

From: Ben Morris

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Subject: Marin Catholic Lights, from a Greenbrae Parent (P4506)

Dear Marin Officials and concerned parties:

My name is Ben Morris and I am a Greenbrae resident along with my wife and 2 year old son. I am writing to oppose new stadium lighting at Marin Catholic. We enjoy living here because of the family-focused community and support for all age ranges. The excellent public and private school options are important to many residents. As much as Marin Catholic is a member of this community, I became aware of their lighting proposal and attended the Kentfield Planning Advisory Board meeting to learn more. I was dismayed by the approach taken by the proponents. The proposed usage clearly emphasizes the light use for football night practice and games. The KPAB was asked to focus instead on the possibility that kids might use drugs if they weren't at the football stadium, that home prices might go up, that the noise and traffic pollution could all be sorted later. As a Catholic myself I was disappointed that they chose distraction rather than detailing how they can enrich the surrounding community.

The issues I see as a Greenbrae resident and parent:

1. Imposes a Cost on the Community with No Local Benefit. My child's bedtime is 7:30pm and Marin Catholic has proposed using the lights until 9:30pm or later on game nights. We will be impacted and I have not heard a word describing the benefits to our neighborhoods. Will Marin County sacrifice the wellbeing of our schoolchildren so that football boosters can be entertained?
2. Light, Noise and Traffic Pollution Have Not Been Quantified. The plan calls for 80 ft field lights and 16 ft safety lights surrounding the area. In addition to the impact on sight lines around Corte Madera Creek, reflected light and noise will increase throughout the valley. The plan does not give specifics on light emission across Ross Valley, but it would likely need to be tested in all directions and multiple altitudes. Are resources available to monitor and enforce limits on pollution?
3. This Is a Neighborhood, Not a Sports District. I have been involved in financing stadiums, including \$50M+ versions at Texas high schools. This type of LED-lit arena is built after voter approval and typically serves multiple schools. These are constructed in athletic complexes, not amidst homes. Marin Catholic notes that they have used other field facilities for sports such as lacrosse, and this seems a viable option to find the space they lack.

Marin Catholic has other options for finding field space and building nighttime sports facilities in neighborhoods is not something we should normalize. Prioritizing private football boosters over the thousands of local residents would set an ugly precedent for all Marin communities.

Sincerely,

Ben Morris