



## Preserve Ross Valley

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Anne Petersen  
Kentfield Planning Advisory Board  
P.O. Box 304  
Kentfield, CA 94914

January 27, 2016

**Re: Marin Catholic High School's Application for Football Stadium Lighting**

Dear Ms. Petersen:

This comments on Marin Catholic High School's (MC) 1/14/16 application for stadium lights, as to the project's potential, significant negative impacts on wildlife. This issue was raised by the community during the 11/12/15 meeting at Bacich Elementary, but the application is silent on this key point. MC's application is deficient and calls for an Initial Study as part of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. Marin County Community Development Agency (CDA) should initiate the CEQA process because the project may result in potential significant negative impacts related to wildlife (as well as noise, traffic, and lighting.)

MC's application is incomplete because it does not address potential significant negative impacts on wildlife near the site, including common and special-status species, such as the Ridgway's Rail. Studies show that common and special-status wildlife species occur within 50 to 200 feet of the MC project boundaries. The nearby common and special-status bird species are protected by at least two California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations in its 3500 series. In addition, the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies. The proposed project would also violate portions of the Marin Countywide Plan 2.2 Biological Resources section (11/7/07 version.) The project could potentially result in negative impacts upon common and special-status bird species' day and night roosting, foraging, and breeding habitat. One of those species, the Ridgway's Rail, is endangered, under federal and California law. This species nests and forages in the vegetation of Corte Madera Creek and a wetland next to the project within 50 to 200 feet of the project.

Other bird species whose roosting, foraging, and breeding (within 50-200 feet of the project) are the most likely among many common bird species to be negatively impacted by the project follow: the Western Screech-Owl, the Great Horned Owl, the California Towhee, the Bushtit, the Chestnut-sided Chickadee, the American Goldfinch, the Virginia Rail, and Sora, to name just a few.

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The application fails to address the above in any way. Please consider this concern as you develop your advice to the CDA on the application. Thank you.

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