

Nov 12, 2016

Dear Neighbors,

We have been informed by the Hoover High School Athletic Director and school Administrators that Hoover plans to increase the number of evenings that their field lighting will be illuminated. The school plans to execute the Winter Stadium schedule beginning on Monday, November 14th. Below is what was provided to us, word for word:

- Practice will be held daily, Monday –Friday, from after school until 6:30pm
 - Girls will practice half of this time, Boys will practice half of this time
 - This will include setup/breakdown of goals and putting away equipment
 - Timers will be set for lights to be turned on at sunset, and off at 6:30pm
- Games start at 3:30pm (per SDUSD policy)
 - Timers will be set for lights to be turned on at sunset if needed to complete game
 - Lights will be turned off within half hour of game finish for breakdown of goals/equipment to be put away/cleanup
- Double headers/Evening games
 - Will count towards our 15 lighted events

A brief history: Initially a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was developed before the Hoover Field and Stadium upgrades could be implemented. The Board of Education (BoE) approved the MND and the project moved forward. Because the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD or District) illegally used Prop S m money for Field Lighting and developed deficient environmental studies, many community members from around Hoover, Crawford, and Pt Loma High Schools formed Taxpayers for Accountable School Bond Spending (TFASBS) and filed suit against the District and prevailed in Appellate Court. The court directed the District to move forward with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and to stop the illegal use of using Prop S bond money for field lighting. The EIR that the District developed had the same language carried over from the MND regarding the number of lighted field uses when describing the project. Recently, when the Hoover Administration announced that they were going to increase lighted field use, they were reminded that the project description in the approved EIR limits the number of times the field lighting could be used each year.

The COURT OF APPEAL OF CALIFORNIA, FOURTH APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION ONE published ruling on this case can be found at the following link:

http://www.tfasbs.org/uploads/Decision_REPORTED_taxpayers_for_accountab.pdf

Towards the top of page 16 the following is written:

[In the Initial Study, District stated it anticipated "approximately 15 evening events" per year would be held were the Project to be completed. However, it added the caveat that due to routine practices and unforeseen events (e.g., possible playoff games), "a few more events may occur." A reasonable interpretation of that language is that District anticipates 15 evening events per year will be held at Hoover's stadium, but a few more events could be held. It is common knowledge that a "few" consists of a small number (i.e., more than one and typically about three or four). Therefore, the Initial Study in effect stated District expected between 15 and 18 or 19 evening events per year.]

Nov 12, 2016

Towards the top right column on page 18 it also states:

[Any substantial increase beyond that range may require future review under CEQA.]

If Hoover continues forward with its plan to use the field lighting Mon-Fri, from Nov 14th through Feb/Mar timeframe, the field lighting could be illuminated an additional 70 plus evenings for Winter sports alone.

When Hoover Administrators were questioned regarding the legality of exceeding the stated limits in the EIR they checked with SDUSD Assistant General Counsel, Sandra Chong. They were informed that they were within the legal limitations to have the lights on for practice and to complete games that start during daylight and end in the dark without counting towards their 15 times per year, reasonably.

This statement from District council contradicts the Appellate Court Ruling. Based on the very descriptive language in the approved EIR and the court ruling, Hoover would need to complete additional CEQA review if they wanted to increase their field lighting usage to this level. It is a fact that the illumination of the installed field lighting exceeds the District's threshold of Significant Impact to the surrounding environment even though the EIR stated otherwise. The reason: no actual lighting measurements were taken from the installed lights until after the EIR was approved. These measurements prove that the threshold was exceeded. For the EIR, the District was solely relying on calculations provided by the lighting vendor even though the lights were installed prior to the EIR being developed.

To clarify the Board of Education's intent when they approved the EIR, I am sharing an excerpt from an email dated January 23, 2014 from Trustee Kevin Beiser after the Hoover EIR was approved by the Board of Education:

"You wanted a cap on the use of 15 nights a year. The EIR permitted the lights 15 nights a year. I think this is a compromise that I have sought for the past couple of years."

It should be noted that both Crawford and Point Loma high schools are in the process of having field lighting installed. These schools, like Hoover, are imbedded in communities where residences are in close proximity and/or border the sports fields. More thorough environmental studies were performed for Crawford and Point Loma which showed the field lighting impact to be significant and unavoidable which resulted in the design and installation of a less intrusive LED field lighting system. This was not the case at Hoover. One solution to lessen the impact of more field lighting usage would be to install LED Field Lighting at this campus as well. LED lighting is proven to have far less spillage and glare to the surrounding environment.

To date, the school has made great strides to abide by the legal limitations of using the Field Lighting. If their new Winter field lighting schedule will negatively impact the enjoyment of your home and neighborhood, they need to know. Any comments/complaints to the school's plan should be directed to the school's principal and the following school administrators. A reply post to this Nextdoor post will not have the same effect.

Principal Austin - JAustin@sandi.net

Vice Principal Martin - JMartin@sandi.net

Athletic Director Kelly Granfield - KGranfield@sandi.net

Sincerely,

Ron and Dawn Anderson