

ATTACHMENT 1: 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 Guidelines Section 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.

1.1.4 FINDINGS ADDRESSING ADDENDUM ISSUE AREAS

The Addendum, included as Attachment 2 to the Board letter dated June 18, 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 the Board letter dated June 18, 2024, Section 6.1 of the Planning Commission staff report dated April 30, 2024, and in the Addendum dated April 30, 2024, each 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 the Board letter dated June 18, 2024, and Section 6.2 of the Planning Commission staff report dated April 30, 2024, each 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.

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 the Board letter dated June 18, 2024, and Section 6.2 of the Planning Commission staff report dated April 30, 2024, each 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. The proposed amendments specify that sports field lighting will 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. 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 Planning Commission 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.