

August 9, 2010

Honorable City Council
City of Piedmont
120 Vista Avenue
Piedmont, CA 94611
Attention: Ann Swift, City Clerk

RE: Moraga Canyon Sports Field EIR

Dear City Council,

As Sue Piper of my staff stated at your July 19 Council Meeting, we were extremely disappointed that the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Blair Park Project inadequately dealt with impacts on your immediate neighbors in Oakland. As the Council Member for many of those neighbors, we fully agree with the concerns raised by City of Oakland staff about the inadequacy of the analysis. We fully support their request that because the DEIR is so fundamentally flawed, it does not provide opportunity for meaningful public review and must be recirculated pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15088.5.

More specifically,

The DEIR fails to fully analyze traffic impacts and should include:

1. A full analysis of the impact on the side streets at the two-way, stop-controlled intersections of Harbord Drive, Masonic Avenue, and Estates Drive.
2. A comprehensive analysis of the peak flow period with peak project trips exiting the driveways on Moraga Avenue to capture a true picture of traffic on this major arterial.
3. A thorough analysis of potential U-turns on Moraga Avenue and their impact on traffic and pedestrian safety.
4. A detailed analysis of the ability of proposed on-site parking to meet the anticipated parking demand to avoid spillover into Oakland neighborhoods.

The DEIR fails to fully analyze hydrologic and water quality impacts , including watershed impacts and should provide:

1. A methodical analysis of the environmental impacts along the entire watershed infrastructure related to runoff and drainage, this because the runoff and drainage from Blair Park flows into a watershed infrastructure that includes parts of Oakland as well as Piedmont.
2. A complete analysis of the environmental impact of soil, grass and landscape materials that may seep into the watershed as a result of moving from a natural setting to a intensely developed open space, not to mention fertilizer, along with potential herbicide and pesticide residues.

The DEIR fails to analyze and identify feasible mitigation measures or to examine a reasonable range of alternatives.

The DEIR's conclusion that many of the environmental impacts are "significant and unavoidable" without a more thorough analysis does not do justice to the Project itself, and to the people of Piedmont and Oakland who must live with the consequences should the project proceed without full analysis and mitigation. The DEIR must include a reasonable range of potentially feasible alternatives for all the impacts.

We respectfully request that the Piedmont City Council ensure that these issues are fully and adequately addressed by the EIR. Because they have not been, we believe that the DEIR should be recirculated with the additional information in order for the public—including those who live in Oakland—to make an informed review of the Project.

Sincerely,

Jean Quan
Council Member, District 4