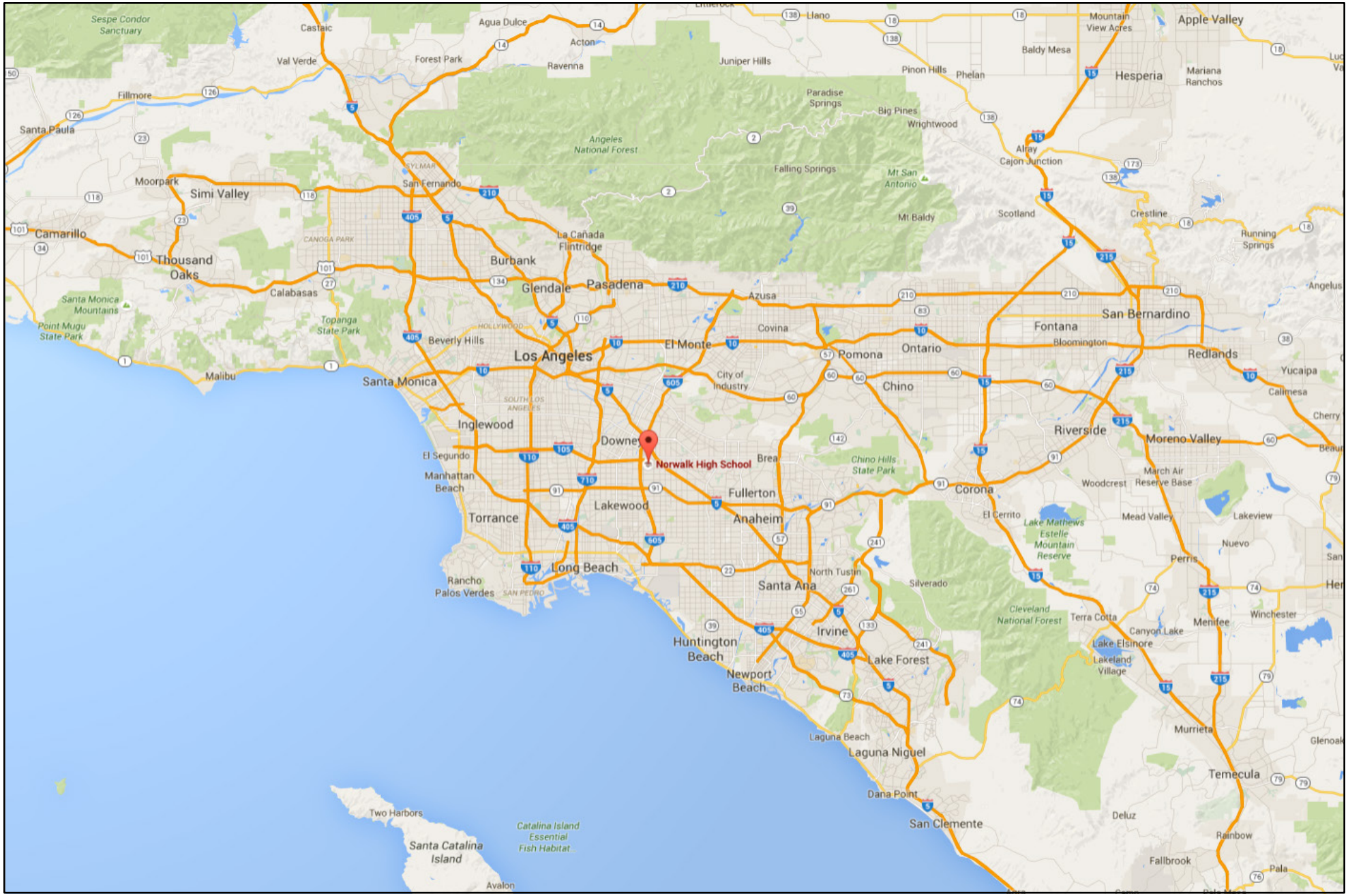

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Source: GoogleMaps
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Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project

PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1

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Source: GoogleEarth
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Not to Scale

Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project

AERIAL VIEW OF ATHLETIC FIELD AND SURROUNDING LAND USES

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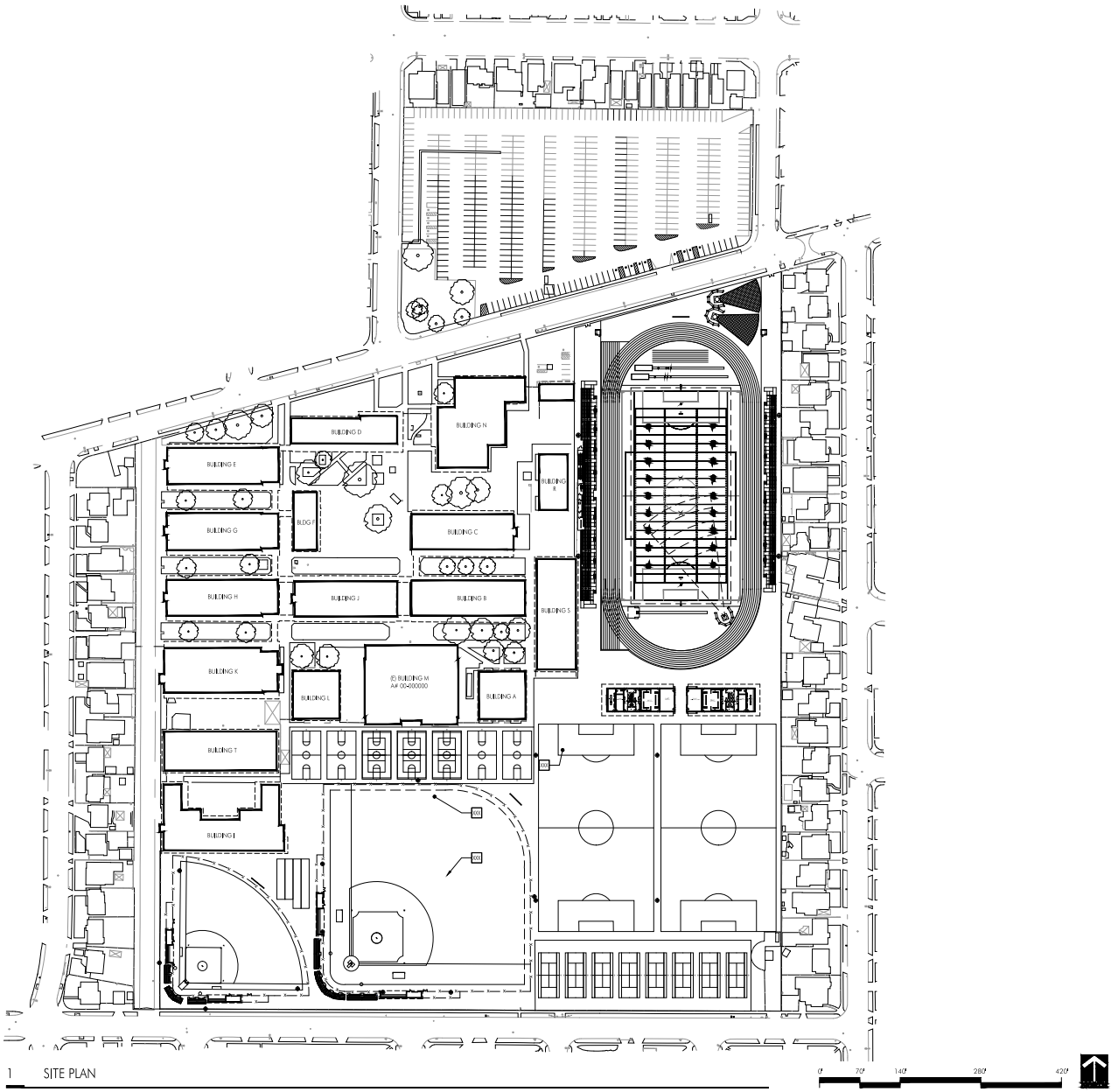

1 SITE PLAN

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Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project

ATHLETIC FIELD SITE PLAN

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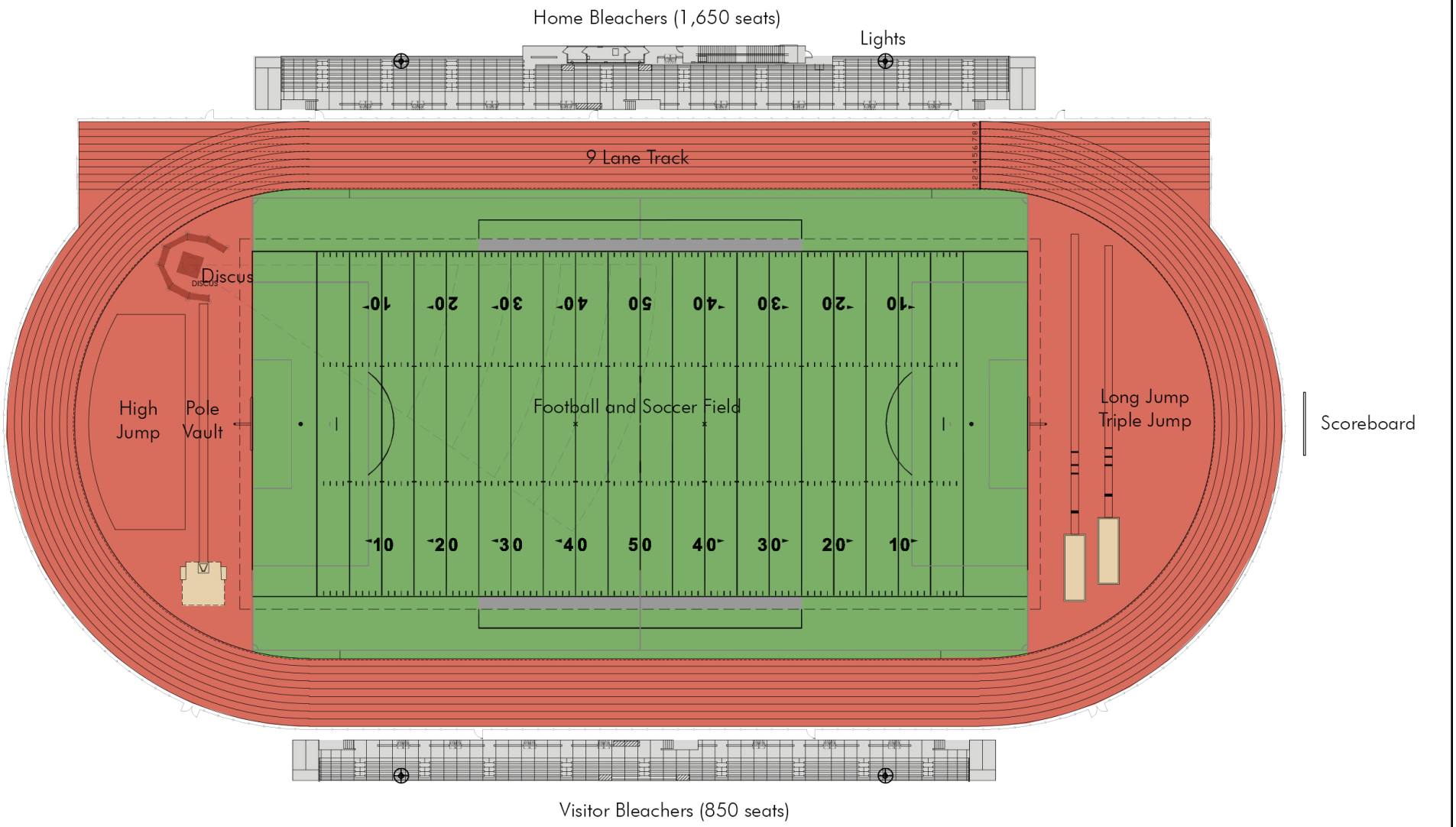

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Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project

PROPOSED FOOTBALL STADIUM

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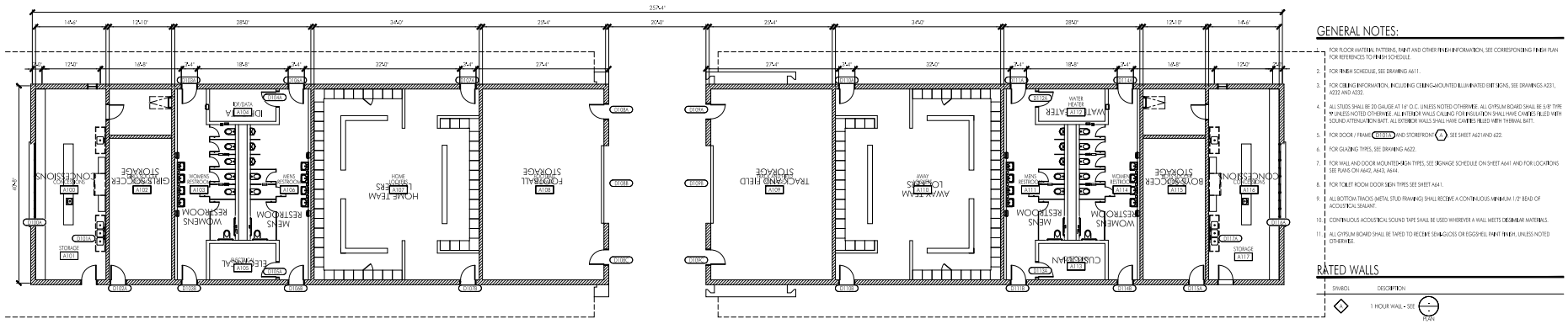

1 FLOOR PLAN

2 FLOOR FINISH PLAN

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Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project

PROPOSED ACCESSORY BUILDINGS

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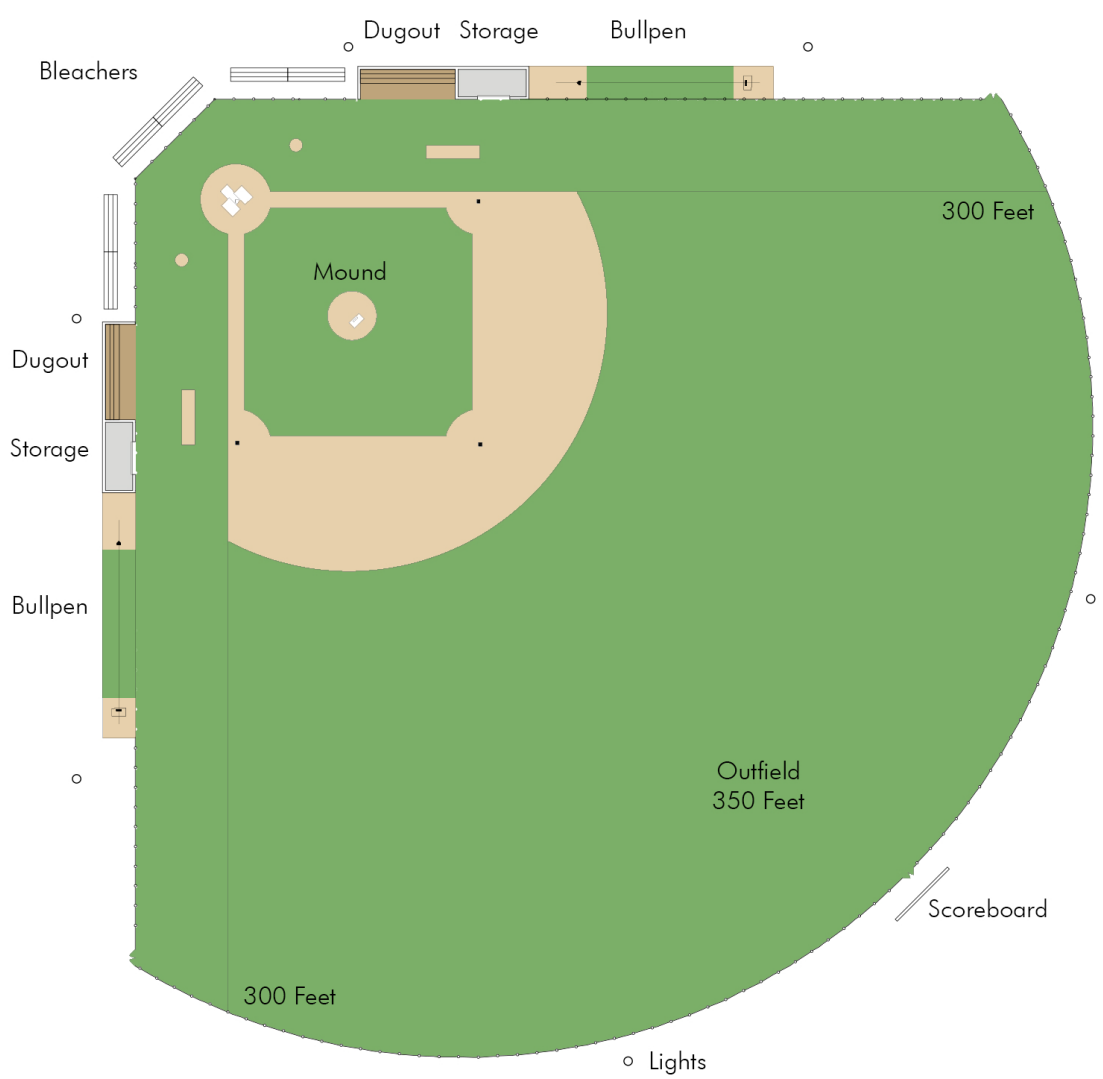

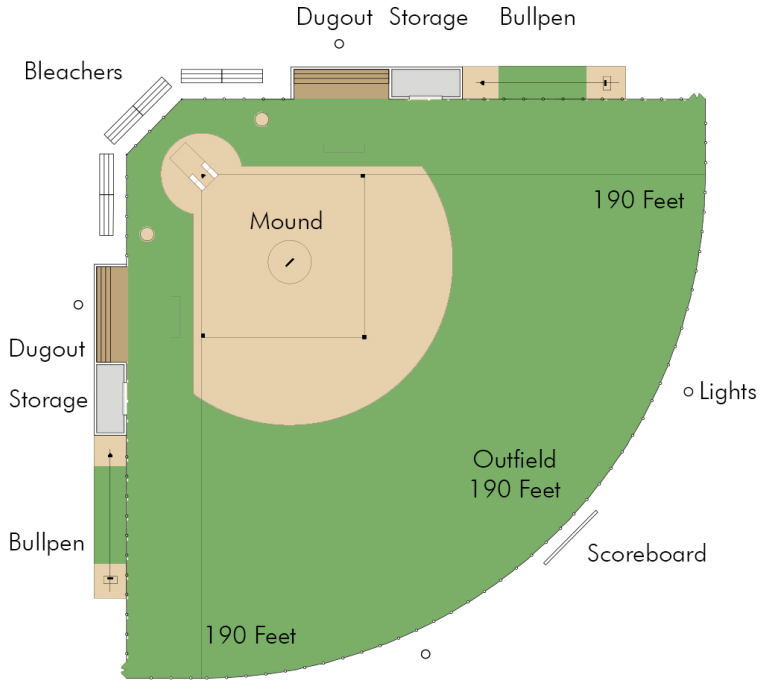

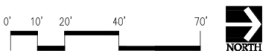

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Norwalk High School New Stadium and Athletic Fields Improvement Project

PROPOSED BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL FIELDS

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II. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project involving at least one impact that is "Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- ☒ Aesthetics
- ☐ Agricultural Resources
- ☒ Air Quality
- ☐ Biological Resources
- ☐ Cultural Resources
- ☒ Geology and Soils
- ☒ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ☒ Hazards/Hazardous Materials
- ☒ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ☐ Land Use/Planning
- ☐ Mineral Resources
- ☒ Noise
- ☐ Population/Housing
- ☐ Public Services
- ☐ Recreation
- ☒ Transportation/Traffic
- ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ☒ Utilities/Service Systems
- ☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

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III. DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. ☐

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. ☒

I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect(s) on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on earlier analysis as described on attached sheets, if the effect is a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated." An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required but must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed. ☐

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effect (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed on the proposed project. ☐

Signature: _____ **Date:** 11.14.2016

Printed Name: Isela Vazquez, Director, Facilities Planning & Construction

For: Norwalk – La Mirada Unified School District

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IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

1. Aesthetics

Issues, would the proposal:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	✓			
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	✓			

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact**. There are no designated scenic vistas or scenic views within the city of Norwalk. The project site is located on the existing Norwalk High School campus within a highly-urbanized area. Therefore, the proposed project will not result in an impact to a scenic vista. No further analysis is required in the environmental impact report (EIR).

b) **No Impact**. The city of Norwalk General Plan does not designate any scenic resources within the city or its vicinity, and no officially-designated state scenic highways are located within the city or surrounding area. The site is currently developed, and no rock outcroppings are present on-site. The removal of several mature trees would be required to accommodate the project as designed; however, these trees are located within the interior of the site and do not substantially contribute to the visual quality or character of the property; refer to Figure 2, Aerial View of Athletic Field and Surrounding Land Uses. Although a number of on-site structures may have the potential to be of historical significance due to their age, the project would not result in any disturbance, remodeling, or demolition of these buildings, other than the demolition of existing aquatic center, which is currently not in use.

The proposed project involves replacing the existing grass sporting fields with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball and track and field, as well as tennis and basketball courts, and supporting accessory facilities. As such, due to the nature of the proposed improvements, and the location of the project within the existing visual setting (i.e. developed, urbanized), the project would not substantially damage any designated scenic resources. No impact would occur, and no further analysis is required in the EIR.

c) **Potentially Significant Impact**. As the purpose of the project is to provide new upgraded athletic facilities for students of Norwalk High School, the proposed improvements at Norwalk High School are not anticipated to adversely or substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site. Such improvements will occur within the interior of the site and generally be distanced

from adjacent public roadways from which views may occur. Existing on-site structures on the campus would further obscure views from certain off-site public vantage points, in particular from the north/northwest. Additionally, the area where the improvements are proposed would be fenced and gated, further screening views into the site from area roadways. Although CEQA does not generally consider views from private vantage points, potential views into the site from adjacent residential lots would generally be obscured from view, due to perimeter fencing (as occurs under existing conditions).

The proposed improvements would not substantially change the overall character of the High School campus and surrounding neighborhoods, particularly as similar type uses are already present on-site; however, the project would result in construction of the football/soccer/field and track stadium with bleacher stands, as well as installation of lighting poles that would reach a height of 80 feet. Due to the height and/or scale, portions of these structural elements would be potentially visible from surrounding off-site public vantage points.

As applicable, specific design features (i.e. building style, materials, colors, etc.) consistent with the Landscape Design and Site Development Guidelines implemented by the District would be incorporated into the project design, as indicated in Standard Design Measure AES-1, below. Such measures are intended to ensure that District facilities continue to maintain visual compatibility with the existing character of land uses both on-site and off-site.

However, as the project would have the potential to alter the existing visual setting or character of the site, or affect views from surrounding public vantage points, significant impacts may occur. As such, further analysis of this issue is in the EIR is warranted.

d) **Potentially Significant Impact**. Under current conditions, no nighttime lighting is installed at the existing athletic fields, and therefore, all activity on the sports fields ceases at dusk. The athletic fields are surrounded by the Norwalk High School campus to the west and north, Taddy Street to the south, Leffingwell Road to the north of the tennis courts, and the backyards of the residential uses along Gard Street and Longworth Avenue. The athletic fields are separated from the residential uses by an approximately 40-foot wide setback.

The proposed project involves replacing the grass field with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball and track and field. The proposed project will include a new 2,500-seat lighted football/soccer/track and field stadium that meets all CIF standards; a practice soccer field; a practice football field; a lighted baseball field that meets all CIF standards; and, a lighted softball field that meets all CIF standards. Approximately 8,162 square feet of support buildings will be constructed, including concession stands, team rooms, restrooms and storage facilities. In addition, the project will result in approximately 91,643 square feet of unprogrammed open space within the athletic field footprint.

The stadium would be developed along the northern portion of the site and orientated in a north-south direction. The field lights would be located behind the bleachers on 80-foot high light poles. Average light levels would be 50 foot-candles on the playing field.

The practice soccer and football fields would be located south of the stadium. Four field lights would be provided for evening practices, with each light pole being approximately 80 feet in height and producing an estimated 50 foot-candles on the field.

The baseball field would be located to the southwest of the field house buildings, along the southern perimeter of the campus, while the softball field would be located to the west of the baseball field along the western perimeter of the campus. The baseball field would have six field lights, with four 60-foot-tall lights along the infield and baselines, and two 80-foot-tall lights in the outfield. The softball field would have six field lights that would range from 60 to 80 feet in height. Such lighting is anticipated to produce average light levels of 50 foot-candles on the field surface.

A photometric plan will be prepared to identify the location of all proposed lighting on-site and measure the light intensity within the interior of the project site and at the project boundaries. The photometric plan is intended to demonstrate that lighting levels at the project boundaries will meet established lighting thresholds and will not result in light spillover onto adjacent properties, including the adjacent residential uses. The methodology and findings of the photometric study will be discussed in detail in the EIR. As described above, with the addition of nighttime lighting, the project as proposed would have the potential to result in significant impacts relative to lighting and glare impacts. Therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant, and this issue will be further evaluated in the EIR.

2. Agricultural Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				✓
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?				✓
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact.** The project site is located within an urbanized area, and is currently developed with the athletic fields, courts, and supporting buildings associated with the high school campus; refer to Figure 2, Aerial View of Athletic Field and Surrounding Land Uses. Therefore, the site is not currently utilized for agricultural purposes; however, as noted previously, the site formerly (prior to 1960) was utilized for agricultural purposes (including a dairy farm).

The project site is located outside of the land area surveyed and mapped by the California Department of Conservation's (CDC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) (2014). Given the existing on-site development, it is unlikely that the site would be identified as Prime Farmland, Farmland of statewide Importance, or Unique Farmland (collectively referred to as "Significant Farmland") by the CDC. Therefore, the proposed project will not convert Significant Farmland to non-agricultural use. No impact would occur. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) **No Impact.** Refer to Response 2a), above. The City of Norwalk General Plan (1996) Land Use Element designates the project site as Open Space/Schools/Public Facility. The project site is zoned Single Family Residential (R-1); however, government (state) owned facilities (e.g., public schools) override city zoning (Government Resources Code Sections 53094, 65402[a], and 65403 and Public Resources Code Section 21151.2). The proposed project site is not subject to a Williamson Act contract, and no agricultural uses are present on-site. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a conflict with existing agricultural zoning or a Williamson Act contract. No impact would occur. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c-d) **No Impact.** The project site is zoned Single-Family Residential and is currently developed with the existing Norwalk High School and its associated buildings and athletic fields. As such, the site does not contain any designated forestland. Therefore, project implementation would not result in the loss or conversion of forestland to nonforest use, and would not otherwise adversely impact forestland in the area. No impact would occur in this regard. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

e) **No Impact.** The project site is currently developed and supports the existing high school and associated buildings and sports fields. Therefore, the site is not utilized for agricultural purposes and does not contain designated forestland; refer to Figure 2, Aerial View of Athletic Field and Surrounding Land Uses. Furthermore, the City of Norwalk General Plan Land Use Element designates the project site as Open Space/Schools/Public Facilities, and the project site is zoned Single Family Residential. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in conversion of Significant Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forestland to nonforest use. No impact would occur. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

3. Air Quality

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	✓			
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	✓			
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	✓			
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	✓			
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) and b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The project site is located in the South Coast Air Basin (Basin), which is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency primarily responsible for preparing the Basin Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), which is a comprehensive air pollution control program for making progress towards and attaining the established state and federal ambient air quality standards. The most recent AQMP was adopted by the governing board of the SCAQMD on December 7, 2012. An inventory of existing emissions from industrial facilities is included in the baseline inventory in the 2012 AQMP, as well as projections of the future emissions which are based on source category growth factors provided by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). The 2012 AQMP also identifies emission reductions from existing sources and air pollution control measures that are necessary in order to comply with applicable state and federal ambient air quality standards. A significant impact will occur if the proposed project is determined to be inconsistent with the AQMP. It should be noted that the SCAQMD released its Draft 2016 Air Quality Management Plan for public review on June 30, 2016.

Significant adverse cumulative air quality impacts could occur if the proposed project results in a cumulatively considerable net increase of a criteria pollutant for which the Basin exceeds federal and state ambient air quality standards and has been designated as an area of nonattainment by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The Basin is currently a nonattainment area for ozone and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$).

Project construction and operations would generate emissions of criteria pollutants that could result in significant impacts to air quality in the area. Equipment usage and activities during construction of the project would result in emissions of fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$), course particulate matter ($PM_{10)}$, and ozone precursors, including oxides of nitrogen (NO_X) and volatile organic compounds (VOC), among others, which could result in significant air quality impacts. Sources of emissions include construction (from heavy equipment used for grading, trenching, paving, and building construction, as well as on-road motor vehicles for equipment and material deliveries and workers commuting to the project site) and project operations (from vehicle trips and energy and area sources). Project contribution to regional emissions could result in a potentially significant impact. Further analysis of air quality impacts in the EIR is therefore warranted to determine whether the proposed project would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable plans for attainment, and if so, to determine the reasonable and feasible mitigation measures that could be imposed. Additionally, short-term construction emissions and facility operations could significantly contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation of emission standards, requiring the consideration of mitigation measures. This impact is potentially significant and will be further evaluated in the EIR.

c) **Potentially Significant Impact**. Refer to Responses 3.a) and 3.b), above. As indicated, the Basin is currently a nonattainment area for ozone and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). All SCAQMD rules and regulations would apply to the proposed project with regard to air quality. Cumulative contributions to the Basin could be potentially significant. As such, construction and operational emissions resulting with the proposed project will be further analyzed in the EIR relative to the SCAQMD.

d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Sensitive populations are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution than is the general population. Sensitive receptors are defined as facilities or land uses that include members of the population that are particularly sensitive to the effects of air pollutants, such as children, the elderly, and people with illnesses. Examples of these sensitive receptors are residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers. CARB has identified the following groups of individuals as the most likely to be affected by air pollution: the elderly over 65, children under 14, athletes, and persons with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis.

The closest sensitive receptors include adjacent residential uses adjacent to the east, south, and west of the site. The occupants of Norwalk High School would also be considered sensitive receptors.

Project construction activities in close proximity to these receptors would potentially expose residents, students, and staff to fugitive dust emissions. In order to avoid potential localized impacts, the project would be required to implement fugitive dust-control best management practices during construction activities. Construction activities would be short term in nature, and would cease upon completion; however, construction emissions from the proposed project will be evaluated to determine whether project construction emissions would be below SCAQMD thresholds. Additionally, standard mitigation measures for diesel equipment and dust control that are recommended by the SCAQMD will be evaluated as part of the EIR to avoid or reduce potential impacts to construction workers, students and staff, and surrounding residents.

Due to the nature of the proposed project (i.e. athletic fields and courts), localized on-site operational emissions (i.e., area source emissions) are anticipated to be nominal and would not

be expected to adversely affect nearby sensitive receptors; however, the project has the potential to generate air quality emissions that may expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The primary project operational emissions would occur from vehicles traveling to and from the facilities for practice and for organized events, with some emissions generated from use of equipment and vehicles for maintenance purposes.

An air quality assessment will be prepared, based upon the findings of the traffic impact analysis conducted for the proposed development. As impacts on air quality are considered to be potentially significant, this topic will be further analyzed in the EIR.

e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The CARB's Air Quality and Land Use Handbook (2005) identifies the sources of the most common odor complaints received by local air districts. Typical sources include facilities such as sewage treatment plants, landfills, recycling facilities, petroleum refineries, and livestock operations. The project consists of the replacement of the existing turf fields with synthetic turf and construction of athletic courts, supporting structures, and surface parking. As such, it is not anticipated that the project would generate any new odorous uses or components in the project area. Project construction activities could result in nominal amounts of odor compounds associated with diesel heavy equipment exhaust. Long term maintenance of the facilities could potentially result in the use of diesel-generated equipment or machinery, and operation of the concession stand may result in limited, periodic generation of odors from food preparation; however, odorous emissions would be short term in nature, disperse rapidly, and cease upon completion. Additionally, all construction and maintenance equipment would be maintained in accordance with manufacturer specifications, and would be turned off when not in use. The project would not involve other sources of objectionable odors during construction or operation activities. Although impacts are anticipated to be less than significant, this topic will be further analyzed in the EIR.

4. Biological Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?			✓	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?			✓	
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				✓
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?			✓	
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓

DISCUSSION OF IMPACTS

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The site lies within a highly urbanized setting within the city of Norwalk and is currently developed with the existing Norwalk High School sporting facilities; refer to Figure 2, Aerial View of Athletic Field and Surrounding Land Uses. The existing Norwalk High School buildings are located to the north and west of where the project improvements would occur. This portion of the campus supports a variety of structures which house classrooms, offices, maintenance facilities, and other such uses. Only limited areas of ornamental vegetation (e.g. landscaping) are present within this portion of the site, although a number of large, mature trees are interspersed amongst the buildings.

The area of the site where the improvements are proposed currently supports several sporting fields, a track, basketball and tennis courts, and surface parking (north of Leffingwell Road). The

existing fields are landscaped with turf grass, and are routinely mowed to reduce weed growth and to provide an adequate playing surface. As a result, the potential for sensitive vegetation to be present on-site is low, and no viable habitat that is anticipated to support sensitive animal species is evident. A number of mature trees are also present in the northern and central portions of the proposed development footprint, as well as on a number of residential lots adjacent to the project boundary to the east and south that may support breeding and/or nesting for avian species; refer to Response 4.d), below.

Project implementation is generally not anticipated to directly impact any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Refer to Response 4.a), above. No riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community exists on-site or on adjacent lands, as the site and surrounding lands are largely developed with existing uses. Therefore, impacts to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community are not anticipated to occur with project implementation. As a result, this issue will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) **No Impact.** There are no wetlands or natural drainages on or adjacent to the subject site, due to its developed nature; refer to Figure 2, Aerial View of Athletic Field and Surrounding Land Uses. Therefore, no impacts related to this issue would occur, and this topic will not be further discussed in the EIR.

d) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will be constructed on the existing High School campus. The project area currently supports existing sporting fields and athletic courts, and therefore, does not support natural habitat or natural or artificial surface water features that would have the potential to support wildlife as it migrates through the area. As such, project implementation is not anticipated to interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or to impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

Although the project site is highly disturbed, a number of mature trees are present in the northern and central portions of the proposed development footprint, as well as on a number of residential lots adjacent to the project boundary to the east and south. These trees may have the potential to be utilized by migratory bird species that could be indirectly impacted during the project construction phase due to noise, tree removal, construction activity, and/or the presence of construction workers. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act makes it unlawful to pursue, capture, kill, or possess or attempt to do the same to any migratory bird or part, nest, or egg of any such bird listed in wildlife protection treaties between the United States, Great Britain, Mexico, Japan, and the countries of the former Soviet Union. By complying with this act, potential impacts on migratory species will be reduced to a less than significant level. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

e) **No Impact.** The proposed project will be constructed on several existing sporting fields at the high school campus. Due to the nature of the subject site, it is not anticipated that protected biological resources will be impacted by project implementation. Several mature trees presently located on-site would require removal to accommodate the proposed improvements as designed; refer to Figure 2, Aerial View of Athletic Field and Surrounding Land Uses, and Figure 3, Athletic Field Site

Plan. The City's Municipal Code addresses the protection of street trees during building operations and states that "during the erection, repair, alteration or removal of any building, house or structure in the city, no person in charge of such work shall leave any street tree or shrub in the vicinity of such building or structure without such good and sufficient guards or protectors as shall prevent injury to the tree or shrub arising out of or by reason of such erection, repair, alteration or removal" (Section 12.32.120, Protection of Street Trees During Building Operations); however, this policy applies to street trees (i.e. those located within the public right-of-way) and not to trees located on a privately or publicly held property. Further, as a high school, the project site is not subject to the requirements of the City's Municipal Code. For these reasons, the project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. No impact would occur in this regard, and therefore, this issue will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

f) **No Impact.** The subject site does not lie within the boundaries of an adopted habitat conservation plan, natural communities conservation plan, or other habitat conservation plan. Therefore, implementation of the project will not conflict with the provisions of any such plan, and no impacts will occur. This topic will not be further discussed in the EIR.

5. Cultural Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?				✓
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?			✓	
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact**. The Educational and Cultural Resources Element of the City General Plan does not identify Norwalk High School, located at 11356 Leffingwell Road, as a local, state, or federally listed historic resource. The Norwalk High School campus was established in 1957, and therefore, a number of buildings on the property are greater than 50 years of age, which is one of several conditions or standards generally considered in making a determination of whether a resource may be deemed to be of historic value on a local, state, or federal level; however, as designed, the project would largely affect only the existing sports fields, and would not result in disturbance, renovation, or demolition of on-site structures (with exception of the aquatic center) to accommodate the proposed improvements. Additionally, the project site currently supports similar athletic fields and the proposed improvements would therefore not represent a new land use on-site, nor would the project substantially change the existing visual character of the campus. Therefore, the project would not cause a direct or indirect impact on a designated historical structure, nor cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5. This topic does not warrant further analysis in the EIR.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The proposed project involves replacing the existing turf field with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball and track and field, as well as support buildings (concession stands, team rooms, restrooms, and storage facilities). The site is located within a highly-urbanized area within the city (i.e. not undeveloped, pristine land). As the property has been previously disturbed and currently supports similar sporting facilities, it is not anticipated that unknown cultural resources are present on-site. In addition, the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared to evaluate potential impacts of the General Plan (City of Norwalk, 1995b) indicates that there are no known or recorded archaeological sites located within the city. In the unlikely event such resources are discovered during project grading and/or excavation activities, adherence to standard protocols pertaining to the discovery of unknown cultural resources would ensure that any discovery is properly managed. Although project impacts to cultural resources are anticipated to be less than significant, this topic will be further addressed in the EIR to evaluate potential impacts and formulate any appropriate avoidance (or mitigation) measures, if applicable.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** There are no cemeteries or known human burials at the site, and the subject property has been previously disturbed during construction of the sporting facilities present on the site; however, ground disturbance (i.e., grading and excavation) would have the potential to result in discovery of human remains (although the potential is considered to be very low). In this unlikely event, the District would be responsible for compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the county coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. Further, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98(b), remains shall be left in place and free from disturbance until a final decision as to the treatment and disposition has been made. If the Los Angeles County coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission shall be contacted within a reasonable time frame. Subsequently, the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the most likely descendant. The most likely descendant shall then make recommendations and engage in consultations concerning the treatment of the remains, as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Impacts in this regard would be less than significant.

6. Geology and Soils

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning map, issued by the state Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?			✓	
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	✓			
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				✓
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			✓	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?			✓	
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?			✓	
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?				✓
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			✓	

a)

i) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The project site lies within approximately 30 miles of several significant active and potentially active faults that are capable of generating strong ground motion at the project site; however, the project does not lie within the boundaries of a known

"Earthquake Fault Zone" as defined by the state of California in the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act.

According to the City of Norwalk's General Plan Safety Element, the Norwalk Fault is classified as a potentially active fault and runs through the southeastern region of the city. The fault is considered to have a very low probability of producing severe earthquakes, due to its lack of seismic activity. The Newport Inglewood Fault is an active fault located approximately 7 miles south of the city and is capable of producing an earthquake of 6.5 Richter magnitude. Other regional faults include the Raymond, San Fernando, Santa Monica, and Sierra Madre faults which are also capable of producing earthquakes of this magnitude; however, potential impacts from ground shaking are reduced due to distance from the City of Norwalk.

Hazards caused by rupture along regional active faults do exist and will be taken into account in the design and construction of the stadium and filed lighting. As there are no Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zones within the vicinity of the project site, the proposed project is not anticipated to substantially increase the risk of exposure of people or structures to the risk of loss, injury, or death from potential rupture of a known earthquake fault. Although impacts are expected to be less than significant, further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

ii) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Strong seismic ground shaking could occur at the project site, resulting in damage to structures (i.e. stadium foundations, bleachers, restrooms, concessions, locker rooms, etc.) if not properly designed to withstand strong ground shaking. The proposed project is located within a seismically active area within the County, and therefore, would potentially be subject to moderate to strong ground shaking from local and regional earthquakes. All future construction on-site would be subject to building design standards adhered to by the Division of State Architect.

Although adherence to all applicable regulations and recommendations made in the geotechnical investigation, currently being prepared for the proposed project, would reduce potential impacts associated with seismic ground shaking, this potential impact will be further evaluated in the EIR.

iii) **Potentially Significant Impact**. The occurrence of liquefaction and seismically-induced settlement or ground failure is generally related to strong seismic shaking events where the groundwater table occurs at a relatively shallow depth (generally within 50 feet of the ground surface), or where lands are underlain by loose, cohesionless deposits. Liquefaction generally results in the loss of shear strength of a soil, which occurs due to the increase of pore water pressure caused by the rearrangement of soil particles induced by shaking or vibration. During liquefaction, soil strata typically behave similar to a heavy fluid.

The General Plan Safety Element indicates that the depth of groundwater within the city can change over varying seasons and over the span of several years, and therefore, longer-term data on groundwater levels is needed for a more accurate perspective on liquefaction potential. The Safety Element indicates that although the City of Norwalk is located in an area of low to moderate relative liquefaction, ground failure due to liquefaction could be a potential hazard for buildings, utilities, and other facilities in the southeastern region of the city. Specifically, the project site is located in an area identified as having a low potential for the occurrence of liquefaction.

The potential for substantial adverse effects due to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, will be examined in the geotechnical report being prepared for the project site. Related potential impacts will be further analyzed in the EIR.

iv) **No Impact.** As indicated in the General Plan Safety Element, due to the flat topography of the area, the city of Norwalk is not affected by landslides. Elevations on the overall high school campus are generally flat and range from approximately 87 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to approximately 91 feet amsl. Lands surrounding the site are also generally flat in nature, and no hillsides that would be potentially subject to landslide events are present in the vicinity. Therefore, no impacts related to this issue will occur. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The potential exists for soil erosion to occur during project construction when the turf grass is removed, exposing the underlying ground surface. The construction contractor would be required to implement standard dust control measures (see Subsection 3.3, Air Quality) and construction site storm water runoff control measures (see Subsection 3.9, Hydrology and Water Quality). Conformance with such standards would reduce the potential for substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil from the site during the grading and construction phase. Once the synthetic turf is installed, all exposed soil materials would be covered, and there would be limited potential for erosion or siltation to occur. Impacts in this regard would be less than significant.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project would be designed such that it would not degrade the stability of the underlying soils. The geotechnical report currently being prepared will examine the current baseline stability of the soils that underlie the project area and the findings of that report will be evaluated in the EIR. While potential impacts are expected to be less than significant, they will be evaluated in the EIR, and measures will be presented, if necessary, to protect both structures and people from adverse effects due to lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, and/or collapse.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Expansive soils generally result from specific clay minerals that expand when saturated and that shrink when dry. The geotechnical investigation prepared for the proposed project will address the presence or absence of expansive soils within the project area. The results will be further evaluated in the EIR.

e) **No Impact**. The proposed project would not involve the use of septic systems. Proposed restroom facilities at the site will be connected to the city's public sewer system. No impact would occur. This topic does not warrant further analysis in the EIR.

f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Paleontological resources are fossilized remains of vertebrate and invertebrate organisms, fossil tracks and trackways, and plant fossils. A unique paleontological site would include a known area of fossil-bearing rock strata. Given the disturbance associated with previous development of the site, the likelihood for undiscovered cultural resources is considered remote. Therefore, the project is anticipated to result in a less than significant impact. This topic does not warrant further analysis in the EIR.

7. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	✓			
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	✓			

DISCUSSION

a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** California is a substantial contributor of global greenhouse gases (GHGs), emitting over 400 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) per year. (California Energy Commission 2014). Climate studies indicate that California is likely to see an increase of 3 to 4 degrees Fahrenheit (ºF) over the next century. Methane is also an important GHG that potentially contributes to global climate change. GHGs are global in their effect, which is to increase the earth's ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere. As primary GHGs have a long lifetime in the atmosphere, accumulate over time, and are generally well-mixed, their impact on the atmosphere is mostly independent of the point of emission.

The impact of human activities on global climate change is apparent in the observational record. Air trapped by ice has been extracted from core samples taken from polar ice sheets to determine the global atmospheric variation of CO_2, methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O) from before the start of industrialization (approximately 1750), to over 650,000 years ago. For that period, it was found that CO_2 concentrations ranged from 180 parts per million (ppm) to 300 ppm. For the period from approximately 1750 to the present, global CO_2 concentrations increased from a pre-industrialization period concentration of 280 ppm to 379 ppm in 2005, with the 2005 value far exceeding the upper end of the pre-industrial period range.

Regulations

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) constructed several emission trajectories of GHGs needed to stabilize global temperatures and climate change impacts. It concluded that a stabilization of GHGs at 400 to 450 ppm carbon dioxide-equivalent concentration is required to keep global mean warming below two degrees Celsius (ºC), which in turn is assumed to be necessary to avoid dangerous climate change.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued Executive Order S-3-05 was issued in June 2005, which established the following GHG emission reduction targets:

- 2010: Reduce GHG emissions to 2000 levels;
- 2020: Reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels; and,
- 2050: Reduce GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels.

Additionally, issued in April 2015, Executive Order B-30-15 requires statewide GHG emissions to be reduced 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. Assembly Bill (AB) 32 Statutes of 2006, Health and Safety Code Section 38500 et seq. requires that CARB determine what the statewide GHG emissions level was in 1990, and approve a statewide GHG emissions limit that is equivalent to that level, to be achieved by 2020. CARB has approved a 2020 emissions limit of 427 million metric tons of CO_2 equivalent.

Due to the nature of global climate change, it is not anticipated that any single development project would have a substantial effect on global climate change. Instead, GHG emissions from the proposed project would combine with emissions emitted across California, the United States, and the world to cumulatively contribute to global climate change.

In June 2008, the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) published a Technical Advisory, which provides informal guidance for public agencies as they address the issue of climate change in CEQA documents. This is assessed by determining whether the proposed project is consistent with or obstructs the 39 Recommended Actions identified by CARB in its Climate Change Scoping Plan which includes nine Early Action Measures (qualitative approach). The Attorney General's Mitigation Measures identify areas were GHG emissions reductions can be achieved in order to achieve the goals of AB 32. As set forth in the OPR Technical Advisory and in the proposed amendments to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4, a project's GHG emissions are significant based on a qualitative and performance based standard (proposed CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4(a)(1) and (2)).

b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The NLMUSD does not have an adopted plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of reducing the GHG emissions. The District has not developed a quantified threshold of significance for GHG emissions, but a project found to contribute to a net decrease in GHG emissions and found to be consistent with the adopted implementation of the CARB AB 32 Scoping Plan is presumed to have less than significant GHG impacts. GHG emissions will be addressed and reviewed in the EIR to determine the significance of potential impacts.

8. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			✓	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	✓			
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	✓			
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	✓			
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles or a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			✓	
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				✓

Literature Review

Prior to the existing high school, the site was utilized for agricultural purposes (including a dairy farm), indicating potential pesticide application and possibly other chemicals.

Numerous studies (unrelated to the proposed project) have been undertaken to date to evaluate the potential for hazards and acute exposure to occur from off-gassing and leaching of compounds from synthetic turf products. A preliminary literature review of available prior studies conducted on installed synthetic turf systems (listed below) was performed to evaluate whether the synthetic turf system

installed with the project would have the potential to emit or release contaminants into the air, storm water, or groundwater. The studies reviewed include:

- Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Final Report: Artificial Turf Study – Leachate and Storm Water Characteristics.
- Connecticut Department of Public Health, Human Health Risk Assessment of Artificial Turf Fields Based Upon Results from Five Fields in Connecticut.
- Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Environmental Management of Staph and MRSA in Community Settings*.
- Environmental and Human Health, Inc., Artificial Turf: Exposures to Ground Up Rubber Tires - Athletic Fields, Playgrounds, Garden Mulch.
- Department of Analytical Chemistry, Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, *2009 Study Of Crumb Rubber Derived From Recycled Tires Final Report.*
- Neely, A.N. and M.P. Maley, "Survival of Enterococci and Staphylococci on Hospital Fabrics and Plastic."
- University of Connecticut Health Center, Artificial Turf Field Investigation in Connecticut. Final Report.

a) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Construction or use of the synthetic turf athletic field and supporting uses does not represent a land use that would involve heavy usage, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials. Development of the proposed project would involve the use of chemical agents, solvents, paints, and other hazardous materials associated with construction activities. The amount of these chemicals present during construction would be limited, would be in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local government regulations, and would result in a less than significant impact.

b-c) **Potentially Significant Impact**. The proposed project would be implemented at the existing Norwalk High School, and therefore, the project would be located within one-quarter mile of a school. An insignificant, short-term increase in fugitive dust and other construction vehicle emissions is anticipated during the project construction phase. Although there is no foreseeable "risk of upset" or other catastrophic risk of accident associated with the project, potential sources of hazardous substances that may be associated with the field materials have been reviewed in this section. The purpose of the review was to determine if any materials present the potential for an acute exposure to hazardous substances or materials. Substances under review include pesticides/fertilizers used within on-site the landscaping areas; and, leachate or emissions from the synthetic turf and/or track materials. Another potential concern associated with synthetic turf is increased exposure to bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus (S. aureus*), as commonly referred to as staph or MRSA, an antibiotic-resistant strain. Each of these potential concerns is addressed below:

Pesticides/Fertilizers

Any ornamental landscaping on the project site would be maintained in a manner similar to that which occurs under existing conditions. The proposed synthetic turf system would not require the use of fertilizers and pesticides. With the project, the amount of fertilizers and pesticides used on

the project site would therefore be dramatically reduced as compared to what is currently being used to maintain the existing natural turf. Therefore, the continued use of some pesticides and fertilizers within landscaped areas would be considered a less than significant impact compared to existing usage.

Synthetic Turf Materials

Background

Several studies have been conducted in the United States that assess the toxicity and potential risks of exposure to chemical components in synthetic turf materials, as well as potential bacteria exposure. The chemical components of synthetic turf are dependent upon many factors, including but not necessarily limited to: the quality of the brand of synthetic turf itself, the types of backing material, the types of turf fiber, the types of pigments used in the synthetic grass blades, types of cushioning infill material (such as "crumb rubber"), the end use, and the process used to make each material. These factors, in combination with age, weathering (including exposure to ultra-violet rays from sunlight and exposure to storm water), environmental conditions (pH), and wear and tear, all influence the user's potential for exposure to chemical components and bacteria.

Based on the above discussion, the project would have the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment or by emitting hazardous emissions or handling hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. As such, this issue warrants further analysis in the EIR.

d) **Potentially Significant Impact**. The project site is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 (DTSC 2016a). A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was prepared for a previous development project at the Norwalk High School campus which involved construction of two new classroom buildings, a parking lot, and a library (Mission Geoscience 2003). According to the District, a standard single story classroom building was to be constructed in the area where five portable classrooms were located in the eastern portion of the campus west of the athletic field. In addition, a new, single story library building was to be constructed approximately 75 feet to the north of this proposed classroom building, in an area occupied by a 20-foot by 24-foot storage facility. Another single story building to contain eight science laboratories and classrooms was proposed in the southwestern portion of the campus in an open area where two inactive paint booths, a compressor, and a hydraulic lift were located.

The Phase I ESA was performed to evaluate potential risks to human health and the environment due to the suspected presence of selected chemicals and associated metals in on-site soils from former agricultural uses (including a dairy farm) on the site, the presence of an existing clarifier, wash rack, hydraulic lift and paint booths associated with the high school's auto repair shop, several of which were identified as recognized environmental conditions.

As a result of the Phase I ESA, it was recommended that a preliminary endangerment assessment (PEA) be performed. Mission Geoscience, Inc. prepared the PEA (2004) on behalf of the NLMUSD for the school expansion project. The PEA determined that the concentrations of chemicals detected in shallow soils at the site did not present a significant potential risk or hazard to human

health the environment. No actual or potential release of hazardous materials, or the presence of naturally occurring hazardous materials that would pose a threat to human health or the environment under any land use, was indicated on the land areas considered.

Therefore, in accordance with DTSC's PEA Guidance Manual, it was recommended that a determination of No Further Action be made by DTSC for the site. Subsequently, DTSC concurred that no further environmental investigation or cleanup was required at the site and approved the PEA report (DTSC 2005); however, DTSC indicated that, if a previously-unidentified release or presence of hazardous material is discovered at the site, additional investigation and/or cleanup may be required (DTSC 2016b).

As soil testing occurred on only a portion of the site within the areas where development was previously proposed for the expansion project, additional soil testing may be required for the area of the site affected by the proposed project. Additionally, the project would require demolition of the existing aquatic center to allow for parking. Based on the condition and age of the structure, testing for lead-based paint (LBP) and asbestos-containing materials (ACMs) may be required.

Due to the past history of the site, current conditions of on-site facilities, and the potential for public concerns over hazards relative to the synthetic turf, impacts with regard to hazards and hazardous materials are considered to be potentially significant. Therefore, this topic warrants further analysis in the EIR.

e-f) **No Impact**. The public airport located nearest to the project site is the Fullerton Municipal Airport, located approximately 6.4 miles to the southeast (AirNav.com 2016). No private airfields are located within a two-mile radius of the project site. Therefore, the site is not located within 2 miles of a public airport or private airstrip, nor is the site located within an airport Land Use Plan. No safety hazards are anticipated to occur to people working or residing in the area, and no impact would occur. This issue will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

g) **Less than Significant Impact**. The City of Norwalk does not have an adopted emergency management plan. Major emergencies and disasters can occur anytime and could significantly impact day-to-day activities for some or for all residents. The Norwalk Office of Emergency Management focuses on providing education, training, and guidance to minimize impacts and to bring the city back to normalcy effectively, and as soon as possible, after a major emergency or disaster. The Norwalk Office of Emergency Management works directly with the Los Angeles County Fire and Sheriff Departments and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services to identify disaster risks and hazards and to develop strategies to prepare, respond, and recover from devastating events. City staff undergo training, drills, and disaster exercises on a regular basis.

Community Preparedness programs have been developed specifically for Norwalk residents, schools, and businesses to educate and empower the community to be survivors versus victims. Programs are made available through seminars, workshops, and training. The city also implements several programs aimed at emergency preparedness including: 1) Camp at Home, which provides guidance to residents on proper procedures to follow in the event of a major earthquake; 2) Community Emergency Readiness Training (CERT), which provides residents with training for response in an emergency or disaster (i.e. how to manage utilities, fire suppression, medical aid, search and rescue); 3) the Advanced Community Emergency Response Team (ACERT)

which trains residents to participate as a city-affiliated volunteer disaster service worker; and, 4) Project Spirit, which provides strategic emergency planning, training, and guidance for local school staff, faculty, students, and parents.

During project construction, the movement of supplies and workers to and from the site may cause occasional, temporary interference with existing circulation on area roadways. As appropriate, a traffic control plan would be prepared and implemented to ensure that the project does not interfere with the circulation of emergency service vehicles, and that emergency access to and from the site and any neighboring properties is maintained at all times.

Additionally, under current conditions, in the event an emergency or disaster (i.e. fire), and as appropriate to the type of event, the students and staff evacuate the Norwalk High School buildings and relocate to the existing athletic fields. During project construction, access to the fields may be restricted or unavailable. Therefore, the project would have the potential to interfere with emergency evacuation procedures, and may result in a significant impact.

As a result of the above conditions, the project would have the potential to result in significant impacts resulting from impairment of implementation of or physical interference with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. As such, additional evaluation of this issue is warranted in the EIR.

h) **No Impact**. The project site is located within a highly-urbanized area and is not adjacent to any designated wildland areas that represent a high risk for the occurrence of wildfire. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. No impact would occur. This issue will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

9. Hydrology and Water Quality

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	✓			
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			✓	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	✓			
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	✓			
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			✓	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			✓	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				✓
h) Place within 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				✓
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			✓	
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				✓

a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project would be subject to local, state, and federal water quality regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, required

adherence to the federal Clean Water Act, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System requirements, National Flood Insurance Act, California Department of Water Resources, California Fish and Wildlife Code, California Water Code, and other applicable regulatory requirements. Development of the proposed project would result in a significant impact to hydrology and water quality if associated construction activities or operations would result in the violation of any water quality or waste discharge standards. It should be noted that the project does not propose any upgrades to the existing on-site water or wastewater infrastructure in order to serve the proposed project. Potential violations relative to hydrology and water quality may occur through the creation of erosion, sedimentation, and/or polluted runoff or through the discharge of water as a result of operation of facilities. It is anticipated that appropriate best management practices and compliance with applicable regulations would reduce potential water quality impacts to a less than significant level; however, this potential impact will be evaluated fully in the EIR.

b) **Less than Significant Impact.** The project site is not in a designated groundwater recharge area. According to the MND prepared for the General Plan (City of Norwalk 1995), in the area north of Norwalk, aquifers are essentially unconfined and merge together in the Whittier Narrows area (north of the project site) forming a common recharge zone, whereby groundwater enters the local aquifers. To the south, near the City of Norwalk, aquicludes divide the area into confined and semi-confined aquifers known as the Central Basin Pressure Area. Groundwater enters these aquifers through both natural and artificial recharge. The direction of groundwater flow is southerly from the Whittier Narrows recharge area to the Norwalk well fields where historic pumping of groundwater has created a depression in the ground surface. Southerly moving groundwater traveling towards the San Gabriel River is captured by the Norwalk pumping depression, diverting flows eastward to the well fields.

The project site is located within an urbanized area, and is currently served by the city's public water system. The project site is currently developed land located on the existing Norwalk High School campus. The majority of the project would result in installation of synthetic all-weather turf for the football/soccer/track and field, baseball field, softball field, and practice fields, in addition to approximately 91,643 square feet of other turf area, thereby allowing storm water to continue to infiltrate through the ground surface. Only a relatively limited portion of the site would support imperious surfaces, including such elements as the bleachers, approximately 8,162 square feet of support buildings (including concession stands, team rooms, restrooms and storage facilities), 17,850 square feet of surface parking, and basketball and tennis courts; however, the increase in impervious surfaces on-site with project implementation, as compared to existing conditions, is not anticipated to be substantial relative to groundwater recharge in the area. No water features (e.g., streams or creeks) that generally serve the purpose of groundwater recharge for the area are located within the project vicinity. Thus, the proposed project would not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge in the area. Further, implementation of the proposed project would lessen the amount of water usage with the installation of artificial turf. For the reasons above, the proposed project is expected to result in a less than significant impact to groundwater recharge. This issue will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Topography on the overall High School campus is generally flat, and range from approximately 87 feet amsl in the southwestern portion of the site to approximately 91 feet amsl in the northeastern portion. Project construction and operation would potentially alter the existing drainage patterns of the site or area which could lead to increased

erosion or siltation, thereby affecting the quality of downstream water bodies. Such effects would be considered potentially significant. Evaluation of project impacts relative to the alteration of drainage patterns on-site, as well as the potential for increased erosion and/or siltation, will therefore be further evaluated in the EIR.

d) **Potentially Significant Impact**. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a slight increase in impervious areas at the project site, which could alter existing drainage patterns or increase the amount of storm water runoff experienced, or lead to flooding on-site or off-site. Such impacts would be considered potentially significant. Therefore, an evaluation of potential impacts resulting from the project's alteration of on-site drainage patterns will be provided in the EIR.

e) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Refer to Responses 9.c) and 9.d), above. The project would result in a potential change in existing drainage patterns and/or an increase potential for erosion and siltation on-site or off-site. Such impacts may be considered significant, and further evaluation is required in the EIR. Refer also to discussion under 8.b) and 8.c), above with regards to potential sources of hazardous substances that may be associated with the synthetic turf field materials. The potential for the release of such materials and/or transport of any hazardous materials via storm water runoff will also be further analyzed in the EIR.

f) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Refer to Responses 9.a) and 9.e), above. Impacts would be less than significant.

g) **No Impact**. The Federal Emergency Management Agency identifies the project site as unmapped. Additionally, according to the city's General Plan Safety Element, the city of Norwalk is classified as a Zone C flood region according to the Flood Insurance Rate map (FIRM) for the County of Los Angeles. Zone C classification indicates that the city is located in an area susceptible to a flood occurrence within a 500-year period. Therefore, the project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area. No housing is proposed as part of the project, and therefore, no impacts would occur. This issue will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

h) **No Impact**. Refer to Response 9.g), above. This issue will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

i) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Refer to Response 9.g), above. The project site is not located within a flood hazard area, and therefore, the significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding is minimal.

According to the General Plan Safety Element, the northern boundary of the city is located approximately 7 miles downstream of the Whittier Narrows Dam. Plates 1 and 2 of the Whittier Narrows Dam Emergency Plan Inundation Map, prepared by the U.S. Army Engineer District, Los Angeles, Corps of Engineers, indicate that the majority of Norwalk, including all lands located west of Norwalk Boulevard, are subject to potential inundation due to failure of this dam. Assuming complete failure of the dam, and peak capacity at the time of failure, waters from the dam would reach the city of Norwalk within six hours, with peak inundation occurring within approximately 19 hours. Depth of floodwaters could reach four to six feet in depth above ground level. The project site is located approximately 7.7 miles to the south of the Whittier Narrows Dam, west of Norwalk Boulevard, and would therefore be subject to inundation in the event of failure of the dam.

The subject site is currently developed with similar use types (sporting fields) as those proposed with the project. As such, the proposed improvements would not substantially change on-site circumstances with regard to flooding or substantially increase the number of people potentially exposed to hazards caused by flooding events. If a flooding event occurred, occupants of the project site would follow existing evacuation procedures, as under present conditions, or other hazard mitigation plans in effect at the time to minimize or avoid potential risks to public safety. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. Impacts are considered to be less than significant.

j) **No Impact.** The project site is located approximately 16.5 miles to the east of the Pacific Ocean and is therefore not located in a tsunami inundation zone. Furthermore, the project site is an existing high school surrounded by urban and built up land. Topography on the overall high school campus is generally flat, and elevations range from approximately 87 feet amsl to approximately 91 feet amsl. Lands surrounding the site are also generally flat in nature, and no hillsides that would be potentially subject to mudslide events are present in the vicinity. As indicated in the General Plan Safety Element, due to the flat topography of the area, the City of Norwalk is not affected by avalanches, rockfalls, or landslides. Additionally, no large bodies of water such as lakes or reservoirs are located within a 5-mile radius of the site. Therefore, the project is not subject to inundation by tsunami, seiche, or mudflow, and no impacts would occur. This issue will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

10. Land Use and Planning

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?				✓
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				✓
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact**. The proposed project is located on the existing Norwalk High School campus and will not physically divide an established community. It is anticipated that all proposed improvements would occur within the interior of the site, and that no off-site improvements (e.g. construction of new roadways) would be required. Therefore, no impact will occur, and no mitigation is required. This issue will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) **No Impact.** The City of Norwalk General Plan Land Use Element designates the project site as Open Space/Schools/Public Facilities. The high school campus is zoned as Single Family Residential (R-1); however, government (state) owned facilities (i.e. public schools) override city zoning (Government Resources Code Sections 53094, 65402[a], 65403, and Public Resources Code Section 21151.2). No changes to the existing land use designation or zoning are required or proposed with the project. Additionally, the project would result in a continuation of the existing use of the site (athletic fields), and therefore, would not conflict with the intended use of the property or with surrounding land uses. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project. This issue will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed project site lies within an urbanized area where surrounding lands are largely built-out. The subject site is not located within the boundaries of any adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. As such, the project would not conflict with any such plan, and no impact would occur. This issue will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

11. Mineral Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?				✓
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact.** It should be noted that schools have a Social Exclusion from construction aggregate mining under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 (California Department of Conservation 1981). The project site is located on the existing High School campus, and therefore, the site is currently developed. The City of Norwalk General Plan does not designate any locally important mineral resources within the city. There are no mineral resource zones (MRZs) identified on the project site, and therefore, there are no impacts related to this issue (California Geologic Survey 2010). The project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region or residents of the state. Therefore, no impact would occur, and no further analysis is required in the EIR.

b) **No Impact.** Refer to Response 11.a). The project site is not delineated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No further analysis is warranted in the EIR.

12. Noise

Issues, would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) The exposure of persons to, or the generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	✓			
b) The exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	✓			
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	✓			
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	✓			
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Land uses determined to be sensitive to noise are generally considered to include residential areas, schools, convalescent and acute care hospitals, parks and recreational areas, and churches. The nearest sensitive receptors to the project site are the single family residential uses located along the west, east, and south sides of the campus. The backyards of the homes along Gard Avenue and Longworth Avenue border the campus (including the area affected by the proposed sports fields), with an approximately 40-foot setback from all property lines.

Area residents would be subjected to noise and/or vibrations during the construction phase of the proposed improvements. Noise would be generated during construction by the use of vehicles and equipment on the site, including the use of heavy equipment, such as graders, dozers, excavators, and backhoes.

The project will result in the construction of a number of sports fields, athletic courts, and associated facilities that will support sporting practice sessions, general recreation, and organized sporting events, similar to that which presently occur at the subject site; however, as the project would result in installation of bleachers for the football/soccer/track and field stadium, baseball field, and softball fields, as well as nighttime lighting of these fields, the site will be able to

accommodate a greater number of athletes and attendees on-site and for an extended period of time (i.e. past dusk). Therefore, ongoing daily use of the sporting facilities could result in the generation of noise that may exceed existing ambient noise levels by vehicles traveling to and from the site, people conversing or yelling, coaching (i.e. use of bullhorns), refereeing, cheering, and/or band music playing. Additionally, the project will include construction of a 300-square foot press box with a public address system for announcing during sporting events. Such activities would have the potential to result in a substantial permanent, or temporary or periodic, increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project, which may result in a significant noise impact. Further analysis of existing ambient noise levels and the proposed project's potential operational impacts on those levels will be included in the EIR.

The city's Municipal Code (Section 9.04.100, Noise Prohibited) states that "no person shall make, continue or cause to be made or continued, any loud, unnecessary or unusual noise, or any noise which either annoys, disturbs, injures or endangers the comfort, repose, health, peace or safety of others within the limits of the city." Section 9.04.140, General Noise Regulations, indicates that "An average noise level reading measured pursuant to Section 9.04.130 which exceeds the ambient noise level at the property line of any residential land (or if a condominium or apartment house, within any adjoining apartment) by more than five decibels shall be deemed to be prima fade evidence of a violation of the provisions of this article." Ambient noise levels for residential uses is assumed to be 45 dBA[1] during nighttime hours and 55 dBA during daytime hours. Ambient noise levels for commercial zones and all other zones are 60 dBA and 65 dBA, respectively, for all hours of the day or night. Although not subject to the provisions of the city's Municipal Code, the project could significantly expose persons to, or generate, noise levels in excess of established standards during construction and/operation. Therefore, further analysis of noise impacts during project construction and operation relative to noise will be included in the EIR.

b) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Groundborne vibration and groundborne noise could originate from earth movement during the construction phase of the proposed project, as well as during operation and maintenance of the facilities. The proposed project would be expected to comply with all applicable requirements for long-term operation, as well as with standard measures to reduce excessive groundborne vibration and noise, to ensure that the proposed project would not expose persons or structures to excessive groundborne vibration. Further analysis of groundborne vibration and groundborne noise will be included in the EIR.

c) **Potentially Significant Impact**. Refer to Response 12.a).

d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Heavy equipment and machinery used during project grading, demolition, and construction would have the potential to cause a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. Temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels caused by construction activities could be reduced with the incorporation of mitigation measures, if such impacts were determined to be significant. Project-related construction noise levels will be quantified and further evaluated in the EIR.

[1] Community Noise levels are measured in terms of the A-weighted decibel, abbreviated dBA. A-weighting is a frequency correction that correlates overall sound pressure levels with the frequency response of the human ear.

Refer also to Response 12.c), above. Operation of the proposed facilities, particularly when organized sporting events are held for public attendance, would have the potential to substantially increase ambient noise levels on a periodic basis that may be determined to be significant. As such, further analysis of existing ambient noise levels and the project's potential operational impacts on those levels will be included in the EIR.

e-f) **No Impact**. The public airport located nearest to the project site is the Fullerton Municipal Airport located approximately 6.4 miles to the southeast (AirNav.com 2016). No private airfields are located within a two-mile radius of the project site. Therefore, the site is not located within 2 miles of a public airport or private airstrip, nor is the site subject to an airport Land Use Compatibility Plan. The project would therefore not be anticipated to expose people residing or working within the project area to excessive noise levels. No impact would occur in this regard. Further analysis of this issue in the EIR is not warranted.

13. Population and Housing

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				✓
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **No Impact.** The proposed project site is located at the existing High School campus and does not propose or generate demand for the construction of new housing that would potentially result in area population growth. The proposed renovation and expansion of the existing athletic facilities on-site is intended to serve the student population. The project will allow the school to better accommodate the recreational needs of the existing area student population, rather than causing demand for new recreational facilities to be financed and constructed on public lands elsewhere in the city. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial population growth in the area, and no impacts would occur. As a result, this topic does not warrant further analysis in the EIR.

b) **No Impact.** The project site will not require the removal/replacement of any existing housing or residents, as none are present on-site. Therefore, no impacts with regard to the potential displacement of substantial numbers of existing housing or people would occur. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) **No Impact.** See Response 13.b).

14. Public Services

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:				
a) Fire protection?			✓	
b) Police protection?			✓	
c) Schools?				✓
d) Parks?				✓
e) Other public facilities?				✓

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Fire prevention, fire protection, and emergency medical services in the project area are provided by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The proposed improvements would be constructed to meet the requirements of the state Fire Marshall. By adhering to the State of California school fire safety standards, the proposed project will not affect the fire department's performance objectives. Although the proposed improvements would result in additional visitors to the site during organized events or practices, due to the nature of the facilities proposed, it is not anticipated that such conditions would substantially increase the need for fire protection services, or adversely affect the fire department's ability to provide service to the site via existing equipment and personnel. Therefore, a less than significant impact will occur. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Law enforcement services are provided by the County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. The proposed project is designed to service the existing and future projected student population and will not substantially increase demand for police protection services over existing conditions. Although the proposed improvements would result in additional visitors to the site during organized events or practices, due to the nature of the facilities proposed, it is not anticipated that such conditions would substantially increase the need for fire protection services, or adversely affect the Sheriff Department's ability to provide service to the site via existing equipment and personnel. Therefore, a less than significant impact will occur. This topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) **No Impact.** The project improvements would benefit students attending the existing Norwalk High School. The project will not result in land uses (e.g. housing) that will result in population growth or create a greater demand for school services. Therefore, no impact to schools would result from project implementation. As a result, this topic will not be further analyzed in the EIR.

d) **No Impact.** The project is intended to allow for construction and operation of new sports fields, athletic courts, and supporting facilities at the existing Norwalk High School that will enhance

recreational opportunities for athletes and enable public viewing and attendance of activities occurring at the site. As such, the project would not result in increased demand for additional park and recreation services either on-site or in the surrounding area. The project will not cause an increase in area population that would have the potential to increase demands on the city's recreational amenities or public parks. As such, no impact with regard to parks will occur. No further analysis of this topic in the EIR is warranted.

e) **No Impact.** The proposed project is designed to service the existing and future student population at Norwalk High School and to provide improved and expanded sports facilities for use by the student population. No new population will be generated by the proposed uses, and therefore, no increased demand on other public facilities is anticipated. Therefore, the project will not significantly impact any other public facilities. This topic does not warrant further analysis in the EIR.

15. Recreation

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				✓
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				✓

DISCUSSION

a-b) **No Impact.** The proposed project involves replacing the existing turf field with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball, and track and field. The proposed project would include a new 2,500 seat lighted football/soccer/track and field stadium (stadium or football field); a practice soccer field; a practice football field; a lighted baseball field; and, a lighted softball field, eight new tennis courts, and seven new basketball courts. Approximately 8,162 square feet of support buildings would be constructed, including concession stands, team rooms, and restrooms and storage facilities. In addition, the project would result in approximately 91,643 square feet of open space within the athletic field footprint.

No residential uses are proposed with the project that would have the potential to generate new population growth that could increase demand for local or regional recreational facilities or parks. Rather, the project represents replacement of existing sporting facilities on the site with expanded or upgraded sporting facilities that are generally similar in nature to those that currently exist. As a result, the project would result in an increase in the capacity of the number of athletes able to practice and compete at the facilities, and the number of patrons able to attend and view sporting events held on campus. Due to the nature of the land uses proposed, the project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities, nor would the project require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which may have an adverse physical effect on the environment. No impact with regard to recreation would occur. This issue will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

16. Transportation/Traffic

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	✓			
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	✓			
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				✓
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	✓			
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	✓			
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	✓			

DISCUSSION

a) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Main access to the Norwalk High School campus is currently from Leffingwell Road. Following project implementation, during games and after-school activities, access to the proposed fields will be through a gated entrance between the south side of the campus buildings and to the north of the football stadium.

The project will offer variety of sporting facilities and athletic fields that will be similar in nature to the existing facilities, but that will improve upon the quality and capabilities of the facilities to provide recreational opportunities for students and for hosting sporting events. As proposed, the project will offer 2,500 new bleacher seats on-site for spectators of the football/soccer/track and

field stadium, baseball, and softball fields, combined. As bleachers are currently only provided at the existing baseball and softball fields, the potential for a greater number of people to visit and occupy the site for extended periods of time will occur with the proposed project; however, it should be noted that the lack of spectator seating currently limits the use of the football field to practice uses only, and the Norwalk High School football teams play their home games at other NLMUSD facilities. Therefore, with project implementation, the vehicle trips currently generated by Norwalk High School football games will be redistributed to area roadways within the project vicinity, and are not expected to substantially differ from that generated under existing conditions. Additionally, as similar uses presently occur on-site, it is anticipated that project effects on the circulation system will generally be limited to late afternoon to evening and/or weekend hours, as this is when most people will attend practices or events at the site.

Construction of the proposed project would generate additional traffic on the existing area roadway network. These new vehicle trips would include construction workers traveling to the site as well as delivery trips associated with construction equipment and materials. Delivery of construction materials to the site would likely require a number of oversize vehicles that may travel at slower speeds than existing traffic and, due to their size, may intrude into adjacent travel lanes. These oversize trips may decrease the existing level of service (LOS) on area freeways, roadways, and/or at intersections. Additionally, the total number of vehicle trips associated with all construction-related traffic (including construction workers) could temporarily increase daily traffic volumes traveling on local roadways and intersections. Proposed project operations would also increase the daily traffic volumes on local roadways and at area intersections, as the proposed project would provide additional recreational facilities and supporting structures on-site, as well as allow for increased attendance at practices and scheduled events.

A traffic impact assessment (TIA) will be prepared for the project to estimate trip generation, analyze effects on intersection operations, and review area roadway capacity and access during peak periods. Additionally, a weekday parking study will be prepared to determine potential effects the adequacy of on-site parking (existing and proposed), as well as to evaluate the potential for spillover parking on surrounding local streets to occur. It is anticipated that the TIA will also evaluate the potential for available alternative means of transit (i.e. public transit) to reduce the number of trips generated during sporting events and practice sessions. The findings of the TIA will serve as the basis for evaluation of the project in the EIR to determine whether significant impacts with regard to transportation/traffic would occur with project implementation, and proper mitigation measures will be identified, if appropriate, to reduce any adverse effects.

For the reasons above, the project will have the potential to conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance, or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, including alternative modes of transportation. Thus, the effects of both the temporary construction-related traffic and operational-related traffic will be evaluated further in the EIR.

b) **Potentially Significant Impact**. Construction of the proposed project would generate vehicle trips and may require roadway lane closures, which could temporarily increase daily traffic volumes and congestion on local roadways and intersections. Operation of the proposed project would also generate trips on local roadways. Such events would have the potential to affect the existing level of service of area roadways or intersections. The project would therefore have the potential to conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to, level

of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the County congestion management agency for designated roads or highways. As a result, this topic will be further analyzed in the EIR.

c) **No Impact.** The public airport located nearest to the project site is the Fullerton Municipal Airport, located approximately 6.4 miles to the southeast (AirNav 2016). No private airfields are located within a 2-mile radius of the project site. Although the project will result in installation of a number of light poles that will reach up to 80 feet in height, due to the distance of the site from any area airports, such features will not interfere with air traffic patterns. No impacts in this regard are anticipated, and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

d) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The only off-site improvements proposed will be demolition of the existing aquatic center and construction of an additional 89 parking spaces in the existing surface parking lot located north of the campus, across Leffingwell Road; however, improvements to existing off-site roadways may be required for the project, depending on the findings of the Traffic Impact Analysis that will be prepared for the project to evaluate traffic and circulation impacts resulting with project implementation. Additionally, the increase in persons at the project site during long-term operation, as compared to existing conditions, may result in hazardous conditions due to proposed project design features (e.g., driveway locations, ingress/egress, etc.). As the project will not change the land use of the site, no hazards due to incompatible uses will occur. As impacts may be potentially significant, this topic will be further analyzed in the EIR.

e) **Potentially Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project will generate construction vehicle trips, potential roadway lane closures, and potential increases in construction and operational traffic that could impact daily traffic volumes on local roadways and intersections, thereby impeding emergency access. A Traffic Control Plan will be prepared to address such issues, and it is anticipated that preparation of the plan will reduce any potential impacts relative to this topic to less than significant; however, the proposed project's potential impacts on emergency access will be further evaluated in the EIR.

f) **Potentially Significant Impact.** No designated bicycle lanes are present on local roadways adjacent to the High School site. Therefore, such facilities would not be affected during project construction and/or operation. The city does not have an adopted bicycle master plan. Sidewalks are present on both sides of all streets running adjacent to the project site.

Local bus service is provided by the Norwalk Transit System (NTS) which provides fixed-route and paratransit service in Los Angeles County, including the Cities of Norwalk and portions of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, La Mirada, Santa Fe Springs, La Habra, Whittier and unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County. NTS's paratransit advance reservation Dial-A-Ride service operates within the jurisdictional boundary of the City of Norwalk.

NTS also provides bus service between the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Metrolink Station and the Metro Green Line Studebaker station in Norwalk. This service provides direct interconnectivity between rail stations (Metrolink and Metro Green line light rail). Metrolink (commuter rail service between Orange County and Los Angeles) provides weekday train service to the Norwalk/Santa Fe Springs Transportation Center.

During construction, the project may have the potential to cause temporary disruption of the use of such transportation facilities, or increase safety hazards, due to construction vehicles and

materials traveling to and from the site or temporary lane closures. Operation of the project may also have the potential to temporarily decrease the performance of public transit, bicycle lanes, or pedestrian facilities during a large event due to traffic congestion or traffic control, and may also decrease public safety of those using such means of transit. As indicated above, a traffic control plan will be prepared to address such issues, and it is anticipated that preparation of the plan will reduce any potential impacts to less than significant; however, this topic will be further analyzed in the EIR.

17. Tribal Cultural Resources

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or			✓	
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** As stated in Section 5(a), the Educational and Cultural Resources Element of the City General Plan does not identify Norwalk High School, located at 11356 Leffingwell Road, as a local, state, or federally listed historic resource. The District has received a request for notification from the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, consistent with the requirements of California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). As a result, the District has formally notified the Gabrieleño Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation, and any further communication or consultation efforts will be fully summarized and evaluated in the EIR.

18. Utilities and Service Systems

Issues, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			✓	
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			✓	
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	✓			
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?			✓	
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			✓	
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			✓	
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			✓	

DISCUSSION

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project would improve upon the existing sporting facilities currently offered on the project site. The proposed project would have the potential to increase wastewater generation via potential athletes and patrons visiting the site, as well as those employed at the concession stands during organized sporting events. New restrooms and drinking fountains would also be constructed on-site. As a result, the project would generate additional wastewater as compared to existing conditions; however, such quantities of wastewater are not anticipated to exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board. The proposed project's consistency with the wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County currently provide wastewater treatment services to Norwalk High School. The project proposes accessory buildings totaling approximately 6,681 square feet that will house storage rooms, team locker rooms, concessions, and restrooms. As such, the proposed project will result in uses that will generate

new water and wastewater treatment demands; however, due to the limited demands created by such uses, it is not anticipated that the project would require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects. Additionally, as the existing on-site fields will be replaced with the proposed synthetic turf, water demand for purposes of irrigation will be substantially reduced as compared to existing conditions. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant. This topic will not be further evaluated in the EIR.

c) **Potentially Significant Impact**. The proposed project involves replacing the grass field with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball and track and field. The project will result in a slight increase in impervious surfaces on-site. Additionally, existing drainage patterns and concentration of runoff could potentially be altered by the proposed project. Further evaluation of the proposed project's potential to impact the capacity of existing storm water drainage systems in the area or create substantial additional sources of polluted runoff will be provided in the EIR to determine the need for appropriate storm water mitigation/design measures.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The proposed project involves replacing the existing grass fields with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball and track and field. Water hook ups will be provided within the concessions building, restrooms, and for water fountains. Since the proposed project will be replacing the existing grass fields with a synthetic turf field, the water demand generated by the proposed project site for irrigation purposes will be substantially reduced, as compared to existing conditions; however, the project as proposed would result in the extension of existing on-site water and wastewater infrastructure for the field house buildings. It is anticipated that design and/or mitigation measures (such as installation of low-flow fittings, fixtures, and equipment including low-flush toilets and urinals, and installation of self-closing valves on drinking fountains) would be implemented to reduce project water demands and ensure that any impacts on water supplies remain less than significant. This issue will be further addressed in the EIR.

e) **Less Than Significant Impact**. Refer to Response 17.b), above. Due to the nature of the proposed uses, and the limited increase in quantities of wastewater produced by such uses, it is anticipated that the wastewater treatment provider has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

f) **Less Than Significant Impact.** Solid waste generated by the project would be disposed of at an approved sanitary landfill located within Los Angeles County. The MND prepared for the City's General Plan indicates that solid waste from the City of Norwalk can be routed to various area landfills, operated by the County Sanitation District or private companies. The individual haulers determines at which landfill to dispose of transported solid waste.

Based on the 2014 County of Los Angeles Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan Annual Report, the County has a total of 15 years of current and future disposal capacity; however, as the project would generate additional solid waste as a result of the proposed construction and operations, this issue will be further analyzed in the EIR.

g) **Less Than Significant Impact**. The proposed project would generate solid waste during construction and operation activities, thus requiring the consideration of waste reduction and recycling measures. The 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act (AB 939) requires that specific waste diversion goals be achieved for all California cities and counties. In addition, the California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended, requires expanded or new development projects to incorporate storage areas for recycling bins into the proposed project design. The need for mitigation measures to confirm that the proposed project will comply with the 1989 California Integrated Waste Management Act and the 1991 California Solid Waste Reuse and Recycling Access Act of 1991, as amended will be evaluated in the EIR.

California State Assembly Bill 341 (2011) established a state goal to reduce, recycle, or compost no less than 75% of waste generated by the year 2020. The City of Norwalk implements its 3-container system to separate waste into recyclables and non-recyclables. Norwalk residents are asked to participate fully in the program by recycling all products that are recyclable

The project is not anticipated to generate substantially amounts of new solid waste; however, the hosting of sporting events over the long-term will generate additional solid waste above that currently generated by on-site operations. Project conformance with applicable federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste for both construction and long-term operation are anticipated to ensure that project impacts relative to solid waste remain less than significant. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

V. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Issues, does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			✓	
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	✓			
c) Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	✓			

DISCUSSION

The following are Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15065.

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The site is presently developed with athletic fields and courts, and ongoing maintenance of the existing facilities (i.e. mowing) greatly reduces the potential for sensitive habitat or species to be present on-site. Project construction will have the potential to affect avian species that may occupy mature trees in the surrounding area during project construction; however, conformance with standard protocols for avoidance would ensure that potential direct and indirect impacts remain less than significant. The biological resources section of the EIR will discuss specific project impacts on plants and wildlife including avian species. Additionally, the potential exists for as-yet undiscovered archaeological resources or human remains to be encountered during project construction. Conformance with standard protocols for the discovery of such resources will ensure that project impacts remain less than significant.

b) **Potentially Significant Impact.**

Aesthetics

Although the project would result in a land use (athletic fields) similar to that which currently exists on-site, the project would have the potential to alter the visual character or quality of the facilities, thereby contributing to a change in the existing overall visual setting. Additionally, the project would result in new sources of light and glare, thereby contributing to existing sources of light and glare already generated by existing development in surrounding areas, the overall city,

and the Los Angeles region as a whole. The EIR will evaluate the proposed project's contribution to cumulative impacts as further technical study is undertaken.

Agricultural Resources

The site is located in a highly-urbanized area and is currently developed with sports fields associated with Norwalk High School. No agricultural or forestry resources are present on-site or on surrounding lands, and therefore, the project would not have the potential to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact on agricultural or forestry resources. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

Air Quality

The proposed project has the potential to contribute to cumulative air quality impacts relative to construction and operation, and sensitive receptors are located within the project vicinity. The potential for the project to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact though conflict with the applicable air quality plan, violation of any air quality standard, contribution to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment, or exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, will be further evaluated in the EIR and as identified through additional technical analysis.

Biological Resources

The site is presently developed with athletic fields and courts, and ongoing maintenance of the existing facilities (e.g., mowing) greatly reduces the potential for sensitive habitat or species to be present on-site. Several large trees on-site will be removed with the project as proposed. The project will have the potential to affect avian species that may occupy mature trees in the surrounding area during project construction; however, compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act would ensure that impacts remain less than significant. This topic does not warrant further evaluation in the EIR.

Cultural Resources

The project would not impact any historical resources on-site. The MND prepared for the city's General Plan indicates that no known cultural resources are present within the city. Additionally, as the site has been previously developed, the potential for discovery of human remains is low. Standard protocols would be followed in the event of discovery of any unknown resources during construction to ensure that potential impacts do not occur. Due to the unlikely presence of cultural resources or human remains on-site, combined with adherence to established standards, it is not anticipated that the project would contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact on such resources. This topic does not warrant further evaluation in the EIR.

Geology and Soils

The project has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts with regard to geology and soils, as proposed improvements on the site would be subject to strong seismic ground shaking, liquefaction and other seismic and geologic hazards. The project's potential to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to geology and soils will be further evaluated in the EIR and as identified through additional technical analysis.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Due to the nature of global climate change, it is not anticipated that any single development project would have a substantial effect on global climate change. In actuality, GHG emissions from the proposed project would combine with emissions emitted across California, the United States, and the world to cumulatively contribute to global climate change. As such, the proposed project has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts with regard to greenhouse gases and climate change through project construction and long-term operation. The potential for the project to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to GHGs will be further evaluated in the EIR and as identified through additional technical analysis.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

The proposed project has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts with regard to hazards and hazardous materials, as the project proposes to replace the existing on-site turf with synthetic turf and would have the potential to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of the Norwalk High School through project construction and routine maintenance activities. Therefore, the potential for the project to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to hazards and hazardous materials will be further evaluated in the EIR and as identified through additional technical analysis.

Hydrology and Water Quality

The project has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts with regard to hydrology and water quality, as proposed improvements on the site would alter existing drainage patterns and would have the potential to contribute to storm water runoff to downstream water bodies. The potential for the project to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to hydrology and water quality will be further evaluated in the EIR and as identified through additional technical analysis.

Land Use and Planning

The project would result in the development of land uses similar to that which presently occur on-site. The project is not anticipated to create development that would physically divide an established community, conflict with any applicable land use plan or policy, or conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. No impacts would occur with project implementation, and therefore, the project is not considered to have the potential to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to land use and planning. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

Mineral Resources

The site is located in a highly-urbanized area and is currently developed with sports fields associated with Norwalk High School. No mineral resources are present on-site or on surrounding lands, and therefore, the project would not have the potential to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact on mineral resources. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

Noise

The proposed project has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts with regard to construction noise, as well as operational noise, and sensitive receptors are located within the

project vicinity. The potential for the project to contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to noise will be further evaluated in the EIR and as identified through additional technical analysis.

Population and Housing

The project is intended to allow Norwalk High School to better accommodate the recreational needs of the existing area student population, rather than causing demand for new recreational facilities to be financed and constructed on public lands elsewhere in the city. No housing is proposed, and the project will not require the removal/replacement of any housing structures or displacement of residents, as none are present on-site. As such, no impact relative to population or housing would occur, and the project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

Public Services

The project would not substantially increase existing demand for fire or police protection services, and would not generate population that would increase existing demand on schools, recreational facilities or parks, or other public services. Therefore, the project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact relative to public services. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

Recreation

The proposed project involves replacing the grass field with synthetic turf and developing new athletic facilities for football, soccer, baseball, softball and track and field. No housing is proposed that would generate population growth in the area or increase demand for recreational resources or parks. Therefore, the project would not Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated, or include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to recreation. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

Transportation/Traffic

The proposed project has the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts with regard to transportation and traffic. The project will add additional vehicle trips to local roadways and intersections, and may therefore contribute to an existing unacceptable LOS or create a new impact, or conflict with an adopted congestion management or alternative transportation plan or program. Additionally, the project may contribute to a cumulative effect on emergency access during project construction if the project interferes with the ability of local service providers to access the site. As such, the project's contribution to cumulative impacts relative to transportation and traffic will be further evaluated in the EIR and as identified through additional technical analysis.

Tribal Cultural Resources

The project would not impact any tribal historical resources on-site. Additionally, as the site has been previously developed, the potential for discovery of tribal remains is low. The District has received response from one tribe requesting further consultation during the EIR process to ensure

continued protection of possible unknown tribal cultural resources. As such, the results of the consultation efforts will be fully summarized and evaluated in the EIR.

Utilities and Service Systems

Due to the nature of the improvements proposed, the project will not substantially increase the High School's demands on public utilities over that which currently exist. Further, the demand for water used for irrigation purposes will be decreased with the project; however, the synthetic turf fields would still require watering to reduce overall heat effects. All utilities and services are adequate to serve the project without the construction or expansion of new infrastructure. Therefore, the project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact with regard to utilities and public services. No further analysis in the EIR is warranted.

c) **Potentially Significant Impact.** The proposed project has the potential to cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly, with particular regard for air quality, greenhouse gases, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, and traffic. Potential adverse effects on human beings will be further evaluated in the EIR.

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