

Marin Independent Journal, Letter to the Editor, September 5, 2016

Worries that lights could hurt marsh habitat

The recent IJ article, “Greenbrae marsh project to aid endangered species,” contained good news that a half-million-dollar project will improve the habitat for several legally protected species such as the Ridgway’s rail and salt marsh harvest mouse.

However, the IJ also recently reported that Marin Catholic High School, the marsh’s close neighbor, has resubmitted its application to install football stadium lights on four 80-foot towers for use at 514 events per year.

The school has vowed to spend at least a million dollars on this inappropriate, proposed project.

One of Marin Catholic’s consultants acknowledges various harms that the lights could cause to the special-status wildlife species in the marsh near the football field and Hal Brown Park. But Marin Catholic’s application minimizes the severity of the damage.

Fortunately, the endangered species and other inhabitants of the marsh have the Marin Audubon Society, Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed, the county of Marin and Preserve Ross Valley, among others, looking out for them.

The well-being of the marsh’s wildlife will be one of the major issues in the environmental review process on Marin Catholic’s proposed project, with additional focus on the negative effects of the light, noise, traffic and cumulative impacts on the area.

— *Brendan Fogarty, Greenbrae*