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Subject: Letter on MC field lights

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To: opinion@marinij.com, Dave Allen <dallen@marinij.com>

Ron Arlas' July 6 letter's equation of proposed Marin Catholic (MC) field lights to the very bright lights needed 24/7, 365 days a year at MarinHealth Medical Center is ludicrous.

The letter downplays the proposed MC lights as a stand-alone project, omitting features of sporting events that come with those lights: added density of use by spectators and teams, attendant noise and traffic. These impacts are unwelcome during the hours when residents of surrounding homes are ending their work days, intending to enjoy a peaceful evening at home. The school site has been a quiet, good neighbor during the hours of 5-10 PM. That will end with the increased field use and installation of four 80 foot tall poles, each pole with a minimum of 16 light fixtures. Each pole's 36-48 inch diameter, pre-cast concrete base buried up to 16 feet deep will increase the negative environmental impacts of the project. Additional lights at bleachers and pathways on the school campus are included.

To approve a project that burdens the surrounding neighborhoods in order to raise the profile of Marin Catholic, is wrong. Not exactly kids at play, these are intensely competitive, organized sports events, some at State Championship levels.

If the school has outgrown its current site, the problem will not be solved by field lights.

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