

From: Mesinger Judy <judymesinger@gmail.com>
Subject: Marin Catholic Lighting Proposal
Date: June 4, 2024 at 3:33:00 PM PDT
To: easton.ehlers@marincounty.gov
Cc: katie.rice@marincounty.gov, Bitsa@boulevardmarin.com

Dear Easton,

I'm writing to you because once again Marin Catholic is submitting a proposal to install eighty - foot light poles on their field so they can have practices and games at night. We've seen this show twice before, and I'm very surprised they are doing this again since the county planner made it pretty clear in 2016 that it wouldn't pass if submitted in it's current form.

As a reminder, in response to that application the County concluded:

“We believe that the project is not consistent with the mandatory Use Permit and Design Review findings because the combined effects of the project related to the projected light and glare, noise, and traffic congestion would adversely affect the character of the surrounding community.”(Letter from CDA to Michael Bentivoglio, 21 November 2016.)

I've read through their proposal and it looks like the only thing that has changed since 2016 is their claim that the lights are somehow improved and won't be a problem and with light or glare. The application does not address whether the project is consistent with the existing land use, zoning requirements, design review and use permit findings. It also does not address any of the known issues related to increased emissions of sound, traffic, and parking. The application's presentation of glare analysis does not address how the project would impact the views from elevated locations. The CDA should deem this Proposal as incomplete.

I have lived directly across the street from Marin Catholic up in the Greenbrae Hills for 36 years. I have been greatly impacted by the noise generated from the very loud sound system, the roar of the crowds, bands playing on the field, and the cars going to and from their parking lot. It was tolerable because it was happening during the day. I can't even imagine how we would deal with this kind of intrusion on a daily basis well into the evening when the noise level is estimated to increase substantially. This is a very quiet community that barely has any street lights or ambient lighting. If MC is allowed to install these light poles this would greatly impact the surrounding neighborhoods by actually determining when we can go to sleep, it will create more traffic congestion, it could be disrupting to the animals that live in the marsh, and clearly make it more difficult for us to have peace and quiet in our homes in the evening. Our quality of life and enjoyment of our homes will be very negatively impacted by this proposal. I'm sure many people have written letters in favor of this project who have kids attending MC, I would just like to point out that more than 75% of their student population do not live in this area and will move on in a couple of years while we remain.

The only school in Marin who's been allowed to put lights on their field since the 1970's is San Marin. They don't have the same geography or the "Amphitheater Effect" that exists in our community and they aren't lighting up a whole valley. I also don't think they are using the lights as frequently as MC is proposing. Redwood tried to get lights on their football field but was met with fierce opposition from the neighbors and withdrew their proposal. If these lights are installed who will monitor the number of games and the timing of all the lights, they are not even clear how many games will be played and what happens if they go into overtime. This leaves open the possibility that we could be living with the noise, and the lights a lot more than they are suggesting. Marin Catholic is just one member of this community and has not always been a good trusted neighbor, why should they be trusted with this kind of power and hold the whole Ross Valley hostage.

It is not necessary for Marin Catholic to install lights on their field; they will certainly enjoy the benefits but nothing happens to them if their proposal is denied, our entire neighborhood will pay the price and will be changed forever if it passes.

We should say no to Marin Catholic's lights and I Urge you to oppose this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Judy Mesinger
39 Almenar Drive
Greenbrae