ATTACHMENT 5: PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT DATED APRIL 30, 2024, WITH ATTACHMENTS A-J

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Staff Report for the Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project

Hearing Date: May 8, 2024

Staff Report Date: April 30, 2024

Deputy Director: Travis Seawards

Division: Development Review

Case No.: 23SPP-00001 Supervising Planner: Shannon Reese

Environmental Document: Addendum to the **Supervising Planner Phone #:** (805) 934-6261

Rice Ranch Supplemental Environmental Planner Contact: Tina Mitchell

Impact Report (03-EIR-05) Planner Contact Phone #: (805) 934-6289

OWNER / APPLICANT:

County of Santa Barbara
Community Services Department,
Parks Division, C/O Jeffrey Lindgren
123 E. Anapamu St., 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2475



This site is identified at Assessor's Parcel Number 101-390-012, located at 5800 S. Bradley Road in the Orcutt Community Plan area, Fourth Supervisorial District.

1.0 REQUEST

Hearing on the request of the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division (County Parks) to consider the following:

- Recommend approval to the Board of Supervisors of Case No. 23SPP-00001 for amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan in compliance with Land Use and Development Code (LUDC) Chapter 35.88, which will allow for future installation of permanent lighting at the Orcutt Community Park, and;
- After considering the environmental review documents included as Attachment B
 (Addendum dated April 30, 2024) together with previously certified Rice Ranch
 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (03-EIR-05, included as Attachment E), and
 the 2015 Addendum (included as Attachment F), recommend that the Board of
 Supervisors determine that as reflected in the California Environmental Quality Act

(CEQA) findings, no subsequent Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration shall be prepared for this project.

The application involves Assessor Parcel No. (APN) 101-390-012, zoned Recreation (REC), located at 5800 S. Bradley Road, in the Orcutt Community Plan area, Fourth Supervisorial District.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION AND PROCEDURES

Your Commission's motion should include the following:

- 1. Recommend that the Board of Supervisors make the required findings for approval of the project specified in Attachment A of this staff report, including CEQA findings;
- 2. After considering the Addendum dated April 30, 2024 (included as Attachment B), together with previously certified Rice Ranch Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (03-EIR-05; included as Attachment E), and the 2015 Addendum to 03-EIR-05 (included as Attachment F), recommend that the Board of Supervisors determine that no subsequent Environmental Impact Report or Negative Declaration is required pursuant to CEQA State Guidelines Section 15162, Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations, and 15164, Addendum to an EIR or Negative Declaration; and
- 3. Adopt a resolution recommending that the Board of Supervisors approve and adopt an ordinance (23SPP-00001) included as Attachment C of this staff report, thereby amending the approved Rice Ranch Specific Plan in compliance with Chapter 35.88 of the LUDC.

Refer back to staff if the County Planning Commission takes other than the recommended action for appropriate findings.

3.0 JURISDICTION

California Government Code § 65455 states that no local public works project may be approved within an area covered by a specific plan unless it is consistent with the adopted specific plan. As is discussed below, installation of permanent lighting in the Orcutt Community Park is not included in the current approved Rice Ranch Specific Plan, therefore pursuant to California Government Code § 65453(a), the amendments proposed by County Parks are required to be "prepared, adopted, and amended in the same manner as a general plan."

Pursuant to Subsection 35.88.040.K of the LUDC, amendments to a Specific Plan shall be processed in the same manner as specified for adoption of an original Specific Plan. This project is being considered by the County Planning Commission based on LUDC Sections 35.88.040.C and 35.88.040.D, which state, respectively, that the County Planning Commission shall hold at least one noticed public hearing on the Specific Plan, and shall make a recommendation on the Specific Plan to be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors by resolution of the Commission. A draft

ordinance adopting the Specific Plan and a statement of the Commission's reasons for the recommendation shall accompany the resolution. The Board of Supervisors will receive the Planning Commission recommendation, and shall hold at least one noticed public hearing before adopting the proposed Specific Plan.

While development by County Parks is not subject to LUDC permitting requirements pursuant to LUDC Subsection 35.10.040.G.2, and the proposed project is limited to amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to allow for future installation of permanent lighting at the Orcutt Community Park, staff has reviewed a conceptual lighting plan in order to better understand the scope of necessary changes to Specific Plan language. These conceptual plans are included as Attachment I and are for reference only. The buildout of lighting is not subject to Planning Commission recommendation or Board of Supervisors approval, however, the development undertaken by the County Parks Department will be subject to compliance with the amended Specific Plan.

4.0 ISSUE SUMMARY

County Parks submitted an application to Planning and Development (P&D) on April 5, 2023, requesting approval of amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan. A summary of the proposed amendments is included in Section 5.2 below, and a detailed table of the amendments is included with Attachment C of this staff report. P&D deemed the application complete on November 30, 2023.

The Rice Ranch Specific Plan was originally approved by the Board of Supervisors on December 9, 2003, and was later amended under Case No. 14SPP-0001 to further refine the Specific Plan. The amendments under Case No. 14SPP-00001 adjusted housing types based on prevailing market trends; added a community clubhouse; incorporated Inclusionary Housing Ordinance specifications; refined dedicated open space and park areas; updated secondary access and fuel load provisions; and identified internal neighborhood access roads as private streets. The amended Rice Ranch Specific Plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 5, 2016 (Attachment D). The current Rice Ranch Specific Plan covers an approximately 560-acre area and allows for the construction of 725 dwelling units distributed among five different neighborhoods. Numerous open space areas, parks, and public trails are also included within the specific plan area, including the Orcutt Community Park.

The Orcutt Community Park is located on a 25.73-acre, County-owned parcel within the specific plan area. The Orcutt Community Park and has been maintained by the County Parks Division since it was dedicated to the County in 2009. The park is currently developed with baseball and soccer fields that cover approximately 5.5 acres; an off-leash dog park; a playground; group picnic areas; barbeque grills; two restroom buildings; parking areas with approximately 166 standard parking spaces and equestrian trailer areas; and pedestrian walking areas, including a pedestrian bridge that crosses Pine Canyon Creek to access the sports fields area. Pine Canyon Creek intermittently flows east to west and is nestled between the park's sports fields to the south and parking lot area to the north. The park is generally surrounded by natural open space areas with

hiking trails to the south and west, and residential development to the north and east. Though permanent lighting is not currently installed on the park site, portable, generator-powered lighting has been used by local sports teams on the sports fields during months where the sun sets in late afternoon or early evening for at least the last five years.

Staff reviewed the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan in compliance with CEQA and prepared an Addendum (Attachment B) to reflect changes and additions to the project described in the certified Rice Ranch Specific Plan SEIR (2003) and related Addendum (2015); none of the applicable conditions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred, as discussed and analyzed in the proposed Addendum (Attachment B).

The proposed project is consistent with the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, the Orcutt Community Plan, and the Land Use and Development Code (LUDC). A consistency analysis of applicable policies and development standards is included in Section 6.2 below. The information included in this staff report supports approval of the Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project, Case No. 23SPP-00001.

5.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

5.1 Site Information

Site Information		
Comprehensive Plan Designation	Inland, Urban, Planned Development – 825 Units	
Ordinance, Zone	County Land Use and Development Code (LUDC),	
	Recreation (REC)	
Site Size	25.73 acres	
Present Use & Development	Community Park	
Surrounding Uses/Zone(s)	North: PRD, Planned Residential Development	
	South: AG-II-100, Agriculture and open space areas	
	East: PRD, open space areas and hiking trails	
	West: PRD, Planned Residential Development	
Access	Existing driveway at the intersection of Bradley Road and	
	Sage Crest Drive	
Public Services	Water Supply: Golden State Water Company	
	Sewage: Laguna County Sanitation District	
	Fire: Santa Barbara County Fire Department	
	Police Services: County Sheriff	

5.2 Project Description

The project is a request by the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division, for approval of amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to allow for future installation of permanent sports field and parking lot lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The Rice Ranch Specific Plan currently does not include lighting within the Orcutt Community Park, therefore amendments to the Specific Plan are necessary to account for the change. Permanent lighting will provide the opportunity for local organized sports teams to utilize the existing sports fields past daylight hours, primarily during the months when daylight hours are shorter. The permanent lighting will replace portable, generator-powered lighting now being used by local sports teams in months where the sun sets in late afternoon or early evening. The permanent lighting will be used on a limited basis after dusk until 9:00 PM when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time), plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time. A full description of the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are included with Attachment C. The property is a 25.73-acre parcel zoned REC and shown as Assessor's Parcel Number 101-390-012, located at 5800 S. Bradley Road in the Orcutt Community Plan area, Fourth Supervisorial District.

6.0 PROJECT ANALYSIS

6.1 Environmental Review

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (Addendum) applies to the Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project, Case No. 23SPP-00001. CEQA Section 15164 allows an addendum to a previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be prepared when only some changes or additions are necessary, but none of the conditions in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines have occurred.

The Rice Ranch Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR, 03-EIR-05) was prepared for the buildout of the Rice Ranch Specific Plan Area and was certified in December 2003. The SEIR tiered off of the Orcutt Community Plan Program EIR (95-EIR-01, certified in July 1997; see Attachment G). An addendum to the SEIR was prepared in December 2015 when the Rice Ranch Specific Plan was amended under Case No. 14SPP-00001, as discussed above in Section 4.0. Significant and unavoidable impacts were identified for the following issue areas: Land Use, Biology, Agriculture, Geology, Flooding & Drainage, Water Supply/Groundwater Resources, Archaeology, Historical Resources, Traffic & Circulation, Noise, Air Quality, Risk of Upset/Polluting Sources, Wastewater, Fire Protection, Police Protection, Solid Waste, Library Services, Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Parks Recreation & Trails, and Schools.

The proposed amendments to the current Rice Ranch Specific Plan are limited to text changes that will allow for future installation of permanent sports field and parking lot lighting at Orcutt Community Park. The park operations and use will remain the same with the proposed project,

particularly because portable, generator-powered lighting has been used by local sports teams during months with limited evening light for at least the last five years. Therefore, the project impact analysis in the Addendum only includes issue areas where there is a minor change to some aspect of the project and the previous analysis requires minor revision (Aesthetics/Visual Resources and Biological Resources).

As discussed in detail in the proposed Addendum dated April 30, 2024 (Attachment B), and incorporated herein by reference, the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will not create any new significant effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects, and the mitigation measures previously identified in the prior environmental documents for Rice Ranch will mitigate those significant effects to the extent feasible.

6.2 Comprehensive Plan Consistency

As discussed above, the proposed project is limited to amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to allow for future installation of permanent lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The project does not include entitlements for the physical lighting improvements because development by County Parks is not subject to LUDC permitting requirements pursuant to LUDC Subsection 35.10.040.G.2. As referenced in the consistency analysis below, staff has reviewed a conceptual lighting plan in order to better understand the scope of necessary changes to Specific Plan language. These conceptual plans are included as Attachment I and are for reference only.

REQUIREMENT DISCUSSION

ADEQUATE SERVICES

Land Use Element Development Policy 4: Prior to issuance of a development permit, the County shall make the finding, based on bν environmental information provided documents, staff analysis, and the applicant, that adequate public or private services and resources (i.e., water, sewer, roads, etc.) are available to serve the proposed development. The applicant shall assume full responsibility for costs incurred in service extensions or improvements that are required as a result of the proposed project. Lack of available public or private services or resources shall be grounds for denial of the project or reduction in the density otherwise indicated in the land use plan.

Consistent. The proposed project is consistent with Land Use Development Policy 4 because all necessary services are adequate and available to serve the proposed project. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will not intensify the existing use because portable, generator-powered lighting has been used by local sports teams in the evenings during months with limited evening light for at least the last five years.

Water: Water for the Orcutt Community Park is provided by Golden State Water Company. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will not increase water use or demand associated with the park operations.

Waste Disposal: Wastewater treatment for the Orcutt Community Park is provided by Laguna County Sanitation District. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will not impact the existing park restrooms or wastewater treatment associated with the park operations.

Roads: Access will continue to be provided from the existing driveway located at the intersection of Bradley Road and Sage Crest Drive. Public access to the sports field area is provided by a pedestrian bridge that crosses Pine Canyon Creek. Secondary access to the sports field area is provided from Orcutt Hill Road, an existing oil field access road located west of Orcutt Community Park and east of the Valley View neighborhood. No changes to these existing access roads are proposed as a part of the project.

Fire & Police: Fire protection services will be provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, and Police Services will be provided by the County Sheriff.

AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

Land Use Element Visual Resource Policy 3: In areas designated as urban on the land use plan maps and in designated rural neighborhoods, new structures shall be in conformance with the scale and character of the existing community. Clustered development, varied circulation patterns, and diverse housing types shall be encouraged.

Orcutt Community Plan – DevStd VIS-O-1.1: All development including buildings, under stories, fences, water tanks and retaining walls adjacent to designated natural open space areas shall be sited and designed to protect the visual character of these areas and blend in with natural landforms through the use of such

Consistent. The proposed project consists of amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan that will allow for future installation of permanent lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with Visual Resources Policy No. 2 as well as Orcutt Community Plan DevStd VIS-O-1.1 and Policy VIS-O-6 because any lighting within the Orcutt Community Park is required to be designed to be compatible with and minimize impacts on the surrounding open space and residential properties.

Light fixtures shown on the conceptual lighting plan provided by the County Parks Division

methods as setbacks, building orientation, materials and colors (earth tones and non-reflective paints), landscape buffers, shielded exterior lighting, screening of parking areas and inclusion of perimeter roads to allow maintenance of open space corridors.

Orcutt Community Plan – Policy VIS-O-6: Outdoor lighting in Orcutt shall be designed and placed so as to minimize impacts on neighboring properties and the community in general.

comply with existing lighting design guidelines that were adopted in the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to mitigate impacts to Aesthetics/Visual Resources and ensure consistency with these policies. All fixtures are of hooded, low intensity, low glare design, and will be finished with non-reflective earth-tone paints/material. The amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will allow sports field lighting in the Orcutt Community Park to have a maximum height of 60 feet, which is the minimum acceptable height to adequately light the sports fields for amateur play according to County Parks. Parking area lighting will continue to be subject to the existing 18-foot lighting height limit specified in the Rice Ranch Specific Plan. Photometric drawings included with the conceptual plans indicate that lighting will be directed downward with no spill-over to adjacent parcels. Lighting will only be used when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time) plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time, and will be controlled by a timer to turn on after dusk and turn off at 9:00 PM.

As is discussed in Sections 5.2 and 6.1 above, portable generator-powered light fixtures have been used by sports teams in the evenings during months with limited evening light. According to County Parks, this has occurred for the past five years. There has been consistent use of temporary lighting for the sports fields over time, and the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will ensure that future permanent lighting will adhere to specific height, intensity, and aesthetic requirements going forward. This will ensure that impacts from park lighting are minimized.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Orcutt Community Plan – DevStd BIO-O-1.1:

Development shall be sited and designed to avoid disruption and fragmentation of significant natural resources within and adjacent to designated undeveloped natural open space areas, minimize removal of significant native vegetation and trees, preserve wildlife corridors and provide reasonable levels of habitat restoration. Where possible, significant natural resources, such as specimen trees, adjacent to designated, natural undeveloped open space corridors should be preserved.

Orcutt Community Plan – Policy BIO-O-2: Consistent with necessary flood control practices, natural stream channels and riparian vegetation in Orcutt shall be maintained in an undisturbed state in order to protect banks from erosion, enhance wildlife passageways, and provide natural greenbelts, unless this would prevent reasonable development of a property.

Orcutt Community Plan – DevStd KS12-6: The Specific Plan shall include a landscape, open space management, and habitat protection plan approved by P&D. A draft plan shall be submitted prior to environmental review. This plan shall:

Identify methods for the long term management, protection and enhancement of habitats within the open space onsite, including protection of wildlife corridors;

 Identify methods to protect and enhance habitats including, but not limited to, installation of landscape buffers of native trees and shrubs, restoration of degraded habitats, use of **Consistent.** The proposed project consists of amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan that will allow for future installation of permanent lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with Orcutt Community Plan DevStd BIO-O-1.1, Policy BIO-O-2, and DevStd KS12-6 because any future lighting within the Orcutt Community Park will be required to be compatible with and the minimize impacts on surrounding undeveloped natural open space areas and riparian habitat associated with Pine Canyon Creek.

Light fixtures shown on the conceptual lighting plan provided by the County Parks comply with existing lighting design guidelines that were adopted in the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to mitigate impacts to wildlife and ensure consistency with these policies. All fixtures are of a hooded, low intensity, low glare design, and will be finished with non-reflective earthtone paints/material. Photometric drawings included with the conceptual plans indicate that lighting will be directed downward with no spill-over to adjacent natural open space areas or riparian habitat associated with Pine Canyon Creek. Lighting will only be used when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time) plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time, and will be controlled by a timer to turn on after dusk and turn off at 9:00 PM. All light poles are shown on the conceptual lighting plan in locations that have been previously disturbed by park development and do not contain significant native vegetation.

A Biological Survey Report (Arcadis U.S., Inc., September 2023; Attachment J) was prepared for the project to determine if there are

- fencing to protect wildlife corridors, use of signs, etc;
- Include habitat restoration of sandhill chaparral with focus on rare plants;
- Design development in open space areas to maintain habitat continuity between grassland, oak woodland, sandhill chaparral, and coastal sage scrub;
- Include unified landscape themes protecting and enhancing open space corridors and the site's semi-rural character through use of native trees, plants, and other appropriate species;
- Include perimeter landscaping, including center and roadside median plantings and street trees. This landscaping shall be of sufficient density to break up building masses and partially screen development and rear yards from surrounding roads and neighborhoods. The project landscape plantings shall be oriented toward maintaining the semi-rural character of the site (e.g., use of natives and plantings) informal and provide screening while maintaining key view corridors;
- Ensure that the open space "neck" in the eastern mesa is a minimum of 200 feet wide; and
- Ensure that a minimum ten-foot setback is maintained between the edge of lots and the edge of vegetation and/or the break in slope in identified open space areas.

common or special status species inhabiting the site and vicinity that would be adversely affected by the use of lighting on the sports fields, parking lot, and pedestrian bridge. According to the Biological Survey Report, the site provides minimal habitat for special status species. Several common species occur at the site, but are generally acclimated to human presence. No observations of special status species or signs of special status species occurred during the survey. Additionally, there has been consistent use of lighting for nearby residential uses and for seasonal lighting of the sports fields. The Biological Survey Report speaks to existing lighting in the area and concludes that wildlife is already subjected to a certain degree of lighting, therefore no impacts to wildlife as a result of using lighting at the Orcutt Community Park are anticipated.

The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan and OSHMRIP will continue to be consistent with the goals of DevStd KS12-6 because the amendments will require that any lighting within the Orcutt Community Park be designed to maintain habitat continuity and protect existing wildlife corridors through the use of low intensity, low glare design, hooded light fixtures that direct light downward and prevent spill-over onto natural open space.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Land Use Element Historical and Archaeological Sites Policy 2: When developments are proposed for parcels where archaeological or other cultural sites are

Consistent. The proposed project is consistent with Historical and Archaeological Sites Policy 2 because the amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will only allow lighting to be

located, project design shall be required which avoids impacts to such cultural sites if possible.

installed in the Orcutt Community Park, which is an existing park that has previously undergone significant disturbance originally constructed in 2008 and 2009. Construction of the Orcutt Community Park was previously analyzed under a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (03-EIR-05), and an Addendum to the SEIR when the Rice Ranch Specific Plan was amended in 2015. The Rice Ranch site, including the Orcutt Community Park site, was extensively studied as a part of prior environmental review, and records from previous archaeological surveys show that there are no known resources in the areas where lighting can be installed under the proposed amendments. Therefore, County staff does not anticipate any potential impacts to cultural sites. As is discussed in Section 6.5 below, on March 14, 2024, formal notification letters regarding the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan were sent to local Native American Tribes identified by the Native American Heritage Commission offering the opportunity for consultation under Senate Bill (SB) 18. To date, P&D has not received any requests for SB 18 consultation in response to the notification.

PARKS/RECREATION

Parks/Recreation Policy 3: Future development of parks should emphasize meeting the needs of local residents.

Consistent. The proposed project consists of amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan that will allow for future installation of permanent lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with Parks/Recreation Policy 3 because the installation of permanent lighting in the Orcutt Community Park will meet a current need of local residents. As is discussed in Section 5.2 above, the amendments to the Specific Plan will allow installation of permanent lighting to replace portable, generator-powered light

Orcutt Community Plan – Policy PRT-O-2: Development of parks shall be consistent with the community's existing semi-rural character and landscaping. fixtures, which have been used by sports teams in the evenings during months with limited evening light for the past five years. Permanent lighting will provide the opportunity for local organized sports teams to utilize the existing sports fields past daylight hours, primarily during the months when daylight hours are shorter. According to the County Parks, the need for this project arises from the increased demand for baseball and soccer facilities within the community. They also anticipate greater demand will occur due to the increase in Orcutt area housing construction.

The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with Policy PRT-O-2 because any lighting within the Orcutt Community Park is required to be designed to be compatible with and minimize impacts on the surrounding open space and residential properties.

As is discussed above, light fixtures shown on the conceptual lighting plan provided by the County Parks Division comply with existing lighting design guidelines that were adopted in the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to mitigate impacts to Aesthetics/Visual Resources. All fixtures are hooded, low intensity, low glare design, will be non-reflective finished with earth-tone paints/material, and are mounted at the minimum acceptable height to adequately light the sports fields for amateur play and the parking areas for safety purposes. Photometric drawings included with the conceptual plans indicate that lighting will be directed downward with no spill-over to adjacent parcels. Lighting will only be used when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time) plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time, and will be controlled by a timer to turn on after dusk and turn off at 9:00 PM.

OPEN SPACE

Orcutt Community Plan – Policy OS-O-4: Development adjacent to, or within designated open space areas, shall be sited and designed to protect and enhance the natural resources of these areas, and accommodate appropriate recreation opportunities as identified in the Parks, Recreation and Trails section of this Plan.

Orcutt Community Plan — Policy OS-O-5: The County shall encourage public use of trails and recreation facilities within designated open space areas consistent with protection of natural resources. Such public trails and recreation facilities shall be sited and designed to reduce conflicts with adjacent private property through use of unobtrusive fencing, landscape screening, appropriate setbacks, signage, etc.

Consistent. The proposed project consists of amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan that will allow for future installation of permanent lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with Policy OS-O-4, DevStd OS-O-4.3, and Policy OS-O-5 because any lighting within the Orcutt Community Park is required to be compatible with and minimize impacts on the surrounding undeveloped natural open space areas, riparian habitat associated with Pine Canyon Creek, and adjacent private property. As is discussed above, light fixtures shown on the conceptual lighting plan provided by the County Parks Division comply with existing lighting design guidelines that were adopted in the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to mitigate impacts to Aesthetics/Visual Resources and Biological Resources. Photometric drawings included with the plans indicate that lighting will be directed downward with no spill-over to adjacent parcels that are in designated open space or that are developed residentially. Lighting will only be used when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time) plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time, and will be controlled by a timer to turn on after dusk and off at 9:00 PM.

The amendments to allow lighting in the Orcutt Community Park will not interfere with existing use of trails, and will enhance opportunities for public use of active recreation facilities. As discussed throughout this report, there has been consistent use of temporary lighting for the sports fields over time, and the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will ensure that future permanent lighting will

Orcutt Community Plan - DevStd OS-O-4.3: No structures shall be located within a designated open space area with the exception of: related structures necessary for the provision of active and passive recreation opportunities that would not adversely affect open space areas, and flood control projects where no other method for protecting existing structures in the floodplain is feasible and where such protection is necessary for public safety (including retention basins). Culverts, crossings, roads, pipelines, fences, and bridges may be permitted when no alternative route or location is feasible, or where other constraints or site design considerations (e.g. public safety) would require such structure.

adhere to specific height, intensity, and aesthetic requirements going forward. This will ensure that impacts from park lighting are minimized, and that sports field lighting is adequate to provide an appropriate playing experience to recreation users.

The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with DevStd OS-O-4.3 because they would accommodate future permanent lighting fixtures that are necessary for the provision of active recreation opportunities and will not affect surrounding natural open space areas. The amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will only allow lighting to be installed in the Orcutt Community Park, which is an existing developed park, and the permanent lighting is subject to Specific Plan requirements that ensure open space areas are not adversely affected. The amendments will not allow any lighting within the undeveloped natural open space areas and trails that surround the park.

6.3 Zoning: Land Use and Development Code Compliance

Pursuant to LUDC Subsection 35.10.040.G.2, within the unincorporated Inland areas of the County, the provisions of the LUDC do not apply to development by the County or any district of which the Board is the governing body. As is discussed above, the Orcutt Community Park is County-owned and has been maintained by the County Parks Division since it was dedicated to the County in 2009. Therefore, the buildout of lighting is exempt from the provisions of the LUDC.

6.4 Subdivision/Development Review Committee (SDRC)

The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan were referred to applicable County Departments in the Subdivision/Development Review Committee (SDRC) during P&D's initial review of the project. No County Departments have expressed concern with the proposed language or applied new conditions of approval to the project.

6.5 SB 18 Consultation

In compliance with SB 18 requirements, on March 14, 2024, P&D sent notification letters to Native American Tribes with traditional lands or cultural places located within the boundaries of Santa Barbara County (as determined by the Native American Heritage Commission) inviting consultation regarding the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan. To date, P&D has not received any requests for SB 18 consultation in response to the notification. According to Government Code Section 65352.3, the notified tribes have 90 days from receipt of the March 14, 2024 notification to request consultation.

7.0 APPEALS PROCEDURE

A Specific Plan Amendment is automatically forwarded to the Board of Supervisors for final action, therefore the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors is not appealable.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Findings
- B. Addendum dated April 30, 2024
- C. Specific Plan Amendment Resolution and Ordinance
- D. Link to current Rice Ranch Specific Plan (adopted by the Board of Supervisors on January 5, 2016)
- E. Link to Rice Ranch Specific Plan Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (03-EIR-05)
- F. Link to 2015 Addendum to 03-EIR-05
- G. Link to Orcutt Community Plan EIR (95-EIR-01)
- H. Link to Orcutt Community Plan
- I. Conceptual Lighting Plan (October 2023)
- J. Biological Survey Report (September 2023)

ATTACHMENT A: FINDINGS OF APPROVAL

1.0 CEQA FINDINGS

1.1 ADDENDA TO ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT OR NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FINDINGS PURSUANT TO PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE SECTION 21081 AND THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT GUIDELINES SECTIONS 15162 AND 15164:

1.1.1 CONSIDERATION OF THE ADDENDUM AND FULL DISCLOSURE

The Board of Supervisors has considered the Addendum dated April 30, 2024, together with the previously certified EIR (03-EIR-05) and Addendum dated November 23, 2015, for the Rice Ranch Specific Plan. The Addendum dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference, reflects the independent judgment of the Board of Supervisors and has been completed in compliance with CEQA. The Addendum dated April 30, 2024, together with the EIR (03-EIR-05) and Addendum dated November 23, 2015, is adequate for this proposal. On the basis of the whole record, including the Addendum, the previous CEQA documents, and any public comments received, the Board of Supervisors finds that the project changes described in the Addendum dated April 30, 2024, will not create any new significant effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects on the environment nor present new information of substantial importance pursuant to CEQA Guideline 15162.

1.1.2 LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS

The documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based are in the custody of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors located at 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101; or online at the following link: https://santabarbara.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx.

1.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING AND MONITORING PROGRAM

Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15091(d) require the County to adopt a reporting or monitoring program for the changes to the project that it has adopted or made a condition of approval in order to avoid or substantially lessen significant effects on the environment. The approved project description and the previously adopted Rice Ranch SEIR mitigation measures, with their corresponding permit monitoring requirements, are hereby adopted as the reporting and monitoring program for this project. The monitoring program is designed to ensure compliance during project implementation.

Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project

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1.1.4 FINDINGS ADDRESSING ADDENDUM ISSUE AREAS

The Addendum, included as Attachment B to the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference, prepared for the project addressed the following issue areas: Aesthetics/Visual Resources and Biological Resources. No substantial changes to the project are proposed that would cause new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in severity of previously identified significant effects. The Addendum dated April 30, 2024, together with the previously certified EIR (03-EIR-05) and Addendum dated November 23, 2015, may be used to fulfill the environmental review requirements of the current project.

As discussed in Section 6.1 of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and in the addendum dated April 30, 2024, both incorporated herein by reference, since there are no substantial changes proposed in the project which will require major revisions to the EIR; no substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; and there is no new information of substantial importance; no subsequent environmental review shall be prepared pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15164.

2.0 ADMINISTRATIVE FINDINGS

2.1 SPECIFIC PLAN FINDINGS

Findings required for all Specific Plans. In compliance with Section 35.88.050 of the County Land Use and Development Code, prior to the approval or conditional approval of an application for a Specific Plan the review authority shall first make all of the following findings:

2.1.1 The Specific Plan is in conformance with and will implement all applicable Comprehensive Plan policies and incorporates any other conditions specifically applicable to the lots that are identified in the plan.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the Rice Ranch Specific Plan, including the proposed amendments that will allow future installation of permanent lighting in Orcutt Community Park, is in conformance with and will implement all applicable Comprehensive Plan policies and incorporates any other conditions specifically applicable to the lots that are identified in the plan. As discussed in Section 6.2 of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference, the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with the applicable policies and development standards of the Comprehensive Plan, including the Orcutt Community Plan.

Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project

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2.1.2 The Specific Plan will not be detrimental to the comfort, convenience, general welfare, health, and safety of the neighborhood.

The Board of Supervisors finds that the Rice Ranch Specific Plan, including the proposed amendments that will allow future installation of permanent lighting in Orcutt Community Park, will not be detrimental to the comfort, convenience, general welfare, health, and safety of the neighborhood. As discussed in Section 6.2 of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference, any lighting within the Orcutt Community Park is required to be designed to be compatible with and minimize impacts to the surrounding open space and residential properties. Light fixtures shown on the conceptual lighting plan provided by the County Parks Division comply with existing lighting design guidelines that were implemented in the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to mitigate impacts to surrounding properties, including the use of low intensity, hooded fixtures with low glare design. Photometric drawings included with the plans indicate that lighting will be directed downward with no spill-over to adjacent parcels. Lighting will only be used when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time) plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time, and will be controlled by a timer to turn on after dusk and off at 9:00 PM. Finally, portable generator-powered light fixtures have been used by sports teams in the evenings during months with limited evening light for the past five years. There has been consistent use of temporary lighting for the sports fields over time, and the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will ensure that future permanent lighting will adhere to specific height, intensity, and aesthetic requirements going forward. This will ensure that impacts from park lighting are minimized.

2.1.3 The Specific Plan will not adversely affect necessary community services (e.g., fire and police protection, sewage disposal, traffic circulation, water supply).

The Board of Supervisors finds that the Rice Ranch Specific Plan, including the proposed amendments which will allow future installation of permanent lighting in Orcutt Community Park, will not adversely affect necessary community services (e.g., fire and police protection, sewage disposal, traffic circulation, water supply). As discussed in Section 6.2 of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference, existing water, sewer, access, parking, fire and police protection adequately serve the Orcutt Community Park. Demand on these services will not significantly increase as a result of the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan. Because portable, generator-powered light fixtures are currently used by sports teams during months with limited evening light, the park operations and use will remain substantially the same as current conditions and demand on services is not expected to be affected.

ATTACHMENT B: ADDENDUM

ON SANTABARA ONE COUNTY ONE FUTURE

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ADDENDUM FOR ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK SPORTS FIELD LIGHTING PROJECT – CASE NO. 23SPP-00001

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Travis Seawards, Deputy Director, Development Review Division

STAFF CONTACT: Tina Mitchell, Planner, tmitchell@countyofsb.org

DATE: April 30, 2024

RE: State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 Addendum for the Orcutt Community Park

Sports Field Lighting Project, Case No. 23SPP-00001

CEQA DETERMINATION: Finding that State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164 (Addendum) applies to the Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project, Case No. 23SPP-00001. CEQA Section 15164 allows an addendum to a previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to be prepared when only some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions in Section 15162 of the State CEQA Guidelines have occurred. The Rice Ranch Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR, 03-EIR-05) was prepared for the buildout of the Rice Ranch Specific Plan Area and was certified in December 2003. The SEIR tiered off of the Orcutt Community Plan Program EIR (95-EIR-01, certified in July 1997). An Addendum to the SEIR was prepared in December 2015 when the Rice Ranch Specific Plan was amended under Case No. 14SPP-00001. The Orcutt Community Park is located within the Rice Ranch Specific Plan Area, therefore the SEIR and 2015 Addendum addressed environmental impacts related to the park. The SEIR (03-EIR-05), including the 2015 Addendum, is hereby amended by this 15164 letter for the Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project.

INTRODUCTION

CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (Addendum) applies to the proposed Orcutt Community Park Sports Field Lighting Project, Case No. 23SPP-00001. CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 allows an addendum to be prepared when only minor technical changes or changes which do not create new significant impacts would result.

Prior to the adoption of the Orcutt Community Plan, the County prepared, considered, and certified the Orcutt Community Plan Environmental Impact Report (95-EIR-01, certified July 22, 1997; see

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Attachment G of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference). The Orcutt Community Plan designated the Rice Ranch site as Key Site 12 and established policies and development standards for future development that were later incorporated into the Rice Ranch Specific Plan. The Rice Ranch Specific Plan was reviewed under CEQA as part of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR, 03-EIR-05 certified December 9, 2003; see Attachment E of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference). The SEIR provided site specific analysis of the project site's land use, zoning designation, and the reasonable maximum development that could occur under the approved project. In 2015, the Rice Ranch Specific Plan was amended under Case No. 14SPP-0001 for refinement, and to incorporate amendments necessary to meet prevailing market realities and changing regulations. An Addendum to the certified SEIR (03-EIR-05) was prepared and considered by the Board of Supervisors when the 2015 amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan were approved on January 5, 2016 (Attachment F of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference).

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires analysis and disclosure of environmental impacts which could occur as a result of project development. Staff has prepared an Addendum to the previously adopted Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (03-EIR-05) and related Addendum (December 2015) for the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan since the following applicable provisions of Section 15164 CEQA Guidelines can be met:

(a) The lead agency or responsible agency shall prepare an addendum to a previously certified EIR if some changes or additions are necessary but none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

and

(e) A brief explanation of the decision not to prepare a subsequent EIR pursuant to Section 15162 should be included in an addendum to an EIR, the lead agency's findings on the project, or elsewhere in the record. The explanation must be supported by substantial evidence.

Staff prepared an Addendum to reflect changes and additions from the project described in the certified SEIR (2003) and related Addendum (2015) to the proposed project; none of the applicable conditions of Section 15162 calling for a subsequent EIR or negative declaration have occurred, as indicated by the County analysis and determination provided below. Specifically, Section 15162(a), Subsequent EIRs, of the CEQA Guidelines states:

- (a) When an EIR has been certified or a negative declaration adopted for a project, no subsequent EIR shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:
 - (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or negative declaration due to the involvement of new significant

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environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

- (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR or Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
- (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete or the Negative Declaration was adopted, shows any of the following:
 - (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR or negative declaration;
 - (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

There are no substantial changes or changed circumstances under which the proposed project is to be undertaken. No new significant environmental effects or a substantial increases in the severity of previously identified significant effects under the certified SEIR (03-EIR-05) and related Addendum completed in 2015 will result from proposed project, as analyzed in the following Addendum. Further, there is no new information that the proposed project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the approved SEIR (03-EIR-05) or Addendum completed in 2015.

Each environmental impact in the Project Impact Analysis section below addresses the previously analyzed and approved project, and proposed changes to the project, including reference to the previously certified SEIR (03-EIR-05) and Addendum completed in 2015. All documents incorporated into this Addendum by reference are on file with P&D and are available upon request.

BACKGROUND

The current Rice Ranch Specific Plan allows for the construction of 725 dwelling units distributed among five different neighborhoods: Pine Creek, The Oaks, Meadows, Grove, and Valley View. Master Map

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14,636 (Large Lot Conveyance Map) was recorded in 2005; Tract Map 14,430, Unit 1 recorded for Pine Creek and The Oaks neighborhoods in 2007; Unit 2 recorded for the Meadows and Grove neighborhoods in 2017; and Unit 3 recorded for the Valley View neighborhood in 2020. The Valley View neighborhood and a portion of the Meadows neighborhood and are currently under construction; all other neighborhoods are built out. The current Rice Ranch Specific Plan also includes the 25.7-acre Orcutt Community Park, as well as numerous pocket parks, open space areas, and public trails within the specific plan area. In January 2009, the Orcutt Community Park was completed and opened for public use with a mix of active and passive recreation opportunities. In March 2009, the Orcutt Community Park was dedicated to the County of Santa Barbara on Tract Map 14,636, and the Community Services Department (Parks Division) has maintained the park since then.

PROJECT LOCATION AND SITE DESCRIPTION

Although the Rice Ranch Specific Plan covers an approximately 560-acre area, the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will only affect the Orcutt Community Park. The Orcutt Community Park is located on a 25.73-acre, County-owned parcel shown as Assessor's Parcel Number 101-390-012, and known as 5800 S. Bradley Road in the Orcutt Community Plan Area, Fourth Supervisorial District.

The Orcutt Community Park is currently developed with baseball and soccer fields that cover approximately 5.5 acres; an off-leash dog park; a playground; group picnic areas; barbeque grills; two restroom buildings; parking areas with approximately 166 standard parking spaces and equestrian trailer areas; and pedestrian walking areas, including a pedestrian bridge that crosses Pine Canyon Creek to access the sports fields. Pine Canyon Creek intermittently flows east to west and is nestled between the park's sports fields to the south and parking lot area to the north. The park is generally surrounded by natural open space areas with hiking trails to the south and west, and residential development to the north and east.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is a request by the Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division, for approval of amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to allow for future installation of permanent sports field and parking lot lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The Rice Ranch Specific Plan currently does not include lighting within the Orcutt Community Park, therefore amendments to the Specific Plan are necessary to account for the change. Permanent lighting will provide the opportunity for local organized sports teams to utilize the existing sports fields past daylight hours, primarily during the months when daylight hours are shorter. The permanent lighting will replace portable, generator-powered lighting now being used by local sports teams in months where the sun sets in late afternoon or early evening. The permanent lighting will be used on a limited basis after dusk until 9:00 PM when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time), plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time. A full description of the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are included with Attachment C. The property is a 25.73-acre parcel zoned REC

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and shown as Assessor's Parcel Number 101-390-012, located at 5800 S. Bradley Road in the Orcutt Community Plan area, Fourth Supervisorial District.

PROJECT IMPACT ANALYSIS

<u>Existing Conditions.</u> As stated in the Project Description above, the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will allow permanent lighting in Orcutt Community Park. County Parks will replace portable, generator-powered lighting now being used by local sports teams in the evenings during months where the sun sets in late afternoon or early evening with permanent lighting that complies with Specific Plan requirements. According to Parks Division staff, local sports leagues have been renting and setting up the portable light fixtures during months with less daylight consistently for the past five years.

The SEIR (03-EIR-05) prepared for the Rice Ranch Specific Plan and the Addendum completed for the 2015 amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan analyzed project impacts related to buildout of the entire specific plan area. Significant and unavoidable impacts were identified for the following issue areas: Land Use, Biology, Agriculture, Geology, Flooding & Drainage, Water Supply/Groundwater Resources, Archaeology, Historical Resources, Traffic & Circulation, Noise, Air Quality, Risk of Upset/Polluting Sources, Wastewater, Fire Protection, Police Protection, Solid Waste, Library Services, Aesthetics/Visual Resources, Parks Recreation & Trails, and Schools.

The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are limited to text changes that will allow installation of permanent lighting within previously disturbed areas of the existing Orcutt Community Park. The park operations and use will remain the same with the proposed amendments, therefore the project impact analysis is limited to issue areas where there is a minor change to some aspect of the project and the previous analysis requires minor revision. The following sections include discussions of impacts to Aesthetics/Visual Resources and Biological Resources. As discussed below, the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will not change the severity of impacts, or the conclusions in the SEIR (03-EIR-05) and Addendum completed in 2015 for these impact categories.

1. Aesthetics/Visual Resources

Impacts Anticipated in the 03-EIR-05 and the 2015 Addendum

The 2003 SEIR and 2015 Addendum identified the following significant, but mitigable impact to Aesthetics/Visual Resources associated with glare or night lighting which may affect adjoining areas (please refer to 03-EIR-05 for a full discussion of this impact):

Impact AES-3.1: Residential development, including streets and recreational facilities, would introduce new glare sources that would substantially degrade existing visual conditions.

Existing Mitigation

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The 2003 SEIR and 2015 Addendum identified the following mitigation measure for Impact AES-3.1:

AES-3.1: Exterior night lighting installed on the project site shall be of a low intensity, low glare design, and shall be hooded to direct light downward onto the subject parcel and prevent spill-over onto adjacent parcels. Pole supports shall be of a darker finish to reduce glare. Building wall-mounted and pedestrian walkway lighting fixtures shall be placed at heights that would be sufficiently high to promote project safety, but low enough to limit unnecessary spill effects. A Common Area Lighting Plan for parks and recreation areas shall incorporate these requirements and demonstrate how low level lighting shall be controlled at all times (i.e., use of lighting timers). The Owner/Applicant shall install timers or otherwise ensure lights are dimmed after 10 p.m. Lighting associated with the community clubhouse amenities (i.e., pool area with spa, shade pavilion barbeque, picnic area, etc.) shall be turned off at 10:00 p.m. The locations and heights of all exterior lighting fixtures with arrows showing the direction of light being cast by each fixture shall be depicted on the final Lighting Plan.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The Owner/Applicant shall develop a Lighting Plan for BAR approval incorporating these requirements and showing locations and height of all exterior lighting fixtures with arrows showing the direction of light being cast by each fixture. The neighborhood specific lighting plans shall be reviewed and approved by P&D and the Board of Architecture Review prior to land use clearance of the Final Development Plan for each neighborhood.

MONITORING: P&D and/or BAR shall review the neighborhood specific lighting plans for compliance with this measure prior to approval of a Zoning Clearance for structures. P&D Permit Compliance staff shall inspect structures upon completion to ensure that exterior lighting fixtures have been installed consistent with their depiction on the final Lighting Plan.

Changes in Project Impacts

The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will allow for future installation of permanent lighting within the Orcutt Community Park. County Parks Division staff provided a conceptual lighting plan in order for P&D staff to better understand the scope of necessary changes to Specific Plan language (included as Attachment I of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference; for reference only). Light fixtures shown on the conceptual lighting plan comply with the existing lighting restrictions noted in Mitigation Measure AES-3.1 above. All fixtures are of hooded, low intensity, low glare design; will be finished with non-reflective earth-tone paints/material; and are mounted at the minimum acceptable height to adequately light the sports fields for amateur play and the parking areas for safety purposes. Photometric drawings included with the conceptual plans indicate that lighting will be directed downward with no spill-over to adjacent parcels. Lighting will only be used when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time) plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time, and will be controlled by a timer to turn on after dusk and off at 9:00 PM.

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As is described above, portable generator-powered light fixtures have been used by sports teams in the evenings during months with limited evening light for the past five years. Based on this consistent use of lighting in the sports fields, the proposed project will be substantially the same as existing conditions. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will ensure that future permanent lighting will adhere to specific height, intensity, and aesthetic requirements going forward. The potential lighting impact of the proposed Specific Plan amendments would therefore be similar to that of the approved 2015 Specific Plan and existing conditions. Adherence to Mitigation Measure AES-3.1 will ensure that impacts from lighting in Orcutt Community Park are insignificant. Section 7 of the Rice Ranch Specific Plan includes Design Guidelines for lighting that incorporate provisions from Mitigation Measure AES-3.1, directing exterior lighting to be low intensity, low glare design, and hooded or directed downward to prevent spill-over. The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan specify that exterior night lighting at the Orcutt Community Park must comply with these design guidelines. Therefore, lighting impacts associated with the proposed project will not be substantially more severe than impacts associated with the approved project.

2. Biological Resources

Impacts Anticipated in the 03-EIR-05 and the 2015 Addendum

The 2003 SEIR and 2015 Addendum identified the following potentially adverse, but insignificant impacts to Biological Resources associated with increases in noise, lighting, human activity which may disrupt wildlife habitat areas or movement corridors (please refer to 03-EIR-05 for a full discussion of these impacts):

Impact BIO-1.7: Potential indirect impacts on vegetation and wildlife habitats, including sensitive plant species and oak trees, would potentially occur due to occupancy of the site, public access into open space (trails and park), and fencing.

Impact BIO-5: Site development would interfere with the movement of resident wildlife between natural habitats in the project area and in the region.

Existing Mitigation

In accordance with the Orcutt Community Plan Development Standards for Key Site 12, an Open Space and Habitat Management & Restoration Implementation Plan (OSHMRIP) has been prepared and incorporated into the Rice Ranch Specific Plan (Appendix C of Attachment D of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference). The OSHMRIP describes how the Rice Ranch project open space is to be managed during residential development and occupancy. The OSHMRIP includes mitigation planting for impacts to oak woodland, central maritime chaparral, native grassland, riparian, and central coastal scrub habitat affected by project development. The major elements of the OSHMRIP include the following:

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 A project-wide construction management program, including measures to protect sensitive biological resources.

- Detailed habitat restoration plans with prescriptive implementation and performance criteria addressing all habitats requiring mitigation.
- Maintenance plans for weed control and irrigation as well as a monitoring and reporting plan.
- Management strategies to protect resources within and surrounding passive and active recreational areas. This includes discussion of allowable and prohibited uses of open space.

The OSHMRIP also includes measure OS11.1, which states that "[I]ighting shall not be installed within any of the parks in order to protect the surrounding wildlife habitat at night."

Changes in Project Impacts

The proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan will allow for future installation of permanent lighting within the Orcutt Community Park. As discussed in the impact analysis for Aesthetics/Visual Resources above, light fixtures shown on the conceptual lighting plan provided by the County Parks Division are of hooded, low intensity, low glare design, and will be finished with non-reflective earth-tone paints/material. Photometric drawings included with the plans indicate that lighting will be directed downward with little to no spill-over to adjacent open space areas or riparian habitat associated with Pine Canyon Creek. Lighting will only be used when daylight savings time is not in effect (i.e., standard time) plus one additional month in the fall and spring shouldering standard time, and will be controlled by a timer to turn on after dusk and off at 9:00 PM.

Arcadis U.S., Inc. conducted a Reconnaissance Biological Survey on May 1, 2023, and prepared a Biological Survey Report for the project dated September 18, 2023 (Attachment J of the staff report dated April 30, 2024, and incorporated herein by reference) to determine if there are common or special status species inhabiting the Orcutt Community Park or its vicinity that would be adversely affected by the use of lighting on the sports fields, parking lot, and pedestrian bridge. According to the Biological Survey Report, the site provides minimal habitat for special status species. Several common species occur at the site, but are generally acclimated to human presence. No observations of special status species or signs of special status species occurred during the survey. Additionally, there has been consistent use of lighting for nearby residential uses and for seasonal lighting of the sports fields. The Biological Survey Report speaks to existing lighting in the area and concludes that wildlife is already subjected to a certain degree of lighting, therefore no impacts to wildlife as a result of using lighting at the Orcutt Community Park are anticipated.

The potential lighting impact of the proposed project on biological resources would therefore be similar to that of the approved 2015 Specific Plan and existing conditions. Section 7 of the Rice Ranch Specific Plan includes Design Guidelines for lighting that incorporate provisions from Mitigation Measure AES-3.1 directing exterior lighting to be low intensity, low glare design, and hooded or directed downward to prevent spill-over. The 2024 Specific Plan Design Guidelines specify that exterior night lighting at the Orcutt Community Park must comply with these design guidelines, which will also reduce impacts on

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wildlife corridors. Lighting impacts to wildlife associated with the proposed project will not be substantially more severe than impacts associated with the approved project or current operations.

FINDINGS

Staff has concluded that the previous environmental document as herein amended may be used to fulfill the environmental review requirements of the current project. Because the current project meets the conditions for the application of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15164, and none of the conditions described in Section 15162 have occurred, preparation of a subsequent EIR is not required. In 2003, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for significant impacts associated with build-out of the Rice Ranch Specific Plan, including the Orcutt Community Park. As discussed above, the proposed project would not result in new significant environmental impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified environmental impacts than were identified in the 2003 SEIR or 2015 Addendum.

ATTACHMENT C: SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT RESOLUTION AND ORDINANCE

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF RECOMMENDING TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS THAT AN ORDINANCE BE APPROVED PER LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT CODE § 35.88 TO AMEND THE RICE RANCH SPECIFIC PLAN

RESOLUTION NO.: 24-	
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CASE NO.: 23SPP-00001

WITH REFERENCE TO THE FOLLOWING:

- A. WHEREAS on December 20, 1980, by Resolution No. 80-566, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted the Comprehensive Plan for the County of Santa Barbara; and
- B. WHEREAS on July 22, 1997, by Resolution No. 97-314, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted the Orcutt Community Plan.
- C. WHEREAS on December 9, 2003, by Ordinance 4520 (03ORD-00000-00011), the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted the Rice Ranch Specific Plan (97-SP-001).
- D. WHEREAS on July 10, 2012, by Ordinance 4840 (12ORD-00000-00010), the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted revisions to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan (12SPP-00000-00001) to postpone the requirement to construct onsite affordable units until the time that 25% of the market rate units (181 units) have received zoning clearance issuance.
- E. WHEREAS on April 21, 2015, by Ordinance 4921 (14ORD-00000-00012) and Resolution No. 15-144, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan (14SPP-00000-00002) to postpone the requirement to construct onsite affordable units until the time that 27% of the market rate units (195 units) have received zoning clearance issuance.
- F. WHEREAS on January 5, 2016, by Ordinance 4951 (15ORD-00000-00015) and Resolution No. 16-7, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara adopted amendments to the approved Rice Ranch Specific Plan (14SPP-00000-000001) to incorporate refinements necessary to meet prevailing market realities and changing regulations.
- G. WHEREAS the Community Services Department has requested amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan to allow future installation of permanent lighting within the Orcutt Community Park.
- H. WHEREAS public officials and agencies, California Native American Indian tribes, civic organizations and citizens have been provided the opportunity for involvement pursuant to Section 65351 of the Government Code.

- I. WHEREAS the County Planning Commission has held a duly noticed public hearing, as required by Land Use and Development Code Subsection 35.88.040.C on the proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan, at which hearing the proposed amendments were explained and comments invited from persons in attendance.
- J. WHEREAS the County Planning Commission now recommends that the Board of Supervisors adopt an Ordinance approving the amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan (23SPP-00001) as identified in Exhibit 1 attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED as follows:

- 1. The above recitations are true and correct.
- 2. In compliance with the provisions of Government Code Section 65358, et seq., the Planning Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, following the required noticed public hearing, follow the above-mentioned recommendation of this Commission by adopting an Ordinance to approve the amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan, as identified in Exhibit 1A, and based on the findings included as Attachment A of the Planning Commission Staff report dated April 30, 2024. Said Ordinance is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and is incorporated by reference.
- 3. A certified copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors.
- 4. The Chair of this Planning Commission is hereby authorized and directed to sign and certify all documents and other materials in accordance with this Resolution to show the above mentioned action by the Planning Commission.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this	, 2024 by the following vote:
AYES:	
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	
VINCENT MARTINEZ, Chair Santa Barbara County Planning Commission	
ATTEST:	
, 	
JEFF WILSON Secretary to the Commission	
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
RACHEL VAN MULLEM COUNTY COUNSEL	
Ву	
Deputy County Counsel	
EXHIBIT:	

Ordinance to approve amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan

1A. Memorandum – Specific Plan Amendments

1.

ORDINANCE NO.	
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AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA TO AMEND THE RICE RANCH SPECIFIC PLAN, LOCATED SOUTH OF RICE RANCH AND STUBBLEFIELD ROADS IN SOUTHEAST ORCUTT, FOURTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT.

Case No. 23SPP-00001

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara ordains as follows:

SECTION 1

Pursuant to Sections 65450 through 65454, inclusive, of the Government Code, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, California hereby approves and amendment to the Specific Plan (23SPP-00001) for the Rice Ranch Project (97-SP-001, 14SPP-00001); the Specific Plan amendment is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference as Exhibit 1A.

SECTION 2

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 35.888, "Specific Plans," of Land Use Development Code, of Chapter 35 of the Code of the County of Santa Barbara, California, the Board of Supervisors hereby approves an amendment to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan (23SPP-00001) as depicted in Exhibit 1A to this Ordinance.

SECTION 3

The attached amendment (Exhibit 1A) serves as a cover sheet to the full Specific Plan approved January 5, 2016, by Resolution No. 16-7. Except as amended by this Ordinance, the Rice Ranch Specific Plan (97-SP-001, 14SPP-00000-00001, 23SPP-00001), shall remain unchanged and shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 4

The Board of Supervisors finds that the amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and the Orcutt Community Plan.

SECTION 5

This ordinance shall take effect and be in force thirty (30) days from the date of its passage; and before the expiration of fifteen (15) days after its passage it, or a summary of it, shall be published once, with the names of the members of the Board of Supervisors voting for and against the same in the Santa Maria Times, a newspaper of general circulation published in the County of Santa Barbara.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the State of California, this day of	Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara,, 2024, by the following vote:
AYES:	
NOES:	
ABSENT:	
ABSTAIN:	
STEVE LAVAGNINO, Chair, Board of Supervis County of Santa Barbara State of California	sors
ATTEST	APPROVED AS TO FORM
MONA MIYASATO County Executive Officer Clerk of the Board of Supervisors	RACHEL VAN MULLEM County Counsel
By:	Ву:
Deputy Clerk	Deputy County Counsel

EXHIBIT 1A Memorandum – Specific Plan Amendments



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT

This memorandum provides proposed amendments to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan and Open Space Habitat Management and Restoration Implementation Plan (OSHMRIP) that were approved by the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors on January 5, 2016. The amendments will allow the Community Services Department (Parks Division) to install permanent lighting in the Orcutt Community Park around the existing sports fields and parking lot areas. The amendments are as follows:

SECTION	PAGE	EXISTING TEXT	REVISED TEXT			
7 – Design Guidelines7.2 – Community Design7.2.2 Landscape Architecture	7-47	Relate the scale of lighting to the human scale, especially in pedestrian areas, with a maximum height of 18 feet or as deemed appropriate by Public Works.	Relate the scale of lighting to the human scale, especially in pedestrian areas, with a maximum height of 18 feet or as deemed appropriate by Public Works. Sports field lighting in the Orcutt Community Park will have a maximum height of 60 feet in order to adequately light the fields for amateur play.			
7 – Design Guidelines 7.2 – Community Design 7.2.2 Landscape Architecture	7-48	c. Community Facilities Lighting i. Major community facilities such as parks require special consideration in regard to lighting. Lighting may be incorporated within these facilities to make them function at night with minimum impact to the surrounding neighborhood and adjacent open space (see OSHMRIP Appendix C). There will be no lighting of play fields in the Community Park or on trails traversing through open space areas.	c. Community Facilities Lighting i. Major community facilities such as parks require special consideration in regard to lighting. Lighting may be incorporated within these facilities to make them function at night with minimum impact to the surrounding neighborhood and adjacent open space (see OSHMRIP Appendix C). There will be no lighting of play fields in the Community Park or on trails traversing through open space areas.			
7 – Design Guidelines7.2 – Community Design7.2.2 Landscape Architecture	7-48	d. Environmentally Sensitive Open Space Interface Lighting i. Exterior night lighting which interfaces with the environmentally sensitive open space shall be of a low intensity, low glare design, and shall be hooded to direct light downward onto the subject parcel and prevent spill- over onto natural open space as further described in the OSHMRIP, Appendix C.	d. Environmentally Sensitive Open Space Interface Lighting i. Exterior night lighting which interfaces with the environmentally sensitive open space, including Orcutt Community Park lighting, shall be of a low intensity, low glare design, and shall be hooded to direct light downward onto the subject parcel and prevent spill-over onto natural open space as further described in the OSHMRIP, Appendix C.			

Appendix C: Open Space	41, 42	6.2.1 Pine Canyon Drainage Landscape Buffer	6.2.1 Pine Canyon Drainage Landscape Buffer
Appendix C: Open Space Habitat Management and Restoration Implementation Plan 6.0 – Master Restoration and Revegetation Strategies 6.2 – Landscape Buffers	41,42	An important function of the riparian corridor is to facilitate wildlife dispersal between undeveloped habitats. To ensure that adequate area is provided for dispersal, a minimum 50-foot buffer from the top of the creek bank shall be maintained in a natural state along the Pine Canyon drainage, and shall be included within the protected Open Space designation. With Open Space and unlighted playing fields bordering much of the creek, Pine Canyon drainage is expected to be protected from any light nuisance. The Pine Canyon drainage is part of two formal restoration areas (CS-3 and R-1).	An important function of the riparian corridor is to facilitate wildlife dispersal between undeveloped habitats. To ensure that adequate area is provided for dispersal, a minimum 50-foot buffer from the top of the creek bank shall be maintained in a natural state along the Pine Canyon drainage, and shall be included within the protected Open Space designation. With Open Space and unlighted playing fields bordering much of the creek, Pine Canyon drainage is expected to be protected from any light nuisance. The Pine Canyon drainage is part of two formal restoration areas (CS-3 and R-1).
Appendix C: Open Space Habitat Management and Restoration Implementation Plan 11.0 Park System	79	OS11.1: Lighting shall not be installed within any of the parks in order to protect the surrounding wildlife habitat at night.	OS11.1: Lighting shall not be installed within any of the parks with the exception of the Orcutt Community Park, in order to protect the surrounding wildlife habitat at night.

ATTACHMENT D: LINK TO CURRENT RICE RANCH SPECIFIC PLAN

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON JANUARY 5, 2016

https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/ae208b06-16a1-4126-a8f7-a6fe27ae5b61

ATTACHMENT E: LINK TO RICE RANCH SPECIFIC PLAN SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (03-EIR-05)

https://cosantabarbara.app.box.com/s/zo3nxfc4e2d27mfhygveni1yf1ckegdm/folder/74196267183

ATTACHMENT F: LINK TO 2015 ADDENDUM TO 03-EIR-05

 $\frac{https://santabarbara.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F\&ID=4157263\&GUID=F6095C53-D29F-4F78-AB85-A54CD63302CC}{A54CD63302CC}$

ATTACHMENT G: LINK TO ORCUTT COMMUNITY PLAN EIR (95-EIR-01)

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ATTACHMENT H: LINK TO ORCUTT COMMUNITY PLAN

 $\frac{https://content.civicplus.com/api/assets/ca-santabarbaracounty/8a5f37ca-3d4a-4dc0-a487-73a973b6d9e6/orcutt-community-plan-pdf-.pdf?sq=c3024cb2-ca22-99de-3b73-fb50d06f546e\&scope=all$

ATTACHMENT I: CONCEPTUAL LIGHTING PLAN



☐ AREA MAP



ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING

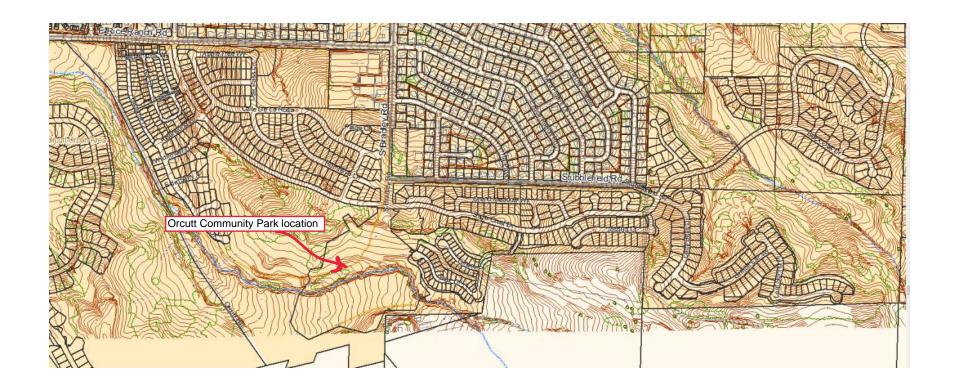


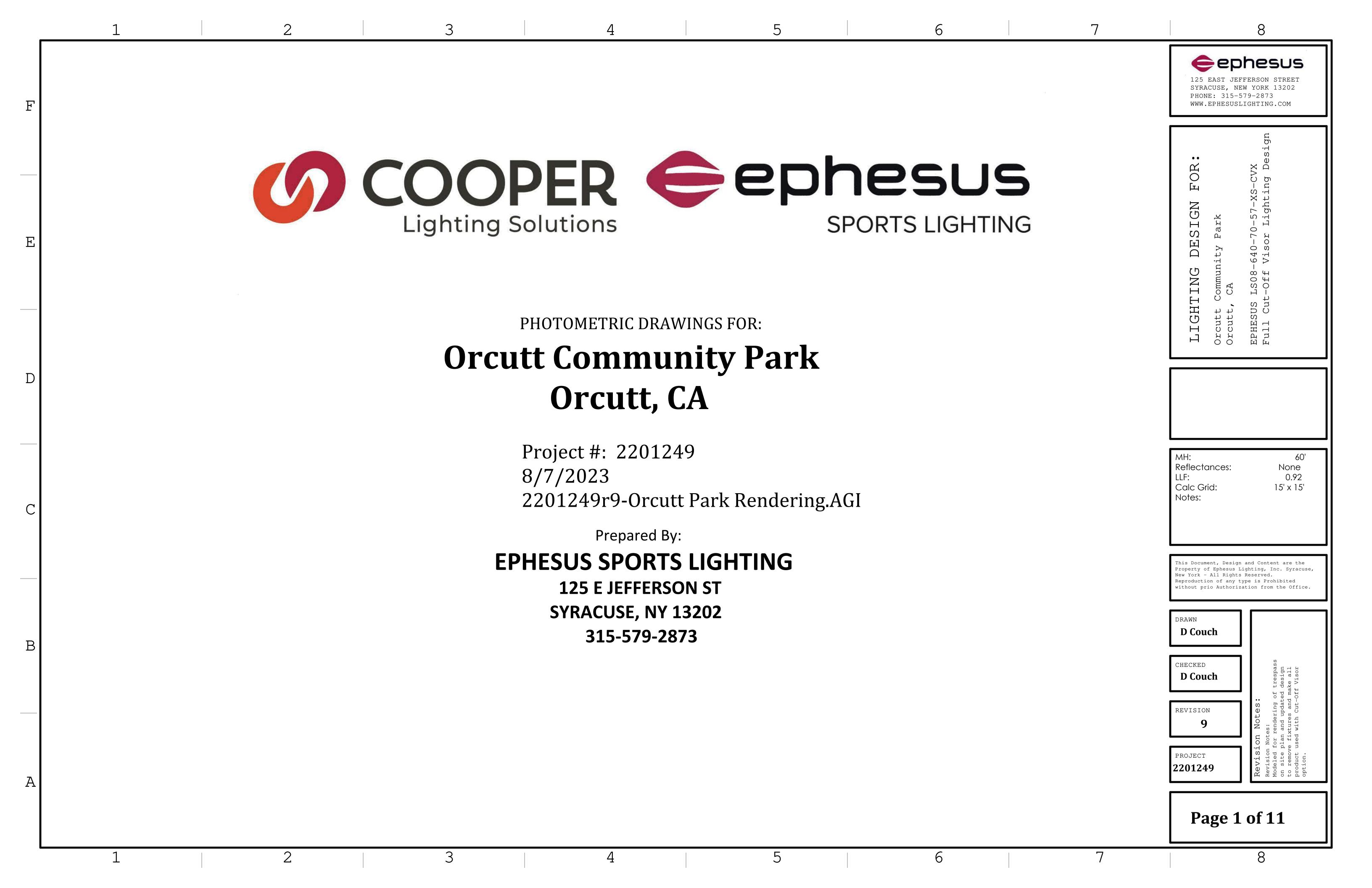


ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING

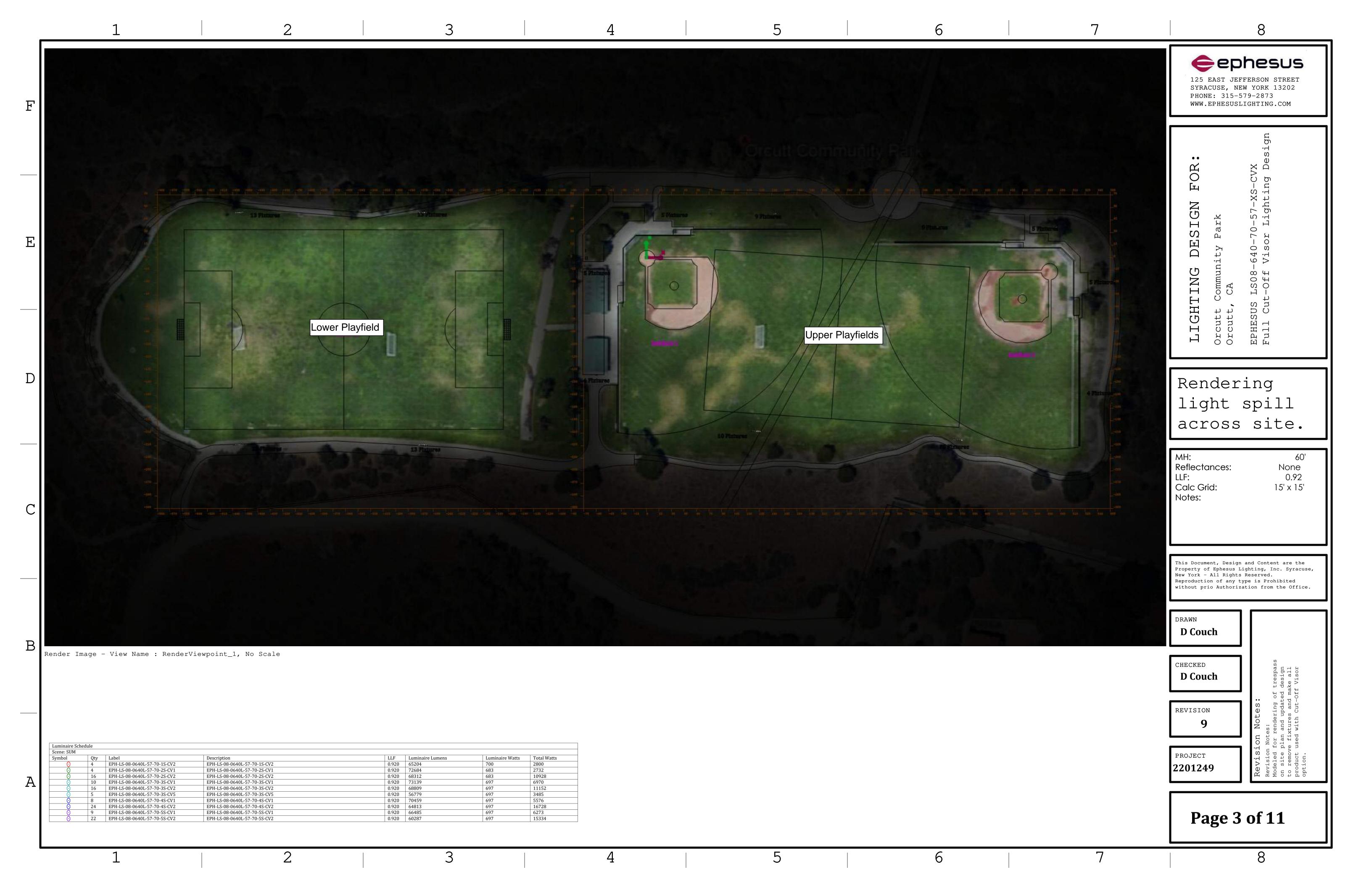


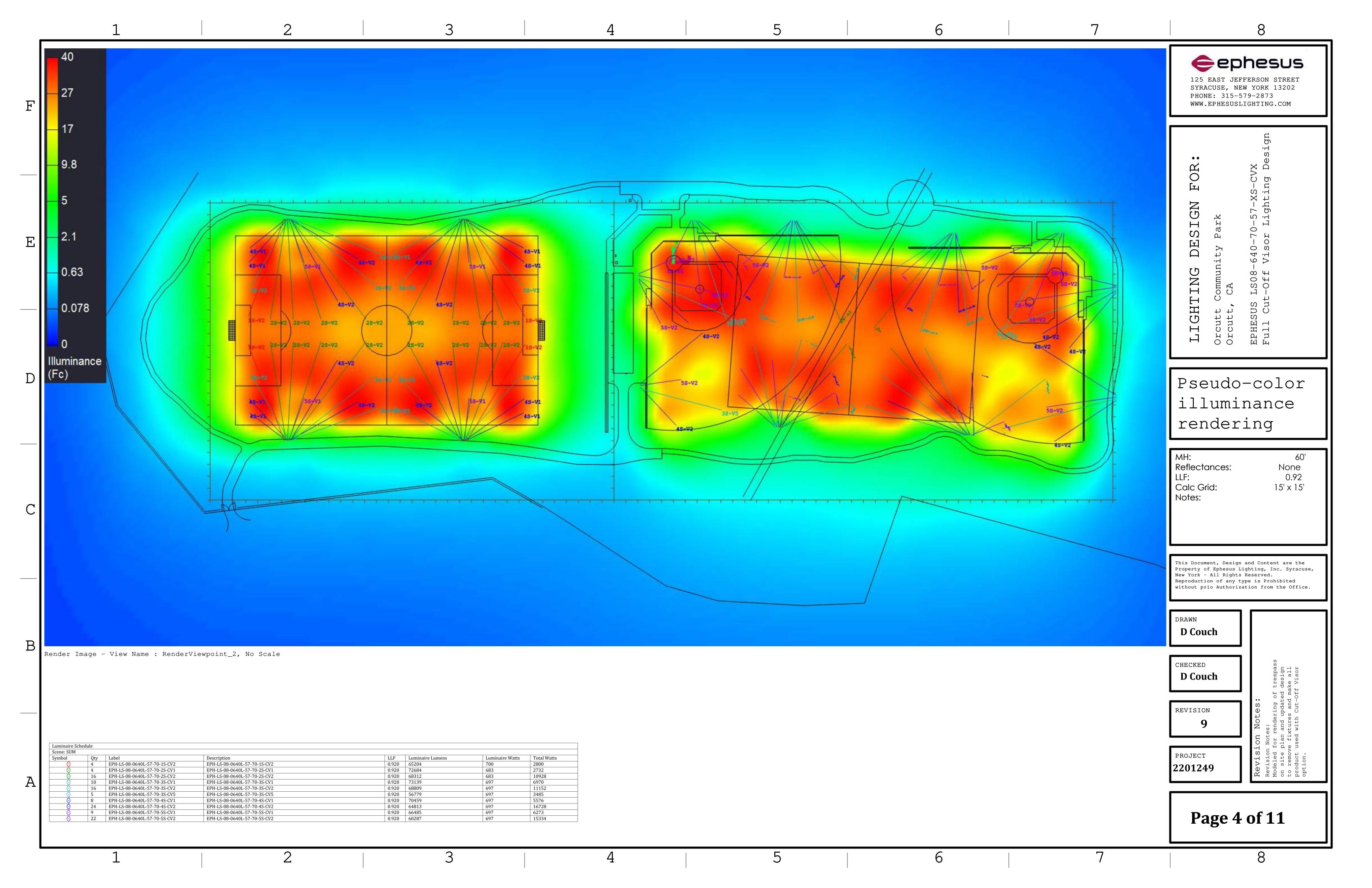


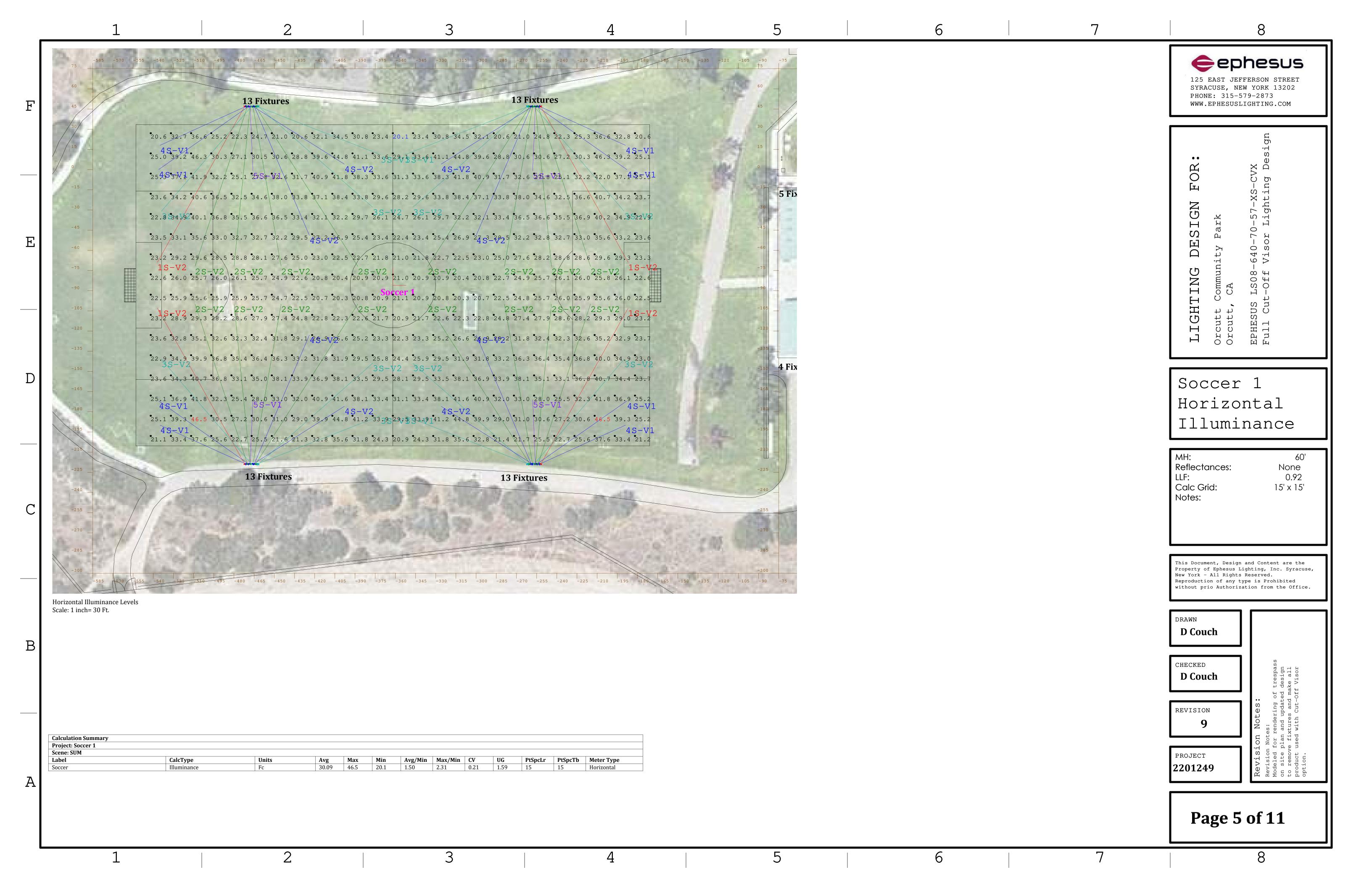


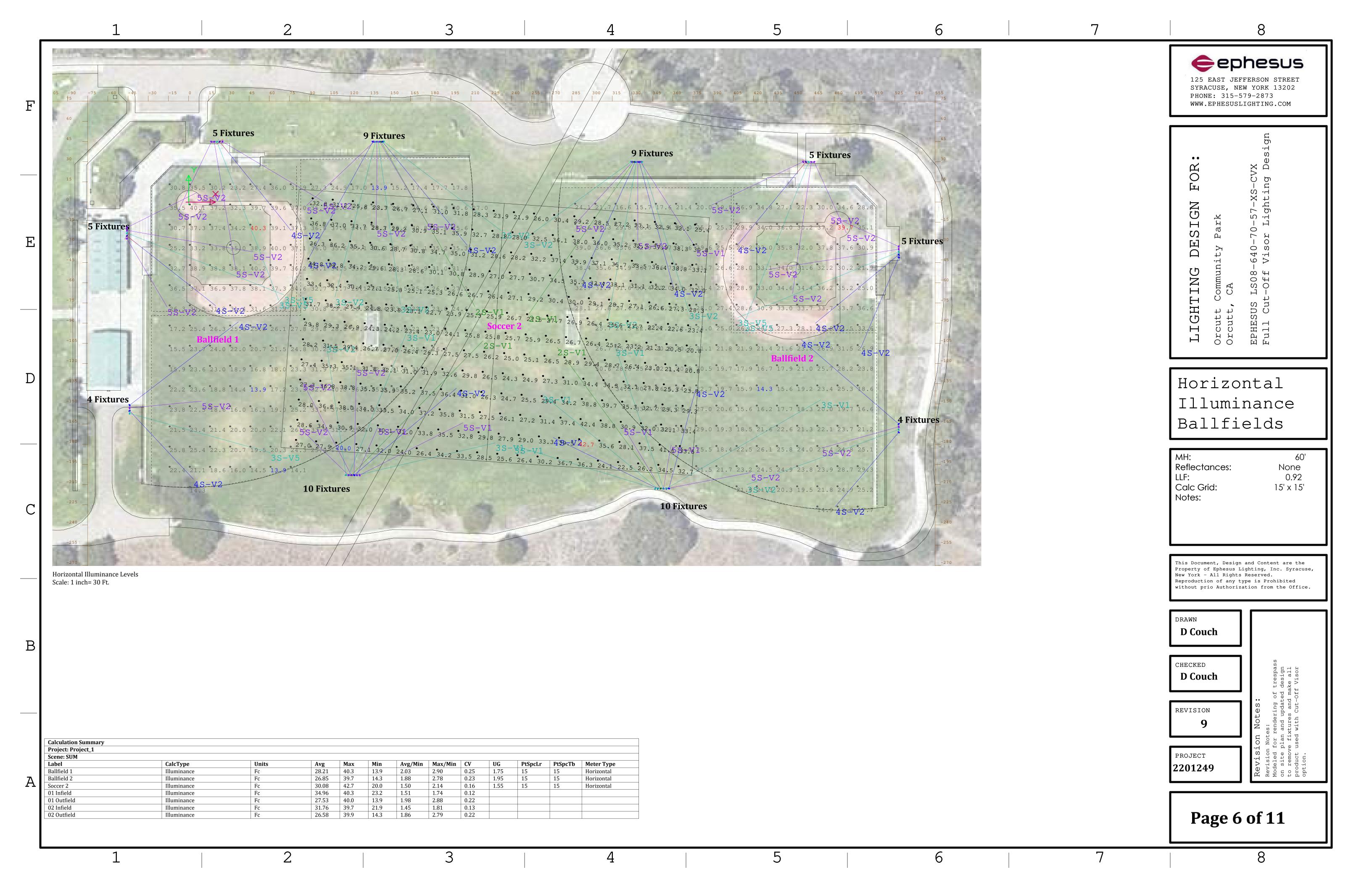


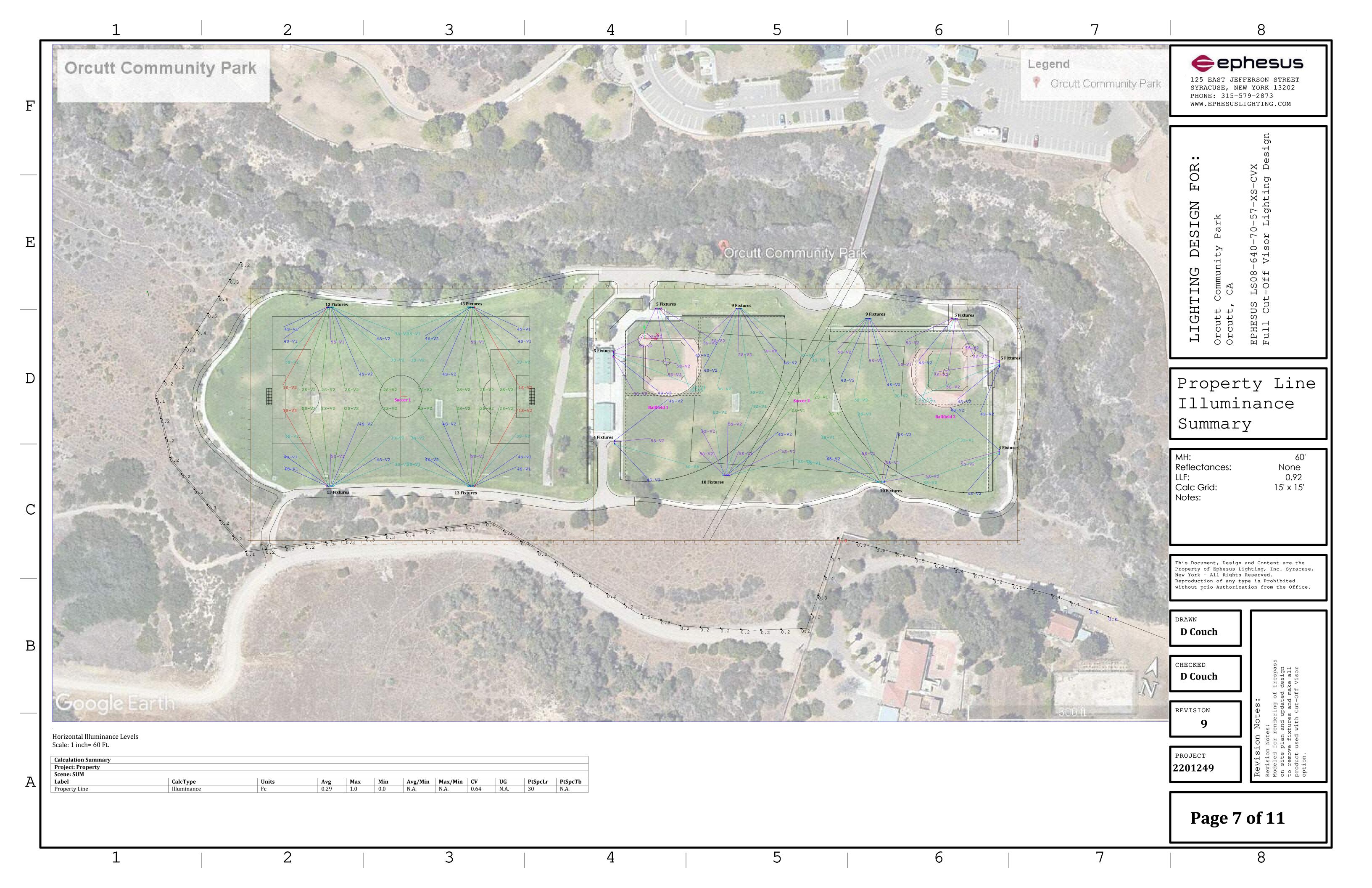


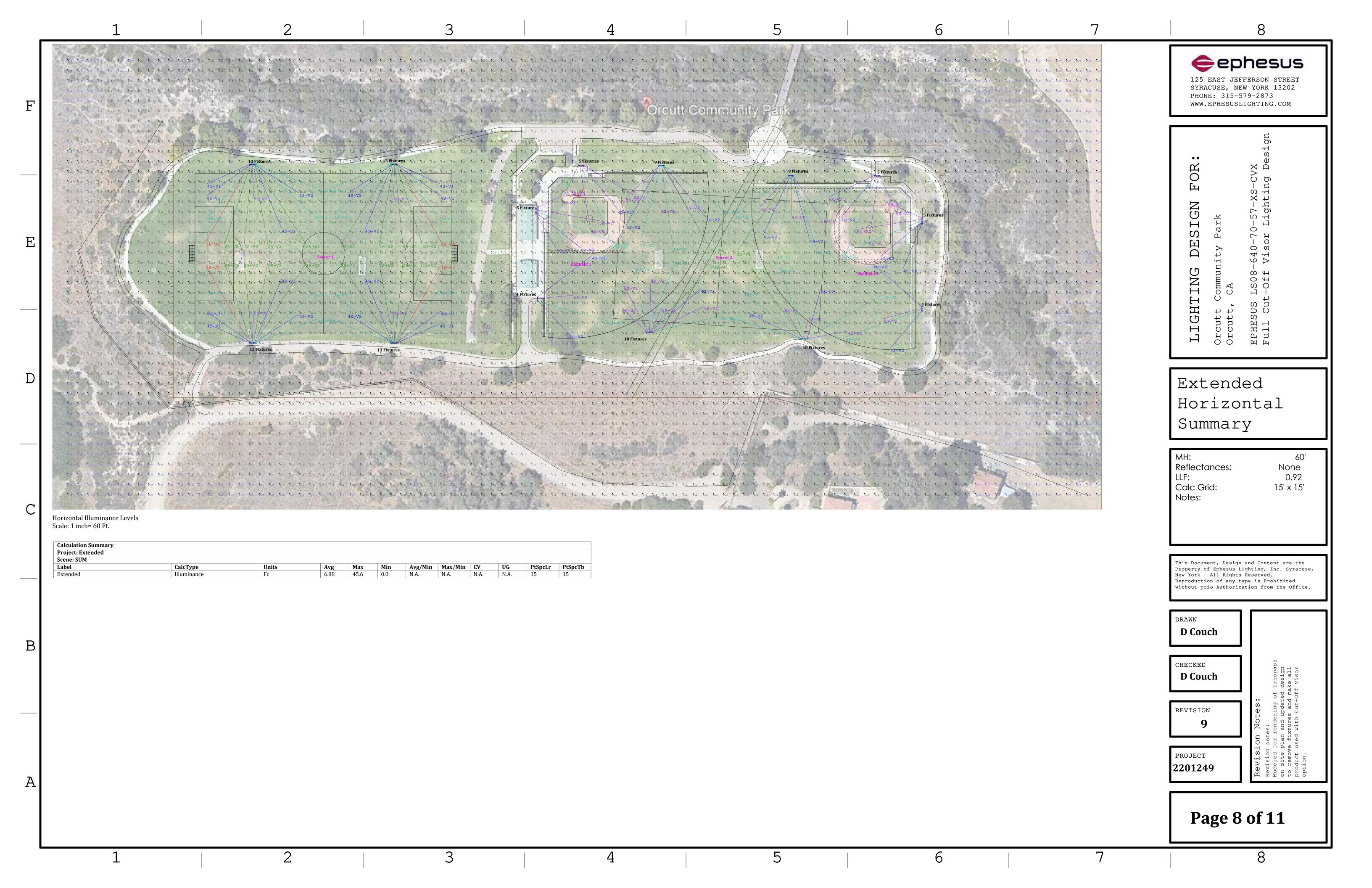


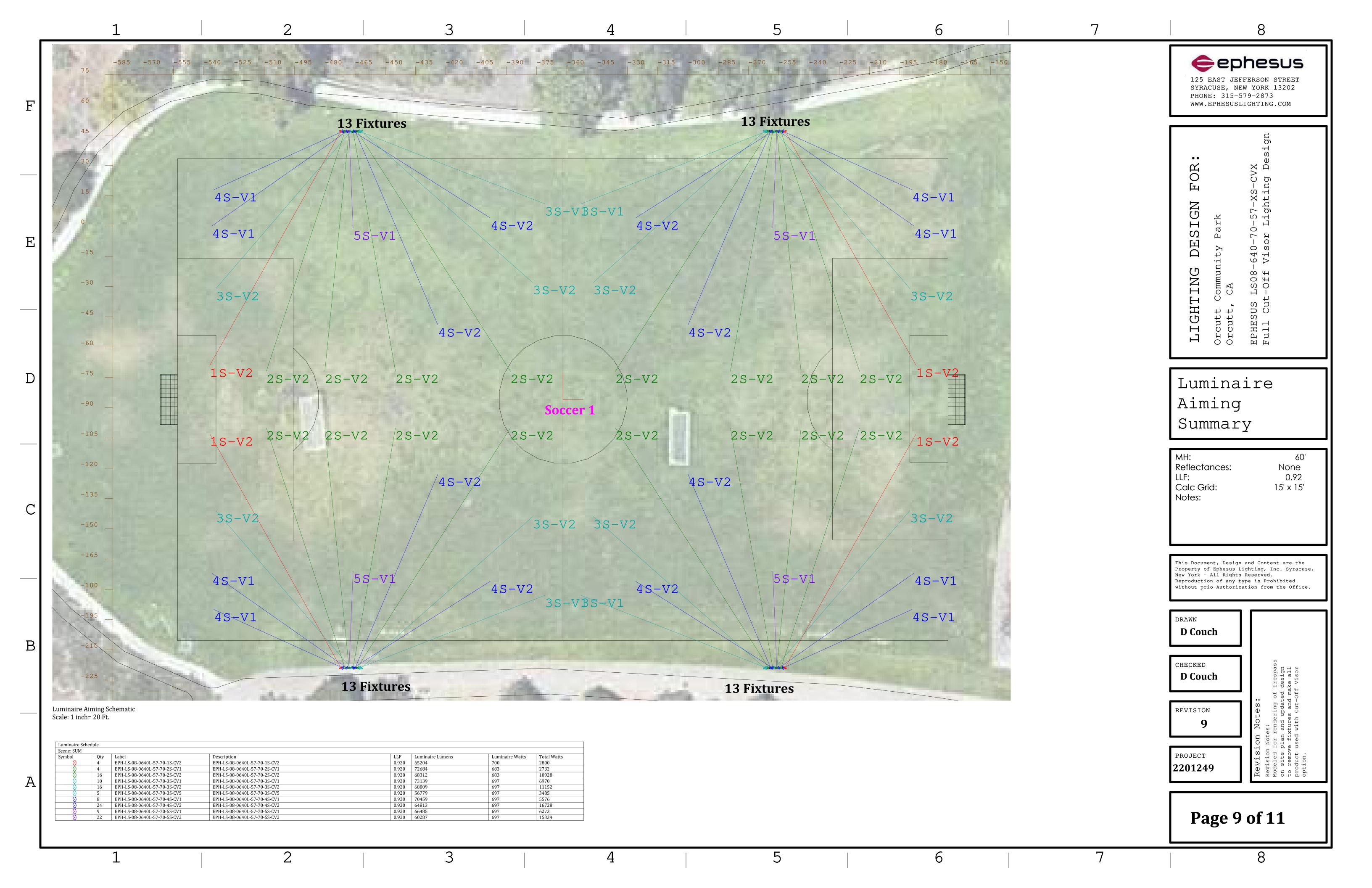


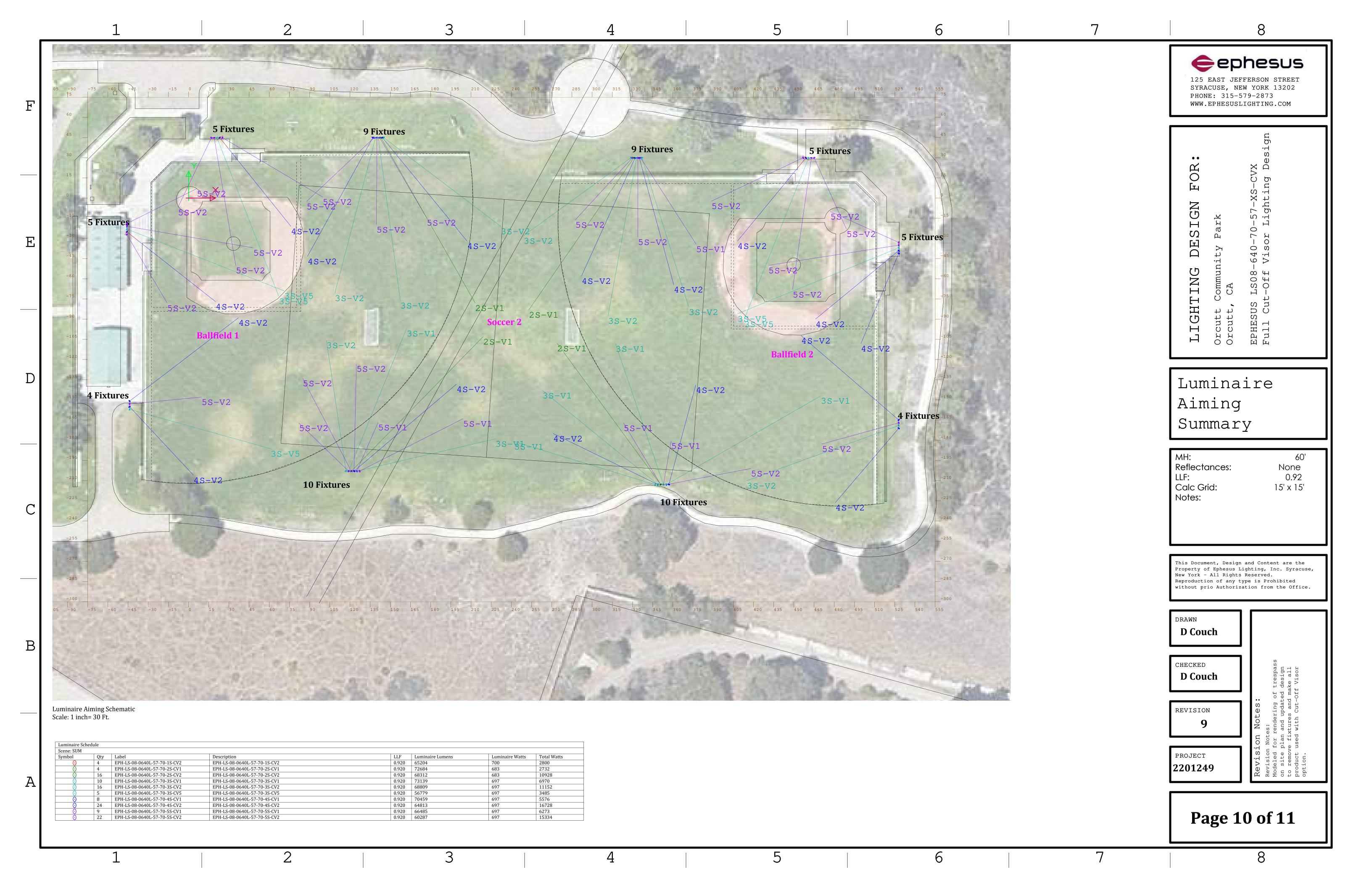


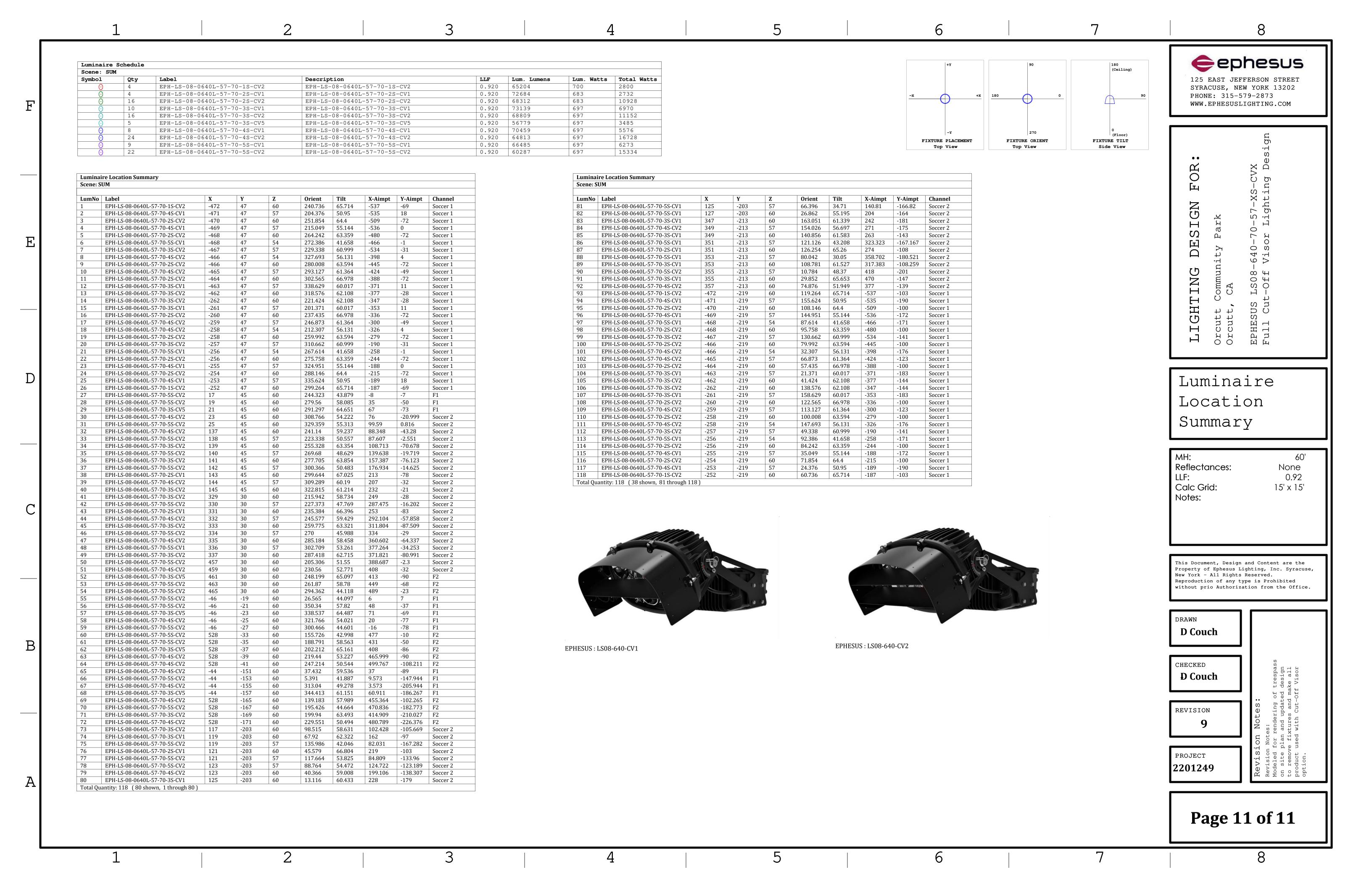














EPHESUS: LS08-640-CV1



LIGHTING POLES & FIXTURES ARE BRONZE IN COLOR.

EPHESUS: LS08-640-CV2

☐ PLAYFIELD FIXTURE SPECIFICATIONS

ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING

PLAYFIELD LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS

LUMASPORT 8

Performance Data¹

	LUMASPORT 8 (320W)	LUMASPORT 8 (640W)		
Lumen Output Range ²	48,303 - 55,419lm	80,572 - 92,929lm		
Nominal Power ³	340W	680W		
Input Voltage (Low Voltage)	120-277VAC	120-277VAC		
Input Voltage (High Voltage)	347-480VAC	347-480VAC		
Efficacy Range ²	140.4 - 163.5 lm/W	117.5 - 139.3 lm/W		
CRI⁴	70, 80	70, 80		
TLCI ⁵	75	75		
CCT Range	4000K, 5000K, 5700K	4000K, 5000K, 5700K		
Distribution (NEMA)	3-5,7	3-5		
Dimming Range	DIM TO OFF, 10%-100%	DIM TO OFF, 10%-100%		
Operating Temperature Range	-40°C to +40°C	-40°C to +40°C		
Usage	INDOOR, OUTDOOR6	INDOOR, OUTDOOR6		
Mounting Options (3G RATED)	LOCAL YOKE; LOCAL PENDANT	LOCAL YOKE; LOCAL PENDANT		
Electrical Certifications	FCC, UL8750, UL1598, DLC Standard (NANQSV)	FCC, UL8750, UL1598, DLC Standard (NANQSV)		
Environmental Certifications	IP66, NEMA4X ⁷	IP66, NEMA4X ⁷		
Vibration	ANSI C136.31-2010 3G8	ANSI C136.31-2010 3G8		
Surge	10kV	10kV		
Effective Projected Area (EPA)	1.8 (sq. ft.)	1.8 (sq. ft.)		
Effective Projected Area (EPA) with Visor (VHE , CV1, CV2, CV5)9	1.8 - 2.5 (sq. ft.)	1.8 - 2.5 (sq. ft.)		
Approximate Weight ¹⁰	67.5 LBS	71.5 LBS		
Approximate Weight with Visor (VHE , CV1, CV2, CV5)10	71.5 LBS	75.5 LBS		

(1) Specifications are subject to change without notice.(2) Refer to Optical Performance Data.(3) Values are +/- 4% when fixture is operated at 25°C ambient

(4) Values are +/- 2%

(5) Values are +/- 3 points.
(6) When driver box is mounted in upright position.
(7) Light head meets NEMA4X Certification
(8) LumaSport 8 with Visors (VHE, CV1, CV2, CV5) qualifies for ANSI C136, 31-2010 1.5G

(9) EPA may vary depending on the aiming angle of the fixture.
(10) Weight may vary depending on mounting bracket, VHE Visor option, light head and driver box selection.

Electrical Performance Data

Product	Input Voltage Range (VAC)	Nominal Input Power (W)	Input Current (A)	Power Factor (>60% Load)	THD (>60% Load)	Inrush (A2s)	Inrush period (ms)	Peak Inrush (A)
LS-8-320	120-277	340 (365 Max)	1.3 - 3.0 (4.0 Max)	> 0.9	< 20%	1.9	3.52	150
	347-480	340 (365 Max)	0.7 - 1.0 (1.5 Max)	> 0.9	< 20%	3.87	1.77	70
LS-8-640	120-277	680 (740 Max)	2.5 - 5.9 (8.0 Max)	> 0.9	< 20%	3.8	3.52	300
	347-480	680 (740 Max)	1.5 - 2.0 (3.0 Max)	> 0.9	< 20%	7.74	1.77	140

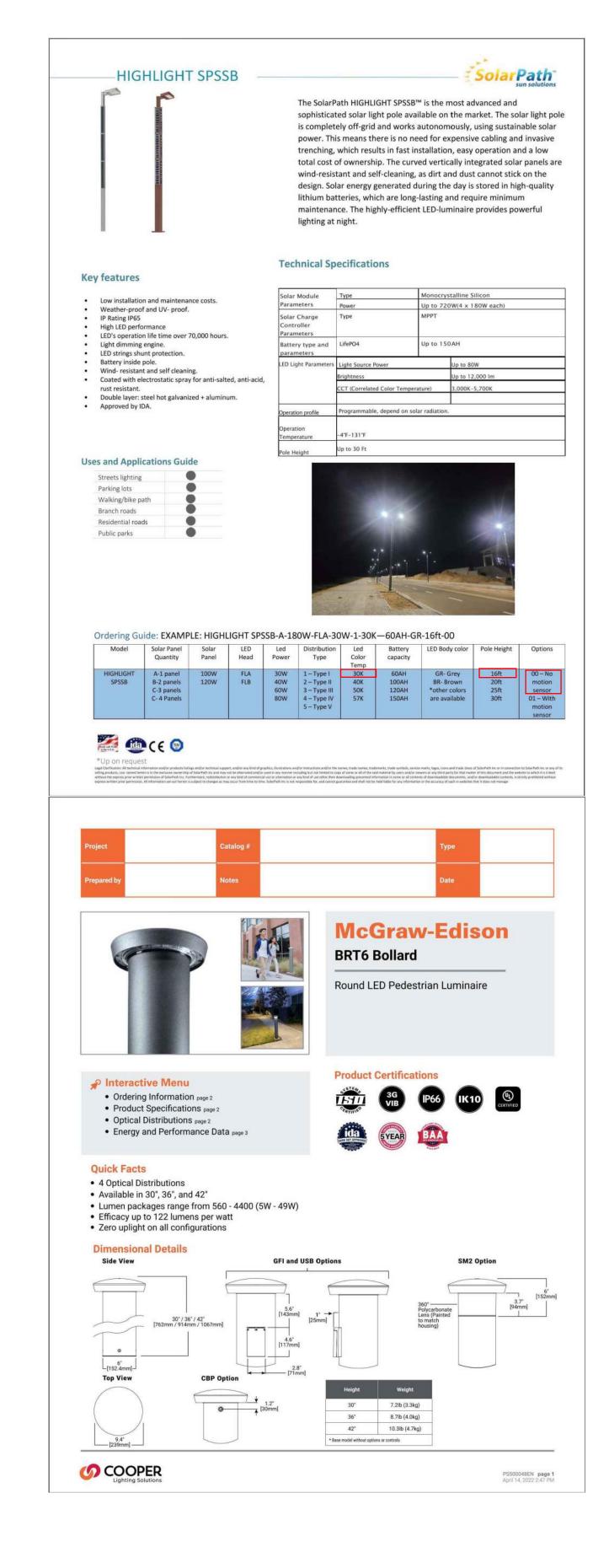










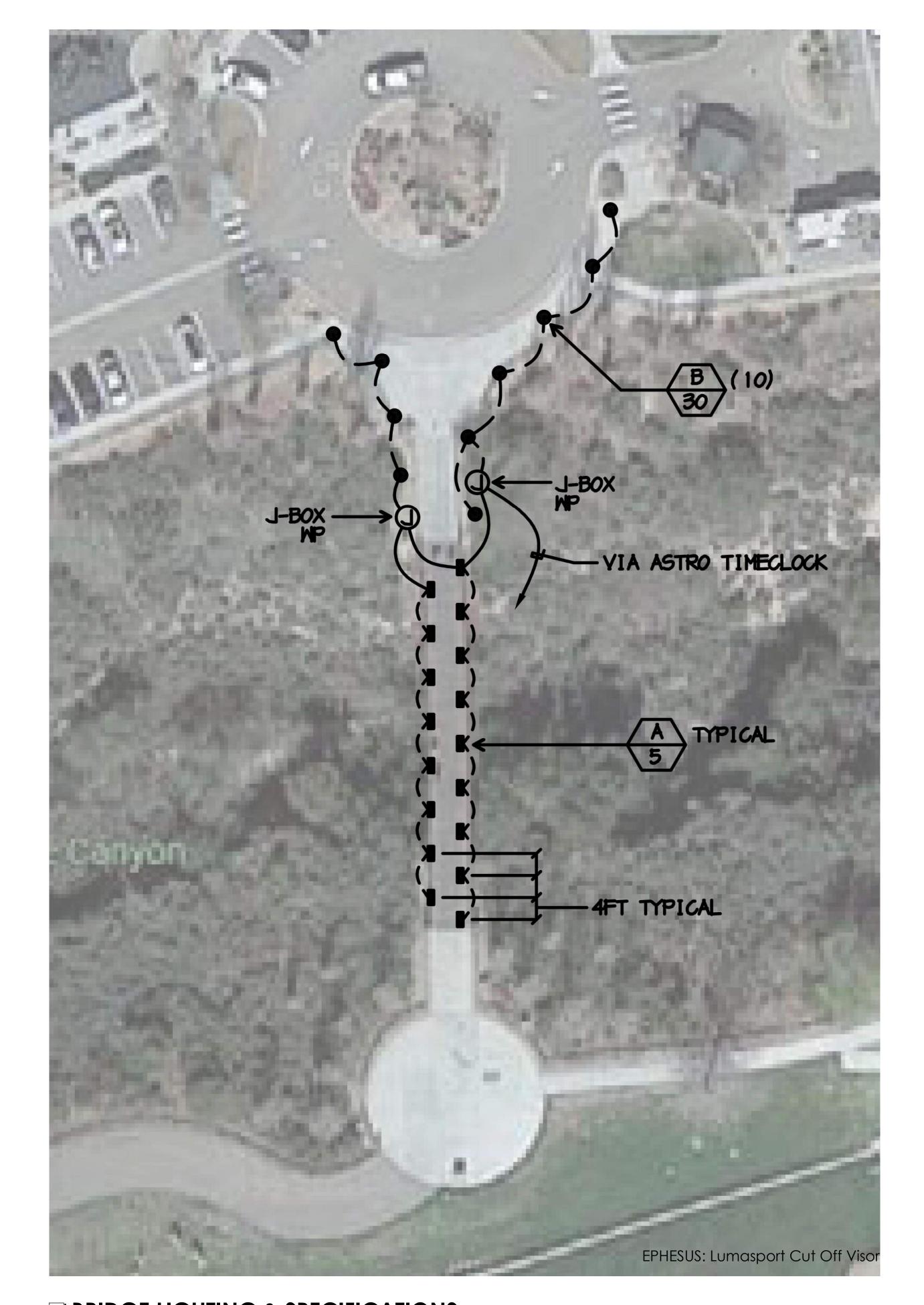


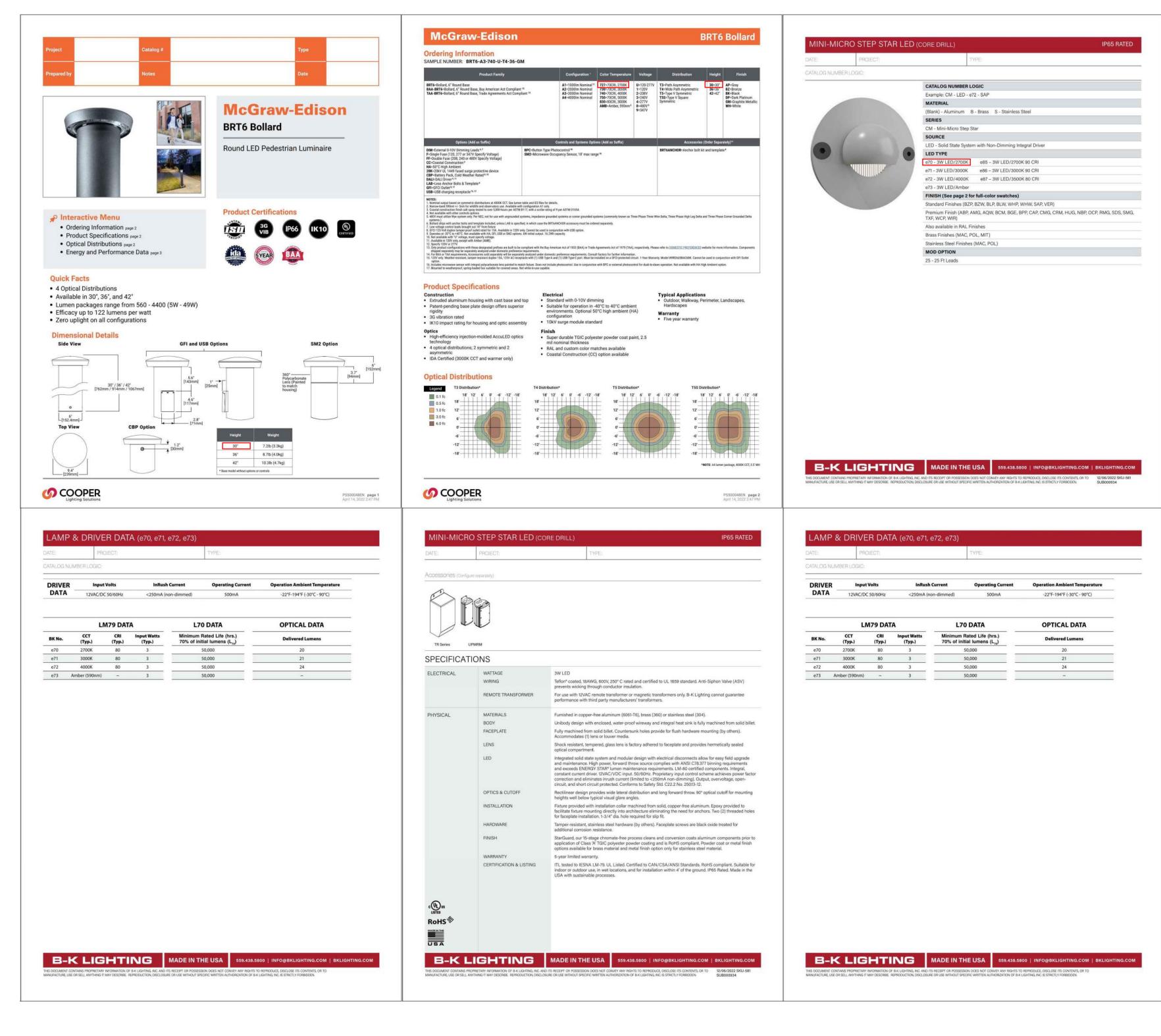
☐ PARKING LOT LIGHTING & SPECIFICATIONS

ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING









☐ BRIDGE LIGHTING & SPECIFICATIONS

ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING







☐ PHOTO SIMULATIONS - A

ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING







☐ PHOTO SIMULATIONS - B

ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING





☐ PHOTO SIMULATIONS - C

ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING





☐ PHOTO SIMULATIONS - D

ORCUTT COMMUNITY PARK PLAYFIELD LIGHTING





ATTACHMENT J: BIOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT



Jill Van Wie Capital Projects Manager County of Santa Barbara Parks 123 East Anapamu Street, 2nd Floor Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Date: September 18, 2023

Subject: Reconnaissance Biological Survey, May 2023

Orcutt Community Park

Dear Ms. Van Wie,

Arcadis U.S., Inc. 735 Tank Farm Road Suite 150 San Luis Obispo California 93401 Phone: 805 706 2805

Fax: 805 782 9273

www.arcadis.com

Arcadis, U.S., Inc. (Arcadis) is pleased to provide you with the results of the reconnaissance survey conducted on May 1, 2023 at the Orcutt Community Park, Orcutt, Santa Barbara County, California (Site). Arcadis understands that because increased use of the playing fields at the Orcutt Community Park, the Santa Barbara County Parks department is proposing to install lighting around the playing fields and parking area, and at the bridge between the parking area and the playing fields. The Site is within the Rice Ranch Planning area and the current Rice Ranch Specific Plan does not allow for lighting at the Orcutt Community Park. The survey was conducted to understand whether there were common or special status species inhabiting the Site and vicinity that would be adversely affected by the use of lighting on the playing fields, parking lot, and pedestrian bridge. This letter details the surveys and results and provides recommendations to reduce impacts on wildlife.

Desktop Review

Prior to the field survey, Arcadis completed desktop environmental review to identify common and special status species with the potential to occur on the Site. Online sources for this review included the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Rarefind 5 and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). Arcadis used the United States Geologic Survey Orcutt 7.5 minute quadrangle for the desktop survey area. Results of the desktop survey are provided in Attachment A. Arcadis also reviewed previous reports and documents related to the Rice Ranch Specific Plan.

Special Status Species

According to the CNDDB and IPaC database query conducted in April 2023, the following special status species have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the Site because the site provides at least marginal habitat to support the species.

California tiger salamander (Ambystoma californiense) California tiger salamanders generally inhabits valley foothills and grasslands near vernal pools or other sources of water for breeding. Requires upland aestivation habitat near aquatic breeding habitat. This species often uses gopher or ground squirrel burrows for aestivation. No suitable aquatic breeding habitat occurs within the Project vicinity. Seasonal flows in Pine Creek are too high for successful breeding. CNDDB does not report known occurrences of California tiger salamander within 1 mile of the Site (CNDDB

Jill Van Wie County of Santa Barbara September 18, 2023

2023).

- California red-legged frog (Rana draytonii). California red-legged frogs are found primarily in coastal drainages in California from Marin County to northern Baja California. This species requires upland and aquatic breeding habitat. Will breed in ponds or slow-moving streams with deep pools with vegetation for egg attachment. Will use both riparian and upland habitat for cover and foraging. CNDDB reports a known occurrence of this species in an unnamed tributary of Orcutt Creek near Highway 1, approximately 1.88 miles to the west of the Site (CNDDB 2023). Within the Project area, flows within Pine Creek are too high to provide suitable breeding habitat for California red-legged frog.
- Western spadefoot (Spea hammondii). Western spadefoots prefers open areas with sandy or
 gravelly soils in a variety of habitats. Vernal pools are essential for breeding. No suitable breeding
 habitat occurs near the survey area. The closest known location of this species is approximately 1
 mile to the northeast and approximately ½ mile to the south (CNDDB 2023).
- Northern California legless lizard (Anniella pulchra pulchra). This species inhabits moist soils in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chapparal, and oak woodlands. Prefers leaf litter under trees and bushes. Can also be found beneath rocks and logs. Sandy soils are present but preferred habitat is not present within the survey area. CNDDB reports the nearest known location of this species is approximately 1.65 miles to the northeast (CNDDB 2023).
- Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus) Least Bell's vireo breeds and forages in riparian habitat in Southern California, primarily along the coast. This species requires dense riparian areas dominated by willows. The riparian habitat occurs within Pine Creek is patchy and there are no known occurrences within Pine Creek within the Project vicinity (CNDDB 2023).

The Site overlaps with designated critical habitat for La Graciosa thistle (*Cirsium lonchopepsis*) and Lompoc yerba santa (*Eriodictyon capitatum*). Habitat for these species does not occur within the Project vicinity (IPaC 2023).

Site Characteristics

The Orcutt Community Park (Park) consists of a parking area, dog park, and playing fields. The Park also includes picnic tables, group picnic area, barbeque grills, and playground. The Park is landscaped with grass playing fields, restrooms, and concrete walkways. Ornamental landscaped vegetation occurs along the entrance and within the parking lot.

The Park is generally surrounded by open space scrub vegetation and Pine Creek occurs to the north of the playing fields and south of the parking area. There is a pedestrian bridge that connects the parking area to the playing fields. Residential development occurs to the north, west, and east of the Park.

Pine Creek runs east to west and is dominated by riparian vegetation including arroyo willow (*Salix lasio*lepis), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and narrow leafed willow (*Salix exigua*).

Within the open space areas adjacent to the playing fields, scrub vegetation dominates. A network of trails occurs within the open space areas. Non-native annual grasslands including ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) and wild oats (*Avena barbata*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) occur along the trails. Oak woodland vegetation occurs along the edge of the Park at Sage Crest Drive.

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Field Survey

Arcadis biologists Mitch Siemens conducted a reconnaissance-level sensitive species survey at the Site on May 1, 2023. The survey area was focused on the parking lot, walking bridge over Pine Creek, riparian areas around the creek, and the soccer and softball fields in addition to a buffer of surrounding open space. The survey area was determined based on the estimated distance light could be seen from the playing fields and included Sage Crest Drive to the north and Orcutt Hill Road to the west (Ephesus Sports Lighting, 2023). At the time of the survey weather conditions consisted of cloudy skies, mild winds to approximately 8 miles per hour and temperatures in the upper 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Mr. Siemens walked the survey area recording bird species and wildlife observations. He used pair of 8 by 42 roof prism binoculars to aid in bird identification.

Results

In general, the Site provides minimal habitat for special status species. Several common species occur at the site and would be species that would be generally acclimated to human presence.

Special Status Wildlife

No observations of special status species occurred during the survey. No observations or sign of California tiger salamander or California red-legged frog were observed. Previous studies for California tiger Salamander (Arcadis, 2013) indicated that the site does not provide suitable upland aestivation or aquatic breeding habitat for California tiger salamander. California red-legged frog is known to occur within Orcutt Creek to the north of the Project site, but no suitable habitat for California red-legged frog occurs within Pine Creek within the survey area. Marginal habitat for Least Bell's vireo is present within Pine Creek but because of the frequency of human presence, it is unlikely this species is nesting within the creek. Least bell's vireo were not observed during the survey.

Common Species

Species observed during the survey were birds; both year-round residents such as house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) and spring migrants such as black-headed grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), ash-throated flycatcher (*Myiarchus cinerascens*), pacific-slope flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), and barn swallow (*Hirundo rustica*). Other wildlife potentially present and inferred from sign such as scat and earth mounds included Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*). No observation of bats or their sign were observed during the survey.

The species observed are considered species that would not be affected by lighting at Orcutt Community Park. The use of lighting in and around Pine Creek would not have adverse effects on species that inhabit the creek and riparian areas. Species observed are those that are generally acclimated to human presence and would not be affected by lighting. While the Park is surrounded by open space, there are also residences to the north, east and west and these residential areas would subject wildlife to a certain degree of lighting.

Conclusion

Artificial lighting can negatively affect wildlife by altering behavior and by creating phototaxis, or attracting

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wildlife to the light. Excessive light can temporary blind wildlife species, cause disorientation, or alter circadian rhythm (Miller 2006). However, the species observed during the survey are species that are generally acclimated to human presence and disturbance, including noise and light. Impacts on wildlife as a result of using lighting at the Orcutt Community Park are not anticipated.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to support the County on this important project. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Arcadis U.S., Inc.

Lee Miles, AICP Principal Environmental Scientist

Email: Lee.Miles@Arcadis.com Direct Line: 415.361.7109

CC. George Amoon, County of Santa Barbara

Enclosures:

Attachment CNDDB and IPaC Database Results

References Used:

Arcadis, U.S., Inc. 2013. California Tiger Salamander Habitat Assessment for Rice Ranch Ventures, LLC. August 2013.

Ephesus Sports Lighting. 2023. Photometric Drawings for Orcutt Community Park. January 23, 2023.

Miller, Mark W. 2006. Apparent Effects of Light Pollution on Singing Behavior of American Robins. The Condor. Volume 108, Issue 1, February 2006. Pages 130-139.

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