

Fullerton College Sherbeck Field Improvements Project and its Negative Impacts

3.5.1 CONSTRUCTION and INSTALLATION

Bleachers: 4,417 seats are planned for a school who has only 400-500 spectators that attend Fullerton College home Football games. For Track and Field competitions, approximately 100 guests attend. Finally, *3,000 additional bleacher seats will still have to be rented each year* to host commencement ceremonies on Fullerton College's campus at an approximate cost of \$39,800 *each year* (for additional bleacher rentals).

Lights: (6) lighting stanchions approximately 100-120' high are proposed drawing a staggering power load of 79,000 watts/hour of damaging blue LED lighting. Additionally, according to the EIR, **the addition of field lighting would allow for just 256 additional students to be enrolled in PE classes each semester** (only 1 unit of PE is needed for an AA or transfer to a 4 year school, and already there are hundreds of PE classes offered each semester from 6:15 a.m. to 7:15 p.m.) As a reminder, all of Fullerton College's football games are played during the daytime, so lighting the field with such powerful lights indicate the college plans on renting this facility to its maximum potential.

Sound System (PA): 12 speaker arrays located 33-36 feet high are proposed, which is to be used for Fullerton College athletic completion events only. However, the EIR states (page 3-25) that organizations renting the field for events would be permitted to use the Fullerton College PA system as part of their rental agreements and would not be permitted to bring their own sound systems. **This use of the PA is our biggest concern of all.** Is a permanent PA even needed for 5 home football games and to teach additional PE classes?

Rentals:

Fullerton College rents out Sherbeck Field for private schools to host athletic events and practice. Specifically, Hope International University, Rosary HS, CDA Slammers, Anaheim Soccer, Seahorse Soccer, CAL South, Troy HS, Prep Football America Camp, and Orange Lutheran rent the field for athletic practice sessions. Sherbeck Field is rented out at various times on weekdays, Saturdays, and Sundays (see Table 3-1). Will Fullerton also have to suffer the noise from rock concerts at Fullerton College? There is no limit on who or what organization can rent the field or for what use. The college should not have this much leeway and power to rent their facility to whoever has the money to rent it.

Noise models were based solely on existing traffic noise, so how can a stadium's noise be properly modeled using traffic noise only? This feels incomplete at best and we request more thorough studies on the effects of sound from the PA, crowd and traffic noise.

(4.5)

NOISE

Noise generation sources from future implementation of the proposed project would include stadium noise (Public address, crowd noise, on-field noise (team shouts, referee whistles, etc) and noise from increased traffic.

[The average human ear can detect 3 dB, and a 10 dB increase (since sound is based on a logarithmic scale, like the Richter scale for earthquakes) is considered a doubling of sound.]

(4.5-8)

Local

The proposed project is located within the City of Fullerton (City). The North Orange County Community College District (District) and Fullerton College ***are not subject to local plans, policies, or guidelines related to noise***, so this EIR uses policies from the local jurisdiction as guidance only. Therefore; “school bands, school athletic and school entertainment events” are **exempt activities from local noise ordinances**. Additionally, “outdoor gatherings, public dances, shows and sporting and entertainment events provided the events are conducted pursuant to a permit and/or license issued by the city” as exempt activities. Finally, “activities conducted on public playgrounds and public or private school grounds” as exempt activities.

Therefore, based on Fullerton Municipal Code, the proposed project is exempt from City of Fullerton on-site operational noise standards due to the exemption in Section 15.90.040.A.1. However, sound levels from the proposed project have been analyzed and to quantify the predicted sound levels at residential receptor locations in the vicinity and ***estimate the potential for a substantial project related noise increase relative to the current ambient noise levels.***

4.5-8

Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments:

Sports Arenas, Outdoor Spectator Sports

Normally Acceptable: N/A

Conditionally Acceptable: **50-75dB**

Normally Unacceptable: N/A

Clearly Unacceptable: **70-85dB**

4.5.3

Thresholds of Significance

The significance criteria used to evaluate the project impacts related to noise are based on Appendix G of CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.) According to the appendix, a significant impact related to noise would occur if the project would:

1. Result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the logical general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.
2. Result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

4.5.4

Impacts Analysis

Implementation of the proposed project would result in both temporary and **long-term noise** during operation of the facilities associated **with the proposed project**. As Table 4.5-11 shows, the primary on-site noise source would be from the PA system. Combined sound levels range from approximately 69 dBA Leq at residences to the northeast of the project site to approximately 76 dBA Leq at the nearest residences, due east of the proposed project site. Compared to existing modeled noise levels, the periodic **sound level increase at the nearby residences would range from approximately 7 to 13 dB**. (*This dB figure is based on 5 regular college football games with approximately 500 attendees). The neighborhood simply can't fathom how loud the stadium will be with a packed house for 'Friday night lights' high school football games.

4.5.5

Cumulative Analysis

Traffic and on-site activity noise levels are anticipated to result in **substantial noise increases**. These increases may be additive to other cumulative project noise. Therefore, the increase in noise associated with cumulative traffic and on-site activities would be **cumulatively considerable and significant**.

4.5.6

Mitigation Measures (unfortunately, these are NOT mitigation measures, and DO NOT address the permanent increase in ambient noise our entire neighborhood will be subjected to)

MM-NOI-2: The Fullerton College Athletic Department shall require the Facilities Department and any rental agreements to restrict field events at Sherbeck Field to occur only during the following times:

Spring Semester: 6:00 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. M-Th; 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat-Sun.

Summer Semester: M-Th 6:00 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. Friday 6:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sat-Sun 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fall Semester: M-Th 6 a.m. to 9:15 p.m. Friday 6:00 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. Sat-Sun 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

4.5.7

Level of Significance After Mitigation

The proposed project would implement MM-NOI-2 to limit operational noise impacts.

However, noise impacts associated with operation of the proposed project would remain as significant unavoidable adverse impacts.

4.6

PUBLIC SERVICES

4.6.4

Impacts Analysis

The proposed project indicates that Sherbeck Field would continue to be used for academic instruction, competitive athletics, and rentals; however, Sherbeck Field is *also proposed to host competitive football games, which are currently held at other locations*. As such, the proposed project would generate additional demand for police, fire protection and emergency medical services by adding additional uses to Sherbeck Field.

4.7 RECREATION

4.7.1.2

Campus Setting

Fullerton College currently offers intercollegiate athletic courses for track and field, cross country, football and soccer, as well as various fitness courses. Courses are offered on weekdays only and are offered in the mornings, afternoon and evenings. The earliest classes begin at 6:20 a.m. and the latest classes end at 7:05 p.m.

4.7.2

Noise (short term construction)

This project will bring “substantial temporary or permanent increase in excess of standards” during both construction (**69dBA-79dBA**) at nearby property lines, this will represent a **12 dB increase** compared to current ambient noise levels. The project would also generate noise from construction and would elevate the local ambient noise level at locations within several hundred feet of construction. Additionally, the predicted **temporary increase in the ambient noise level would exceed the California Energy Commission threshold of 10 dB; therefore, impacts are considered potentially significant.**

Noise (long term operational noise)

Operational noise impacts associated with the project would include increases in on-site noise resulting from the proposed improvements to Sherbeck Field, and off-site traffic noise. While noise models are provided, the primary on-site noise source would be the proposed PA system. Combined sound levels range from approximately **69 dBA (Leq) at residences to the northeast to approximately 76 dBA (Leq) at the nearest residences to the east** of the project site. Compared to existing levels of ambient noise, the project sound level increase at nearby residences would range from approximately 7 to 13 dB (*according to the EIR, these noise levels are conservative estimates, and noise increases up to 13 dB is considered to be a substantial noise increase based on the Federal Interagency Committee on Noise (FICON)).

Therefore, the on-site operational noise associated with the project would be a significant noise impact.

Traffic and Circulation (p 4.7-28)

The proposed project (Friday field event) would significantly impact 4 of the 31 key study intersections, and a (Saturday field event) would significantly impact 3 of the 31 key study intersections. This project will significantly impact access to the 57 Fwy at Chapman Ave and SR 91 on both sides of Harbor Blvd. and will provide unacceptable levels of service (LOS) (See tables 4.8-41 through 4.8-43) by the year 2020. **The EIR states these impacts to be significant and unavoidable.** The proposed project's incremental impacts on these key freeway study segments are considered unmitigable as **there are no feasible mitigation measures that will reduce cumulative mainline impacts** to below significance thresholds or achieve acceptable service level goals. **Impacts to freeway segments would be significant and unavoidable.**

4.8 TRANSPORTATION

Because of existing a Class II bicycle lane on Berkeley, Caltrans urges appropriate measures to ensure the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians. Perhaps all free parking on Berkeley could/should be eliminated as to *ensure* the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians.

4.8.3

Thresholds of Significance

According to Appendix G of the CEQA guidelines, a significant impact related to traffic and circulation would occur if the project:

1. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
2. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways.
3. Result in inadequate emergency access

*As of this writing, the City of Fullerton has not adopted new transportation thresholds based in VMT, and therefore might not be thorough enough and incomplete.