

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

along with ACCURATE ANSWERS (in yellow boxes) based on FACTS, EXPERTS and DOCUMENTS.

Monterey High School Stadium Improvement Project

What are the details of the project?

Football stadium lighting is 30 TO 50 TIMES BRIGHTER THAN STREETLIGHTS. The bright lights at Jacks and Sollecito (El Estero) ballparks are visible for miles.

The Monterey Peninsula Unified School District (MPUSD) plans to implement stadium improvements at the existing high school stadium and to improve an existing dirt area adjacent to the stadium into a multi-use field. In 2019 MPUSD survey, "Upgrading fields" received the LOWEST VOTE of eight project categories. Seven categories were rated higher: electrical upgrades, heating/ventilation/air conditioning, technology infrastructure, replace portables, and more.

Site improvements at the existing 3.53-acre Dan Albert Stadium include:

- New field lighting, including three (3) 80-foot high and one 70-foot high lighting poles
- New 500-seat visitor bleachers
- New press box

The lighting would be 93' high and at three different levels, including shining UP and OUT. MPUSD did not do a lighting study. The light fixtures and the lighting would be very visible day and night. The new seating would nearly DOUBLE stadium capacity.

Site improvements at the 2.16-acre dirt lot include:

- New softball and multi-use synthetic field
- Improvements to a track and field event area
- 2,400 square foot weight room/team room building

Nobody has opposed a new multi-use field.

Development of the dirt lot would eliminate 200+ parking spaces on campus. That means 200+ more vehicles would park in the neighborhood during events. New night lighting would mean bigger events and more noise, including commercial events. MPUSD did not do a noise study or a parking study.

Why are these improvements needed?

less than 4% of students are on the football roster

Monterey High School is the largest high school within MPUSD and currently has over 1,350 students. Following in a long tradition of strong athletic programs, over 50% of the student body participate in some form of athletics, including field sports such as Soccer, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Football, and Track and Field. Revitalizing the lower field is necessary in order to meet the needs of the students. The current field is not adequate to meet the demand placed on it and has led to safety concerns with multiple teams needing to practice on the same field at the same time.

Nobody has objected to athletics and to a second playing field. The issues are BRIGHT LIGHTS, the LOSS OF PARKING, and 524 MORE SEATS at the stadium.

Why are permanent lights necessary?

Portable propane powered lights have been used on the project. Portable propane powered lights produce exhaust fumes that are unhealthy to breathe. Portable propane powered lights are not healthier for students, staff, and visitors. This project, if approved and incorporated, would not allow our players to have proper lighting to safely play a night game.

Permanent lights are not necessary. Monterey High plays football at MPC stadium which has bright lights, large parking lots, and easy freeway access. Many necessary improvements are needed at Monterey High that would help ALL students: female, male, minority, disabled. These include fixing crumbling facilities, adding electrical outlets and HVAC to make classrooms better learning spaces. These important repairs and improvements are being ignored in favor of a \$12 million project that would benefit a small mostly male fraction of the population.

Will the new permanent lights pollute into the neighborhood?

The new lights would be LED and professionally downlight the field, and therefore have a minimal negative impact on the neighborhood. The new lighting will reduce the noise and pollution more subtle than the current propane powered portable lights.

An independent lighting expert has stated that the lighting project would cause unmitigated significant impacts. The new lighting would enable night-time uses year-round, which would increase noise, light trespass, and parking and traffic issues in the neighborhood.

Will the visitor bleachers add to cars and traffic in the neighborhood?

MPUSD did not do a lighting study.

The intent of the enhanced bleachers is **NOT** to increase overall capacity of the stadium, but to allow for seating for visitors separate from Monterey High School supporters. Currently, attendees all sit on the same side of the field.

The "intent" is meaningless. What matters is what WOULD happen. The new bleachers WOULD seat an additional 500, plus another 24 on the home side. Attendees have sat together for nine decades and shared the spectacular public view of the bay and Mount Toro. 524 more attendees means more cars, traffic, parking.

The MPUSD project ignores the following City of Monterey General Plan policies:

Urban Design Policy f.9. Discourage high levels of ambient light and maintain night skies where stars can be seen.
Urban Design Policy e.1. Protect and enhance the setting of historic buildings.
Urban Design Policy e.2. Respect the scale of historic buildings by careful design of adjacent buildings.

Noise Goal c. Encourage quiet neighborhoods.

Noise Goal d. Allow new construction only where existing or projected noise levels are acceptable or can be mitigated.

Circulation Policy e.10. Reduce employee and student parking spillover into neighborhoods using residential permit parking.

When was this project discussed with the public?

MPUSD went through an extensive public process to determine all Measure I Series A priority projects, which includes the Monterey High Stadium Improvement Project. The following public meetings were held:

- November 5, 2018--Presentation to the Monterey City Council
 - November 13, 2018--Presentation to the Monterey City Council
 - January 14, 2019--Marina Community Meeting
 - January 16, 2019--Monterey Community Meeting
 - January 17, 2019--Seaside Community Meeting
 - January 17, 2019--Presentation to the Monterey City Council
 - February 5, 2019--Presentation to the Monterey City Council
 - February 26, 2019--Discussion and Approval of Verde Design for the Monterey High Stadium Improvement Project
 - July 25, 2019--A legal advertisement was placed in the *Monterey County Herald*
 - July 25, 2019--A copy of the Notice of Intent was posted in the Monterey High School Administration Office
 - July 25, 2019--A copy of the Notice of Intent was posted in the Capital Facilities Office adjacent to the Monterey Peninsula Board Room
 - August 15, 2019--A letter to 4681 residential homes located within one half mile of the Monterey School Site was prepared and mailed
- MPUSD did not notify neighbors of the Monterey High lighting project that was proposed in their neighborhood.
- Not Monterey Vista, the surrounding neighborhood that would bear the brunt of bright LED lighting 30 to 50 times BRIGHTER than streetlights, traffic and parking overflow
- Not Alta Mesa, that hears the noise from the night-time events
- Not Old Town, that hears the noise and suffers parking impacts.
- Not New Monterey, that cares about parking, traffic, and historic impacts.
- did NOT show picture of MHS stadium lighting project!
- Public Facilities Policy a.2. is "Encourage review of proposed public facilities of all agencies by the City Planning Commission" and Public Facilities Policy d.1 is "Work with Monterey Peninsula Unified School District in school site planning."
Question: Why did MPUSD not work with the City Planning Commission on the stadium project?
- a very tiny ad; very few people subscribe to Herald (\$450/yr.)
- ...which nobody goes to! The MPUSD board does not even hold its meetings there.
- ... which is where, exactly?
- only AFTER the neighbors learned of the project and AFTER the short public comment period was nearly over! Mailer received Aug. 17; comments due Aug. 26.

How is the project funded and how much is the total cost of the project?

The project is funded through the voter approved Measure I, a \$213 million facilities bond measure passed overwhelmingly by voters with more than 70% of the vote June 5, 2018. The total project budget all the stadium improvement including the lower field, weight room, permanent lighting, press box, visitor bleachers, and ADA improvement is \$12 million dollars.

Measure I is for fixing crumbling facilities, as MPUSD advertised. Instead, MPUSD wants to spend all Measure I funds for Monterey High on athletic uses, which got the lowest vote.

Where can I find more information about the project?

go here for more info that MPUSD does not want you to see: www.concernedmontereyhighneighbors.com

Information about the project may be found at www.mpusd.net/facilitiesconstructionbids/

How can I comment on the project?

Comments can be sent to the attention of Paul Anderson, panderson@mpusd.net Deadline for written comments

You can still send comments to MPUSD board. Please do!
See www.concernedmontereyhighneighbors.com to send email to the board in one click. (The MPUSD website does not tell you how to email the board.)
The deadline for comments is 6 PM on September 24. Or come to the September 24 Board meeting and turn in your letter in person and speak!

Will there be a public hearing regarding this project?

A public hearing regarding this project is being scheduled during the Board of Education meeting on September 24, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. (open session). We look forward to your input on these enhancements to our fields.

If MPUSD had truly wanted community input, MPUSD would have involved the neighborhoods long ago when the project was proposed. The public hearing on the project on September 24 is at 540 Canyon Del Rey Boulevard in Del Rey Oaks, in a poorly marked location up a long uphill driveway, in a building that looks like a warehouse.