

# County of Santa Clara

Department of Planning and Development  
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## Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code 21,000, et sec.) that the following project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

File Number	TAZ	APN(s)	Date
6512-08-82-05A-05G	--	142-04-020	7/29/05
Project Name		Project Type	
Stanford Football Stadium Renovation Project		Insttutional / Recreation	
Owner		Applicant	
Stanford University		Stanford University	
Project Location			

625 Nelson Road, Stanford University. The Stanford Football Stadium is located at the southwest corner of El Camino Real & Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto.

### Project Description

#### Overall Approach

Stanford University is proposing to renovate its existing football stadium by creating a smaller venue with better facilities. The existing seating, arcade, and press box for the stadium will be demolished and removed, with the new seating constructed closer to the playing field.

#### Major Renovation Components

The main components involved in accomplishing the proposed stadium renovation are described below.

- (1) The existing seating, press box, and arcade will be demolished and removed.
- (2) The berm and existing landscaping, stairs and tunnels will be preserved.
- (3) The existing field houses, ticket offices, surface parking lot and all other outbuildings outside the stadium also will also remain in their current locations, with no exterior modifications.
- (4) Three new tunnels will be bored into the north and west sides of the existing berm, providing a total of seven tunnels.
- (5) The playing field will be lowered by approximately 4 feet in elevation
- (6) New seating will be constructed in a fully enclosed octagonal pattern and moved closer to the playing field, further within the inside of the existing berm.
- (7) The new seating will be constructed on approximately 100,000 cubic yards of fill imported to the stadium site.

Board of Supervisors: Blanca Alvarado, Donald F. Gage, Pete McHugh, James T. Beall Jr., Liz Kniss  
Acting County Executive: Pete Kutras, Jr.

- (8) New seating will consist of two levels, separated by a mid level concourse. The lower seating will be moved in, with the field wall approximately 40 feet closer to the football sideline. The upper level of seats will be moved in approximately 50 feet from their present location and extend up to 38 feet above the top of the berm. The mid-level concourse will be used for concessions and restrooms. Tunnels through the berm will provide access to this concourse level.
- (9) A new five story press box will be constructed, moved in approximately 30 feet from its present location. The building will be 68 feet tall (25 feet higher than the existing press box).
- (10) The two scoreboards will be relocated closer to the playing field
- (11) The stadium lights will remain in the same location.
- (12) Emergency access will be provided to the top of the berm and around the stadium, consisting of a 20 foot road along the top of the berm and two ramps of 13 and 15 feet in width, respectively, providing access from the bottom.

### **Square Footage / Seating Changes**

The overall seating capacity for the stadium will be reduced from 85,500 to 50,858 seats, however the overall square footage will increase by 30,693 square feet to approximately 410,000 square feet. The increase in square footage is mainly attributable to the expanded restrooms and concessions in the new concourse level and larger press box.

### **Grading / Tree Removal**

In order to accomplish the proposed renovation / redevelopment of the stadium, up to 100,000 cubic yards of dirt will be imported to the stadium site. The preliminary grading quantities associated with the improvements include 19,281 cubic yards of cut and 108,820 cubic yards of fill. The majority of this fill dirt will be used to "fill in" the berm on its inside portion, allowing the seats to be moved closer to the playing field. Per mitigation measures listed in the biological and historical resources section, no grading will be allowed on the outer berm. It is expected that the fill will come from a combination of on and off site sources. There is an existing stockpile of dirt at a location on Fremont road on campus which can provide up to approximately 50,000 cy of dirt. Fill dirt may also be provided from a proposed graduate housing complex and underground parking garage. However, for the purpose of this CEQA analysis, fill dirt is assumed to come from off-site sources and the corresponding environmental impacts are evaluated. The specific source of any off-site dirt needed is not known yet.

Improvements associated with constructing the enclosed stadium seating and widening the two ramps to the top of the berm for fire truck access will result in the removal of some trees. This includes five trees between 6 and 24" in diameter (measured 4.5 feet above ground) associated with the seating extension, and four trees between 5 and 15" in diameter associated with widening the two ramps. In addition, to allow construction and future emergency access, several trees adjacent to the ramps will need to be pruned, and some trees could be inadvertently impacted through demolition activities associated with removal of the existing arcaded wall. Submitted landscaping plans indicate that many new trees will be planted along the esplanade and roadway on top of the berm, including a combination of crape myrtle, oaks, and redwoods.

### **Construction Schedule**

Construction is scheduled to start in November 2005 following the final football game at the stadium for the 2005 season, and anticipated to finish within 9 months. Construction equipment will include large earthmoving equipment, steel erection equipment, and two tower cranes located in the field area as well as three to five support cranes around the outer limits. The

construction equipment will vary with the phase of construction, for example, the demolition phase will include jackhammers, pavement breakers, excavators, etc.

In order to complete an expedited construction schedule, a two-shift operation is proposed, with construction occurring daily from 7:00 am until 11:30 pm. For evening work, the existing stadium lights will be used, with minimal light towers (i.e., construction spot lights) near the entrances for access to the site.

Construction staging will occur in existing adjacent parking lots. The site will be accessed from Nelson Road for all small deliveries and for importing fill dirt to the site. The overflow parking lot northeast of the stadium will stage the bleacher system and therefore will be accessed from El Camino Real. Import dirt will not be stockpiled in the parking lots but instead be stockpiled on the stadium floor.

### **Stanford General Use Permit (GUP) and Use of GUP Program EIR for CEQA clearance**

On December 12, 2000, Santa Clara County approved a Community Plan and General Use Permit (GUP) governing development projects on the Stanford campus. The GUP allows Stanford to construct up to 2,035,000 net square feet of academic and academic support uses, 3,018 net new housing units, and 2,300 net new parking spaces

The GUP refers to the Community Plan's definition of permitted academic and academic support uses. Relevant to the proposed Stadium Renovation, the Community Plan states that allowable academic uses include "athletics, physical education, and recreation facilities." (SCP-LU 2 (5))

Prior to approval of the Community Plan and GUP, Santa Clara County certified the Stanford University Draft Community Plan and General Use Permit Application Final Environmental Impact Report (State Clearinghouse No. 1999112107) (2000 GUP EIR). The 2000 GUP EIR, which is a Program EIR, explains how it is to be used in evaluating later activities governed by the GUP:

"[A]s each individual building project is developed, Santa Clara County is required to examine the proposed development and to determine whether potential effects have been fully analyzed in this Program EIR. If proposed building projects would have no effects beyond those already analyzed, Santa Clara County can find that the building projects are covered by this Program EIR and no further CEQA environmental documentation would be required. If a proposed building project would have effects that were not analyzed in this Program EIR, a new environmental document would need to be prepared with additional focused environmental documentation. This approach provides an opportunity to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of CEQA compliance while achieving a high level of environmental protection." (2000 GUP EIR, page 1-3)

The CEQA checklist used with this initial study incorporates and the past CEQA clearance provided by the GUP Program EIR. Thus, where applicable based on identified impacts, the box "Less than significant with GUP or new mitigation incorporated" is included and refers to either the use of applicable mitigation listed within the GUP Program EIR or new mitigation identified within this Initial Study to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

<b>Purpose of Notice</b>		
<p>The purpose of this notice is to inform you that the County Planning Staff has recommended that a Mitigated Negative Declaration be approved for this project. County of Santa Clara Planning Staff has reviewed the Initial Study for the project, and based upon substantial evidence in the record, <b>finds that although the proposed project could initially have a significant effect on the environment, changes or alterations have been incorporated into the project to avoid or reduce impacts to a point where clearly no significant effects will occur.</b></p> <p>A public hearing for the proposed project is tentatively scheduled for the Architectural &amp; Site Approval Committee on <b>September 8th</b> in the County Government Center, Room 157 at 9:30 AM. In addition, the project will be considered by the Santa Clara County Historical Heritage Commission on <b>August 18<sup>th</sup></b> at 6:30 PM in the County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Chambers. It should be noted that the approval of a Mitigated Negative Declaration does not constitute approval of the project under consideration. The decision to approve or deny the project will be made separately.</p>		
<b>Public Review Period:</b>	<b>Begins:</b> July 29, 2005	<b>Ends:</b> August 29, 2005
<p>Public Comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of this negative declaration are invited and must be received on or before the hearing date. Such comments should be based on specific environmental concerns. Written comments should be addressed to the <b>County of Santa Clara Planning Office, County Government Center, 70 W. Hedding Street, San Jose, CA 95110, Tel: (408) 299-5770</b>. Oral comments may be made at the hearing. A file containing additional information on this project may be reviewed at the Planning Office under the file number appearing at the top of this form. For additional information regarding this project and the Mitigated Negative Declaration, please contact <b>Rob Eastwood</b> at (408) 299-5792</p>		
<b>The Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study may be viewed at the following locations:</b>		
<p>(1) Santa Clara County Planning Office, 70 West Hedding Street, East Wing, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Jose, CA 95110  (2) Planning Office Website <a href="http://www.sccplanning.org">www.sccplanning.org</a> (Environmental Documents under "Find it Fast")  (3) Palo Alto Downtown Library 270 Forest Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94301  (4) Palo Alto College Terrace Library 2300 Wellesley Avenue Palo Alto, CA 94306</p>		
<b>Responsible Agencies sent a copy of this document</b>		
State Clearinghouse		
<b>Mitigation Measures included in the project to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level:</b>		

#### VISUAL

- All temporary light towers used in the construction staging areas for the stadium shall be directed away from El Camino Real and towards the Stadium, to prevent light spillover and glare off-site.

#### AIR QUALITY

Per programmatic mitigation measures recommended by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), the following mitigation measures shall be adhered to during construction:

- Water all active construction areas at least twice daily;
- Cover all trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials or require all trucks to maintain at least two feet of freeboard;
- Pave, apply water three time daily, or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers on all unpaved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites;
- Sweep daily (with water sweepers) all paved access roads, parking areas and staging areas at construction sites;
- Sweep streets daily (with water sweepers) if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets;

- f. Hydroseed or apply (non-toxic) soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas (previously graded areas inactive for ten days or more);
- g. Enclose, cover, water twice daily or apply (non-toxic) soil binders to exposed stockpiles (dirt, sand, etc.);
- h. Limit traffic speeds on unpaved roads to 15 mph;
- i. Install sandbags or other erosion control measures to prevent silt runoff to public roadways; and
- j. Replant vegetation in disturbed areas as quickly as possible.
- k. Install wheel washers for all exiting trucks, or wash off the tires of tracks of all trucks and equipment leaving the site.
- l. Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds (instantaneous gusts) exceed 25 mph.

- All construction contractors shall properly maintain the equipment and, where feasible, use “clean fuel” equipment and emissions control technology (e.g., CNG-fired engines, catalytic converters, particulate traps, turbocharged / intercooled engines, 4 of retard for engine timing). Measures to reduce diesel emission would be considered feasible when they are capable of being used on equipment without interfering substantially with equipment performance.

In order to implement this mitigation measure for the Stanford Stadium Renovation project, an emissions reduction compliance plan shall be submitted for review and approval by the Planning Office prior to the issuance of final construction permits which specifically indicates how construction equipment used for the Stadium Renovation project will use emissions control technology.

## BIOLOGICAL

- **Tree Removal**-As identified within the 2000 GUP EIR and as required by GUP Condition K(4), trees protected by the County’s tree protection ordinance that are required to be removed as part of the extension of seating will be replaced at the following ratios: 3:1 for oaks and 1:1 for other protected trees. In order to further implement this Condition for the Stadium Renovation project, all replacement trees shall be native oak or 36” box trees. Final construction plans shall show the final number of trees proposed for removal with their required replacement plantings. Installation of the plantings shall be verified prior to final occupancy.
- **Disturbance to nesting raptors and migratory birds**- If possible, tree removal and construction should be scheduled to start between October and December (inclusive) to avoid the raptor nesting season. If this is not possible, pre-construction surveys for nesting raptors shall be conducted by a qualified ornithologist to identify active raptor nests that may be disturbed during project implementation. Between January and April (inclusive) pre-construction surveys shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction activities or tree removal. Between May and August (inclusive), pre-construction surveys more than thirty (30) days prior to the initiation of these activities. If an active raptor nest is found in or close enough to the construction area to be disturbed by these activities, the ornithologist, shall, in consultation with the California Department of Fish & Game, designate a construction free buffer zone (typically 250 feet) around the nest. The applicant shall submit a report indicating the result of the survey and any designated buffer zones to the satisfaction of the Planning Office prior to final inspection for the demolition permit portion of the construction renovation project
- **Potential construction impacts to trees**-Protective fencing shall be placed around the dripline of all ordinance sized trees (over 12” in diameter, measured 4.5 feet above ground) within the construction staging areas, and maintained during all construction activities.

## ARCHEOLOGY

- In the event that previously unidentified historic or prehistoric archaeological resources be discovered during building construction, the contractor shall cease work in the immediate area and the County Planning Office and Campus Archaeologist shall be contacted. An independent qualified archaeologist retained by the County at the expense of Stanford shall assess the significance of the find and make mitigation recommendations.
- If archeological resources are discovered as described above, construction monitoring shall be conducted at any time ground-disturbing activities (greater than 12 inches in depth) are taking place in the immediate vicinity of the identified resources,. If monitoring does not produce evidence of significant cultural resources within the project area, further mitigation shall be limited to construction monitoring, unless additional testing or other specific mitigation measures are determined by a qualified archaeologist to be necessary to ensure avoidance of damage to significant archaeological resources. A technical report of findings describing the results of all monitoring shall be prepared in accordance with professional standards. The archaeological monitoring program shall be implemented by an individual meeting the Secretary of Interior Professional Qualifications Standards in Archaeology (36 CFR 61); individual field monitors shall be qualified in the recognition of cultural resources and possess sufficient academic and field training as required to conduct the work effectively and without undue delay.
- In the event that human skeletal remains are encountered, the applicant is required by County Ordinance No. B6-18 to immediately notify the County Coroner. Upon determination by the County Coroner that the remains are Native American, the coroner shall contact the California Native American Heritage Commission, pursuant to subdivision (c) of section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code and the County Coordinator of Indian affairs. No further disturbance of the site may be made except as authorized by the County Coordinator Of Indian Affairs in accordance with the provisions of state law and this chapter. If artifacts are found on the site a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted along with the County Planning Office. No further disturbance of the artifacts may be made except as authorized by the County Planning Office.

## PALEONTOLOGY

- In the event that fossilized shell or bone is uncovered during any earth-disturbing operation, contractors shall stop work in the immediate area of the find and notify the Campus Archaeologist and the County Building Inspector assigned to the project. The Campus Archaeologist shall visit the site and make recommendations for treatment of the find (including but not limited to consultation with a paleontologist and excavation, if warranted), which would be sent to the County Building Inspection Office and the County Planning Office. If a fossil find is confirmed, it will be recorded with the United States Geological Survey and curated in an appropriate repository.

## HISTORICAL

- The 20' fire truck access road along the esplanade atop the berm shall be designed and constructed to maintain and reinforce the elliptical shape of the berm.
- A small, curved arcade will be constructed on the north side of the Stadium, further enhancing the elliptical shape, final design of the arcade shall be approved by the Historical Heritage Coordinator.
- The existing landscaped berm, including the trees & shrubbery, 26 concrete staircases, and light standards, shall be maintained and protected as outlined below:

- Temporary eight to 10 foot high chain link fencing, or equivalent, shall be placed between the outer edge of the arcaded wall and all mature trees on the outside landscaped berm. This fence shall be erected prior to the demolition of the arcaded wall and be maintained during all construction activities. Equivalent fencing shall be erected on both sides of all three ramps leading into the construction site and maintained as described above. The fences on the two ramps leading to the top of the berm shall be installed following widening. All of these fences shall be shown on construction plans with clear language describing their purpose. The ramp leading to the bottom of the stadium shall be used as the main access road. The two ramps leading to the top of the berm may also be used for access and importing fill, however no construction equipment larger than 12 feet high and 12 feet wide shall be allowed to use these two ramps. Language stating this shall be shown on final construction plans and corresponding signage shall be placed at the entrance of both ramps.
- Prior to the start of construction, a certified arborist shall prune all trees which may interfere with the ramps providing access into the site and the arcaded wall to be removed. The objective of this pruning shall be to provide the necessary construction (and future fire truck) clearance without damaging the health of the trees. The certified arborist shall periodically monitor construction activities to ensure that all protective fencing listed above is being maintained and that all trees to be preserved have not been damaged. The certified arborist shall submit a report to the Planning Office for approval prior to the final inspection on the demolition permit by the Building Office summarizing the results of the initial pruning and fence installation. A second report shall be submitted to the Planning Office for approval prior to final inspection summarizing the results of the periodic monitoring during construction, describing any corrective actions taken, if necessary.
- All trees designated for removal on the outer berm associated with widening the two ramps which are not protected by the County Tree Ordinance shall be replaced at a 1:1 ratio, with 36" box oaks. Final construction plans shall show the final number of trees proposed for removal with their required replacement plantings, to be approved by the Historical Heritage Coordinator. Installation of the plantings shall be verified prior to final occupancy.
- Any light standards impacted by widening the two ramps will be re-installed in-kind in the same general location. Any new lighting proposed to be installed on the on the top of or outside the berm, including upgrades to meet current code, shall compatible with existing light standards and approved by the Historical Heritage Coordinator.
- Design, Material type and color associated with modifications to the existing railings on the 26 stairways to meet current code shall be reviewed and approved by the Historical Heritage Coordinator,

## NOISE

- No pile driving shall be allowed.
- One sign shall be posted along El Camino Real, no smaller than 1,296 square inches in size, containing the name, telephone number, and email address of the appropriate Stanford person the public may contact to register a complaint about construction noise. Stanford shall keep a written record of all such complaints and shall provide copies of these records to the County Planning Office.

TRAFFIC

- Bicycle and pedestrian access onto the campus and around the Stadium (outside construction areas) shall not be substantially limited by construction activities associated the Renovation project. In addition, access to public transit shall not be limited, which could include the relocation or removal of adjacent bus stops. Final construction plans shall show all pedestrian and bicycle corridors along with public transit stops adjacent to the Stadium and indicate how bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access and circulation will be maintained during construction.
- Construction materials and fill dirt delivered from off campus shall not be delivered between the hours of 7:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 4:00 to 6:00 PM on weekdays.
- Trucks bringing in fill dirt and building materials for the stadium from off-site will be required to use truck routes shown on Figure 2 of the Initial Study as designated by the cities of Palo Alto and Menlo Park.

A reporting or monitoring program must be adopted for measures to mitigate significant impacts at the time the Mitigated Negative Declaration is approved, in accord with the requirements of section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code.

**Prepared by:**

Rob Eastwood, Planner III, AICP

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**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**Approved by:**

Rob Eastwood, Planner III, AICP

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

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**Date**