Meeting Minutes: Alameda High School Athletic Field Project – Public Scoping Meeting/Notice of Preparation

Date: July 23, 2026
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Wood Middle School Temporary Campus | 1801 Sandcreek Way, Alameda, CA

Attendees
Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Staff
Project Consultants: Brelje & Race (CEQA), QKA (Architect)
Neighbors and Community Members

District staff and consultants presented an overview of the environmental review process for the proposed Alameda High School Athletic Field Project. The purpose of the meeting was to receive community input on the scope of the environmental review to be addressed in the next phase of design development and environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The PowerPoint presentation is attached to provide an overview of information provided, including the following agenda topics: Introduction and Meeting Expectations; What is CEQA and the CEQA Process; Environmental Scope; Project Overview; Alternatives; and, Next Steps.

Public input was facilitated by providing speaker slips for attendees wishing to speak. Speakers were limited to three minutes. Comment cards were provided for attendees wishing to provide written comments. The following summarizes verbal comments received:

I. Public Comments – received at Public Scoping Meeting

Spoken Comments

- **K.C.**
    - Traffic and noise are already high due to the dense population on the island
        - Street parking is often overloaded but meant to be shared
        - Enjoys the sounds of activity in the neighborhood
    - Cheerleading:
        - Thompson Field is used for practice
        - Existing track at Thompson Field is used for cheering at games
            - Track is narrow: cheerleaders are too close to the stands for comfort (of the cheerleaders and the people in the stands)
            - Surfacing is dangerous: muddy, cheerleaders on unstable ground, sand gets in eyes during practice
        - Mats are pulled onto track to improve conditions, but they are stored outside and exposed to weather
        - Bleachers are too small and uncomfortable for fans attending games
    - No dedicated parking at Thompson Field
    - Field at Lum would improve comfort, safety, and parking

- **J.R.K.**
  - Expressed gratitude to the District for transparency
  - Likes the bustle of living near Thompson Field, notes there is no parking for the field
  - Outdoor sports are essential for kids' physical and mental health
    - Advocates for lacrosse and all team sports
    - Requests the field be lined for boys and girls lacrosse

- **S.W.**
  - Neighboring districts have far superior facilities, such as at Encinal
    - AHS deserves nice facilities
  - Students want more sports than just two (soccer & football), requests marking the field for lacrosse
    - Marking field for lacrosse to allow for the community to grow
  - Positives of the project outweigh the negatives with incorporation of mitigation measures

- **L.R.**
  - Students will build skills through lacrosse; supports project and requests lining the field for lacrosse
  - Many private schools do not have facilities and end up using the Encinal or College of Alameda facilities

- **P.M.**
  - Concerned about drainage through artificial turf, does not want water impacted by changed drainage conditions
  - Very concerned about traffic
    - At least 3 T-bones at Grand & Otis, 8 cars totaled
    - Traffic calming measures, such as reduced lanes and added bike lanes, have resulted in a risky, shared center turn lane for traffic going in both directions
    - Traffic is a major problem
    - City Planning indicated they want to reduce the number of cars on roads

- **T.G.**
  - Near head-on collisions as a pedestrian with parents leaving school
    - District and City have been back and forth on who is responsible for traffic management
  - For 30 years, fields at Lum have been the habitat for hundreds of geese. With the new athletic field, geese will relocate into neighborhoods.
  - Requests adherence to seasonal construction requirements to protect wildlife
  - Supports sports but wants wildlife considered

- **M.B.**
  - At a previous meeting, it was said that if the project is not approved, the land will become surplus and would likely become low-income housing
    - Would like to know if this is true and believes it should be addressed as a part of the "no project" alternative
  - Member of the HOA and concerned about synthetic turf runoff into Lagoon system.
    - Requests analysis of toxicity of runoff from synthetic turf into Lagoon system

- **C.M.**
  - Member of HOA and supports amenities for students
  - Acknowledges that there is little green habitat currently available on the island, does not want to lose more grass habitat
  - Measure B was intended to modernize schools, replace old plumbing, update classroom facilities, and update sports/performance facilities. Measure B does not provide for new sports complex on site of former grammar school.
  - Concerned about 1/4-mile notification radius, believes that more people would comment on project if they were aware
  - College of Alameda isn't too far and is already used by AHS
    - Suggests an agreement can be made to prioritize AUSD schools over private schools for scheduling at Encinal or College of Alameda

- **D.R.**
  - Supports field; understands traffic concerns
  - The new field will benefit kids' mental health as students will be able to walk to the field and spend less time in cars travelling across the island to Encinal or College of Alameda
  - Requests sustainable alternatives to synthetic turf field
  - Believes the updated field will drive community momentum
  - Community and project team can work together on wildlife solutions
  - Has found a lot of info about project available online

- **N.P.**
  - Has concerns about traffic but is currently driving across Alameda multiple times a day for kids' activities, would be improved by a field within walking distance
  - Believes in balancing the options available on the island
  - It is embarrassing when other districts visit AHS facilities due to their condition
  - Requests lining fields for boys and girls lacrosse

- **S.J.**
  - On the island, space is scarce and traffic is everywhere. Accidents are unavoidable.
    - District should work with police for more controls (more signs, traffic control for events, etc.)
  - Thompson Field is full of divots after boys' team plays a game or has practice. Girls are scheduled after the boys and the natural turf field cannot be refreshed quickly. In one instance, a girl from a visiting team was seriously injured during a game. That school and other schools have refused to come back to play on Thompson Field.
  - Wants wildlife and other concerns mitigated
  - Ultimately, we are here to love our community, not to be alone

<u>Written Comments</u>

- **G.H.**
  - Alameda lags behind all of our neighboring districts in field quality and availability
  - There are thousands of Alameda students who will benefit from this field and track, over decades into the future
  - The neighbors are taking issue with the facility, however all of the parties chose to buy property adjacent to a school and park
  - This project needs to move forward, ASAP

- **M.K.**
    - Supports this field, thinks school sports are important, also wanted to advocate for this field being lined for lacrosse

- **S.W.**
    - Speaker is a student lacrosse player who would like better facilities to play on
    - It would be closer to speaker's house and such an upgrade
    - The fields we do have are so busy and not as great as other districts

- **S.W.**
    - Support this field being built
    - Please mark field for lacrosse (boys & girls) and please keep Thompson as a practice facility and another space to play and hold practice

- **T.J.**
    - Sound travels in an odd way over the lagoons
    - Current games at Rittler park can be heard very clearly all the way to the back of the pond and Glenwood Isle
    - Sound study needs to take into account reflections over the water and do measurements in actual back yards
    - Why is the current field next to Wood not used? Spill over after games into Rittler park?

The following summarizes the information provided after the presentation and public comments about how this meeting was noticed and how future meetings will be noticed, what the District will do with the comments received, and when to look out for the next step in the CEQA process.

II. Meeting Wrap-Up

- Noticing:
    - District mails to larger radius than required
    - Notices are posted in newspaper – Alameda Times Star
    - Submit email to receive future notices (in addition to posting in the local paper and mailing)
    - Project information is available on the District website
    - Anyone interested in info may contact: construction@alamedaunified.org
- District will respond to all issued raised during the Public Comment Period in the EIR.
- **Next meeting will be in October/November** when the Draft EIR is available for public comment.