



ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

File #: 25-338

Meeting Date: 5/7/2025

**Planning Commission Staff Report**

*Report Prepared by: Francisco Mendoza-Gonzalez, Senior Planner, Development Services Department*

**SUBJECT:** General Plan Amendment #24-01, Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6, and Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329 (“Paulson Ranch”), initiated by Stonefield Home, Inc., property owner. The General Plan Amendment would amend the Merced General Plan Transportation and Circulation Element by modifying the City of Merced Circulation Plan (Figure 4.1) and all associated maps and descriptions throughout the General Plan, to eliminate Destiny Drive (a collector road) from going through the subject site to Paulson Road (extension). The Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment would modify the design, layout, and circulation of the residential subdivision previously approved for this site. The Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map would subdivide approximately 39.12 acres into 104 residential lots (mostly between 6,000 and 7,000 square feet). The subject site is generally located on the south side of E. Cardella Road, 1,900 feet east of G Street. \*PUBLIC HEARING\*

**ACTION:** PLANNING COMMISSION:

Recommendation to City Council

- 1) Environmental Review #24-07 (*Negative Declaration*)
- 2) General Plan Amendment #24-01
- 3) Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6

Approve/Disapprove/Modify

- 1) Environmental Review #24-07 (*Negative Declaration*)
- 2) Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329  
[subject to City Council approval of General Plan Amendment #24-01, and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6]

**SUMMARY**

The subject site is an undeveloped 39.12-acre parcel located in northeast Merced at 800 E. Cardella Road, located on the south side of Cardella Road, approximately 1,900 feet east of G Street. The General Plan Amendment is being requested to amend the City’s General Plan Circulation Element (Figure 4.1) (Attachment G) to eliminate the collector road of Destiny Drive that would go through the subject site. The Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment would modify the design, layout, and circulation of the residential subdivision previously approved for this site. The Vesting Tentative

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Subdivision Map would subdivide approximately 39.12 acres into 104 single family lots (mostly between 6,000 and 7,000 square feet). Staff is recommending approval with conditions.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

General Plan Amendment, and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment,

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission recommend approval to the City Council of Environmental Review #24-07 (Negative Declaration), General Plan Amendment #24-01, Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6 (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment A) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A, and the findings/considerations in Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution.

### Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map

Planning staff recommends that the Planning Commission approve Environmental Review #24-07 (Negative Declaration) and Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329 (including the adoption of the Draft Resolution at Attachment B) subject to the conditions in Exhibit A, the findings/considerations in Exhibit B of the Draft Resolution, and contingent upon City Council approval of the General Plan Amendment, and the Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment.

## **DISCUSSION**

### Project Description

The subject site is an approximately 39.12-acre parcel (APN: 231-010-021) located at 800 E. Cardella Road (Attachment C). The subject site is generally located on the south side of E. Cardella Road, 1,900 feet east of G Street. The General Plan amendment is being requested to amend the City's General Plan Circulation Element (Figure 4.1) to eliminate the collector road of Destiny Drive planned to go through the project site. Due to wetland constraints on the eastern portion of the subject site, Destiny Drive would not be able to go through the project site out to Paulson Road (extended with this project). Gallaway Enterprises conducted a field survey and identified areas where historical flooding from adjacent waterways created wetlands. The map at Attachment I identifies the wetland areas. The proposed subdivision (Paulson Ranch) is designed to avoid these areas.

The subject site has two General Plan designations of Low Density Residential (LD) and High-Medium Density Residential (HMD), and two Zoning classifications of Low Density Residential (R-1-6) and Medium Density Residential (R-3-2). The subject site is surrounded by a variety of uses which includes to the west by Cruickshank Middle School/undeveloped land, to the south by single-family homes, to the east by undeveloped land, and to the north (across from E. Cardella Road) by agricultural land.

The applicant is requesting approval to develop 104 single-family homes. These lots would range in size between 6,000 square feet and 14,250 square feet, with the majority of the lots being between 6,000 square feet and 7,000 square feet. The General Plan designations of Low Density Residential (LD) and High-Medium Density Residential (HMD) are primarily intended for residential uses. The LD

designation allows a residential density between 2 and 6 units per acre, and the HMD designation allows residential density up to 24 dwelling units per acre. The HMD portion of the Project has a density of approximately 4 dwelling units per acre and the LD portion has a density of approximately 3 units per acre, both below the maximum density allowed for each designation. The HMD portion of the project could have a higher density if two or three units are developed on each lot, however, that would put the density at around 12 units per acre, well below the maximum 24 units per acre allowed within the HMD designation.

Surrounding uses as noted in Attachment B.

Surrounding Land	Existing Use of Land	City Zoning Designation	City General Plan Land Use Designation
North	Agriculture (across Cardella Road)	Planned Development (P-D) #53	Neighborhood Commercial (CN)
South	Single-Family Homes	Low Density Residential (R-1-6)	Low Density Residential (LD)
East	Undeveloped Land	Low Density Residential (R-1-6) and Commercial Office (C-O)	Low Density Residential (LD) and Commercial Office (CO)
West	Undeveloped Land and Cruickshank Middle School	Low Density Residential (R-1-6)	Low Density Residential (LD), Parks and Open Space (P-OS), and School (SCH)

Background

The subject site (approximately 39.12 acres) was annexed into the City in 1990, as part of Yosemite Annexation #3 (Annexation No. 173). This annexation incorporated approximately 302 acres of land into the City limits. In conjunction with the annexation, a specific plan was adopted for the annexation site, known as the Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan (Attachment J). The subject site includes land use designations for both Low Density Residential (LD), and High-Medium Density Residential (HMD). This application includes a request to amend the Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan; even though the residential densities are generally consistent with the specific plan, the specific plan layout, design, and circulation would be modified with this proposal. The modifications are being requested to address the wetland constraints found within the subject site, as shown at Attachment I via field survey from Gallaway Enterprises. The subdivision would be designed avoid these wetland areas.

The subject site has remained undeveloped for several decades. According to City records, Tentative Subdivision Map #1249 (Mansionette Estates Unit 3) was approved by the Planning Commission in 2003, for 80 single-family homes on a 25-acre portion of this site. This map expired in 2005.

Findings/Considerations

Please refer to Exhibit B of the Draft Planning Commission Resolution at Attachment A for the Findings related to General Plan Amendment 24-01, and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6. Please refer to Exhibit B of the Draft Planning Commission Resolution at Attachment B for the Findings related to Tentative Subdivision Map #1329.

## ATTACHMENTS

- A) Draft Planning Commission Resolution - General Plan Amendment, and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan
- B) Draft Planning Commission Resolution - Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map
- C) Location Map
- D) Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map
- E) Section MMC 20.46.020 - Design Standards for Single-Family Dwellings and Mobile Homes
- F) MMC 18.16.080 - Information Required (for Tentative Subdivision Maps)
- G) Modification to General Plan Figure 4.1
- H) Close-Up to Figure 4.1 with Conceptual Change
- I) Gallaway Enterprises (Wetlands)
- J) Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan (Figure 1)
- K) Initial Study (Negative Declaration)
- L) Presentation

See Attachment 10 of City Council  
Administrative Report #25-592

**CITY OF MERCED  
Planning Commission**

**Resolution #4144**

**WHEREAS**, the Merced City Planning Commission at its regular meeting of May 7, 2025, held a public hearing and considered **General Plan Amendment #24-01, and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6** initiated by Stonefield Home, Inc., property owner. The General Plan Amendment would amend the Merced General Plan Transportation and Circulation Element by modifying the City of Merced Circulation Plan (Figure 4.1) and all associated maps and descriptions throughout the General Plan, to eliminate a portion of Destiny Drive (a collector road) from going through the subject site to Paulson Road (extension). The Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment would modify the design, layout, and circulation of the residential subdivision previously approved for this site. The subject site is generally located on the south side of E. Cardella Road, 1,900 feet east of G Street. The subject site is more particularly described as Remainder as shown on the map entitled “Parcel Map for Wathen” recorded in Book 121, Page 2, in Merced County Records; also known as Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 231-010-021; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Merced City Planning Commission concurs with Findings/Considerations A through H of Staff Report #25-338 (Exhibit B of Planning Commission Resolution #4144); and,

**NOW THEREFORE**, after reviewing the City’s Initial Study and Draft Environmental Determination, and fully discussing all the issues, the Merced City Planning Commission does resolve to hereby recommend to City Council adoption of a Negative Declaration regarding Environmental Review #24-07, and recommend approval of General Plan Amendment #24-01, and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6, subject to the Conditions set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Upon motion by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and carried by the following vote:

AYES: Commissioner(s)

NOES: Commissioner(s)

ABSENT: Commissioner(s)

ABSTAIN: Commissioner(s)

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION #4144

Page 2

May 7, 2025

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025

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Chairperson, Planning Commission of  
the City of Merced, California

ATTEST:

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Secretary

Exhibits:

Exhibit A – Conditions of Approval

Exhibit B – Findings/Considerations

**Conditions of Approval**  
**Planning Commission Resolution # 4144**  
**General Plan Amendment #24-01/Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan**  
**Amendment #6**

1. The proposed General Plan Amendment shall be as shown on the Conceptual Revised Circulation Element (Figure 4.1) at Attachment G of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338.
2. Approval of the General Plan Amendment, and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment are subject to the applicant(s) entering into a written Legislative Action Agreement that they agree to all the conditions and shall pay all City and school district fees, taxes, and/or assessments, in effect on the date of any subsequent subdivision and/or permit approval, any increase in those fees, taxes, or assessments, and any new fees, taxes, or assessments, which are in effect at the time the building permits are issued, which may include public facilities impact fees, a regional traffic impact fee, Mello-Roos taxes— whether for infrastructure, services, or any other activity or project authorized by the Mello-Roos law, etc. Payment shall be made for each phase at the time of building permit issuance for such phase unless an Ordinance or other requirement of the City requires payment of such fees, taxes, and/or assessments at an earlier or subsequent time. Said agreement to be approved by the City Council prior to the adoption of the ordinance, resolution, or minute action.
3. The proposed project shall comply with all standard Municipal Code and Subdivision Map Act requirements as required by the City Engineering Department.
4. The Project shall comply with all applicable conditions set forth in the resolutions for Annexation No. 173 (Yosemite Annexation #3) previously approved for this site, unless modified by these conditions.
5. All other applicable codes, ordinances, policies, etc., adopted by the City of Merced shall apply.
6. The developer/owner is required to finance the annual operating costs for police and fire services as well as storm drainage, public landscaping, street trees, streetlights, parks and open space, which may include a financing mechanism such as a Community Facilities District (CFD) or, assessment

EXHIBIT A  
OF PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION #4144

Page 1

district. Procedures for financing these services and on-going maintenance shall be initiated before final map approval or issuance of a certificate of occupancy for any building, whichever comes first. Developer/Owner shall submit a request agreeing to such a procedure, waiving right to protest and post deposit as determined by the City Engineer to be sufficient to cover procedure costs and maintenance costs expected prior to first assessments being received.

7. The developer/owner is required to finance the annual operating costs for police and fire services as well as storm drainage, public landscaping, street trees, streetlights, parks and open space, which may include a financing mechanism such as a Community Facilities District (CFD) or, assessment district. Procedures for financing these services and on-going maintenance shall be initiated before final map approval or issuance of a certificate of occupancy for any building, whichever comes first. Developer/Owner shall submit a request agreeing to such a procedure, waiving right to protest and post deposit as determined by the City Engineer to be sufficient to cover procedure costs and maintenance costs expected prior to first assessments being received.
8. The developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), and hold harmless the City, and any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof, from any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof to attack, set aside, void, or annul, an approval of the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, advisory agency, appeal board, or legislative body, including actions approved by the voters of the City, concerning the project and the approvals granted herein. Furthermore, developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend, and hold harmless the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, against any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against any governmental entity in which developer/applicant's project is subject to that other governmental entity's approval and a condition of such approval is that the City indemnify and defend (with counsel selected by the City) such governmental entity. City shall promptly notify the developer/applicant of any claim, action, suits, or proceeding. Developer/applicant shall be responsible to immediately prefund the litigation cost of the City including, but not limited to, City's attorney's fees and costs. If any claim, action, suits, or proceeding

EXHIBIT A  
OF PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION #4144

is filed challenging this approval, the developer/applicant shall be required to execute a separate and formal defense, indemnification, and deposit agreement that meets the approval of the City.

9. The developer/applicant shall construct and operate the project in strict compliance with the approvals granted herein, City standards, laws, and ordinances, and in compliance with all State and Federal laws, regulations, and standards. In the event of a conflict between City laws and standards and a State or Federal law, regulation, or standard, the stricter or higher standard shall control.

**Findings and Considerations**  
**Planning Commission Resolution #4144**  
**Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan #6/General Plan Amendment #24-01**

**FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS:**

**General Plan Compliance and Policies Related to This Application**

- A) The General Plan Amendment portion of this application would amend the General Plan's Circulation Element (Figure 4.1) to eliminate Destiny Drive (a collector road) from the project site as this road would not be able to extend through the site eastward to Paulson Road due to wetland constraints within the subject site (see Finding C). The General Plan Amendment portion of this application would not amend any of the General Plan land use designations within the project site.

The proposed subdivision (Paulson Ranch) would create 104 residential lots on 39.12 acres (Attachment D of Planning Commission Staff Report 25-338). This subdivision complies with the General Plan designations of Low Density Residential (LD) and High to Medium Density Residential (HMD) for this site. The maximum number of units allowed for this site would be approximately 655; the proposed 104 units is below the maximum allowed for this site.

The proposed project, with conditions of approval, will help achieve the following General Plan land use policies:

*L-1.2 Encourage a diversity of building types, ownership, prices, designs, and site plans for residential areas throughout the City.*

*L-1.3 Encourage a diversity of lot sizes in residential subdivisions.*

*L-1.8 Create livable and identifiable residential neighborhoods.*

**Mandatory Findings**

- B) Chapter 20.80 (Zoning Ordinance Amendments) and 20.82 (General Plan Amendments) outlines procedures for considering General Plan Amendments, but does not require any specific findings to be made for approval. In addition to amend specific plans, such as the Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan, there are no specific findings that need to be made. However, good Planning practice would be to provide objective reasons

for approval or denial. These findings can take whatever form deemed appropriate by the Planning Commission and City Council. Based on State law and case law, the following findings are recommended:

*1. The proposed amendment is deemed to be in the public interest.*

Due to wetland concerns described under Finding C, the circulation for this site is being redesigned. This includes the request for a General Plan Amendment to eliminate Destiny Drive (collector road) from going through the subject site. Doing so allows the developer to re-design the subject site so that it is developable for a residential subdivision while avoiding wetland areas. The proposed amendment is deemed to be in the public interest because it will provide needed housing for the community.

*2. The proposed amendment is consistent and compatible with the rest of the General Plan and any implementation programs that may be affected.*

The proposed General Plan Amendment would modify the City's Circulation Element to eliminate a collector road (Destiny Drive) from going through the subject site, however the General Plan land use designations throughout the subject site would remain the same and consistent with the rest of the General Plan.

In addition, Finding A shows that the proposal meets some of the General Plan Goals and Policies such as allowing the development of residential housing that encourages a diversity of housing stock, encourages a diversity of lot sizes, and continue to pursue quality single-family homes.

*3. The potential impacts of the proposed amendment have been assessed and have been determined not to be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare.*

The proposed project does not include any uses that would be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare of the City. Implementation of the conditions of approval and adherence to all applicable Building Codes, Fire Codes, and City Standards would prevent the project from having any detrimental effect on the health, safety, and welfare of the City as a whole.

4. *The proposed amendment has been processed in accordance with the applicable provisions of the California Government Code and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).*

The proposed General Plan Amendment and Specific Plan Amendment has been processed in accordance with all applicable California Government Code sections. In addition, Planning staff has conducted an environmental review (#24-07) of the project in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and a Negative Declaration (see Attachment K of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338) has been recommended.

### **Wetlands**

- C) Gallaway Enterprises conducted a field survey and identified areas where historical flooding from adjacent waterways created wetlands. The map at Attachment I identifies the wetland areas. The proposed subdivision (Paulson Ranch) is designed to avoid these areas, which requires amending the circulation in this area by eliminating the portion of Destiny Drive planned to go through this site, and modifying the circulation previously and housing type approved through the Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan (Attachment J).

### **Building Elevations**

- D) The developer has yet to submit building designs for the single-family homes (104 lots). The building design/elevations will be reviewed and approved by Planning Staff prior to issuance of a building permit. The single-family homes shall be required to comply with the City's minimum design standards for single-family homes as required under Merced Municipal Code Section 20.46.020 - Design Standards for Single-Family Dwellings and Mobile Homes (see Attachment E of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338).

### **Traffic/Circulation**

- E) Traffic From Proposed Development

The project site consists of an undeveloped lot totaling approximately 39.12 acres. The project site fronts an arterial road (E. Cardella Road), with the nearest north-south road being Paulson Road (collector road) currently terminating south of the project site, but would be extended through the subject site up to Cardella Road and down to Yosemite Avenue with this development. Yosemite Avenue and Cardella Road are both designed to carry

large volumes of traffic going through a large portion of the community. The subject site is half a mile east of G Street, which provides access to Highway 99 that connects Merced with other regional communities throughout the State.

The interior roads within the subdivision include two east/west roads, six cul-de-sacs, and two north/south roads. As shown at Attachment D of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338, the Streets/Courts A through J (except for Street D) would be designed to Local Street standards with 59 feet of right-of-way, which includes street, curb, gutter, park strip, sidewalk, and a public utility easement. Street D would have 100 feet of right-of-way. Paulson Road and Cardella Road would respectively have 84 feet and 148 feet of right-of-way respectively, and include a masonry block wall.

The General Plan would allow a maximum of 655 units within the subject site. The proposed 104 units would generate less vehicle traffic compared to the maximum density allowed. According to Trip Generation (ITE Report), the average daily trips per unit is 6.59. The proposed project at 104 units would generate approximately 16% of the average daily trips compared to the maximum density allowed by the General Plan.

In addition, there are several walkable locations within a ¼ mile of the subject site, which include Davenport Park, Cruickshank Middle School, Dignity Health Hospital, Merced College, and the Yosemite & G Crossing Shopping Center (under construction in phases). The existing street network could adequately serve this proposal as it was designed to accommodate a much larger maximum number of units. In addition, the extension of Paulson Road to Cardella Road would provide direct access to existing residents in the neighborhood wanting to travel north, improving the street network in the area.

### **Neighborhood Impact**

- F) The subject site is surrounded by a variety of uses which includes to the west by Cruickshank Middle School/agricultural land, to the south by single-family homes, to the east by undeveloped land, and to the north (across from E. Cardella Road) by agricultural land. The subject site's current land use designation is residential and would allow a maximum of 655 residential units. The proposed Paulson Ranch subdivision is consistent with the current land use designation, and at 104 single-family homes would be below the maximum number of residential units allowed for this site. There are several existing residential subdivisions to the south. This development is not

expected to alter the character of the neighborhood or introduce uses that don't already exist in the neighborhood.

Public hearing notices were sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the project site. At the time that this report was prepared, the City had not received any comments regarding this project.

### **Affordability Requirements**

- G) In 2023, the City Council updated the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation Unit Production Plan. A housing affordability requirement is triggered by two qualifiers that need to be met: entitlement type and number of units created. For single-family residential developments, the affordability requirement is triggered by a legislative action agreement (through annexations, general plan amendments, site utilization plan revisions, or zone changes) for projects with over 60 single-family homes (multi-family residential projects are exempt).

In this case, the developer is requesting an entitlement that triggers a legislative action agreement-- a general plan amendment. As shown under Finding A, General Plan Amendment #24-01 is to amend the City's Circulation Element only (not a land use change request. The land use aspect of the project (104 units on approximately 39 acres) would comply with the Zoning classifications for this site.

Based on this request, the developer is not required to provide affordable housing units (or an in-lieu fee) because the general plan amendment is to amend the City's Circulation Element (not land use).

### **Environmental Clearance**

- H) Most Infill projects over 5 acres or projects that don't comply with Zoning/General Plan designations require an Initial Study, per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In this case, the proposed land use is consistent with the General Plan land uses, and a General Plan Amendment is being requested to amend the Circulation Element by eliminating a collector road from going through the project site and amending the Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan – thus an Initial Study was required. An Initial Study includes a wide range of analysis required by the State covering an array of subjects including, but not limited to, impacts on vehicle miles traveled, air quality, biological resource, public services, cultural resources, and City utilities. Planning staff has conducted an environmental review of the project

EXHIBIT B

OF PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION #4144

Page 5

in accordance with the requirements of CEQA, and concluded that Environmental Review #24-07 results in a Negative Declaration as the proposal would not have a significant effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. A copy of the Initial Study with a Negative Declaration can be found at Attachment K of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338.

**CITY OF MERCED  
Planning Commission**

**Resolution #4145**

**WHEREAS**, the Merced City Planning Commission at its regular meeting of May 7, 2025, held a public hearing and considered **Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329 (“Paulson Ranch”)**, initiated by Stonefield Home, Inc., property owner. This application involves a request to subdivide approximately 39.12 acres into 104 single-family lots ranging in size between 6,000 square feet and 14,250 square feet. The subject site is generally located on the south side of E. Cardella Road, approximately 1,900 feet east of G Street at 800 E. Cardella Road; also known as Assessor’s Parcel Number (APN) 231-010-021; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Merced City Planning Commission concurs with Findings A through L of Staff Report #25-338; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Merced City Planning Commission concurs with the Findings for Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map Requirements in Merced Municipal Code Section 18.16.80, 18.16.90, and 18.16.100 as outlined in Exhibit B; and,

**NOW THEREFORE**, after reviewing the City’s Initial Study and Draft Environmental Determination, and fully discussing all the issues, the Merced City Planning Commission does adopt a Negative Declaration regarding Environmental Review #24-07, and approve Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329, subject to the Conditions set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.

Upon motion by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, and carried by the following vote:

AYES:       Commissioner(s)

NOES:       Commissioner(s)

ABSENT:     Commissioner(s)

ABSTAIN:    Commissioner(s)

PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION #4145

Page 2

May 7, 2025

Adopted this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025

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Chairperson, Planning Commission of  
the City of Merced, California

ATTEST:

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Secretary

Attachment:

Exhibit A – Conditions of Approval

Exhibit B – Findings

**Conditions of Approval**  
**Planning Commission Resolution #4145**  
**Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map # 1329**

1. The proposed project shall be constructed/designed as shown on Attachment D (Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map for Paulson Ranch).
2. All conditions contained in Resolution #1175-Amended ("Standard Tentative Subdivision Map Conditions") shall apply.
3. The proposed project shall comply with all standard Municipal Code and Subdivision Map Act requirements as applied by the City Engineering Department.
4. All other applicable codes, ordinances, policies, etc., adopted by the City of Merced shall apply.
5. The developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend (with counsel selected by the City), and hold harmless the City, and any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof, from any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, and any officers, officials, employees, or agents thereof to attack, set aside, void, or annul, an approval of the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, advisory agency, appeal board, or legislative body, including actions approved by the voters of the City, concerning the project and the approvals granted herein. Furthermore, developer/applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend, and hold harmless the City, or any agency or instrumentality thereof, against any and all claims, actions, suits, proceedings, or judgments against any governmental entity in which developer/applicant's project is subject to that other governmental entity's approval and a condition of such approval is that the City indemnify and defend (with counsel selected by the City) such governmental entity. City shall promptly notify the developer/applicant of any claim, action, suits, or proceeding. Developer/applicant shall be responsible to immediately prefund the litigation cost of the City including, but not limited to, City's attorney's fees and costs. If any claim, action, suits, or proceeding is filed challenging this approval, the developer/applicant shall be required to execute a separate and formal defense, indemnification, and deposit agreement that meets the approval of the City Attorney and to provide all required deposits to fully fund the

City's defense immediately but in no event later than five (5) days from that date of a demand to do so from City. In addition, the developer/applicant shall be required to satisfy any monetary obligations imposed on City by any order or judgment.

6. The developer/applicant shall construct and operate the project in strict compliance with the approvals granted herein, City standards, laws, and ordinances, and in compliance with all State and Federal laws, regulations, and standards. In the event of a conflict between City laws and standards and a State or Federal law, regulation, or standard, the stricter or higher standard shall control.
7. Community Facilities District (CFD) formation is required for annual operating costs for police and fire services as well as storm drainage, public landscaping, street trees, street lights, parks and open space. CFD procedures shall be initiated before Final Map approval. Developer/Owner shall submit a request agreeing to such a procedure, waiving right to protest and post deposit as determined by the Development Services Director to be sufficient to cover procedure costs and maintenance costs expected prior to first assessments being received.
8. All dwellings shall be designed to include fire sprinklers as required by the California Fire Code.
9. Fire hydrants shall be installed along street frontages to provide fire protection to the area. The hydrants shall meet all City of Merced standards and shall comply with all requirements of the City of Merced Fire Department. Final location of the fire hydrants shall be determined by the Fire Department.
10. Plans shall meet current codes at the time of building permit application submittal. Building permit applications shall comply with the newest enacted California Building Codes. Plans shall be drawn by a licensed California design professional.
11. At the building permit stage, the site plans for each lot shall include a minimum 3-foot by 6-foot concrete pad located in the side yard or backyard for the storage of 3 refuse containers.
12. The developer shall use proper dust control procedures during site development in accordance with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District rules.

13. The single-family lots shall comply with the design standards found under MMC Section 20.46.020 - Design Standards for Single-Family Dwellings and Mobile Homes (Attachment E of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338).
14. Each lot shall provide a parking garage for a minimum of one vehicle.
15. All mechanical equipment shall be screened from public view.
16. Each lot within the subdivision shall be provided with one driveway. No residential driveways shall front on any arterial or collector street.
17. The project shall comply with all requirements of the California Building Code and all flood requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), as well as the requirements for the California Urban Level of Flood Protection (CA 200-year flood).
18. The project shall comply with all the Post Construction Standards required to comply with state requirements for the City's Phase II MS-IV Permit (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System).
19. The applicant shall provide a minimum 36 inches of coverage between the top of the sewer line and the surface of the street, or as otherwise required by the City Engineer.
20. All landscaping within the public right-of-way shall comply with state and local requirements for water conservation. All irrigation provided to street trees or other landscaping shall be provided with a drip irrigation or micro-spray system and shall comply with the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MMC Section 20.36.030).
21. All undeveloped areas shall be maintained free of weeds and debris.
22. Prior to final inspection of any home, all front yards and side yards exposed to public view shall be provided with landscaping to include ground cover, trees, shrubs, and irrigation in accordance with Merced Municipal Code Section 20.36.050. Irrigation for all on-site landscaping shall be provided by a drip system or micro-spray system in accordance with the State's Emergency Regulation for Statewide Urban Water Conservation or any other state or City mandated water regulations dealing with the current drought conditions. All landscaping shall comply with the City's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MMC Section 20.36.030).

23. A minimum 6-foot-tall masonry wall shall be installed along Cardella Road and Paulson Road. The wall shall include anti-graffiti coating. Graffiti shall be removed within 7 days or as determined to be a reasonable timeframe by the Director of Development Services.
24. Landscaping shall be provided between the block wall and the sidewalk along Cardella Road and Paulson Road. This strip of land shall be dedicated to the City and maintained through the Community Facilities District during the Final Map stage, as required by the City Engineer.
25. Sewer manholes shall be installed as required by the Engineering Department (if needed).
26. The applicant shall dedicate all necessary street right-of-way and easements as needed for irrigation, utilities, drainage, landscaping, and open space during the Final Map stage as required by the City Engineer.
27. Additional right-of-way improvements on non-arterial streets, such as road widening beyond the City standard, would not be eligible for Public Facilities Impact Fee reimbursement.
28. Dedication of all necessary easements will be made as shown on Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329 and as needed for irrigation, utilities, drainage, landscaping, open space, and access.
29. The developer shall provide all utility services to each lot, including sanitary sewer, water, electric power, gas, telephone, and cable television. All new utilities are to be undergrounded.
30. The turning radii for the access roads are 33 feet inside, and 47 feet outside. The cul-de-sac bulbs shall have a minimum diameter of 96 feet and shall be posted as “no parking” in compliance with Fire Department Standards adopted by Merced Municipal Code Section 17.32.
31. The developer shall install appropriate street name signs and traffic control signs with locations, names, and types approved by the City Engineer.
32. As required by Merced Municipal Code Section 17.04.050 and 17.04.060, full public improvements shall be installed/repared if the permit value of the project exceeds \$100,000.00. Public improvements may include, but not be limited to, repairing/replacing the sidewalk, curb, gutter, and street corner ramp(s), so that they comply with ADA standards and other relevant City of Merced/State/Federal standards and regulations.

33. All public improvements shall be provided as required by the City Engineer. All improvements shall meet City Standards.
34. The developer shall provide construction plans and calculations for all landscaping and public maintenance improvements. All such plans shall conform to City standards and meet approval of the City Engineer.
35. All entryway and subdivision signs shall be administratively approved by Planning Staff prior to the issuance of a building permit.
36. The Caltrans corner vision triangle standards may be used over the City's standard found under MMC 20.30.030 – Corner Vision Triangles, for the lots determined appropriate by the Director of Development Services.
37. Development is not allowed within the wetland areas identified in Attachment I of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338. Should development be proposed within this area in the future, the developer shall provide studies concluding that wetlands no longer existing in this area.
38. The approval of VTSM #1329 is contingent upon City Council approving General Plan Amendment #24-01 and Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6.

**Findings and Considerations  
Planning Commission Resolution #4145  
Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329**

**FINDINGS/CONSIDERATIONS:**

**General Plan Compliance and Policies Related to This Application**

- A) The General Plan Amendment portion of this application would amend the General Plan's Circulation Element (Figure 4.1) to eliminate Destiny Drive (a collector road) from the project site as this road would not be able to extend through the site eastward to Paulson Road due to wetland constraints within the subject site (see Finding B). The General Plan Amendment portion of this application would not amend any of the General Plan land use designations within the project site.

The proposed subdivision (Paulson Ranch) would create 104 single-family homes on 39.12 acres (Attachment D of Planning Commission Staff Report 25-338). This subdivision complies with the General Plan designations of Low Density Residential (LD) and High to Medium Density Residential (HMD) for this site. The maximum number of units allowed for this site would be approximately 655, the proposed 104 units is below the maximum allowed for this site.

The proposed subdivision would achieve the following General Plan Land Use Policies:

*L-1.2 Encourage a diversity of building types, ownership, prices, designs, and site plans for residential areas throughout the City.*

*L-1.3 Encourage a diversity of lot sizes in residential subdivisions.*

*L-1.8 Create livable and identifiable residential neighborhoods.*

**Wetlands**

- B) Gallaway Enterprises conducted a field survey and identified areas where historical flooding from adjacent waterways created wetlands. The map at Attachment I identifies the wetland areas. The proposed subdivision (Paulson Ranch) is designed to avoid these areas, which requires modifying the circulation in this area by eliminating the portion of Destiny Drive planned to go through this site, and modifying the circulation previously approved through the Northeast Yosemite Specific plan (Attachment J).

## **Traffic/Circulation**

- C) The project site consists of an undeveloped lot totaling approximately 39.12 acres. The project site fronts an arterial road (E. Cardella Road), with the nearest north-south road being Paulson Road (collector road) currently terminating south of the project site, but would be extended through the subject site up to Cardella Road and down to Yosemite Avenue with this development. Yosemite Avenue and Cardella Road are both designed to carry large volumes of traffic going through a large portion of the community. The subject site is half a mile east of G Street, which provides access to Highway 99 that connects Merced with other regional communities throughout the State.

The interior roads within the subdivision include two east/west roads, six cul-de-sacs, and two north/south roads. As shown at Attachment D of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338 the Streets/Courts A through J (except for Street D) would be designed to Local Street standards with 59 feet of right-of-way, which includes street, curb, gutter, park strip, sidewalk, and a public utility easement. Street D would have 100 feet of right-of-way. Paulson Road and Cardella Road would respectively have 84 feet and 148 feet of right-of-way respectively, and include a masonry block wall.

The General Plan would allow a maximum of 655 units within the subject site. The proposed 104 units would generate less vehicle traffic compared to the maximum density allowed. According to Trip Generation (ITE Report), the average daily trips per unit is 6.59. The proposed project at 104 units would generate approximately 16% of the average daily trips compared to the maximum density allowed by the General Plan. The existing and proposed street network could adequately serve this proposal.

In addition, there are several walkable locations within a ¼ mile of the subject site, which include Davenport Park, Cruickshank Middle School, Dignity Health Hospital, Merced College, and the Yosemite & G Crossing Shopping Center (under construction in phases). The existing street network could adequately serve this proposal as it was designed to accommodate a much larger maximum number of units. In addition, the extension of Paulson Road to Cardella Road would provide direct access to existing residents in the neighborhood wanting to travel north, improving the street network in the area.

### **Parking**

- D) The proposal would satisfy the City’s standard parking requirements for single-family homes. The standard parking requirement for single-family homes is one parking space per unit. Each single-family would have a 2-car garage.

### **Public Improvements/City Services**

- E) The developer would be required to install all streets, utilities, and other improvements within the subdivision and around the subdivision to be up to City Standards (Condition #27 and #30). This includes connecting roads to the subdivision such as Paulson Road and Dunn Road.

Each lot would be required to pay fees for sewer and water connections at the building permit stage. In addition, each lot within the subdivision would be required to meet the City’s storm drainage and run-off requirements for the City’s MS-IV permit (Condition #18).

### **Building Elevations**

- F) The developer has yet to submit building designs for the single-family homes (104 lots). These homes shall be required to comply with the City’s minimum design standards for single-family homes as required under Merced Municipal Code Section 20.46.020 - Design Standards for Single-Family Dwellings and Mobile Homes (see Attachment E of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338 and Condition #13 of Planning Commission Resolution #4145).

### **Affordability Requirements**

- G) In 2023, the City Council updated the City’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation Unit Production Plan. A housing affordability requirement is triggered by two qualifiers that need to be met: entitlement type and number of units created. For single-family residential developments, the affordability requirement is triggered by a legislative action agreement (through annexations, general plan amendments, site utilization plan revisions, or zone changes) for projects with over 60 single-family homes (multi-family residential projects are exempt).

In this case the developer is requesting an entitlement that triggers a legislative action agreement--a general plan amendment. As shown under Finding A, General Plan Amendment #24-01 is to amend the City’s Circulation Element only (not a land use change request). The land use aspect of the project (104

units on approximately 39 acres) would comply with the Zoning classifications for this site.

Based on this request, the developer is not required to provide affordable housing units (or an in-lieu fee) because the general plan amendment is to amend the City's Circulation Element (not land use)

### **Site Design**

- H) As shown on the Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map (Attachment D of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338), the proposed design of the subdivision includes 2 interior east/west streets, 6 cul-de-sacs, and 2 north/south streets. There would be a masonry block wall around the northern and eastern portions of the subdivision on the back of the lots along Paulson Road and Cardella Road. Paulson Road would provide access to other arterial streets such as Cardella Road (north) and Yosemite Avenue (south).

The Cotton Wood Bike Path Easement (25 feet wide) would be located on the south side of Cotton Wood Creek. On the north side of the creek would be a storm basin shown as Lot B (approximately 0.85 acres). Lot A (approximately 5.18 acres) would be located within northeast portion of the subject site and would be remain undeveloped, as a field survey by Gallaway Enterprise found this area to contain wetlands to be avoided (see Condition #37).

The interior local streets would have 59 feet of right-of-way that includes a 34-foot-wide road, and on both sides of the street contain a 7-foot-wide park strip, 5-foot-wide sidewalk, and 10-foot-wide public utility easement. Portions of the perimeter of the subdivision would be surrounded by a masonry block wall along Paulson Road and Cardella Road.

### **Landscaping**

- I) Each lot within the subdivision shall be provided with front yard landscaping in compliance with Merced Municipal Code Section 20.36.050 (Landscaping) that requires all exterior setback areas, excluding areas required for access to the property to be landscaped (Condition #22).

For landscaping within public right-of-way, the developer shall install landscaping in front of the block walls along Paulson Road and Cardella Road. Landscaping in this area would be reviewed by the City prior to installation. The landscaping within this area would be maintained by the Community Facilities District.

### **Neighborhood Impact/Interface**

- J) The subject site is surrounded by a variety of uses which includes to the west by Cruickshank Middle School/agricultural land, to the south by single-family homes, to the east by undeveloped land, and to the north (across from E. Cardella Road) by agricultural land. The subject site's current land use designation is residential and would allow a maximum of 655 residential units. The proposed Paulson Ranch subdivision is consistent with the current land use designation, and at 104 single-family homes would be below the maximum number of residential units allowed for this site. There are several existing residential subdivisions to the south. This development is not expected to alter the character of the neighborhood or introduce uses that don't already exist in the neighborhood.

Public hearing notices were sent to all property owners within 300 feet of the project site. At the time that this report was prepared, the City had not received any comments regarding this project.

### **Tentative Subdivision Map Requirements/Public Comments Received**

- K) Per Merced Municipal Code (MMC) Section 18.16.080 – Information Required, a tentative subdivision map shall include all of the requirements shown at Attachment F of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338. Said requirements include stating the location of the subject site, the name of the subdivision, and showing the layout of the proposed lots. MMC 18.16.090 – Required Statement requires the applicant to provide a statement that explicitly states any deviations from tentative subdivision map requirements, standard drawings, or Zoning laws. MMC 18.16.100 - Public Hearing – Generally, requires a public hearing to review and approve a tentative subdivision map in conformance with the Subdivision Map Act.

Per the California Environmental Quality Act, a public hearing notice was mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the subject site and published in a qualifying newspaper, Merced County Times, three weeks prior to this meeting. In addition, staff reached out to local utility companies, local school districts, and other relevant government agencies to solicit comments. At the time this report was prepared, staff had not received comments from utility companies.

## **Environmental Clearance**

- L) Most Infill projects over 5 acres or projects that don't comply with Zoning/General Plan designations require an Initial Study, per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In this case, the proposed land use is consistent with the General Plan land uses, and a General Plan Amendment is being requested to amend the Circulation Element by eliminating a collector road from going through the project site – thus an Initial Study was required. An Initial Study includes a wide range of analysis required by the State covering an array of subjects including, but not limited to, impacts on vehicle miles traveled, air quality, biological resource, public services, cultural resources, and City utilities. Planning staff has conducted an environmental review of the project in accordance with the requirements of CEQA, and concluded that Environmental Review #24-07 results in a Negative Declaration as the proposal would not have a significant effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. A copy of the Initial Study with a Negative Declaration can be found at Attachment K of Planning Commission Staff Report #25-338.



Undeveloped  
(Land Use - Commercial)

Subjec Site  
APN: 231-020-021

Undeveloped  
(Low Density Residential)

Undeveloped  
(Land Use - Commercial)

Undeveloped  
(Low Density Residential)

Cruickshank  
Middle School

# VESTING TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP FOR: PAULSON RANCH

BEING A SUBDIVISION OF THE REMAINDER OF PARCEL 3, AS SHOWN ON THE PARCEL MAP FOR SPALDING C. WATHEN, FILED IN BOOK 121 OF PARCEL MAPS, AT PAGES 1 TO 3, MERCED COUNTY RECORDS, TOWNSHIP 7 SOUTH, RANGE 14 EAST, MOUNT Diablo MERIDIAN CITY OF MERCED, COUNTY OF MERCED, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**OWNER**  
HASTELER BRANDS, LLC  
20000 SHERWOOD DRIVE  
SUNNYVALE, CA 94089

**SUBDIVIDER**  
STANFORD PLANNING, INC.  
10000 SHERWOOD DRIVE  
SUNNYVALE, CA 94089

**STATEMENT OF SUBDIVIDER**  
I, THE SUBDIVIDER, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I AM THE OWNER OF THE LAND SHOWN ON THIS MAP AND THAT I AM A RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

- EXISTING GENERAL PLAN RESIDENTIAL, LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL, HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- EXISTING ZONING: R-1-6 (LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL)
- EXISTING ZONING: R-2-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL)
- EXISTING ZONING: R-3-2 (MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL)
- EROSION CONTROL PER CITY OF MERCED ORDINANCES AND STANDARDS.
- FRONT YARD SETBACKS AND BUILDING SETBACK LINES PER CITY OF MERCED ORDINANCES AND STANDARDS.
- WATER SUPPLY: BY CITY OF MERCED
- SEWER DISPOSAL: BY CITY OF MERCED
- STORM DRAINAGE: BY CITY OF MERCED
- THREE TYPE AND LOCATION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY CITY OF MERCED.
- ALL N-TYPE IMPROVEMENTS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES SHALL BE INSTALLED OR CONSTRUCTED AT THE TIME OF DEVELOPMENT.

- GENERAL NOTES**
- STREET IMPROVEMENTS SHALL BE INSTALLED PER CITY OF MERCED STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.
  - NO AREAS SUBJECT TO INUNDATION BY THE CHANCE ANNUAL FLOOD EVENT FOR THIS SUBDIVISION IS 30.1 ACRES, COMMENCING 104 FEET WEST OF THE CENTERLINE OF PAULSON ROAD.
  - ALL LOTS SHALL BE 30.1 ACRES.
  - THE SUBDIVIDER HEREBY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO FILE MULTIPLE SUBDIVISION MAPS AS SET FORTH BY THE SUBDIVISION MAP ACT, CONCURRENTLY WITH THIS MAP.
  - A GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION WILL BE FILED CONCURRENTLY WITH THIS MAP.

MORRIS S. MICHNER & TIMOTHY F. RAZZARI  
& BILLIE K. TR.  
APN: 231-010-001  
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1-6)

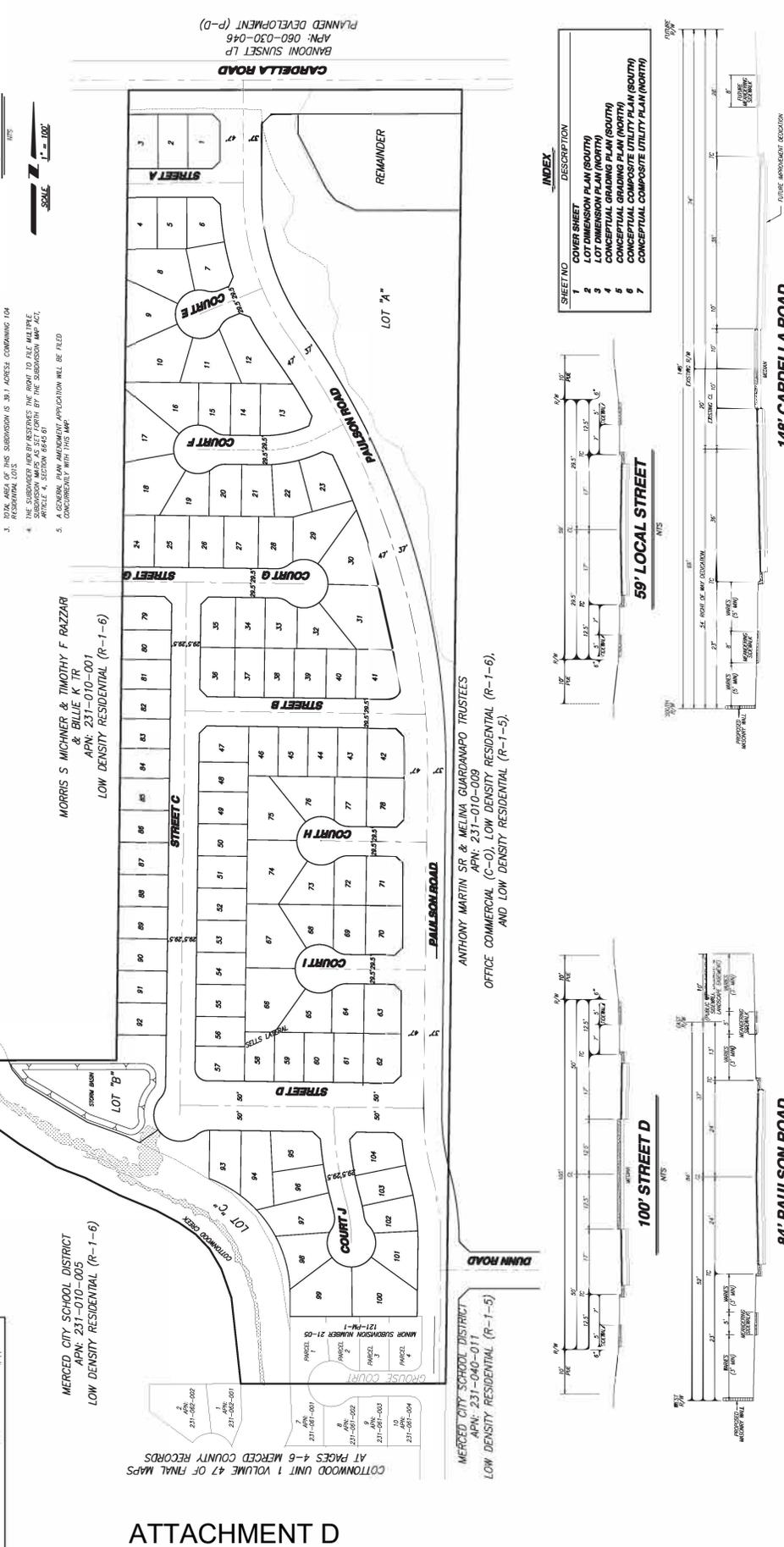
MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APN: 231-010-005  
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1-6)

ANTHONY MARTIN SR. & MELINA GUARDAMARCO TRUSTEES  
OFFICE COMMERCIAL (C-0), LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1-6),  
AND LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1-5).

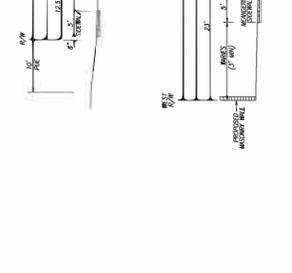
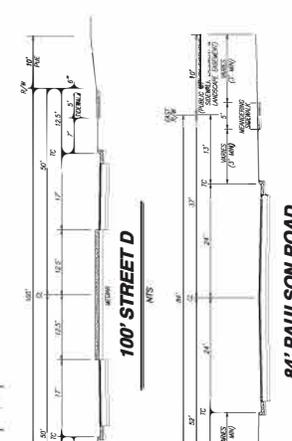
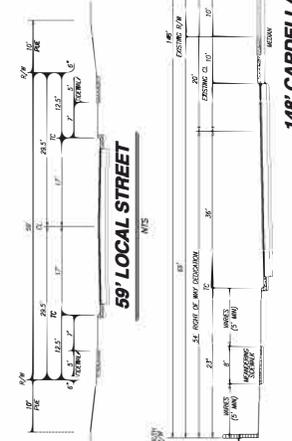
MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
APN: 231-040-011  
LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (R-1-5)

COTTONWOOD UNIT 1 VOLUME 47 OF FINAL MAPS  
AT PAGES 4-6 MERCED COUNTY RECORDS

EXISTING	PROPOSED
Water Main	Water Main
Down Alley	Down Alley
Standard Manhole	Standard Manhole
Water Line	Water Line
Sanitary Sewer	Sanitary Sewer
Storm Drain	Storm Drain
Low Street Light	Low Street Light
High Street Light	High Street Light
Direction of Flow	Direction of Flow
Top of Curve Elevation	Top of Curve Elevation
Curve, Gutter and Sidewalk	Curve, Gutter and Sidewalk
Ground Contours	Ground Contours
Special Station with Handicap Ramp	Special Station with Handicap Ramp



SHEET NO.	DESCRIPTION
1	COVER SHEET
2	LOT DIMENSION PLAN (SOUTH)
3	LOT DIMENSION PLAN (NORTH)
4	CONCEPTUAL GRADING PLAN (SOUTH)
5	CONCEPTUAL GRADING PLAN (NORTH)
6	CONCEPTUAL COMPOSITE UTILITY PLAN (SOUTH)
7	CONCEPTUAL COMPOSITE UTILITY PLAN (NORTH)



**BENCHMARK ENGINEERING**  
CIVIL ENGINEERING, PLANNING, AND LAND SURVEYING  
4285 SPYRES WAY, SUITE A, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA, 95356 (209) 546-8900

**COVER SHEET**  
VESTING TENTATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP FOR:  
PAULSON RANCH  
MERCED, CALIFORNIA

JOB NO 125810  
DATE 1/28/2023  
DRAWN BY  
CHECKED BY  
SCALE AS SHOWN  
SHEET NUMBER  
1  
OF 7 SHEETS

NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	DATE	APPROVED

**BENCHMARK ENGINEERING**  
 CIVIL ENGINEERING, PLANNING, AND SURVEYING  
 485 BRAYLEY WAY, SUITE A, ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA, 92658 (949) 548-8888

**PAULSON RANCH**  
 WESTING TREATMENT SUBDIVISION MAP FOUR  
 LOT DIMENSION PLAN (SOUTH)  
 MERCED, CALIFORNIA

JOB NO. 123895  
 DATE 1/28/2025  
 DWT: LC  
 CRY: MR  
 SCALE AS SHOWN

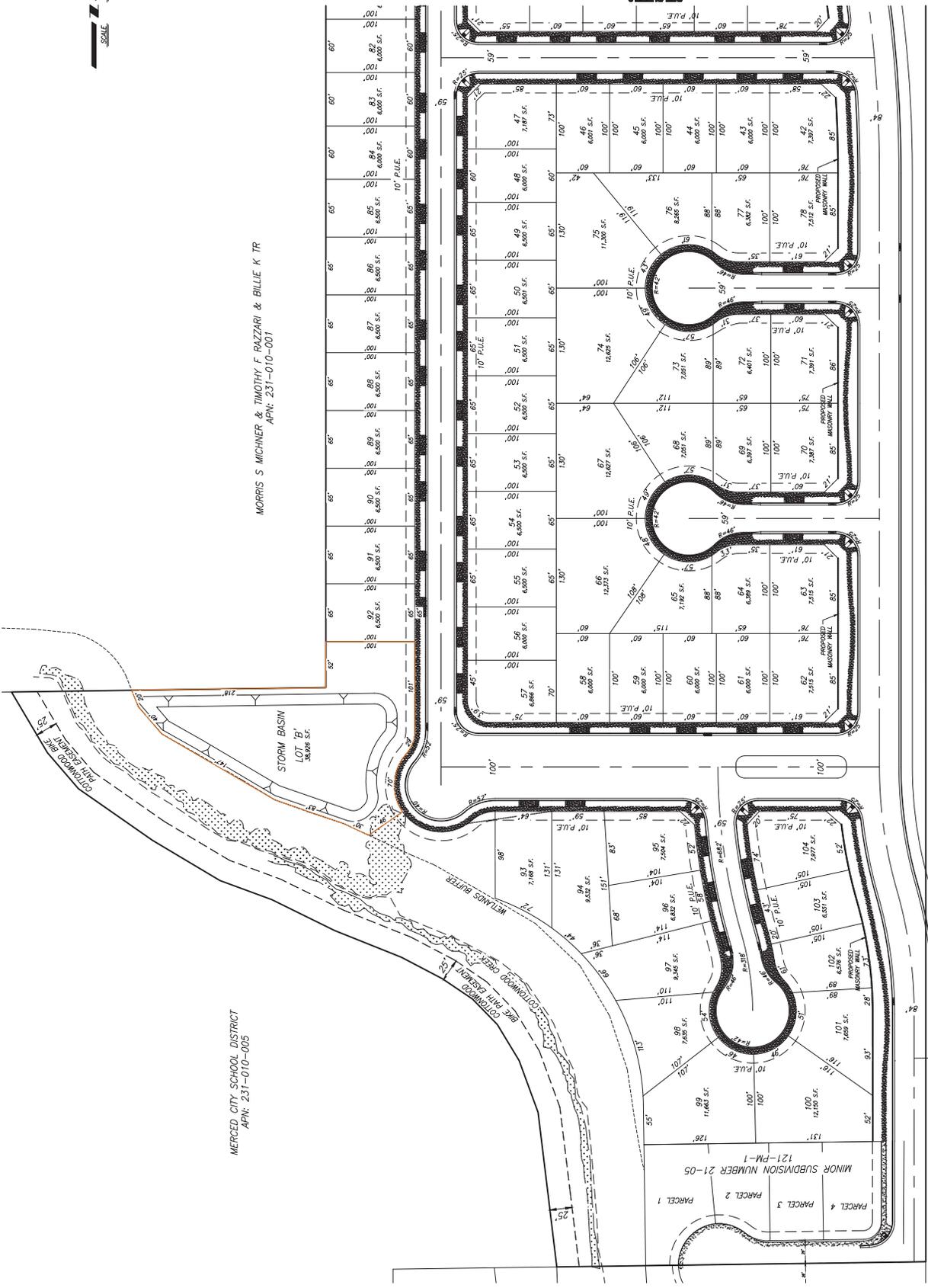
**2**  
 SHEET NUMBER  
 OF 7 SHEETS

SCALE 1" = 50'

MORRIS S. MICHNER & TIMOTHY F. RAZZARI & BILLIE K. TR  
 APN: 231-010-001

MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 APN: 231-010-005

ANTHONY MARTIN SR & MELINA GUARDANUPO TRUSTEES  
 APN: 231-010-009



NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	DATE	APPROVED

**BENCHMARK ENGINEERING**  
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 4855 SERRA WAY, SUITE A, ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA, 92658 (949) 948-8888

**PAULSON RANCH**  
 WESTING TREATMENT SUBDIVISION MAP FOUR  
 LOT DIMENSION PLAN (NORTH)

JOB NO. 129985  
 DATE 1/24/2023  
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 CKY: MR  
 SCALE AS SHOWN

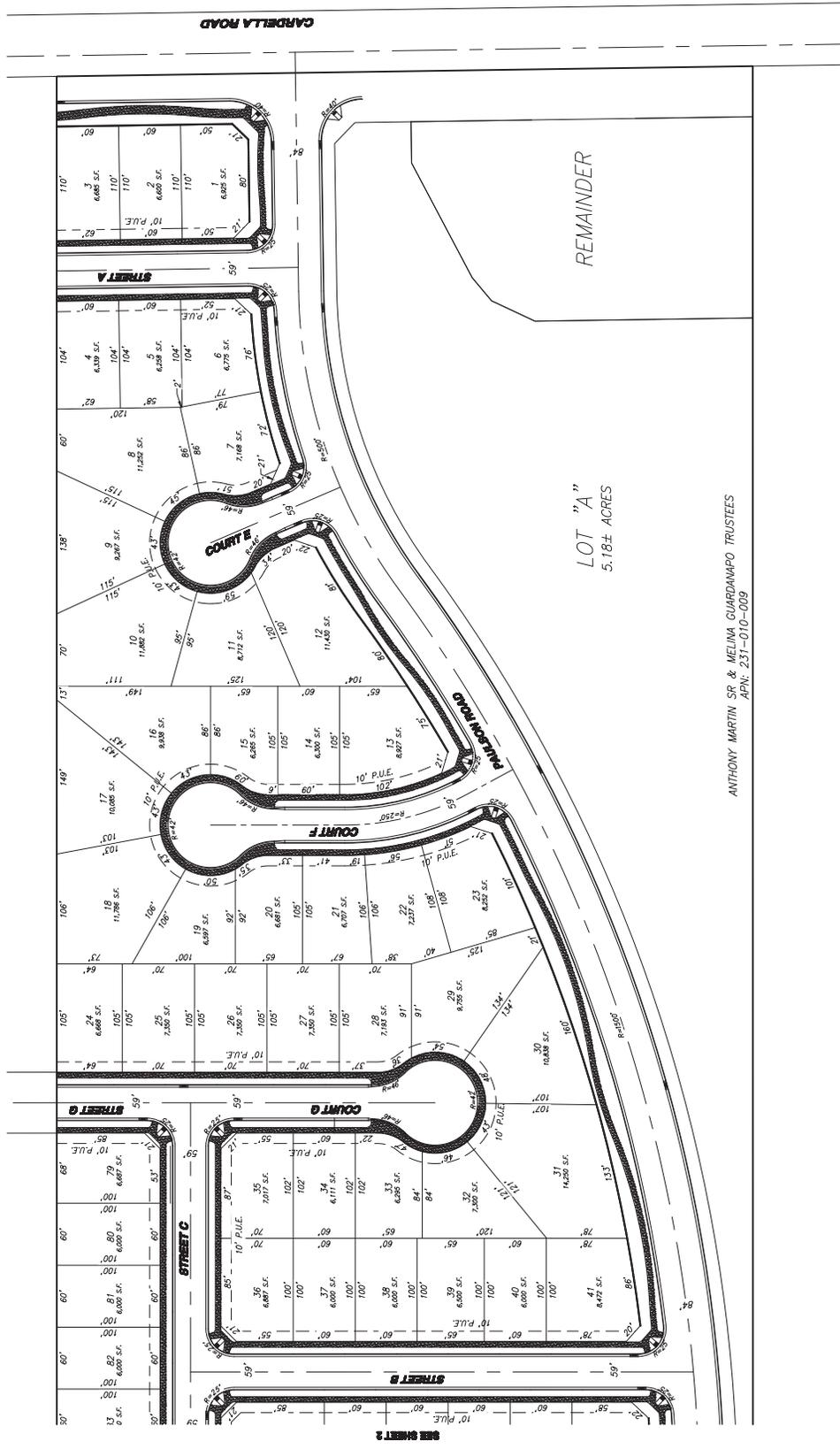
**3**  
 SHEET NUMBER  
 OF 7 SHEETS

SCALE 1" = 50'

BANDONI SUNSET LP  
 APN: 060-030-046

MORRIS S. MICHNER & TIMOTHY F. RAZZARI & BILLIE K. TR  
 APN: 231-010-001

ANTHONY MARTIN SR & MELINA GUARDANARO TRUSTEES  
 APN: 231-010-009



NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	DATE	APPROVED

**BENCHMARK ENGINEERING**  
 CIVIL ENGINEERING, PLANNING, AND LAND SURVEYING  
 4855 BRAY WAY, SUITE A, ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA, 95955 (916) 546-8888

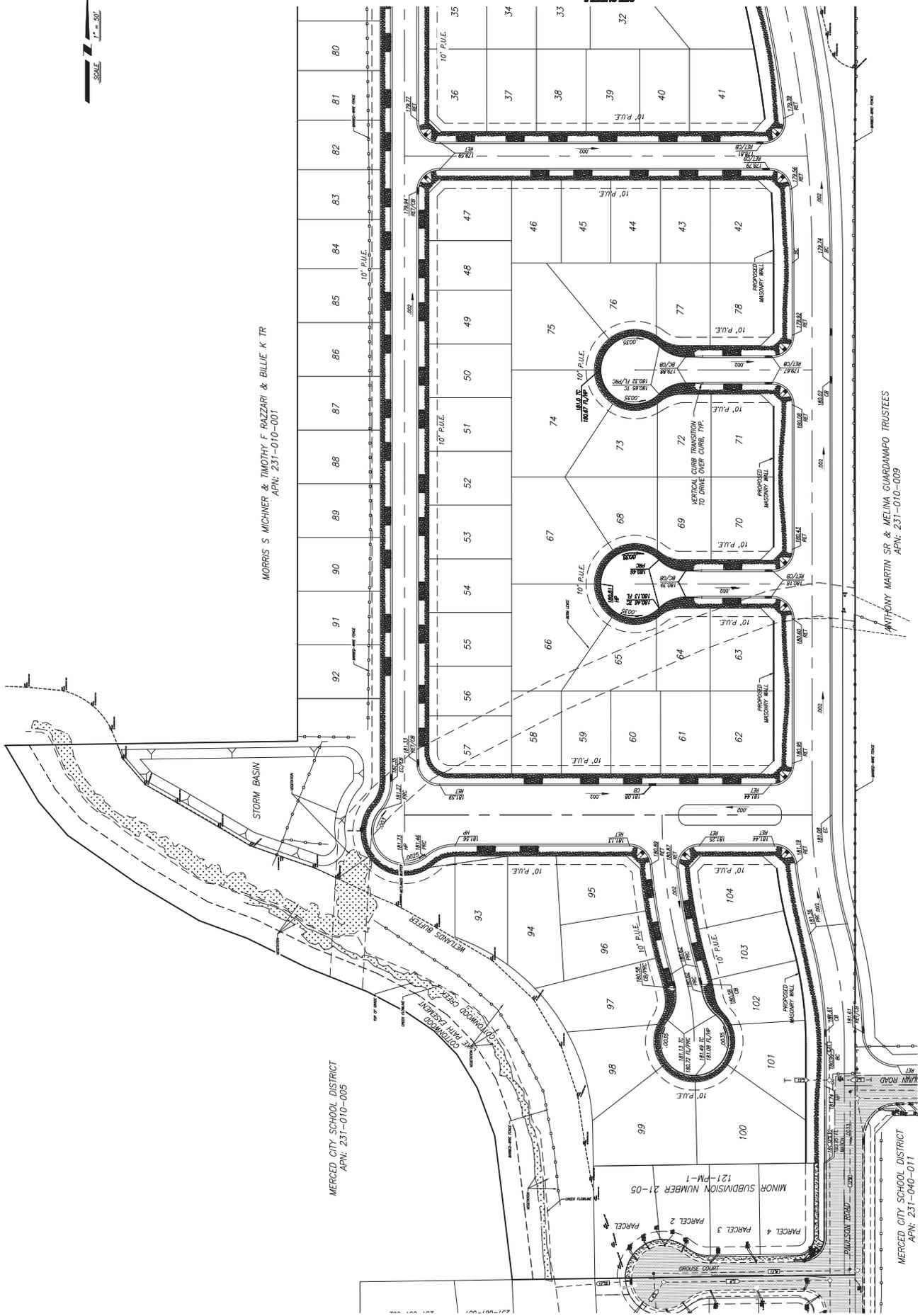


**CONCEPTUAL GRADING PLAN (SOUTH)**  
 VERTICALLY CURVED SUBDIVISION MAP FOR  
**PAULSON RANCH**  
 MERCED, CALIFORNIA

JOB NO. 125895  
 DATE 1/24/2025  
 DRY: LC  
 CRY: MR  
 ROLE: AS SHOWN

SHEET NUMBER **4**  
 OF 7 SHEETS

SCALE 1" = 50'



MORRIS S. MICHNER & TIMOTHY F. RAZZARI & BILLIE K. TR.  
 APN: 231-010-001

MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 APN: 231-010-005

MINDR SUBDIVISION NUMBER 21-05  
 121-PM-1

ANTHONY MARTIN SR & MELINA GUARDAMAFIO TRUSTEES  
 APN: 231-010-009

MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 APN: 231-040-011

NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	DATE	APPROVED

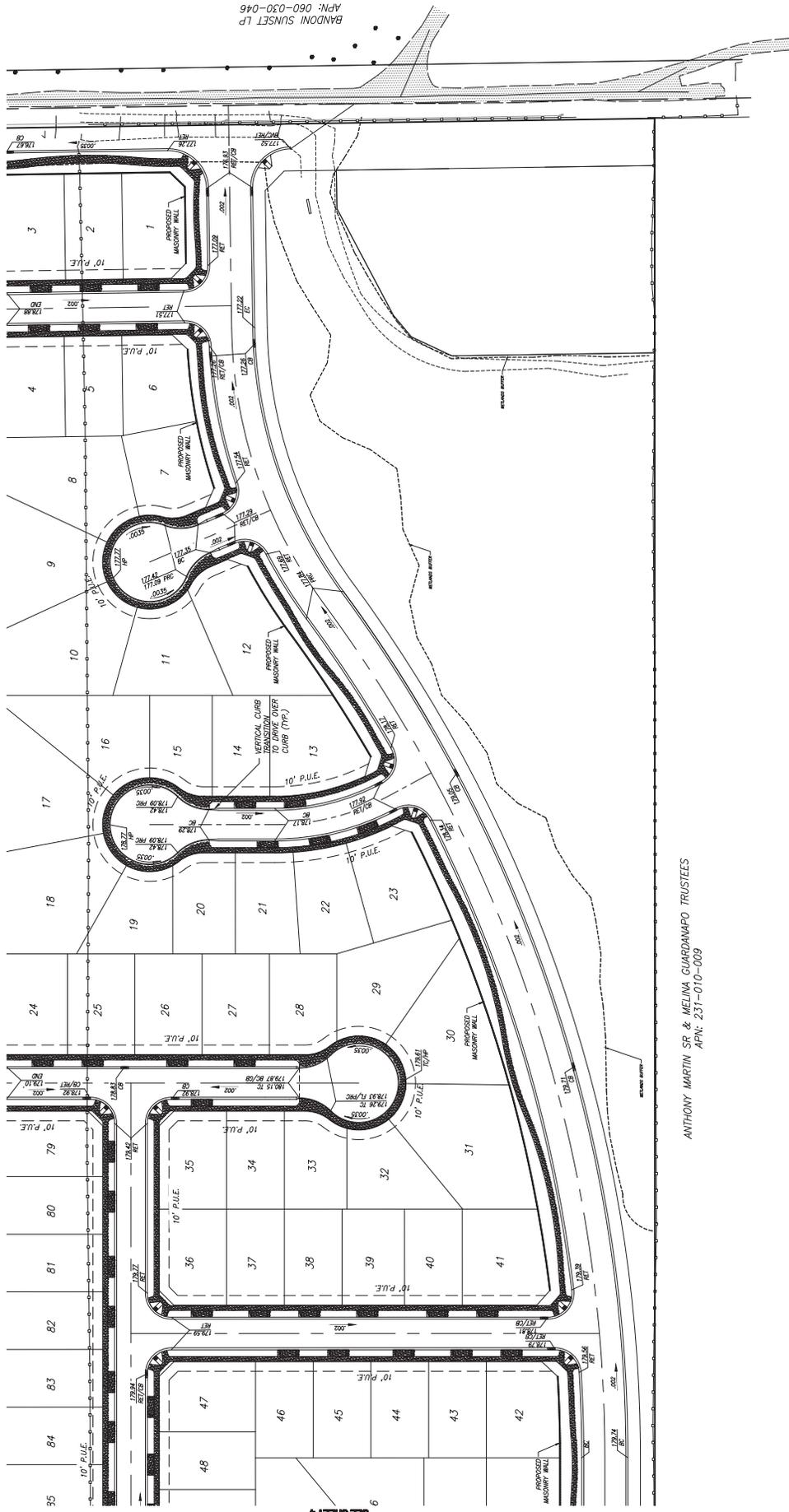
PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
 CIVIL ENGINEERING, PLANNING, AND LAND SURVEYING  
 4885 SERRA WAY, SUITE A, ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA, 92658 (949) 548-8888



CONCEPTUAL GRADING PLAN (NORTH)  
 WESTING TRINITATIVE SUBDIVISION MAP FOUR  
 PAULSON RANCH  
 MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA

JOB NO. 123456  
 DATE: 1/24/2025  
 DRAWN BY: JG  
 CHECKED BY: JG  
 SCALE: AS SHOWN

SHEET NUMBER  
**5**  
 OF 7 SHEETS



BANDON! SUNSET LP  
 APN: 060-030-046

MORRIS S. MICHNER & TIMOTHY F. RAZZARI & BILLIE K. TR.  
 APN: 231-010-001

ANTHONY MARTIN SR. & MELINA GUARDANARO TRUSTEES  
 APN: 231-010-009

SCALE: 1" = 50'

SHEET 4

NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	DATE	APPROVED

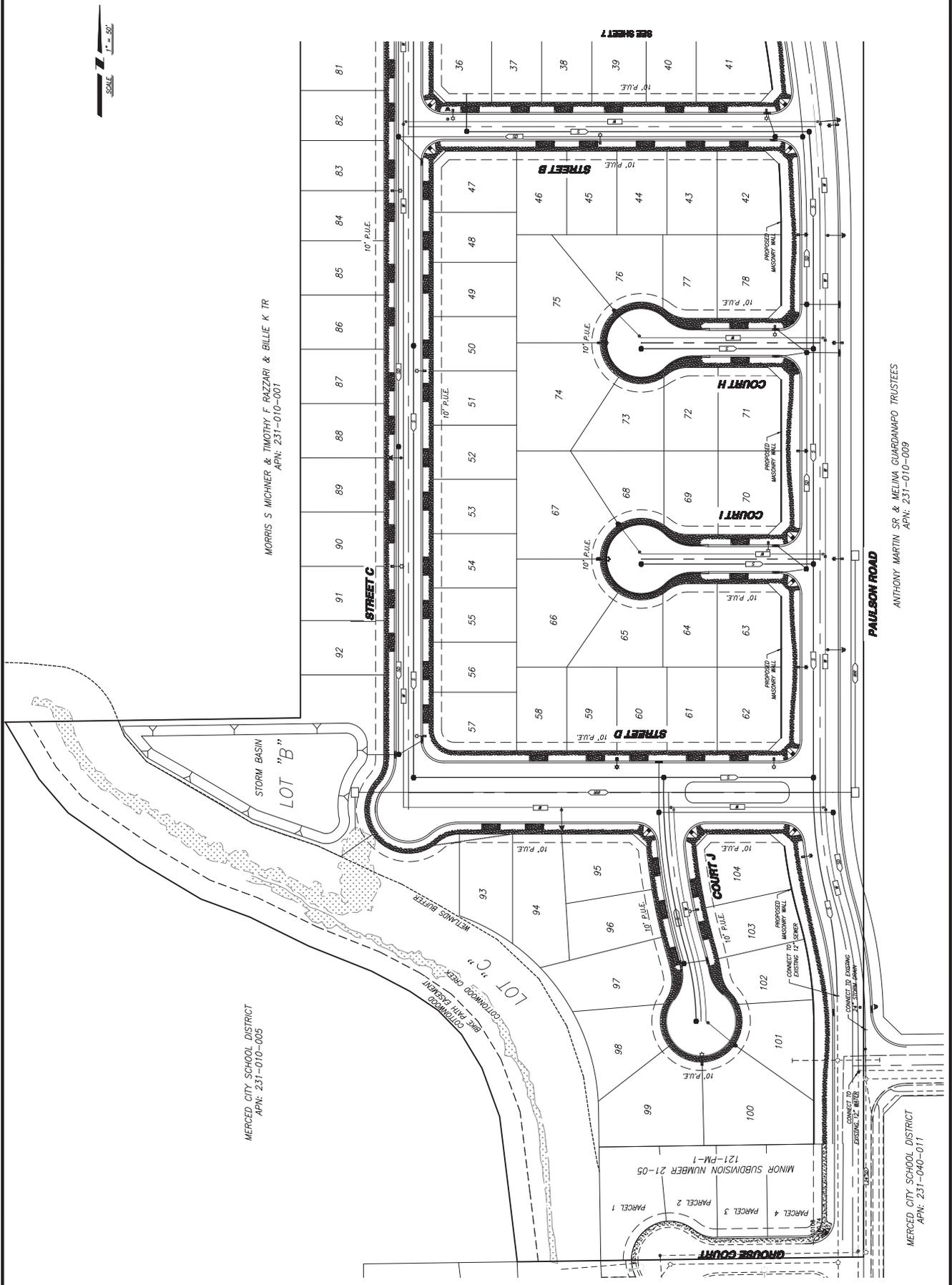
PREPARED UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF  
**BENCHMARK ENGINEERING**  
 CIVIL ENGINEERING, PLANNING, AND LAND SURVEYING  
 4885 SERRA WAY, SUITE A, ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA, 92388 (951) 548-8888



**CONCEPTUAL COMPOSITE UTILITY PLAN (SOUTH)**  
 VERTICALLY TYPED SUBDIVISION MAP FORM  
**PAULSON RANCH**  
 MERCED, CALIFORNIA

JOB NO. 123895  
 DATE: 1/24/2025  
 DWT: LC  
 CKY: MR  
 SCALE: AS SHOWN

**SHEET NUMBER 6**  
**OF 7 SHEETS**



MORRIS S. MICHNER & TIMOTHY F. ROZZARI & BILLIE K. TR.  
 APN: 231-010-001

MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 APN: 231-010-005

MERCED CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 APN: 231-040-011

ANTHONY MARTIN SR & MELINA GUARDAMPO TRUSTEES  
 APN: 231-010-009

NO.	DESCRIPTIONS	DATE	APPROVED

**BENCHMARK ENGINEERING**  
 CIVIL ENGINEERING, PLANNING, AND LAND SURVEYING  
 4885 SERRA WAY, SUITE 4, ROBERTS, CALIFORNIA, 92658 (949) 548-8888

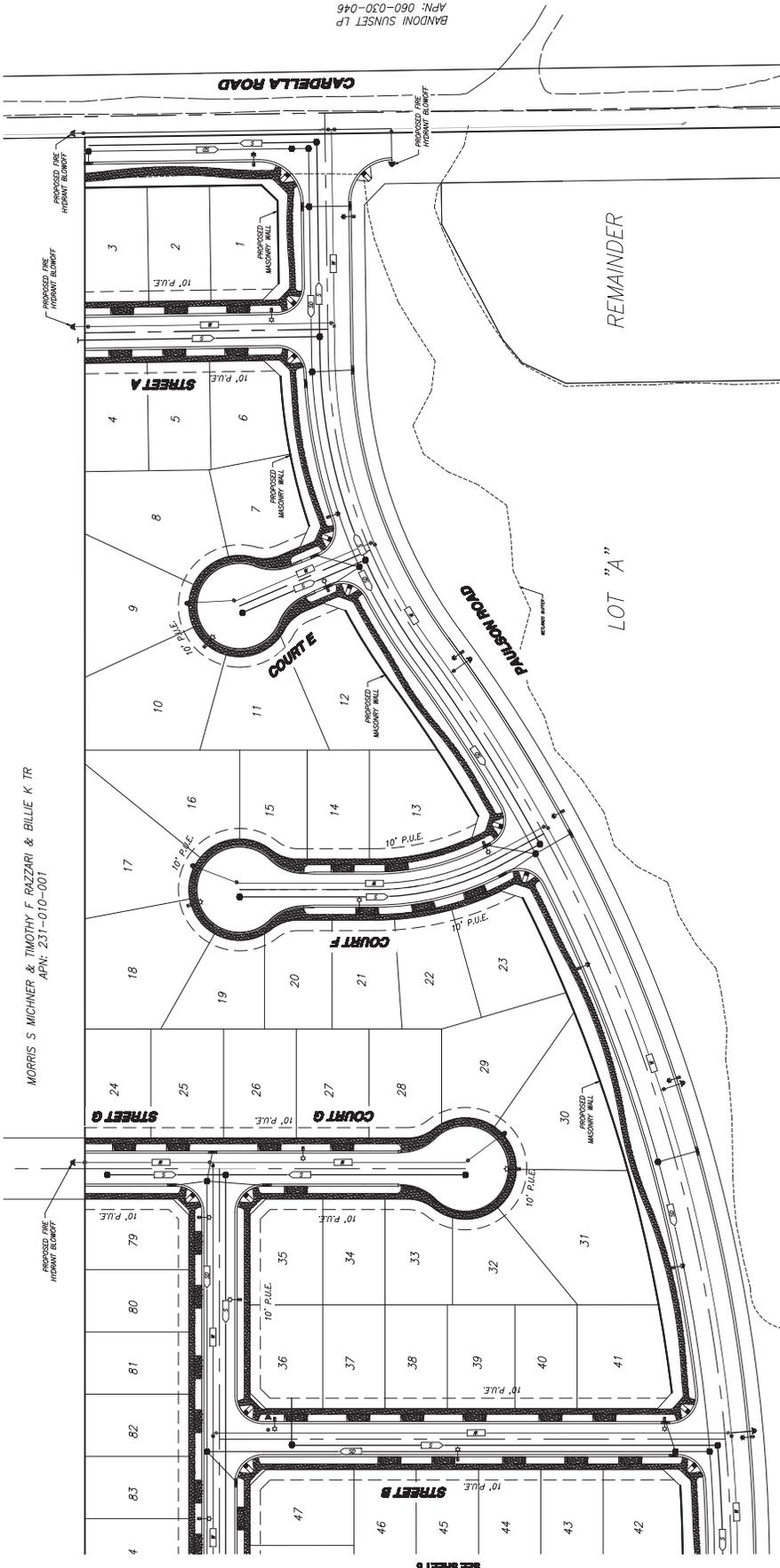


**CONCEPTUAL COMPOSITE UTILITY PLAN**  
 (NORTH)  
 VERTING TENTATIVE SUBSTATION MAP FOR  
**PAULSON RANCH**  
 MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA

JOB NO. 122885  
 DATE: 1/24/2025  
 DRY: LC  
 CKY: LR  
 SCALE: AS SHOWN

**SHEET NUMBER**  
**7**  
 OF 7 SHEETS

SCALE: 1" = 50'



BANDON SUNSET LP  
 APN: 060-030-046

MORRIS S MICHNER & TIMOTHY F RAZZARI & BILLIE K TR  
 APN: 231-010-001

ANTHONY MARTIN SR & MELINA GUARDAMAPO TRUSTEES  
 APN: 231-010-009

SEE SHEET 6

## Chapter 20.46 - RESIDENTIAL DESIGN STANDARDS

### Sections:

20.46.010 Purpose

20.46.020 Design Standards for Single-Family Dwellings and Mobile Homes

20.46.030 General Design Standards for Multi-Family Dwellings

20.46.040 Specific Design Standards for Multi-Family Dwellings

### 20.46.010 Purpose

This chapter establishes design standards for residential uses, in addition to regulations set forth in Chapter 20.08 (Residential Zones), except that parking, location, and address requirements in Section 20.46.020 do not apply to accessory dwelling units.

### 20.46.020 Design Standards for Single-Family Dwellings and Mobile Homes

- A. Applicability.** The following standards shall apply to all single-family developments and mobile homes, unless exceptions from individual standards are granted through a Minor Use Permit per Section 20.68.020.
- B. Siding.** No shiny or reflective exterior siding materials, which are more reflective than semi-gloss paint, shall be permitted.
- C. Exterior Walls.**
1. Materials shall extend to the ground where a unit is mounted at grade-level or the top of the solid concrete or masonry perimeter foundation where an above-grade foundation is used.
  2. Materials shall be limited to stucco, wood, brick, stone, glass, or decorative concrete block. No tin or other metallic exterior wall material shall be used.
  3. Materials shall be the same as or complementary to the wall materials and roofing materials of the dwelling unit.
- D. Windows.**
1. All windows, doors, and gable ends shall be architecturally treated with a trim.
  2. No shiny or reflective materials shall be permitted for trim which are more reflective than semi-gloss paint.



**E. Roof.**

1. **Roof Pitch Slope.** The slope or inclination of a pitched roof shall be no less than a ratio of 4 inches vertical rise for each 12 inches horizontal run (4:12).



2. **Projection.** Overhanging eaves shall be at least 12 inches from the exterior vertical walls.

3. **Materials.**

- a. Roofs shall be composed of non-wood or fire-retardant-treated wood shingles or shake shingles, non-reflective and matte-finish metal, rock or concrete or adobe or composition tile, or other similar materials commonly used in the area.

- b. Fascia boards shall be used on all sides of the structure to screen exposed elements, like rafters and vents, and to give the roof a finished edge.
- c. Roofing materials for a garage or carport shall be the same as the wall materials and roofing materials of the dwelling unit.

4. **Mechanical and Utility Equipment.** All mechanical and utility equipment shall be screened from the public right-of-way.

- F. **Parking.** Each unit shall have at least 200 square feet of off-street parking outside of required setback areas.

- G. **Width.** Each unit shall have a width of at least 20 feet.

- H. **Location.** Each dwelling shall face or have frontage upon a street or permanent means of access to a street by way of a public or private easement other than an alley. Such easements shall not be less than 10 feet in width.



- I. **Landscaping.** All front yards, and all side yards exposed to public view on corner lots, shall be landscaped with drought-tolerant ground cover, trees, and shrubs, including but not limited to, City street trees. Underground irrigation of the required landscaping shall be required. All shall be installed prior to occupancy. (Refer to Chapter 20.36.)

- J. **Foundation.** All homes and mobile homes must be attached to a permanent foundation system that complies with all building codes of the City.

- K. **Addresses.** The street address number of the house shall be displayed on the front wall of the house clearly visible from the street and shall be a minimum height of 4 inches with a ½ inch stroke (or as otherwise required in the California Residential and Fire Codes.)

18.16.080 - Information required.

Every tentative map shall be clearly and legibly reproduced. The following information shall be shown on, or accompanying, the map:

1. A key or location map on which is shown the general area including adjacent property, subdivisions and roads;
2. The tract name, date, north point, scale and sufficient legal description to define location and boundaries of the proposed subdivision;
3. Name and address of recorded owner or owners;
4. Name and address of the subdivider;
5. Name and business address of the person who prepared the map;
6. Acreage of proposed subdivision to the nearest tenth of an acre;
7. Contours at six-inch intervals to determine the general slope of the land and the high and low point thereof;
8. The locations, names, widths, approximate radii of curves and grades of all existing and proposed roads, streets, highways, alleys and ways in and adjacent to the proposed subdivision or subdivision to be offered for dedication;
9. Proposed protective covenants;
10. Location and description of all easements;
11. Locations and size of all existing and proposed public utilities;
12. Proposed method of sewage and stormwater disposal;
13. Location and character of all existing and proposed public open space in and adjacent to the subdivision and a statement of intention with regard to park land dedication or payment of a fee in lieu thereof;
14. Lot layout, approximate dimensions and area in square feet of each irregular lot and lot numbers;
15. City limit lines occurring within the general vicinity of the subdivision;
16. Classification of lots as to intended land use, zone, and density;
17. Approximate bearings and distances to quarter-section bounds within the general vicinity of the subdivision;
18. Proposed public improvements;
19. Statement as to whether the subdivision is to be recorded in stages;
20. Existing use and ownership of land immediately adjacent to the subdivision;
21. Preliminary title report issued not more than sixty days prior to filing of the tentative map;
22. The outline of any existing buildings and indication of any to remain in place and their locations in relation to existing or proposed street and lot lines;

23. Location of all existing trees and indication of those proposed to remain in place, standing within the boundaries of the subdivision;
24. Location of all areas subject to inundation or storm water overflow, the location, width and direction of flow of all watercourses and indicate flood zone classification;
25. Elevations of sewers at proposed connection.

(Ord. 1533 § 1, 1984: Ord. 1358 § 3, 1980: Ord. 1342 § 2 (part), 1980: prior code § 25.32(c)).

#### 18.16.090 - Required statement.

A statement shall be presented by the subdivider in written form accompanying the map and shall contain justification and reasons for any exceptions to provisions of this title, the standard drawings or for any amendments to or variation from the zoning law, which may be requested in conjunction with the subdivision proposed.

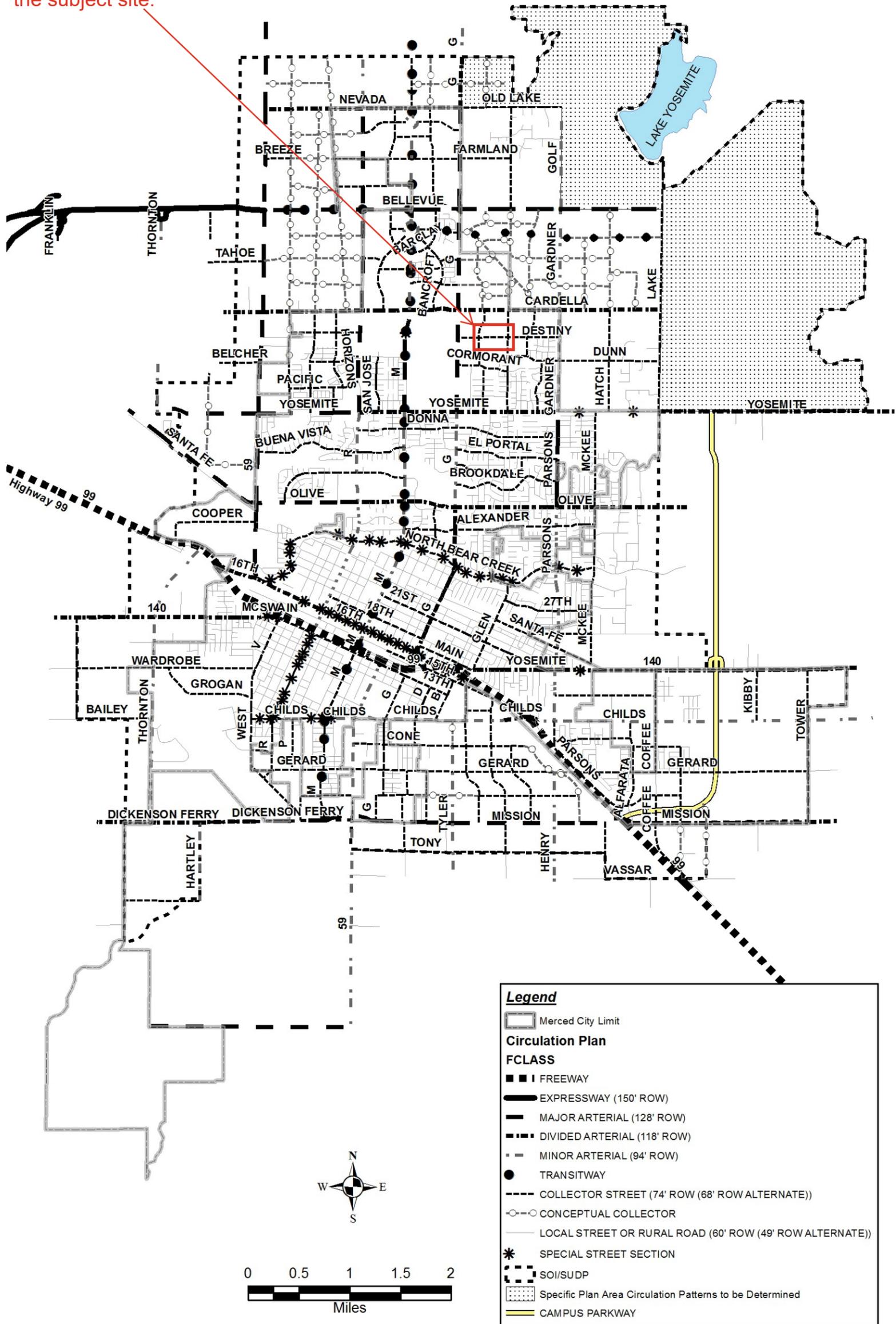
(Ord. 1533 § 2, 1984: Ord. 1342 § 2 (part), 1980: prior code § 25.33).

#### 18.16.100 - Public hearing—Generally.

The planning commission shall review the tentative map at a public hearing to determine whether it is in conformity with the provisions of law and of this title and upon that basis, within the time allowed in the Subdivision Map Act.

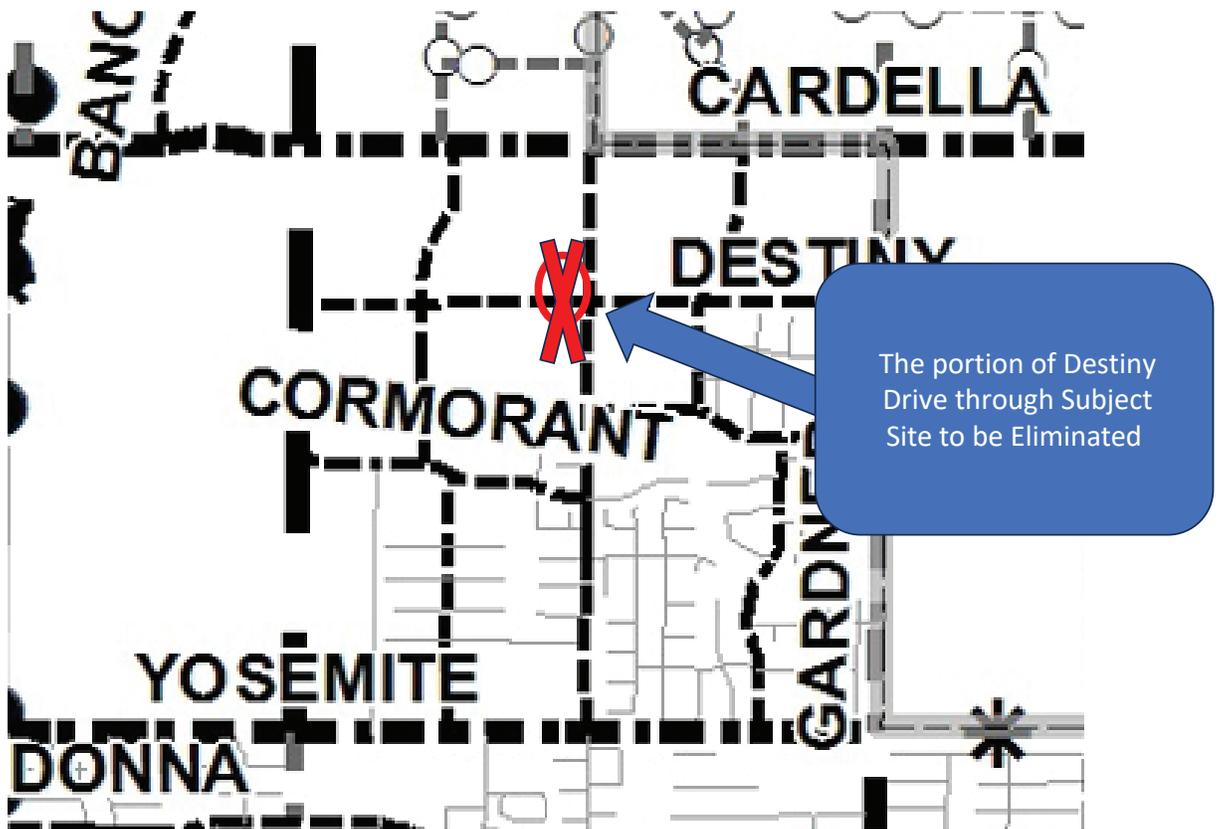
(Ord. 1358 § 4, 1980: Ord. 1342 § 2 (part), 1980: prior code § 25.34(a)).

The GPA would modify the Circulation Element to eliminate Destiny Road (a collector road) from crossing the subject site.



CITY OF MERCED CIRCULATION PLAN

Figure 4.1



37.3466,  
-120.4621

Draft Delineation of Waters of the U.S.							
Other Waters							
Label	Cowardin	Description	Location (Lat/Long)	Width (ft)*	Length (ft)	Area (sq ft)	Acres
OW01a	R4	Intermittent	37.346591 -120.461988	7.9	63.9	503.5	0.012
OW01b	R4	Intermittent	37.346209 -120.460847	9.8	642.5	6273.8	0.144
OW02a	R4	Intermittent	37.341365 -120.460944	20.2	671.6	13586.5	0.312
OW02b	R4	Intermittent	37.340701 -120.461958	18.6	105.5	1965.7	0.045
OW03	R4	Intermittent	37.340543 -120.462204	27.6	943.7	26065.4	0.598
Other Waters Totals =				2427.2	48394.9	1.111	

\*Widths are represented as averages

Abutting/Adjacent Wetland Features							
Label	Cowardin	Description	Location (Lat/Long)	Width (ft)	Length (ft)	Area (sq ft)	Acres
WF01	PUB	Wetland Feature	37.346583 -120.460946	NA	NA	182.6	0.004
WF02	PUB	Wetland Feature	37.345208 -120.460156	NA	NA	103642.9	2.379
Wetland Feature Totals =				NA	NA	103825.6	2.384
Total Waters of the U.S. =				2427.2	152220.4	3.495	

**Project Boundary - (39.75 acres)**

5 Foot Contours

Culvert - C#

Flow Direction

Photo Points\* - P#

**Data Points**

- Test Pit - TP#
- Upland - U#
- Wetland - W#

**Other Waters - OW# - (1.111 acres)**

- Intermittent

**Abutting/Adjacent Wetland Features - WF# - (2.384 acres)**

- Wetland Features

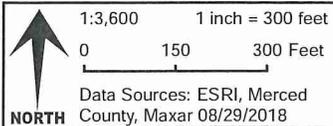
\*See Figure 3, Ground Photographs Map, for additional information on Photo Points.



The features represented on this graphic are considered preliminary until written verification by the USACE. All features identified as Non-Jurisdictional by Rule may still fall under State jurisdiction per section 401 of the CWA.

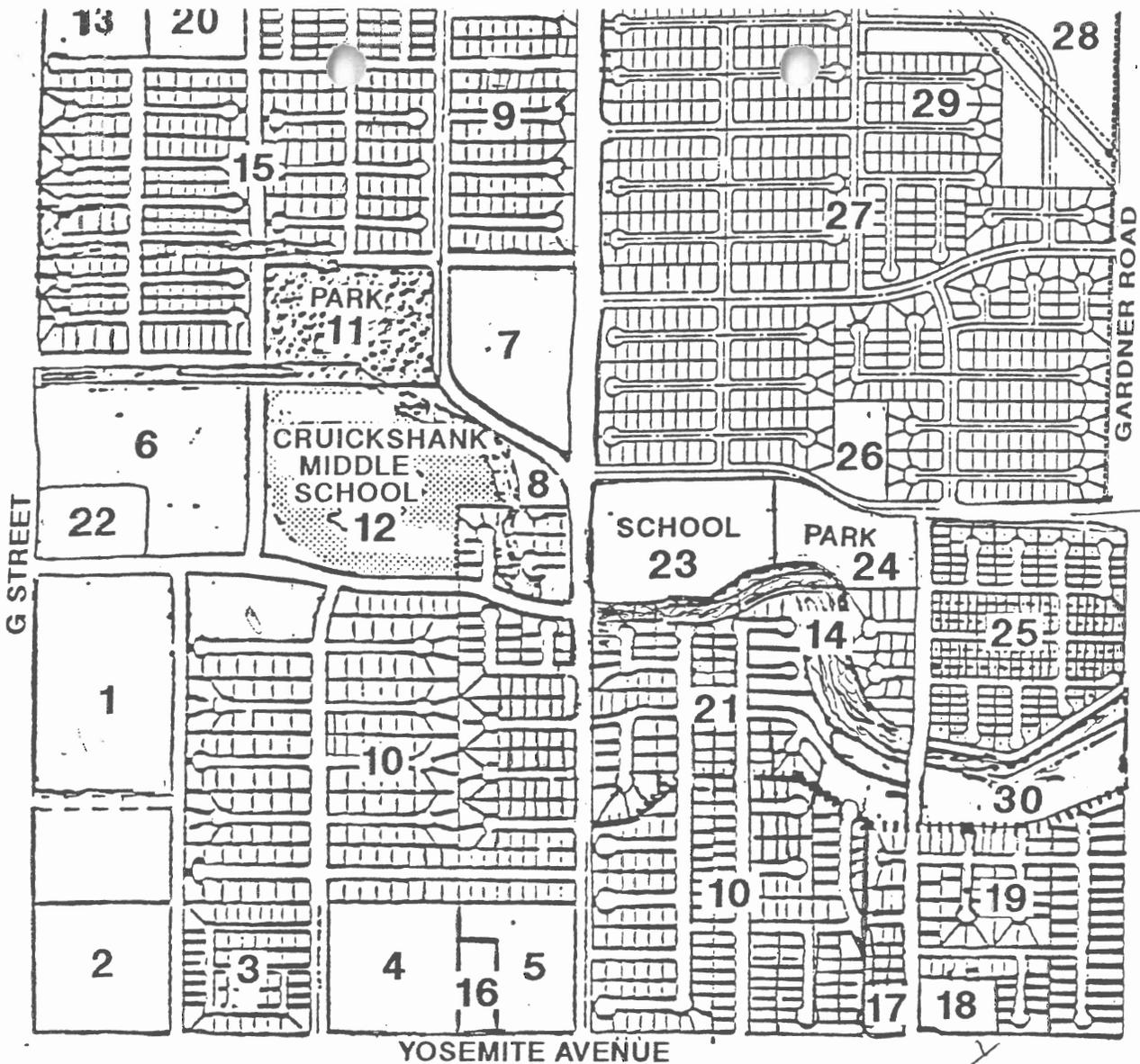
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 California State Plane III (Feet)  
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic  
 Datum: North American 1983  
 Vertical Datum: NAVD 88

Made in accordance with the Updated Map & Drawing Standards for the South Pacific Division Regulatory Program



Wathan Property - APN 231-010-002  
 Draft Delineation of Waters of the U.S.  
 Figure 4

Delineation by: E. Gregg  
 Map by: B. Reaves  
**gallaway ENTERPRISES**  
 GE: #21-012 Map Date: 02/25/2021



1) 310 Apartments/Condominiums (±17.2 acres)	16) Private Residence (±2 acres)
2) 160 Apartments/Condominiums (±8.8 acres)	17) Private Residence (±1.5 acres)
3) 46 Single-Family Residences (±8.9 acres)	18) Church Site (±4 acres)
4) St. Patrick's Catholic Church (±9 acres)	19) 118 Single-Family Residences
5) Church Site (±8 acres)	20) Neighborhood Commercial Site (±3.8 acres)
6) 70 Single-Family Residences (±18 acres)	21) 96 Single-Family Residences (±26 acres)
7) 155 Apartments/Condominiums (±9.7 acres)	22) Mercy/UC Davis Cancer Center (±3.8 acres)
8) 20 Apartments/Condominiums (±4.1 acres)	23) Elementary School Site (±10 acres)
9) 95 Single-Family Residences (±21.3 acres)	24) Park Site (±8 acres)
10) 560 Single Family Residences	25) 188 Single-Family Residences (±45 acres)
11) Park (±10 acres)	26) Drainage Basin (±3.6 acres)
12) Cruickshank Middle School (±20 acres)	27) 553 Single-Family Residences (±126 acres)
13) 72 Duplexes (±4.3 acres)	28) 150 Duplexes/Low-Medium Density (±16 acres)
14) Cottonwood Creek/Bikeway (±7 acres)	29) Park Site (Exact Location To Be Determined)
15) 144 Large Lot Residences (±74 acres)	30) Single-Family Residential (# of Units Unknown)
<b>Total Units = 2,739</b>	<b>Total Acres = 640</b>

**Figure 1**  
**Specific Plan**  
*Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan*

# PAULSON RANCH SUBDIVISION

GPA #24-01

NORTHEAST YOSEMITE SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT #6

VTSM #1329

STONEFIELD HOME, INC.

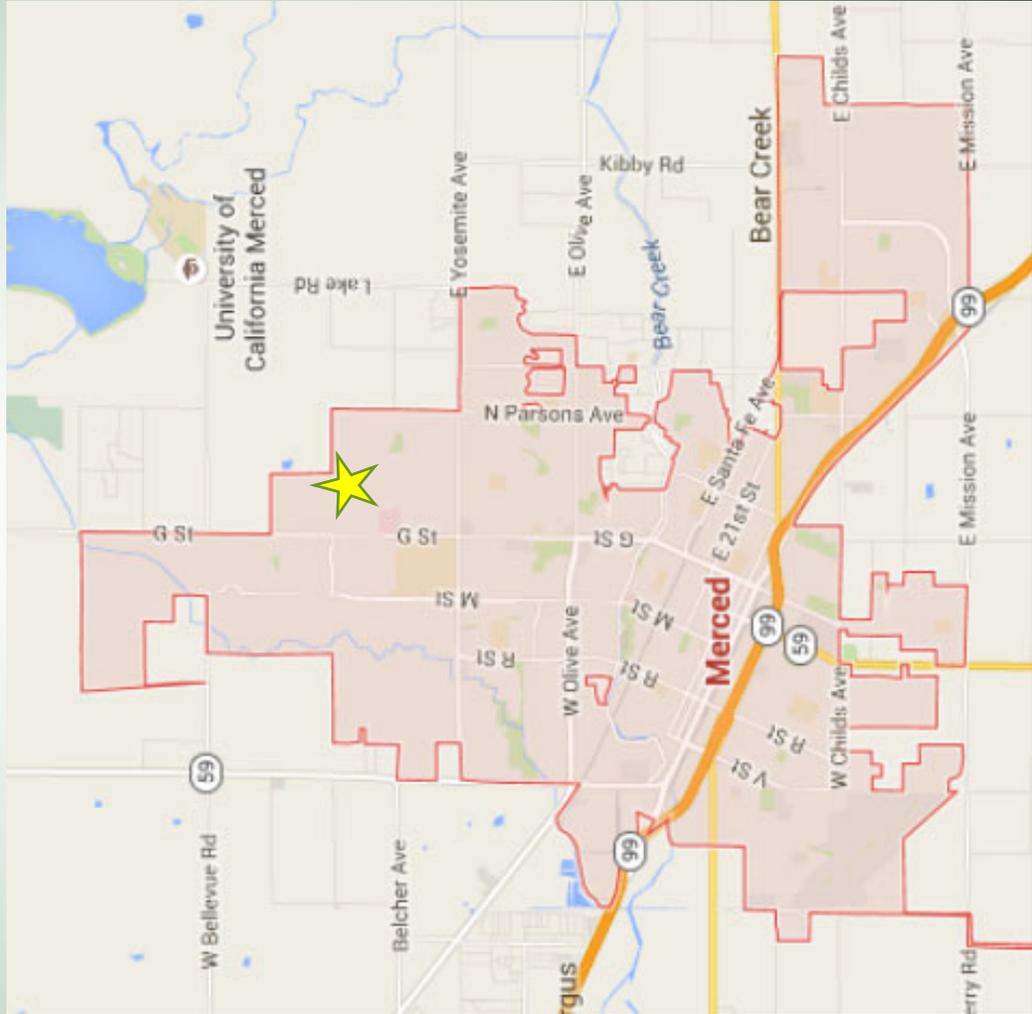
104 SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

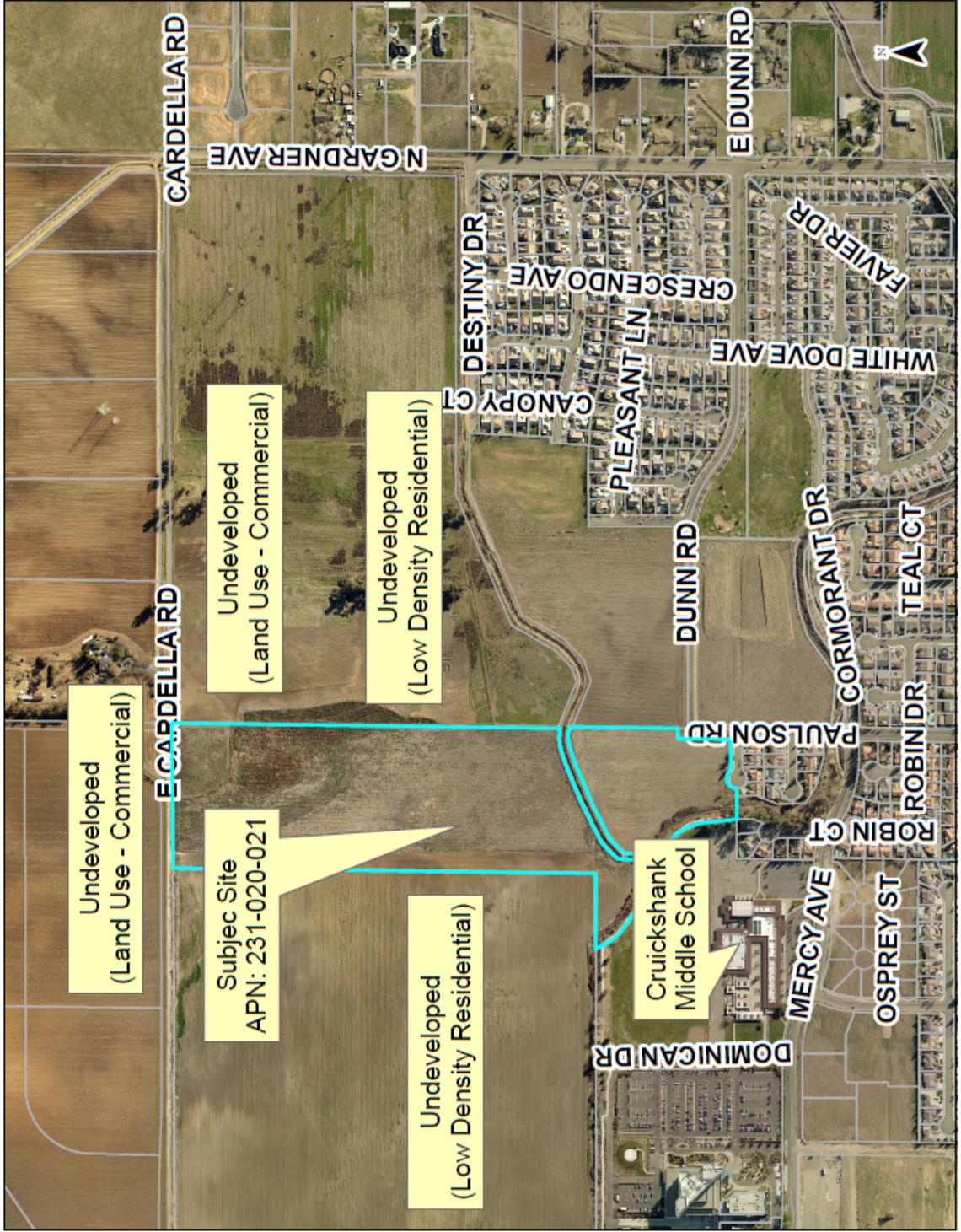
NORTHEAST MERCED

## ENTITLEMENT PROCESS (2 STEPS)

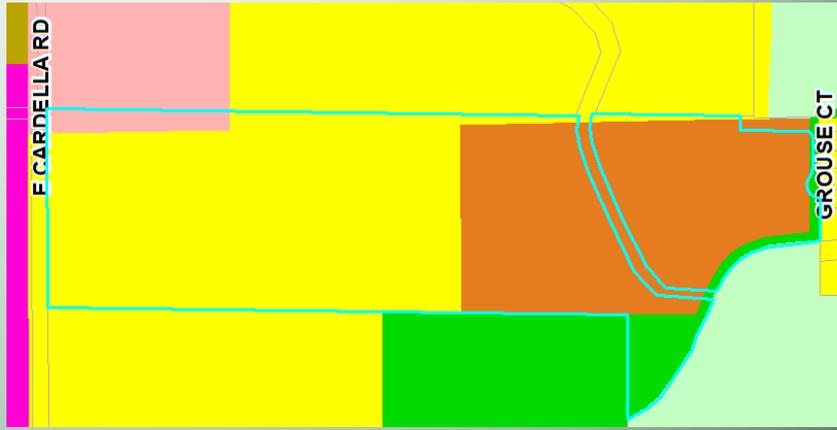
- **Recommendations to the City Council:**
  - General Plan Amendment: Amend the City's Circulation Element to eliminate a collector road (Destiny Drive) from going through this site
  - Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment: Amend this previously approved specific plan (from the 1990's) to accommodate this new subdivision layout
- **Planning Commission Action:**
  - Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map: Subdivision 39.12 acres into 104 single-family lots with some remainder lots

# CITY-SCALE CONTEXT





# GENERAL PLAN



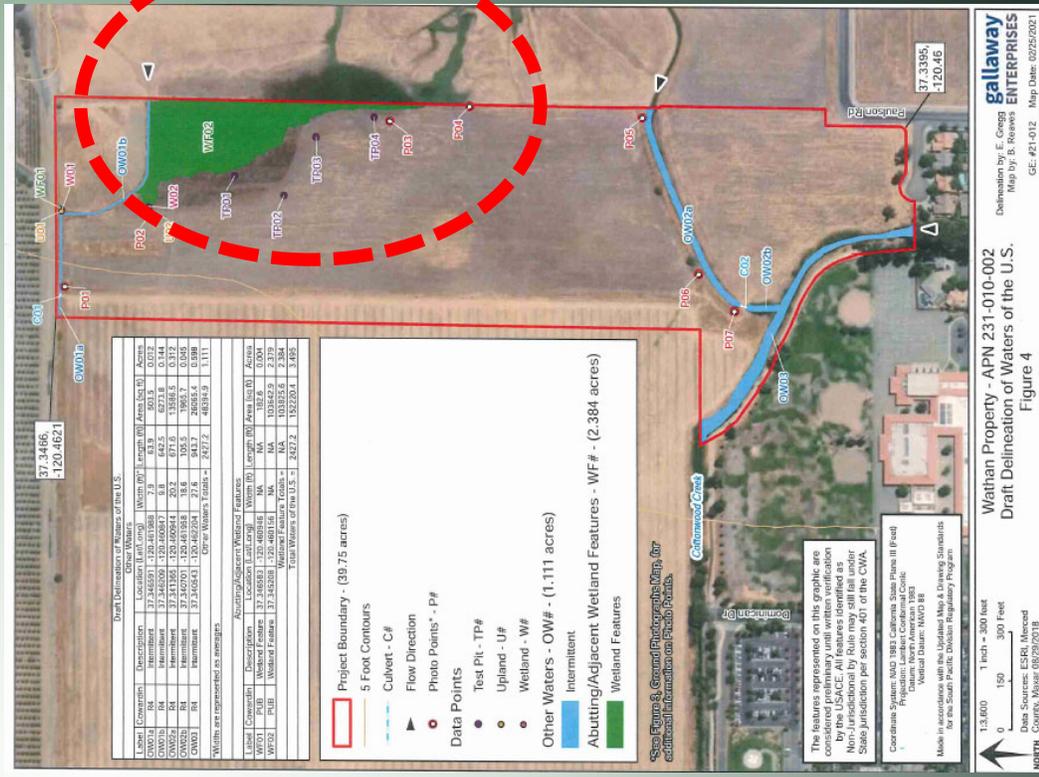
# ZONING



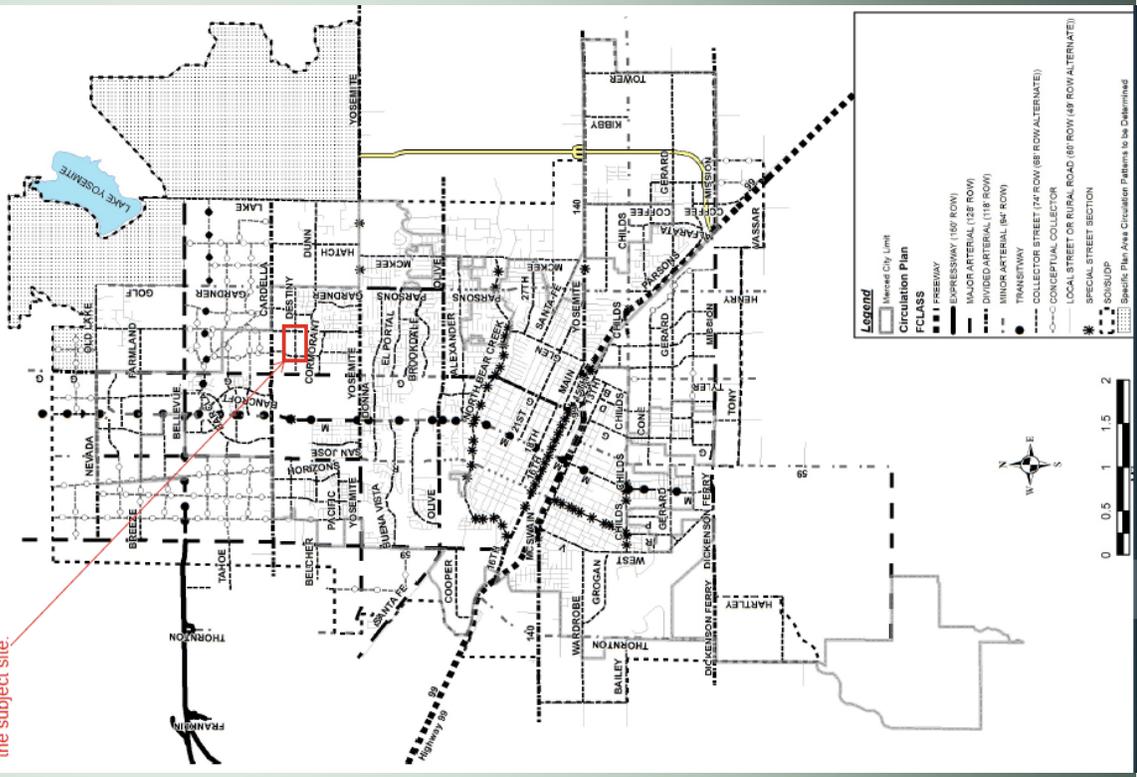
- Subject Site has two General Plan designations and two Zoning classifications. GP designations are LDR and HMD. Zoning classifications are R-1-6 and R-3-2.
- Based on the residential density allowed, the maximum number of units would be 533. The proposed 104 units are below the maximum allowed.

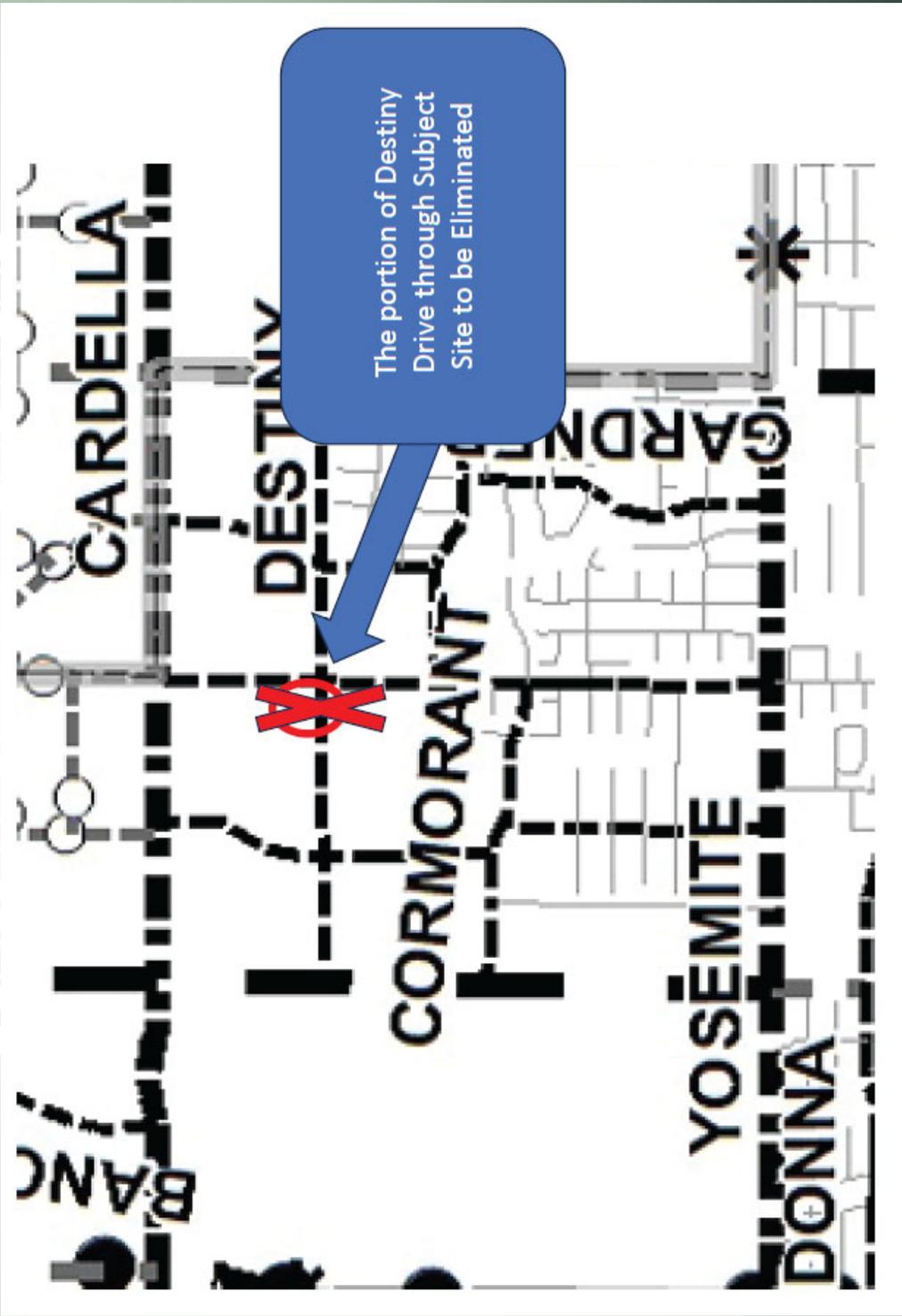
# WETLAND CONSTRAINTS

- Gallaway Enterprises conducted a field survey and identified areas where historical flooding from adjacent waterways (Paulson Ranch) is proposed subdivision (Paulson Ranch) is designed to go around these areas, which requires eliminating a collector road (Destiny Drive) from the site (GPA #24-01) and amending the previously approved Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan.



The GPA would modify the Circulation Element to eliminate Destiny Road (a collector road) from crossing the subject site.





# NORTHEAST YOSEMITE SPECIFIC PLAN

- Specific plan approved with annexation into City limits, during the 1990's.
- Circulation and subdivision layout being redesigned because of wetlands along eastern portion of project site.

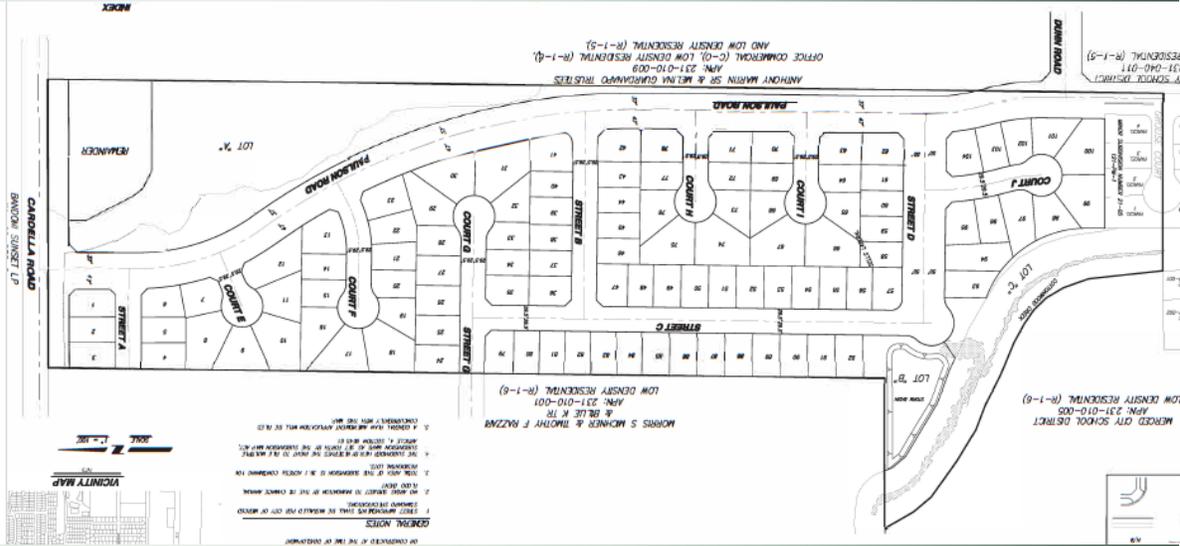


Figure 1  
Specific Plan  
Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan



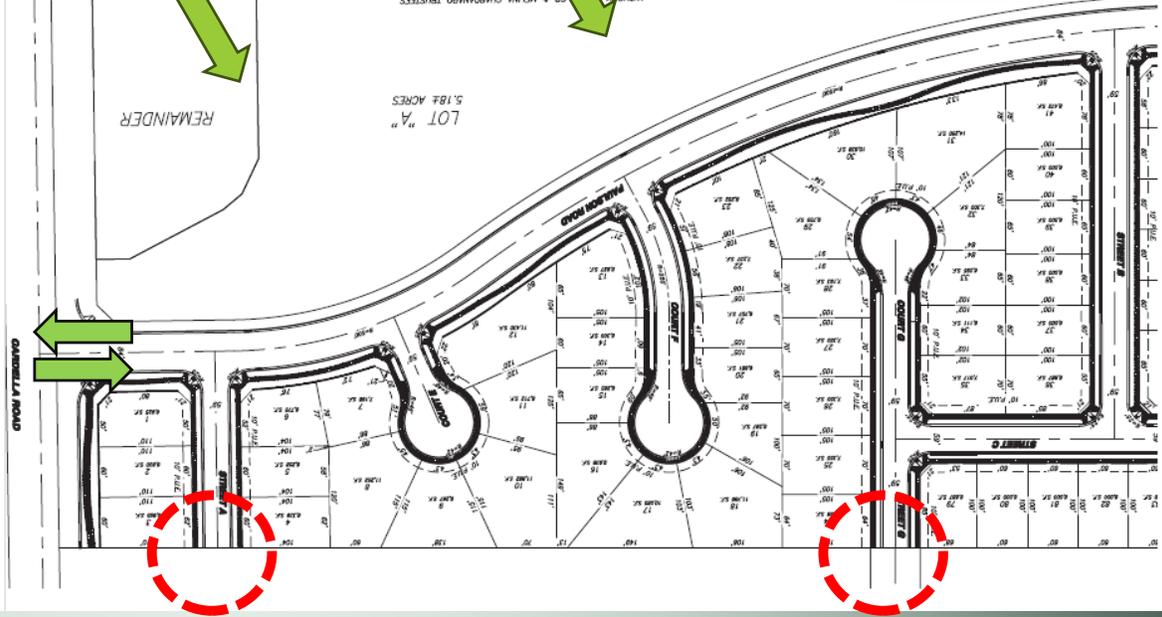
39.12 Acres  
 104 Total Lots

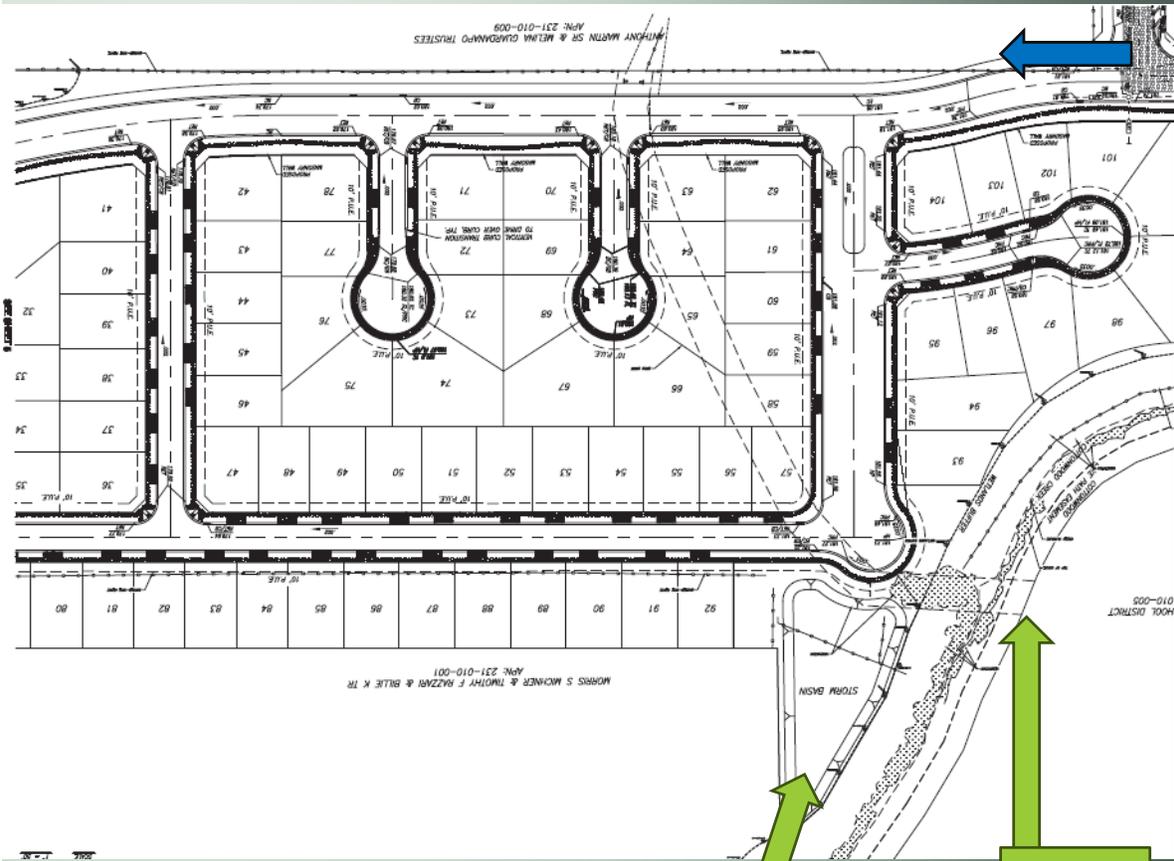
- Lots – 6,000 s.f. to 14,250 s.f.
- Paulson Road would extend utilities and vehicle access north to Cardella Road



Remainder Lot

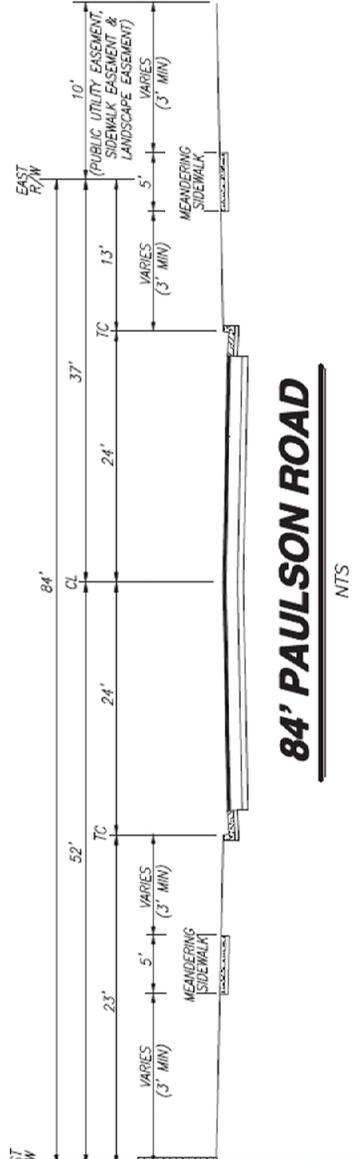
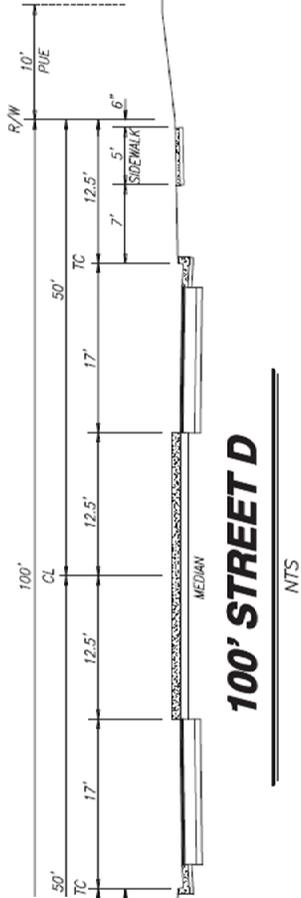
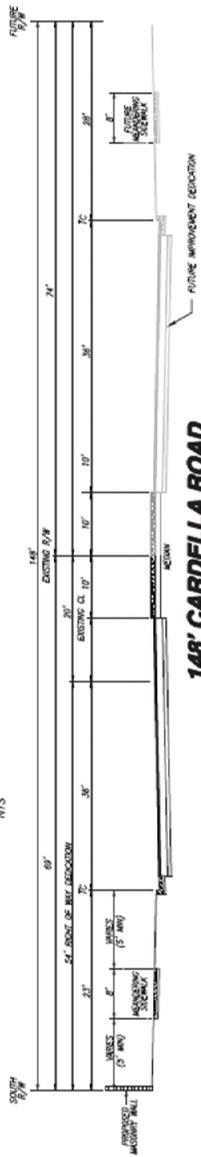
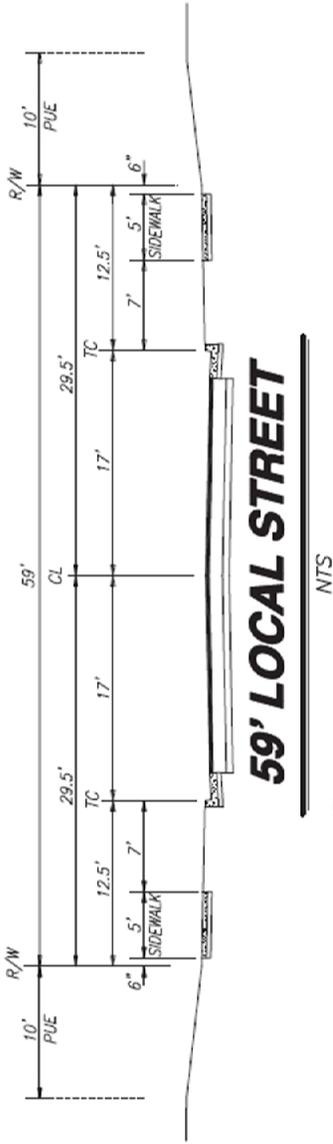
Lot A (5.18 AC) undevelopable  
due to wetlands





Lot B (Storm Basin) 0.85 AC

25-foot-wide Bike Path on South Side of Cotton Wood Creek



## CONDITIONS (RESOLUTION #4145)

- **Conditions #23 & #24:** A 6-foot-tall block wall required along Cardella Road and Paulson Road (addressing safety and noise concerns). Landscaping shall be provided in front of the CMU wall for beautification and to deter graffiti.
- **Condition #28:** Dedication of all necessary easement shall be made with TSM #1329 as needed (for utilities, irrigation, drainage, landscaping, access, etc.)
- **Condition #37:** Development is not allowed within wetland areas identified in Attachment I. Future development in this area shall require studies concluding that development is allowed within these areas.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public hearing Notices were published in a qualifying newspaper and mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the subject site.
- Staff reached out to utility companies and other agencies to solicit comments.
- Staff did not receive public comments from property owners at the time this presentation was prepared

## RECOMMEND TO CITY COUNCIL

- Approve/Disapprove/Modify:
- Environmental Review #24-07 (Negative Declaration)
- General Plan Amendment (GPA) #24-01
- Northeast Yosemite Specific Plan Amendment #6

## DIRECT ACTION

- Approval/Disapprove/Modify:
- Environmental Review #24-07 (Negative Declaration)
- Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map #1329
  - (approvals would be contingent upon CC approval of GPA, and the Specific Plan Amendment)

## QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? CONCERNS?