



October 14, 2016

Newport-Mesa Unified School District
Honorable Dana Black, President
2985 Bear St.
Costa Mesa CA 92626

Subject: CdmHS Sports field – 2 Field Alternative Plan Support

Dear Trustee Black and Honorable School Board Members:

The Eastbluff Homeowners Community Association is the largest HOA in Eastbluff and is made up of 460 homes. We have actively participated in the discussions and review of the preliminary plans for enhancements to the Corona del Mar High School Sports Fields.

We have reviewed the attached “*Corona Del Mar High School Sports Field Project: 2 Field Alternative Plan*” submitted by the Newport Citizens for Responsible Growth. It is our understanding that your Board has directed staff to evaluate this alternative plan and to include it as an option in the ongoing EIR process.

Our Association supports 2 Field Plan Alternative Plan and strongly urges the School Board to adopt it as the plan for improvement of the Corona del Mar High School fields.

The alternative plan provides for renovating existing fields and track with artificial surfaces and will provide the year-round practice and event facilities needed by the students. The adoption of the alternative plan would also eliminate the potential of a long and protracted EIR dispute over the myriad of significant negative environmental impacts of the currently proposed “stadium” design. We explained many of those impacts in our public comment letter on the proposed project’s Recirculated Initial Study. We trust the evaluation process for this alternative plan will be comprehensive.

If you would like additional information from our Association and homeowners, please have your staff contact Eastbluff HOA Board members Don Slaughter (don@eastbluff.net) and Ron Rubino (ron@eastbluff.net) who have been designated as a Board Subcommittee for the proposed CdmHS Sports Field Enhancement Project and related issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Hobbs", written over a horizontal line.

Jason Hobbs, President

Board of Directors
Eastbluff Homeowners Community Association





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Corona Del Mar High School Sports Field Project: 2 Field Alternative Plan

#safefieldsreasonablehours

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Why Propose an Alternative Plan?

The Newport-Mesa Unified School District has planned an expansive \$11,000,000 sports facility for Corona del Mar High School. The proposed facility includes a 1,000 seat venue with one updated track and one updated synthetic turf field. This facility does not take into consideration the needs of all student athletes, male and female, to practice on safe fields.

Newport Citizens for Responsible Growth believes our Alternative Plan will meet the needs of more student athletes. The School Board has funded an in-depth study of our 2 Field Alternative Plan. It will be included as a viable alternative in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

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2 Field Alternative Plan Rendering



A. New Track & New Synthetic Turf Field

B. New Interior Synthetic Turf Field

C. New Portable Bleachers

D. Baseball Fields

E. Softball Field

F. Football Training Facility

G. Tennis Courts

H. Pool

I. Restrooms

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2 Field Alternative Plan Elements

- Replace 1 track with 1 updated track
- Replace 2 natural fields with 2 synthetic turf fields
 - Front field (120 yds X 60 yds) upgraded to serve track & field, football and lacrosse
 - Interior field (120 yds X 75 yds) upgraded to serve soccer, lacrosse and football
- Add portable bleachers for interior field
- Maintain 28 mature screening trees and buffer zone
- Maintain chain-link fence

2 Field Alternative Plan Benefits

- Provides **safe** and **consistent** surface for practice and play
- Ensures **adequate access for boys and girls teams**
including lacrosse, soccer, track & field and football
- Facilitates earlier practice times for all student athletes to be **home for dinner**
 - Recent studies link regular family meals with the kinds of behaviors that parents want for their children: higher grade-point averages, resilience, and self-esteem. Additionally, family meals are linked to lower rates of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, eating disorders, and depression.^{[1][2][3][4]}
- **Reduces water needs** and eliminates “rest time” required for natural turf fields

[1] <http://www.pz.harvard.edu/projects/the-family-dinner-project>

[2] <https://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/outreach/upload/Family-Mealtimes-2.pdf>

[3] [http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(05\)00577-X/abstract](http://www.jahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(05)00577-X/abstract)

[4] <http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/files/themes/familyday/pdf/Family-Dinners-II.pdf>

2015-16 CIF Participation Census

	Corona del Mar HS.				Costa Mesa HS.		
	Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total
Total Student Enrollment (9-12)	927	805	1,732		630	535	1,165
Football	114	-	114		60	-	60
Lacrosse	51	57	108		-	-	-
Soccer	73	61	134		26	25	51
Track & Field	59	45	104		35	27	62
Total Field Athletes (9-12)	297	163	460		121	52	173
Field Sports % Enrollment	32.0%	20.2%	26.6%		19.2%	9.7%	14.8%

CdMHS vs. CMHS Field Sports

- CdM has more than double the number of student athletes who need safe practice fields (+287)
- The 2 Field Alternative Plan meets the needs of athletes with 2X the synthetic turf for safe practice and play

Practice Schedules: Fall & Spring (Sample)

FALL Practice Schedule				
	2-4pm	4-6pm	6-8pm	8-10pm
1 Field	Football	Football	HS B/G Soccer	
2 Field	Football	Football		
	HS B/G Soccer			

SPRING Practice Schedule				
	2-4pm	4-6pm	6-8pm	8-10pm
1 Field	HS B/G Track	B/G Lacrosse	MS B/G Soccer	HS B/G Soccer
2 Field	HS B/G Track	B/G Lacrosse		
	HS B/G Soccer	MS B/G Soccer		

TOP: Newport Mesa Unified School District's sample schedule for proposed 1 Field Plan

BOTTOM: Newport Citizens' sample schedule for the 2 Field Alternative Plan

Home Games Schedule Preempts Practice

Number of Home Games 2015 - 16	
Boys' JV Football	18
Boys' Lacrosse	21
Girls' Lacrosse	18
HS Boys' Soccer	25
HS Girls' Soccer	26
MS Boys' Soccer	3
MS Girls' Soccer	2
Coed Track & Field	3+
Number of Home Games (2015-16 season)	113+

- Home games and track meets disrupt practice schedules
- Sporting events receive priority use of synthetic turf field
- Several hundred spectators cause slow ingress and egress

The 2 Field Alternative Plan provides a safe, on-campus practice field during home games.

Comparison of Proposed Facilities Use

Use of Facilities	2 Field	1 Field
Safe, consistent surface for athletes to practice and compete on campus	✓	
Adequate on-campus space for <u>all</u> girls and boys lacrosse, soccer, track & field and football	✓	
More athletes get home in time for family dinners	✓	
Year-round use of interior field since no “rest time” needed	✓	
2 games can be played on turf, simultaneously	✓	
Sufficient seating for varsity soccer, lacrosse, track & field and JV football games	✓	✓
Sufficient seating for varsity football games	No	No

Comparison of Proposed Facilities Features

Features of Facilities	2 Field	1 Field
Six 80-100 foot light poles visible from Dover Shores, PCH and the Back Bay		✓
Preserves 28 mature screening trees along Vista del Oro	✓	
10-20 foot sound wall adjacent to Vista del Oro sidewalk (1 foot setback)		✓
Press box, concession stand and ticket booth		✓
Adds 400 permanent bleacher seats for 1 field only (400 + 600 existing = 1,000 seats)		✓
Adds 2 new bathrooms (to 2 recently renovated bathrooms)		✓
Eliminates 4 parking spaces on campus		✓

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