From: Thanh Vo
To: Planning_Commission
Subject: Fwd: Cabrillo Unified School District comment for Wednesday October 22 meeting
Date: Saturday, October 18, 2025 10:12:29 AM

I am resending. I had a typo with the email address. Sorry.
-Thanh (650) 622-6188

Begin forwarded message:

From: Thanh Vo <tvoelgranada@yahoo.com>
Date: October 18, 2025 at 10:01:51 AM PDT
To: Planning Commision San Mateo <planning_commision@smcgov.org>
Cc: Midcoast Community Council <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>
Subject: Cabrillo Unified School District comment for Wednesday October 22 meeting

Dear San Mateo County Planning Commision,

I am a resident of El Granada for almost 30 years. I would like to comment on El Granada Elementary School lighting schedule.

I think the lights should be turned off sooner than 7:30pm or 11:30pm or an on/off switch install as needed. This is an elementary school. School is out by mid afternoon. Child care latest pickup is 5:30pm. The parking lot is mostly emptied by 6pm. A few people might be working inside the buildings. Parking light can be left off until needed. There are less than 10 events per year that might go until 9pm at the latest. This is a residential and a scenic corridor. Any lights left on after dark would be pollution to dark sky. There has been too many lighting installation in the coastal corridor specially the El Granada firehouse and Farralone View School. Please keep the coast dark. Thank you.

-Thanh (650) 622-6188

From: Kimberly Hines
To: Planning_Commission
Subject: Oct 22 Planning Commission Meeting, Item 2
Date: Tuesday, October 21, 2025 4:47:24 PM

Dear Planning Commission,

I am writing to you regarding the Item 2, Cabrillo Unified School District.
While I appreciate the long overdue upgrades to El Granada Elementary School, the plans for lighting of the parking lot have been difficult to follow as a neighbor.

To say the project is installing 5, 18 foot light poles is misleading, as **the total height is 21 feet** when placed on the concrete pedestals. Whether or not shielding of lighting elements from across the street will work as intended is TBD.

To say the project is exempt from CEQA, is not accurate. The entire school, including the parking lot is located in the scenic coastal corridor zone, and has not had light poles there before. Adding lights at night is a significant change and environmental impact to the scenic coastal corridor, to wildlife, and the adjacent neighborhoods.

To say this project is in an urban area is misleading. It is a rural, residential neighborhood in the scenic coastal corridor. There is minimal to no lighting at night as you drive from Half Moon Bay to Princeton Harbor.
California Public Resources Code § 30007.5 outlines the method for resolving conflicts that may arise between different policies of the California Coastal Act . The code states that when such a conflict occurs, it must be resolved in a manner that, on balance, is the most protective of significant coastal resources. Heron's and hawks frequent the parking lot and adjacent green space between the lot and hwy 1.

I would ask that the planning commission require inspection and test before final release of light poles for routine use. If light poles do not meet the drawing specifications, the project owner should them. The lights are a custom build, and there is not test or verification specified on the drawings that guarantees the light color and levels will work as intended, and will be shielded from across the street as intended.

I would ask that a lighting curfew be placed on all poles and bollards be as early as possible, 30 minutes after last class, or the last routine program or any scheduled event.

I would ask that the planning commission issue CDP approval only if all of the responsible outdoor lighting principles are adhered to, including item 4, controlled. See DSI Principles copied below for reference. The current lighting schedule has pole 2 scheduled to be on until **11pm**. That is too late for a residential neighborhood, and coastal corridor. A switch interior to campus could turn the pole on for 15 minutes when custodian needs it. Off 100% after 11pm.

There is a creep effect in bad lighting installations that are negatively impacting the scenic coastal corridor in the San Mateo midcoast region. **Please do your part to halt lights at night unless absolutely necessary.** The ring of light from the bollards around the El Granada school parking lot is much more visible from second story windows and up the street than it is at ground

level on Santiago. When you have upward reflection of light off of sidewalk, light on the ocean is no longer visible.

Below are three photos for reference. The first photo was taken last night close to 8 pm from the street in front of Wilkinson school: This is not all the bollards that will ring the lot, as they will also be at same 15 ft intervals in front of the buildings where you see construction light now up to Palma. Only one car in the lot, nearer the building. The second photo show the end of parking lot not yet lit by bollards. The last photo shows reflection up off the sidewalk.

Thank you for your consideration.
Kim

The Five Principles for Outdoor Lighting (https://darksky.org/what-we-do/advancing-responsible-outdoor-lighting/)

1. Useful:
Use light only if it is needed
All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.

2. Targeted:
Direct light so it falls only where it is needed
Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.

3. Low Level:
The light should be no brighter than necessary
Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.

4. Controlled:
Use light only when it is needed
Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is

needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.

5. Warm Colored:
Use warmer-color lights where possible
Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.