ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

For

Whittier Field

Block 405, Lots 1, 7, 8, and 11 City of Camden Camden County, New Jersey

Prepared For:

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of KIPP Cooper Norcross ("applicant"), Langan prepared this assessment for the proposed Whittier Field (site or project site) addressing the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) required per §870-272 of the Camden, New Jersey zoning and land use ordinance. An applicant requesting preliminary and major site plan approval needs to submit an EIA as part of its application. The EIA describes site environmental conditions, impacts during and after construction, measures to minimize or eliminate negative impacts, required permits and approvals, reference list, and, if necessary, suitable mitigation. For the reasons outlined in this assessment, the project would not have an adverse impact on the environmental conditions noted herein.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION AND EXISTING CONDITIONS

The project site is located at the southeast corner of Kaighn Avenue (County Route 607) and South 7th Street in the City of Camden, New Jersey. The project site location is illustrated on Figure 1 – USGS Map. Atlantic Avenue is south of the project site and Interstate Route 676 is east of the project site (Figure 2 – Vicinity Map). City tax records identify the 4.6-acre project site as Block 405, Lots 1, 7, 8, and 11 (Figure 3 – Tax Map). The project site is in the Block 405 Sub-Area of the Gateway Redevelopment Area and is subject to the requirements of the Office Light Industrial (OLI) Zone of the Gateway Redevelopment Plan. The project site is vacant with some remnants of paved areas present (Figure 4 – Aerial Photograph).

As detailed in the Redevelopment Plan, the project site previously included a linoleum manufacturing plant, an electrical supplier, a producer of solar heating equipment, and electroplating operations. Industrial operations began on the site sometime in the late 1800s and ended in 2004. Clearance of site improvements occurred in 2017, and the project site has been vacant since that time.

3.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant's project proposes to improve the vacant site with an athletic field to serve KIPP High School, which uses the Whittier High School campus located on Chestnut Street in Camden. The project consists of phased development of a multi-purpose synthetic turn field with bleacher area, restrooms, and a 60-space parking area. Other site improvements include stormwater management, landscaping, fencing, and lighting. The field is part of the applicant's neighborhood investment and will provide a centrally located area for the school's sports and physical activities.



4.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

This section reviews the potential impacts of the project during and after construction, including unavoidable negative impacts.

4.1. Soil Erosion and Sedimentation

A review of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey indicates urban land complex soils comprise the project site. Urban land complex soils consist of surfaces covered by pavement, concrete, buildings, and other structures underlain by disturbed and natural soil material. Pennoni Associates Inc. ("Pennoni") prepared a geotechnical report dated June 19, 2024. The geotechnical report identified the following site subsoils:

- <u>Stratum F</u>: fill that consists of sand, silt, rock, brick, concrete, glass, metal fragments and cinders (4 to 8 feet thick).
- <u>Stratum 1</u>: sand, clayey silt lenses interbedded (all borings terminated in this stratum).

Due to its history of industrial use, environmental contamination is present at the project site. The site cleanup will include surgical excavations, and implementation of institutional (Deed Notice) and a (cap) as well as site-wide engineering controls including the project acting as a cap in compliance with remediation standards. Reports submitted to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will document these actions. The applicant will take precautions to limit dirt tracking off-site and keep dust levels down.

To minimize erosion and sediment transport during and after construction, the project will implement a soil erosion and sediment control plan. Pennoni prepared a soil erosion and sediment control plan, as part of the overall site plan, which is subject to the Camden County Soil Conservation District review and approval prior to earth disturbance. When considering the actions outlined for site cleanup and the soil erosion and sediment plan, the project would not have an adverse impact regarding soil erosion and sedimentation.

4.2. Flooding and Floodplain Disruption

The project site is not in a special flood hazard area (SFHA), but a small area along the southern lot line abuts floodway areas in Zone AE. The eastern and southern sections of the project site are in Zone X, classified as areas of 0.2 percent chance flood (Figure 5 – FEMA Effective FIRM). The project redevelopment would not result in impacts regarding flooding or floodplains at the project site or the surrounding area.



4.3. Degradation of Surface Water Quality

The project site does not include either surface waters or wetlands. The nearest surface water to the project site is the Cooper River, a freshwater non-trout (FW2-NT) river located 3,500 feet northeast of the project site (Figure 6 – NJDEP Surface Waters). The nearest wetlands to the project site are 3,700 feet northeast of the project site (Figure 7 – NJDEP Wetlands Map). The project site is in the Newton Creek (LDRV-Kaighn Avenue to Lower Timber Creek) HUC-14 watershed (Figure 8 – NJDEP HUC-14 Watershed Map).

In accordance with the stormwater runoff quantity standards set forth in N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.6(b)2 and city requirements, the stormwater management design includes measures to reduce the post-development peak discharge for the 2-, 10-, and 100-year storm events to release 50, 75, and 80 percent respectively of the pre-development runoff rates, due to the project. Any increased volume, change in timing, or increased rate of stormwater runoff would not result in additional flood damage below the point of discharge of the project. Based on the compliance with the stormwater management requirements and the lack of surface waters or wetlands at the project site, the project would not have an adverse impact on surface water quality.

4.4. Groundwater Pollution

According to N.J.A.C. 7:8-5.4(a) 2.ii and city requirements, the project is exempt from the groundwater recharge requirement because the project site is in an urban redevelopment area. According to the Pennoni Stormwater Management Report, the project did not evaluate groundwater recharge. The stormwater management design focused on runoff quantity, quality, and green infrastructure design to protect local water systems. Based on the applicable standards for the project site and actions taken regarding the stormwater management plan, the project would not have an adverse impact on groundwater pollution.

4.5. Sewage Disposal

The project site is in a sewer service area (Figure 9 – NJDEP Sewer Service Area). The project will be connected to the city's sanitary sewer system. Based on the anticipated availability of sewer capacity, the project would not have an adverse impact on sewage disposal or the city's sanitary sewer system.



4.6. Solid Waste Disposal

The project site would provide adequate trash receptacles to address waste disposal. The applicant will comply with applicable state and local recycling requirements. Based on compliance with applicable requirements and appropriate arrangements for solid waste disposal services, the project would not have an adverse impact regarding solid waste disposal.

4.7. Vegetation

The project will result in the removal of existing pavement and other features, as noted on the demolition plan prepared by Pennoni (Sheet No. CS0501, bound separately). The landscape plan results in substantial improvement of site vegetation. The South 7th Street and Kaighn Avenue frontages would include 17 street trees. Interior site landscaping includes lawn areas, shrub plantings, and parking lot shade trees.

The landscaping schedule consists of 33 trees, 34 evergreens, 56 shrubs, 643 perennials and ornamental grasses. The plan also includes two bioretention basins (Landscape Plan, Sheet No. CS2001, bound separately). Based on the overall landscape improvements, the project would not have an adverse impact, but instead a positive impact regarding site vegetation.

4.8. Scenic and Historic Features On- and Off-Site

Although the project site is an identified individual historic property, it is not designated on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, it is not designated on the National Register of Historic Places, and it is not National Historic Landmark (NHL) eligible. The project site is an identified individual historic property, due to the prior architectural feature, the Farr & Bailey Manufacturing Co. (later Congoleum Nairn Co.) Linoleum Plant, which was demolished with the last of the buildings being demolished in 2017. (Figure 10 – NJDEP Historic Resources Map)

Off-site, the NJDEP mapping identifies other individual historic properties on Kaighn Avenue and South 7th Street. West and north of the project site is Bergen Square, which is identified as a historic district. As the site has been cleared of any historic features (the previous Linoleum Plant), is not designated on the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places, is not National Historic Landmark (NHL) eligible, and historic resources were not identified as a concern in the Redevelopment Plan, no historic resource concerns are present at this site. Additionally, the project to be constructed on the site will not have an adverse impact on scenic and historic features either on- or off-site.



4.9. Previous Uses at Project Area

Langan prepared a Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation Report/Remedial Investigation Report (PA-SIR-RIR), which reviewed environmental conditions at the site and surrounding area with the potential to impact the project. The PA-SIR-RIR indicates the project site history includes use as a linoleum manufacturing plant (Farr and Bailey Manufacturing Co. and Congoleum Nairn Co.). Other industrial uses at the project site included an electric supplier (National Electric Supply Co.), production of solar heating equipment (Paolino Energy Products Inc.), and electroplating operations (CWS Industries).

Industrial site operations ended in 2004, and site structures were cleared in 2017. The project site is on the NJDEP Known Contaminated Sites list (Figure 11 – NJDEP Known Contaminated Sites List). Prior operations were Industrial Site Recovery Act (ISRA) applicable, and ISRA filings have been made to the NJDEP. As the ISRA case remains open, the project site is still subject to the provisions of ISRA, which will remain applicable in the event of a property transfer. Per the Langan PA-SI-RI Report, the site will continue with the NJDEP remedial process under the oversight of a Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP). The next steps are presenting a Remedial Action Workplan to propose remedial actions for the site and implementation of that remedy.

4.10. Air Quality

The primary concern regarding air quality is during construction, particularly the movement of soil. During construction, the applicant will take precautions to limit dirt tracking off-site and keep dust levels down. Air monitoring will occur. After construction, the project would result in minimal impacts. When added to the background concentrations, which comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards the project would have no adverse air quality impacts.

4.11. Noise

Noise regulation is subject to the New Jersey Noise Control Act (N.J.A.C. 7:29). Noise level will increase temporarily during construction activities, which are subject to hours of operation limits outlined by the applicable municipal ordinances.

After the project completion, field operations will contribute noise during game and practice uses. The project will comply with the applicable state and local noise level standards. Based on compliance with the applicable regulations, the project would not have an adverse impact regarding noise.



5.0 MEASURES TO ELIMINATE NEGATIVE IMPACTS

5.1. Drainage Plans

The existing project site drainage consists of two drainage subareas which drain offsite towards existing stormwater inlets on South 7th Street and Kaighn Avenue, respective. Post-development drainage will consist of the following drainage subareas:

- <u>Proposed Drainage Area 1:</u> The drainage design will route stormwater runoff from the synthetic turf field through a subsurface detention basin to slowly release stormwater into Bioretention Basin 1
- <u>Proposed Drainage Area 1A:</u> Stormwater from the western parking area, concession stand, storage shed, and undeveloped area will collect and discharge into Bioretention Basin 1, and then to Bioretention Basin 2 for slow release of stormwater into the existing drainage system on South 7th Street.
- <u>Proposed Drainage Area 2:</u> Stormwater from the western parking area, bleacher area, and South 7th Street driveway will collect and discharge into Bioretention Basin 2 for slow release of stormwater into the existing drainage system on South 7th Street.
- <u>Proposed Drainage Area 3:</u> Stormwater from grass and landscaped areas along South 7th Street will drain into the existing drainage system on South 7th Street.
- <u>Proposed Drainage Area 4:</u> Stormwater from the grass and landscape areas at the southeastern end of the site will drain towards a wooded area along Interstate Route 676.

The project stormwater management approach meets the requirements of N. J.A.C. 7:8 and the city requirements. The project would not have an adverse impact on drainage.

5.2. Supply and Water Conservation

Based on the anticipated water use and available supply, the project would not have an adverse impact on water supply.

5.3. Energy Conservation Measures

The project is an athletic field with associated facilities. Potential measures include LED lighting for the field and facilities, and energy efficient appliances where practical. The project would not have an adverse impact on energy use.



5.4. Noise Reduction Techniques

Noise associated with the project construction will be temporary and will dissipate as distance from the source increases and will comply with the applicable state and local noise level standards. When the project is operational, noise levels at the site will comply with applicable state and local noise performance standards. With noise reduction plans during construction, the project would not have an adverse impact regarding noise.

5.5. Landscaping

The South 7th Street and Kaighn Avenue frontages would include 17 street trees. Interior site landscaping includes lawn areas, shrub plantings, and parking lot shade trees. The landscaping schedule consists of 33 trees, 34 evergreens, 56 shrubs, 643 perennials and ornamental grasses. The landscape plan is subject to site plan review. The project would not have an adverse impact on landscaping.

6.0 PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

Table 1 provides a list of the licenses, permits and approvals required for the project. All necessary permits and approvals will be acquired prior to the start of construction.

Table 1: Project Permits and Approvals Required

Board / Agency	Required Approvals
City of Camden Planning Board	Preliminary/Final Site Plan Approval
City of Camden Water and Sewer	Water and sanitary sewer capacity approval
Camden County Municipal Utility Authority (CCMUA)	Sewer Connection Approval
Camden County Planning Board	Planning Approval or Letter of No Interest
Camden County Soil Conservation District	Soil Erosion and Sediment Control certification.
NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)	Remedial Action Permits

The permit summary does not include specific construction or building permits that the architect, general contractor, and the city building department or other agencies may require various trades to obtain.



7.0 CONCLUSION

Based on the findings in the EIA, the project would not have an adverse environmental impact on the site or surrounding community. The project will provide more athletic opportunities for school students, consistent with the Redevelopment Plan vision of the Block 405 Amendment to the Gateway Redevelopment Plan, to provide a multi-use athletic field and associated recreational facilities, and to expand the community footprint of the school located less than 500 feet to the north.

Langan Engineering and Environmental Services, LLC

NJ Certificate of Authorization No. 24GA27996400

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The original of this report was appropriately signed and sealed in accordance with laws and regulations pertaining to the practice of Professional Planning in New Jersey (NJSA 45:14A-12 and NJAC 13:41-1.3(b)).



8.0 REFERENCES

The EIA references information provided in the following documents and/or resources:

- Geotechnical Engineering Report, KCNA Whittier Field, 726 Kaighn Avenue, Block 405, Lot 1, Camden, NJ, prepared by Pennoni Associates Inc., dated June 19, 2024.
- Site Plan, prepared by Pennoni, last dated May 17, 2024.
- City of Camden Zoning and Land Use Ordinance, Chapter 870, adopted by the City Council of the City of Camden December 14, 2010, by Ord. No. MC-4585.
- Block 405 Amendment to the Gateway Redevelopment Plan, City of Camden, Camden County, NJ, adopted December 2005 and most recently amended 2024.
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Outdoor Air Quality Data, Monitor Values Report, 2023, https://www.epa.gov/outdoor-air-quality-data/monitor-values-report.
- Stormwater Management Report, Whittier Field, prepared by Pennoni, dated 25 October 2024.
- Preliminary Assessment/ Site Investigation Report/Remedial Investigation Report, prepared by Langan, dated June 2024.



FIGURES





















