July 22, 2022

Public Status Update Regarding Environmental Review Process for Proposed Carmel High School Stadium Lights Project

As discussed in more detail in the Public Status Updates that were previously issued by Carmel Unified School District (“District”) on January 26, 2022 and June 10, 2022, the District has been diligently working to complete the revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (“EIR”) for its proposed Carmel High School Stadium Lights Project (“Project”) based on public comments received during the first round of public comment last fall. The District takes its responsibilities under the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) very seriously, and is committed to ensuring that its environmental review of the proposed Project is informative and thorough. The District wishes to thank its students, staff, families, and community for their patience during this process.

In the last Public Status Update issued in June, the District estimated that the revised draft EIR would be ready for recirculation in late July 2022. However, as we approach the end of the month and the revised draft EIR nears completion, it is now anticipated that the revised draft EIR will be ready for recirculation and made available to the public for review and comment on August 25, 2022 for a 45-day public review and comment period ending on October 10, 2022 (i.e., the second public review period).

Additionally, while not required under CEQA, the District has also scheduled a public meeting on the revised draft EIR to give members of the public the opportunity to provide comments in person during the second public review period. This public meeting will occur at a Special Meeting of the District’s Board of Education (“Board”) scheduled for September 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. Because informed decision making and public participation are fundamental purposes of the CEQA process, interested members of the public are encouraged to attend this public meeting and/or submit written comments on the revised draft EIR during the 45-day public review period. Directions on how to submit public comments will be provided in accordance with CEQA once the second public review period commences on August 25, 2022.

To better accommodate the public, the District also intends to bring the final EIR, once complete, and Project approval to the Board for consideration at a Special Meeting of the Board. It is currently anticipated that this Special Meeting will occur on November 29, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

In keeping with the District’s commitment to maintain transparency and keep the public informed throughout this process, the District will provide a further Public Status Update in the event there is a change made with respect to any of the above-stated dates. Similarly, at the appropriate time, the District will provide public notice of the availability of the revised draft EIR, including the beginning and end dates of the second round of public review and comment period, as well as the date, time, and location of the public meetings, in accordance with the notice requirements of CEQA and the Ralph M. Brown Act, as applicable.
Please note that CEQA sets forth specific and exhaustive public review and comment procedures that must be followed by both the lead agency and members of the public wishing to provide input. The District is required to provide a response to timely comments that are received during the second public review period. While written comments on the draft EIR that were received during the first public review period will remain part of the administrative record, new comments must be submitted during the second public review period in order to receive a response. Moreover, comments received outside of the first or second public review periods are considered untimely. For this reason, members of the public are encouraged to submit their comments on the revised draft EIR and/or proposed Project once the second round of public review commences to ensure meaningful participation in the environmental review process.