

Dear Ms. Drake:

I am a research scientist at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Program of Northern California and a long time resident(30 years) of Greenbrae. I am writing this letter because I believe the application regarding the application for "Marin Catholics lights" is inadequate with regards to both their claim that this project will provide extensive community benefit and will provide an activity on Friday nights that will prevent teenage drinking .

As indicated on their website 88 percent(450/514) of their intended games / practices are for MC student use only and will have no benefit to the greater community . Additionally it appears that the majority of the other 12% of game/practice use would not be of general interest beyond those who are specifically coming to see a player on MC or the opposing team and will thus have minimum benefit to the greater community as well . The Friday Night Football Games where Marin Catholic hopes to appeal to the greater community only accounts for 2% of usage and thus would appear that the overall benefit to the community is very small while the benefit to Marin Catholic is very large. Further weakening the community benefit claim is that it is likely that only a negligible percentage of residents in neighboring communities who would be subjects to the lights, noise and traffic almost every night for the majority of winter would attend Friday Night football games .

My second point is with regard to providing a safe place to prevent teenage drinking. The application is again inadequate with regard to this claim. For this to be true, there would need to be evidence that students who would normally drink would be prevented from drinking by attending Friday night games. In fact the only data that does exist on this subject comes from a study conducted among 594 high school students (Zamboanga et al, Psychol Addict Behav. 2011 June ; 25(2): 340–345) which suggests that among high school drinkers pregame partying(the act of drinking to get high) occurs frequently and when pregameing 66% of the time it occurs before night football games. Thus these data suggest that those high schoolers who drink would not be deterred from drinking and may be subject to even more risky drinking behavior because they would potentially be pregameing elsewhere and then driving to the game .

Thank you for your consideration.

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