

From: Sarah Killingsworth

Date: August 25, 2024 at 9:52:44 PM PDT

To: easton.ehlers@marincounty.gov

Cc: Sarah.Jones@marincounty.gov, Michelle.Levenson@marincounty.gov,
Jeremy.Tejjirian@marincounty.gov, Katie.Rice@marincounty.gov

Subject: P4506 - Marin Catholic Application for field lights

Dear Mr. Ehlers –

I have lived in Greenbrae for over 20 years and ask that Marin Catholic's current request for field lights be denied. In short, due to the shape of the hillside (a natural amphitheater), football games and other events at Marin Catholic create significant noise in our neighborhood. It is a disruption on Saturdays in the Fall for football games, and for other school events (e.g. homecoming, even baseball practice) where music is blaring. The noise from football games includes the crowd noise, the announcer, music and drums. It is so loud that we have to keep the windows closed during games – if you are on our deck, it sounds like the game is being played in our backyard. And that is true for all of the neighbors in the area, many of whom I have spoken to over the years since Marin Catholic first applied to install field lights (that request was correctly denied). The negative impacts from the installation of lights remains the same as the last time they made the application, and moving the noise to evenings is unacceptable. It would be impossible to sleep in our house during games.

The noise continues after the game ends, with students and visitors. There is significant amount of noise after games and practices with cars leaving the parking lot, students yelling, cars doing burnouts, etc. Those would only increase with night games. And the application would include night games for other sports, meaning the noise would be many more months of the year than the current football season. Increasing the games and practices at Marin Catholic would also increase traffic on Sir Francis Drake.

The light itself would be another disruption to our neighborhood. "Friday night lights" is not consistent with the character of our neighborhood. The recent neighborhood outcry after the installation of street lights along Sir Francis Drake forced the replacement of the ill-advised lights. Our neighborhood does not want MORE lighting from Marin Catholic.

In addition, the marsh and wetlands area immediately behind Marin Catholic is a breeding area for the endangered Ridgway's rail. The lights would be disruptive to this species, as would the noise. The application includes use of the lights for lacrosse games which would occur during the breeding season for the Ridgway's rail. The marsh is also home to the endangered salt marsh harvest mouse. CA Dept of

Fish and Wildlife in 2020 had a special issue documenting the ways human behavior disrupts wildlife. And the sound of human voices is a significant disturbance – a cheering night time crowd would be exponentially more so. The additional noise and light would be detrimental to the habitat of these endangered species, for whom habitat loss is a major threat to survival.

There is no need for field lights at Marin Catholic. They have managed playing and practice time without them for decades. There are other fields in Marin that teams can practice on.

I also want to note that in the past, Marin Catholic has violated County requirements with its temporary lights, which it placed unpermitted on the fields and they received letters from the County of Marin in 2017 and 2022 about their illegal use.

For all of the reasons stated above, the application to install field lights should be denied.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sarah C. Killingsworth