



County of El Dorado

Chief Administrative Office

Parks Division

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Date: May 18, 2023

To: Interested Parties

Lead Agency: El Dorado County

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Session for the Diamond Springs Community Park Project

Review Period: May 18, 2023 to June 16, 2023

Purpose of Notice: In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), El Dorado County (County) is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Diamond Springs Community Park Project (“project”) (refer to **Figure 1**), as identified below, and is requesting comments on the scope and content of the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR will address potential physical and environmental effects of the project for each of the environmental topics outlined in CEQA.

The County is the lead agency responsible for approval of the project.. This NOP starts a public scoping period that will assist the County in the preparation of the Draft EIR. The public scoping period is for 30 days and will run from May 18, 2023 to June 16, 2023. The purpose of the NOP is to provide sufficient information about the project and its potential environmental impacts to allow agencies and the interested parties the opportunity to provide a meaningful response related to the scope and content of the Draft EIR, including possible environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and alternatives.

Comment Period: Written comments and any questions on the NOP and can be sent anytime during the NOP review period which begins May 18, 2023 to June 16, 2023. The County will accept written or electronic comments submitted by 5:00 p.m. on June 16, 2023, to the following addresses:

Via US Postal Service:
Vickie Sanders, Parks Manager
County of El Dorado
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

Via Email:
Vickie.Sanders@edcgov.us

Comments provided via email should include “Diamond Springs Community Park Project NOP Scoping Comment” in the subject line and the name and physical address of the commenter in the body of the email.

Public Scoping Session: The County will host a public scoping session to inform interested parties about the project, and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR. If you have any questions about the scoping session, please contact 530-621-6060 or Serena.Lemmons@edcgov.us.

Date: June 7, 2023
Time: 6:00-8:00 PM
Location: Charles F. Brown Elementary School
Multipurpose Room
6520 Oak Dell Road
El Dorado, California 95623

Project Location: The approximately 40-acre project site is located at 3447 Clemenger Drive, Diamond Springs, California. The project site is directly accessible via Oak Dell Road to Highway 49, is approximately 1.9 miles south of Highway 50, and approximately 3.8 miles southwest of the City of Placerville. Charles F. Brown Elementary School (Mother Lode Union School District [MLUSD]) is located immediately to the west and Union Mine High School/Pacific Crest Academy (El Dorado Union High School District [EDUHSD]) is located to the southwest.

The project site consists of two (2) undeveloped, contiguous parcels.

Accessor Parcel Numbers (APNs): 331-301-019 (north parcel)
331-400-002 (south parcel)

Description of the Project: The project would develop a community park, and offer various active and passive recreational amenities to the local community, nearby schools, and sports leagues. The western and central portion of the site would be graded for active uses and existing vegetation would be removed. The eastern portion of the site would not be developed, except for passive educational and recreational uses (e.g., pedestrian trails).

The conceptual park design includes the following:

- Ballfields (soccer fields, softball fields);
- Basketball courts;
- Tennis/sports courts;
- Play areas (ages 2-5/5-12);
- Recreational/indoor gym;
- Pedestrian trails; and,
- Designated parking areas, restrooms/concessions, and open turf.

Lighting (including pole-mounted lighting in the parking lots and sports lighting of the ballfields), native and drought-tolerant landscaping, and utilities are planned. Future uses could also include natural preserve areas, a sand volleyball court, and other compatible educational and recreational amenities. To maximize the centralized location and multi-use and community nature of the proposed project, the project is being designed (in coordination with the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services [OES], the Diamond Springs – El Dorado Fire Protection District, and El Dorado County Emergency Preparedness and Response) to improve County resiliency and reduce vulnerability in the event of emergencies/natural disasters (wildfire, flooding, etc.). To support this goal, the project's vehicular access, circulation, and location and capacity of utility connections have been designed to provide infrastructure sized to support emergency operations/disaster planning, including potential occupation by emergency event evacuees.

Potential Permits and Approvals Required: For the purposes of CEQA, the term “Responsible Agency” includes all public agencies other than the Lead Agency that have discretionary approval power over the project (CEQA Guidelines Section 15381). Discretionary approval power may include such actions as issuance of a permit, authorization, or easement needed to complete some aspect of the proposed project. It is anticipated that approval from various County departments would be required to complete construction of the project. Where County approval may constitute a discretionary decision, such as potential approvals related to utility connections, it is expected that the County would use the EIR for the project to support these decisions. Accordingly, the County has invited the MLUSD and EDUHSD to serve as CEQA Responsible Agencies in this environmental impact reporting process.

Other agencies whose approval may be required for the project include, but may not be limited to, Caltrans District 3, El Dorado Air Quality Management District, Sheriff’s OES, Diamond Springs - El Dorado Fire Protection District, El Dorado Irrigation District, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Potential Environmental Effects: The Draft EIR will describe the significant direct and indirect environmental impacts of the project. The Draft EIR also will evaluate the cumulative impacts of the project, defined as impacts that could be exacerbated when considered in conjunction with other related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. The Draft EIR will also examine a reasonable range of alternatives to the project.

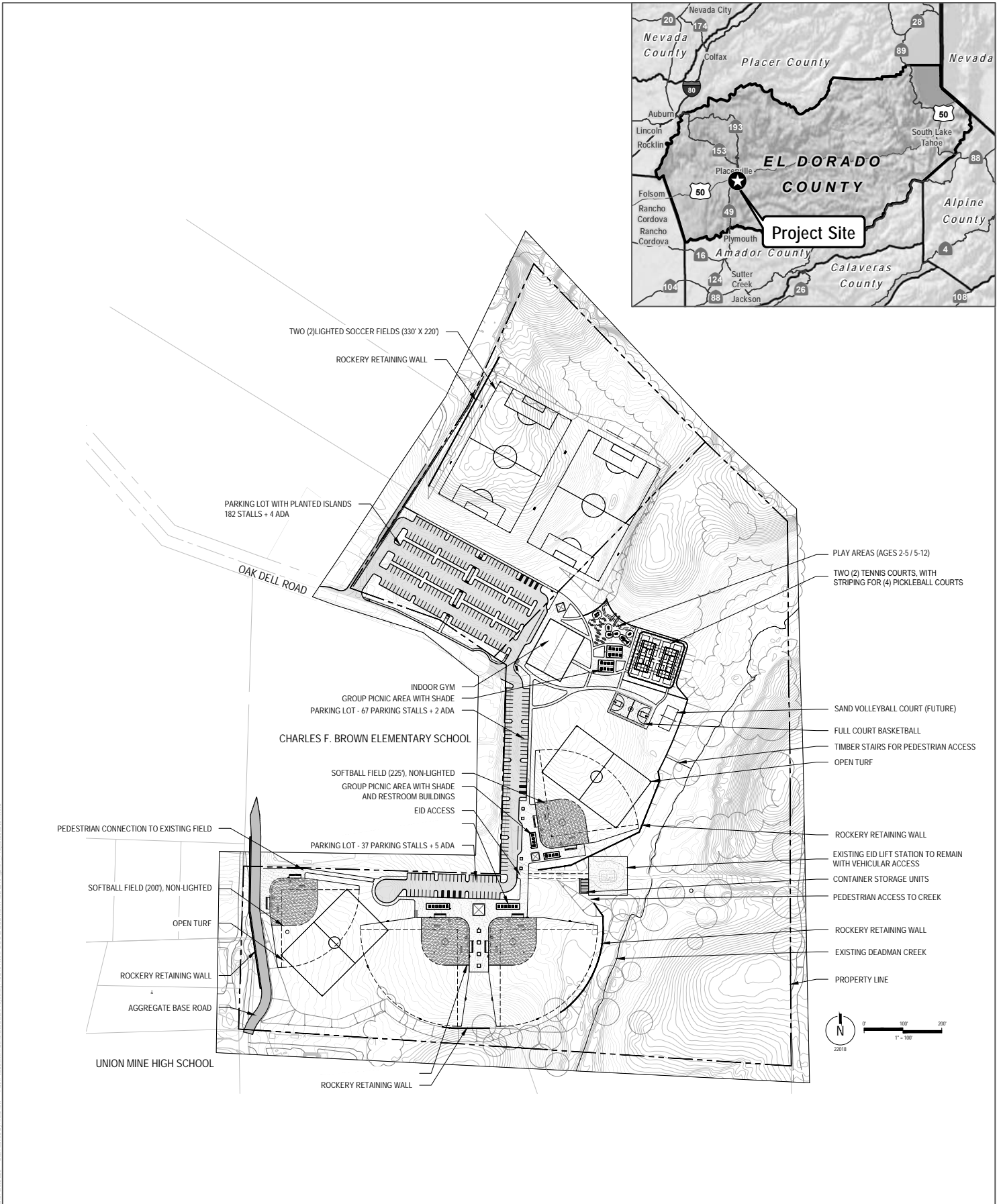
The following environmental issues will be evaluated in the EIR.

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation and Traffic
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

As necessary, feasible and practicable mitigation measures will be recommended to reduce any identified significant or potentially significant impacts. The County anticipates that the project would not result in significant environmental impacts to the following resource topics and does not propose to evaluate them further in the EIR: agriculture and forestry resources, land use and planning, mineral resources, and population and housing.

Discussions of resources not discussed further are provided in an Initial Study with explanations as to why significant impacts to each resource are not anticipated. The NOP and Initial Study shall be available online at the following web address:

<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Parks/diamond-springs-community-park>



SOURCE: Roach and Campbell 2023

FIGURE 1

Diamond Springs Community Park Conceptual Site Plan

Diamond Springs Community Park Project