



Community and Economic Development Planning Division

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PLANNING COMMISSION DATE: November 5, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: #1

PRJ-PC	#2019-006	Zoning Permit for one double-sided off-premise sign.
ZP	#2019-013	Variance for sign placement within five hundred feet
VA	#2019-001	(500ft) of a road intersection and within one thousand feet (1000ft) of an existing off-premises sign.
APN	054-260-003	Applicant: Gene Guadagnini
CEQA	ND #2019-24	Negative Declaration

REQUEST:

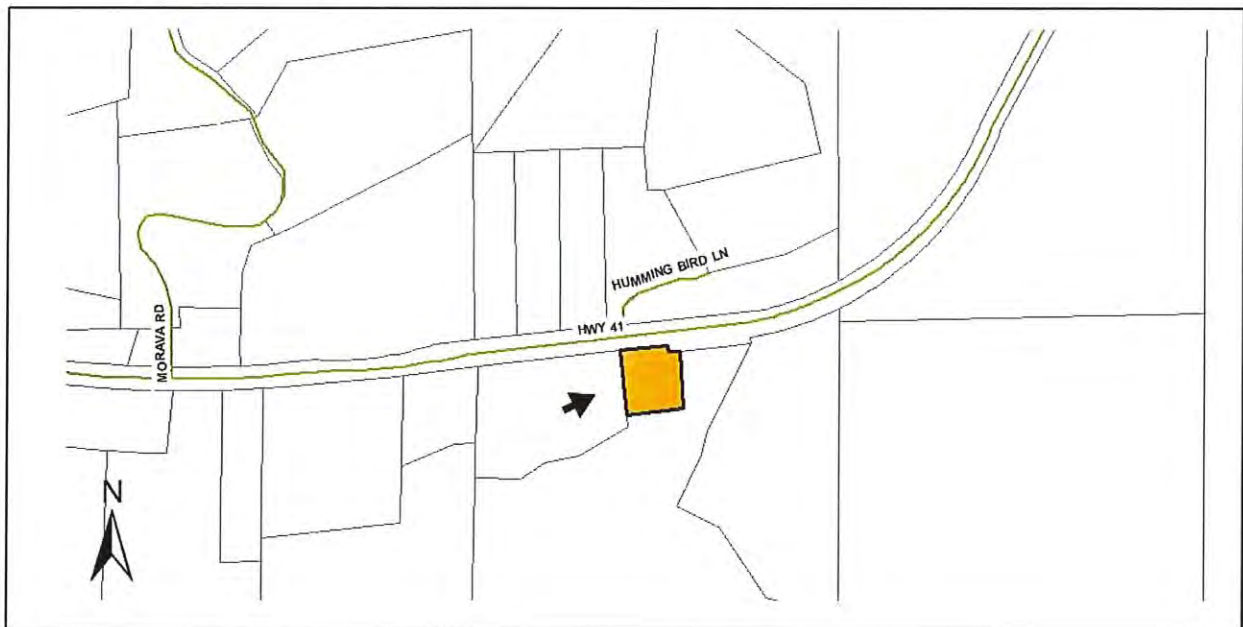
The applicant is requesting a zoning permit for one double-sided off-premise sign, and a Variance to allow sign placement within five hundred feet (500ft) of a road intersection and within one thousand feet (1000ft) of an existing off-premises sign.

LOCATION:

The property is located on the South side of Highway 41, approximately 54ft south from its intersection with Humming Bird Lane (no situs), Coarsegold.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

Negative Declaration (ND #2019-24) has been prepared for consideration by the Planning Commission.



RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends denial of PRJ-PC#2019-006

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION (EXHIBIT A):

SITE: CC (Community Commercial) Designation.

SURROUNDING: CC (Community Commercial) Designations, RR (Rural Residential)

ZONING (EXHIBIT B)

SITE: CRM (Commercial, Rural, Median District), RMS (Residential, Medium, Single Family)

SURROUNDING: CRM (Commercial, Rural, Median District), RMS (Residential, Medium, Single Family)

LAND USE:

SITE: Commercial

SIZE OF PROPERTY: 1 acres (total)

ACCESS (EXHIBIT B): Access to the site is via Hwy 41 (no situs)

WILLIAMSON ACT:

The subject property is not subject to a Williamson Act (Agricultural Preserve) contract.

BACKGROUND AND PRIOR ACTIONS:

In 2014, a Project (PRJ-PC#2014-004) was denied for recognizing an existing off premise-sign (ZP#2014-005) that was located within 1000 feet of an existing off-premise sign (VA#2014-006).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The applicant is requesting a Zoning Permit for one double-sided off-premise sign, and a Variance to allow sign placement within five hundred feet (500ft) of a road intersection and within one thousand feet (1000ft) of an existing off-premises sign. The proposed sign area is measured at 250 square feet with a complete height of 12ft. The sign will be placed on the north east corner of the one acre parcel.

ORDINANCES/POLICIES:

Madera County Code (Chapter 18.34.010) Commercial, Rural, Median District, Land Use Regulations

Madera County Code (Chapter 18.90.020) Sign Regulations, General Prohibition

Madera County Code (Chapter 18.106) Variances

Madera County General Plan Part 1, Land Use Designation

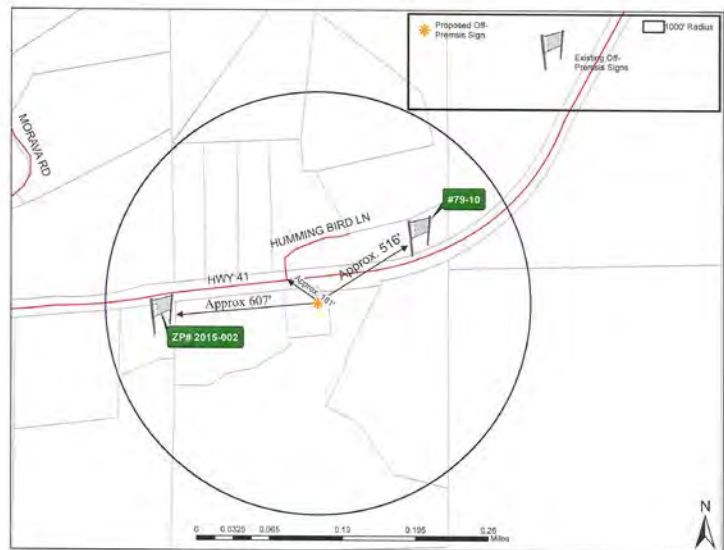
ANALYSIS:

This project consists of a Zoning Permit to allow one double sided off-premise sign, and a Variance to allow sign placement within five hundred feet (500ft) of a road intersection and within one thousand feet (1000ft) of an existing off-premises sign. The property is split zoned with the northern portion adjacent to Highway 41, (approximately 80% of the parcel) zoned CRM (Commercial, Rural, Median) District and the remaining southern portion zoned RMS (Residential, Mountain, Single Family) Designation. In 2014, the applicant applied for a project (PRJ-PC#2014-004) to recognize an existing off premise-sign (ZP#2014-005) that was located within 1000 feet of an existing off-premise sign (VA#2014-006). The project was denied and as result, the existing off-premises sign was removed.

Madera County Sign Regulations, Section 19.90.020, states: *“No off-premises sign shall be located within one thousand feet of any other off-premises sign nor within five hundred feet of any road or railroad interchange, intersection at grade or any safety road side rest area.”*

The proposed sign location is approximately 607’-0” east of an existing off-premise sign, and approximately 516’-0” southwest of another existing off-premise sign. The proposed sign location is also 50 feet south of a road intersection. The applicant has stated the sign will likely have two 9 inch square 50 Watt IP65 bulbs per side facing upward,

illuminating the sign. The proposed sign area is measured at 250 square feet with a complete height on 12ft. The sign will be placed on the north east corner of the one acre parcel.



With the proposed off-premise sign being in such close proximity with a road intersection and other existing off-premise signs, the location is not an ideal position. Approval of the sign placement would create unfavorable blight due to the multiple existing signs in the area. The sign can also become a public nuisance to drivers and residents traveling in that region from being located at the beginning of a large curve on Highway 41.

The application was circulated to internal and external agencies for comments, including Native American tribes per Assembly Bill 52 requirements. These departments include: California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Transportation, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, Chowchilla Yokuts Tribe, Dumna Wo Wah Tribal Government, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians, and Table Mountain Rancheria. Comments were received from Environmental Health.

If this project is approved, the applicant will need to submit a check, made out to the County of Madera, in the amount of \$2,404.75 to cover the Notice of Determination (CEQA) filing at the Madera County Clerks’ office. The amount covers the \$2,354.75 Department of Fish and Wildlife fee that took effect January 1, 2019 and the County Clerk \$50.00 filing fee. In lieu of the Fish and

Wildlife fee, the applicant may choose to contact the Fresno office of the Department of Fish and Wildlife to apply for a fee waiver. The County Clerk Fee, Department of Fish and Wildlife Fee (or waiver if approved) is due within five days of approval of this permit at the Board of Supervisors.

FINDINGS

The Madera County Zoning Ordinance requires that the following findings of fact must be made by the Planning Commission to grant denial of this permit:

1. *There are exceptional or extraordinary circumstances or conditions applying to the land, building or use referred to in the application, which circumstances or conditions do not apply generally to land, buildings, and/or uses in the same zoning district.*
There are no unusual circumstances applying to the location, therefore this finding cannot be made. The parcel is located along Highway 41 as many other parcels are. In the immediate area, the parcels range from 1 to 50 acres located in a mountainous area.
2. *The granting of the application is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of substantial property rights of the petitioner.* The granting of this application is not necessary. The proposed sign location is approximately 607'-0" east of an existing off-premise sign, and approximately 516'-0" southwest of another existing off-premise sign. All parcels in Madera County must comply with a zoning ordinance that requires 1000 foot distance for off premises signs.
3. *The granting of such application will not, under the circumstances of this particular case, materially affect adversely the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the property of the applicant and will not, in the circumstances of this particular case, be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in that neighborhood.* Granting of this application may be detrimental to the public welfare and have a negative impact on the surrounding area. The off premise sign will create an additional hazard if approved in its current location. The sign is located at the beginning of a large curve on Highway 41 and can become a public nuisance to drivers and residents traveling in that region. Approval of the sign placement would create unfavorable blight due to the multiple existing signs in the area.
4. *The granting of the variance shall not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the vicinity and zone in which subject property is situated.* The variance will not constitute a grant of any special privileges as we are recommending denial for the application. Other permits for off premise signs have been requested and denied in this immediate area due to the immense visual impact and potential safety hazard.
5. *Because of special circumstances, applicable to subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict application of the zoning ordinance would deprive the subject property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and under identical zone classifications.* The strict application of the zoning ordinance shall promote denial for the subject's proposal. The property's foothill location along Highway 41 and its placement at the beginning of a large curve with numerous large oak trees has the potential of creating a vision

impact and safety hazard. Privileges enjoyed by other surrounding signs with identical zone classifications are within the confines of the Madera County Sign Regulations.

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:

The General Plan designation for the property is CC (Community Commercial) Designation which provides for retail, wholesale, services, restaurants, professional and administrative offices, hotels and motels, public and quasi-public uses, similar and compatible uses. The property is zoned CRM (Commercial, Rural, Median) District which allows for off-premise signs with a zoning permit. The Zoning and General Plan designations are consistent with the proposed use.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends denial of PRJ-PC#2019-006.

CONDITIONS:

See attached conditions of approval.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Exhibit A. General Plan Map
2. Exhibit B. Zoning Map
3. Exhibit C. Assessor Map
4. Exhibit D-1. Close-Up Site Plan
5. Exhibit D-2. Close Up Site Plan
6. Exhibit D-3. Front Sign Elevation
7. Exhibit E. Aerial Map
8. Exhibit F. Topographical Map
9. Exhibit G. Operational Statement
10. Exhibit H. Applicants Findings of Facts
11. Exhibit I. Environmental Health Comments
12. Exhibit J. Initial Study
13. Exhibit K. Negative Declaration

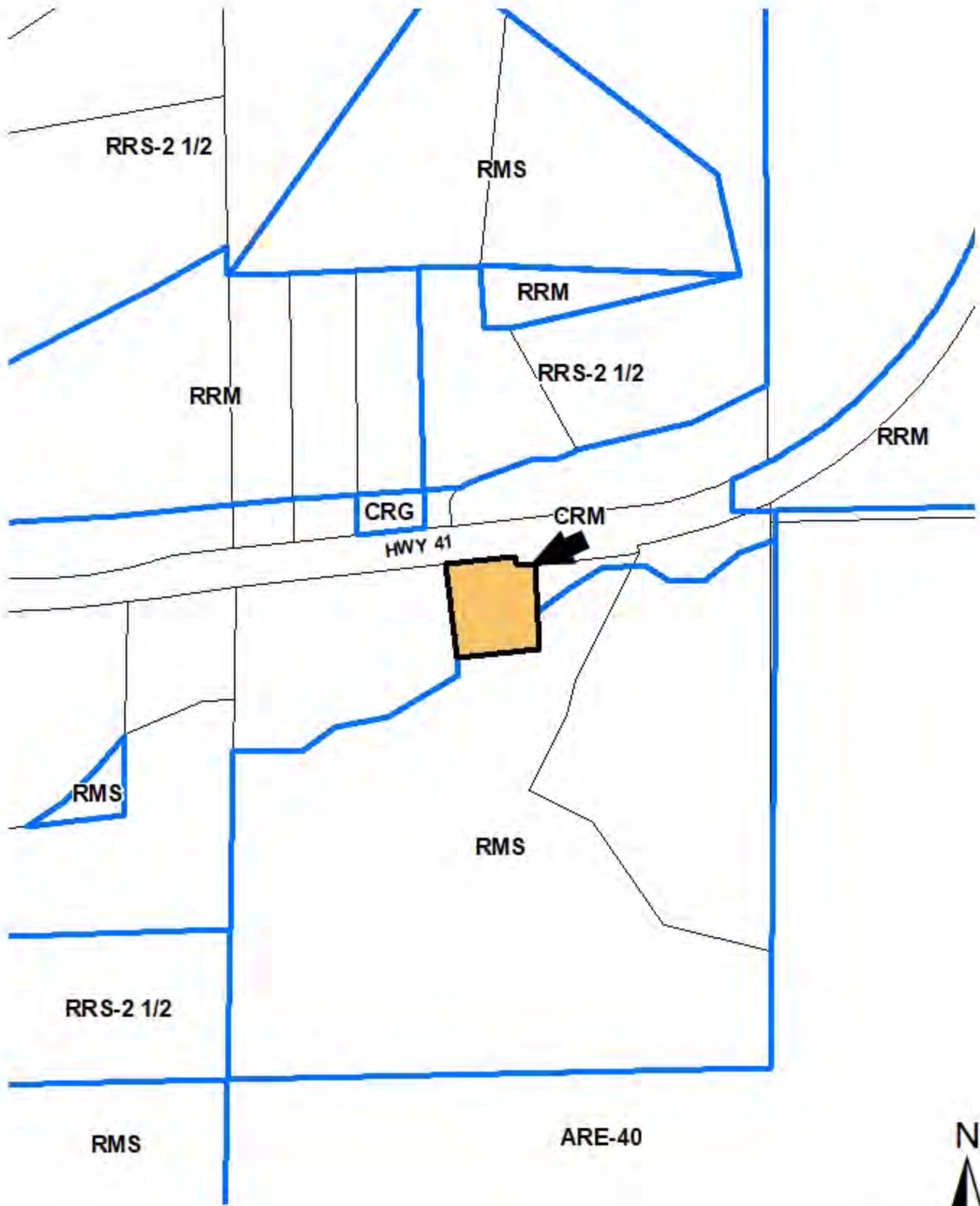
CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

PROJECT NAME:	PRJ-PC#2019-006 Gene Guadagnini
PROJECT LOCATION:	The property is located on the South side of Highway 41, approximately 0.30 miles East from its intersection with Morava Road (no situs), Coarsegold.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	The applicant is requesting a zoning permit for one double-sided off-premise sign, and a Variance to allow sign placement within five hundred feet (500ft) of a road intersection and within one thousand feet (1000ft) of an existing off-premises sign.
APPLICANT:	Gene Guadagnini
CONTACT PERSON/TELEPHONE NUMBER:	Gene Guadagnini / (559)-683-4863

No.	Condition	Department/Agency	Verification of Compliance		
			Initials	Date	Remarks
Environmental Health					
1	Maintain all County setbacks requirement as it pertains to onsite wastewater treatment systems and water wells.	EH			
2	The construction and then ongoing operation must be done in a manner that shall not allow any type of public nuisance(s) to occur including but not limited to the following nuisance(s); Dust, Odor(s), Noise(s), Lighting, Vector(s) or Litter. This must be accomplished under accepted and approved Best Management Practices (BMP) and as required by the County General Plan, County Ordinances and any other related State and/or Federal jurisdiction.	EH			
Fire					
Planning					
Public Works					



GENERAL PLAN MAP



ZONING MAP

EXHIBIT C

POR. OF S1/2 SEC.4 T.8S. R.21E. M.D.B.&M.

54-26

Tax Area Code
62-001
62-017



ORIGINAL
IN BLUE

NOTE: This map is for assessment purposes only and is not intended for interpretation of boundary rights, zoning regulations or land division.

Assessor's Map No. 54-26
Coarsegold
County of Madera, Calif.
1966

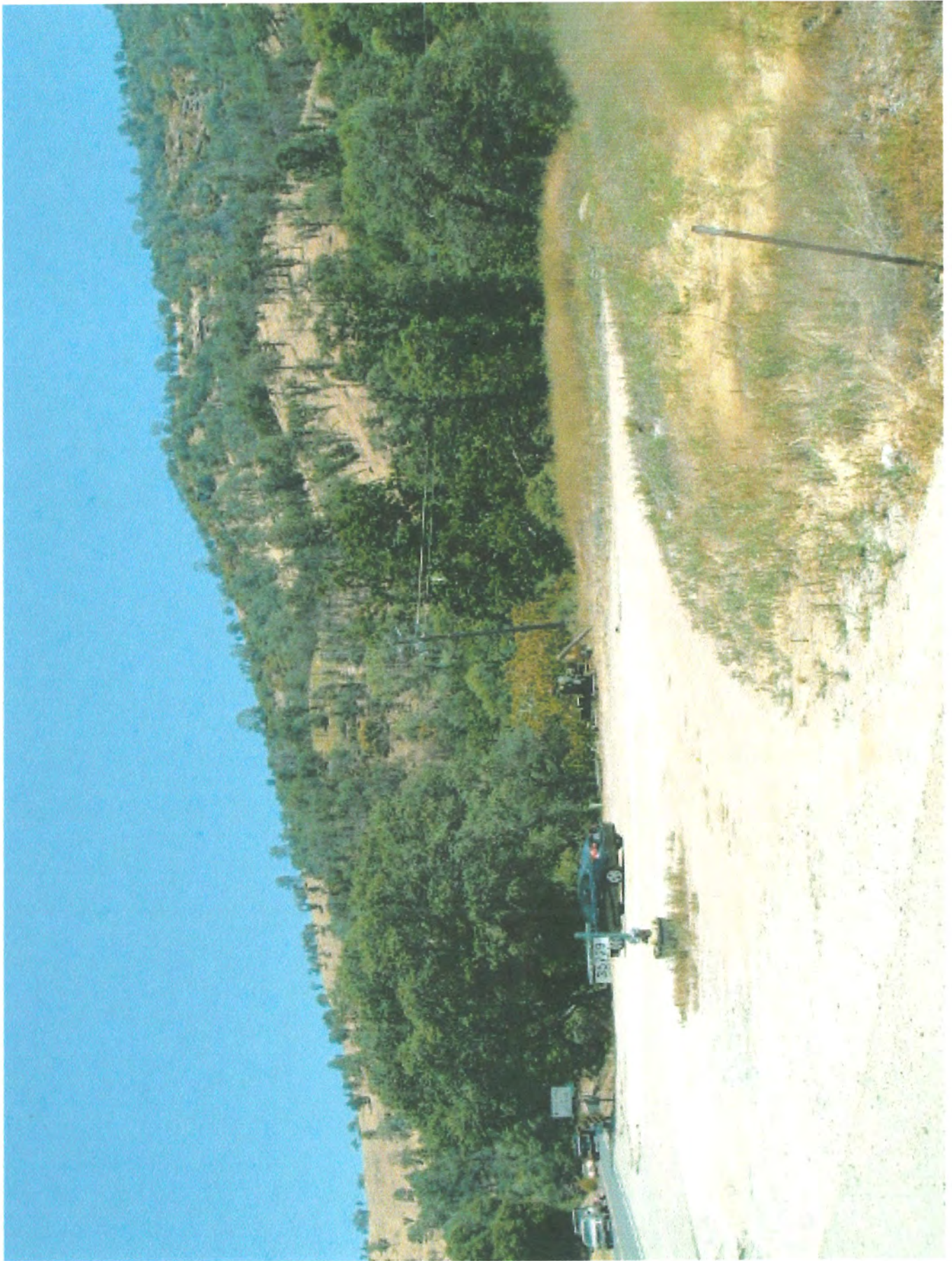
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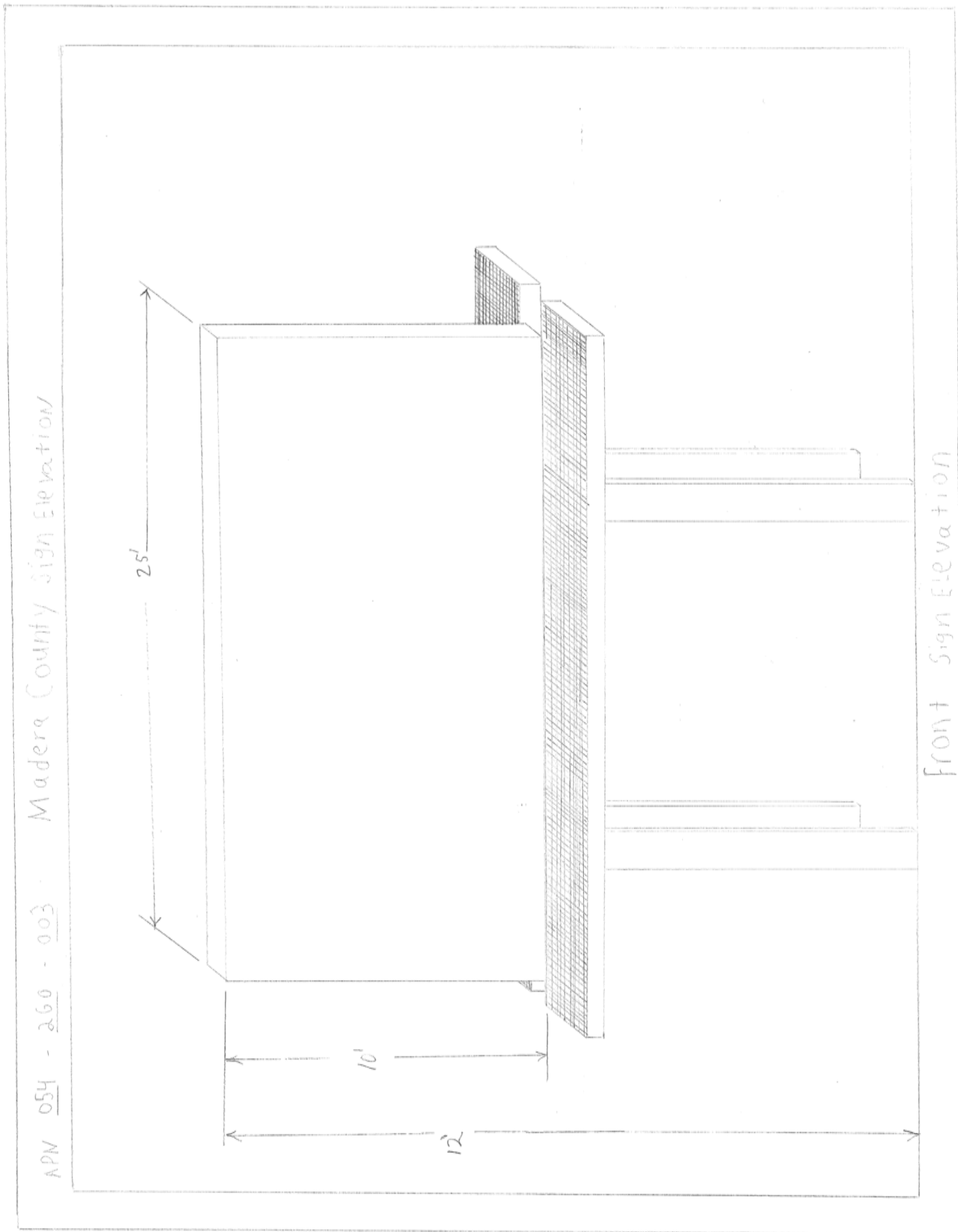
ASSESSOR MAP



CLOSE-UP SITE PLAN



CLOSE-UP SITE PLAN

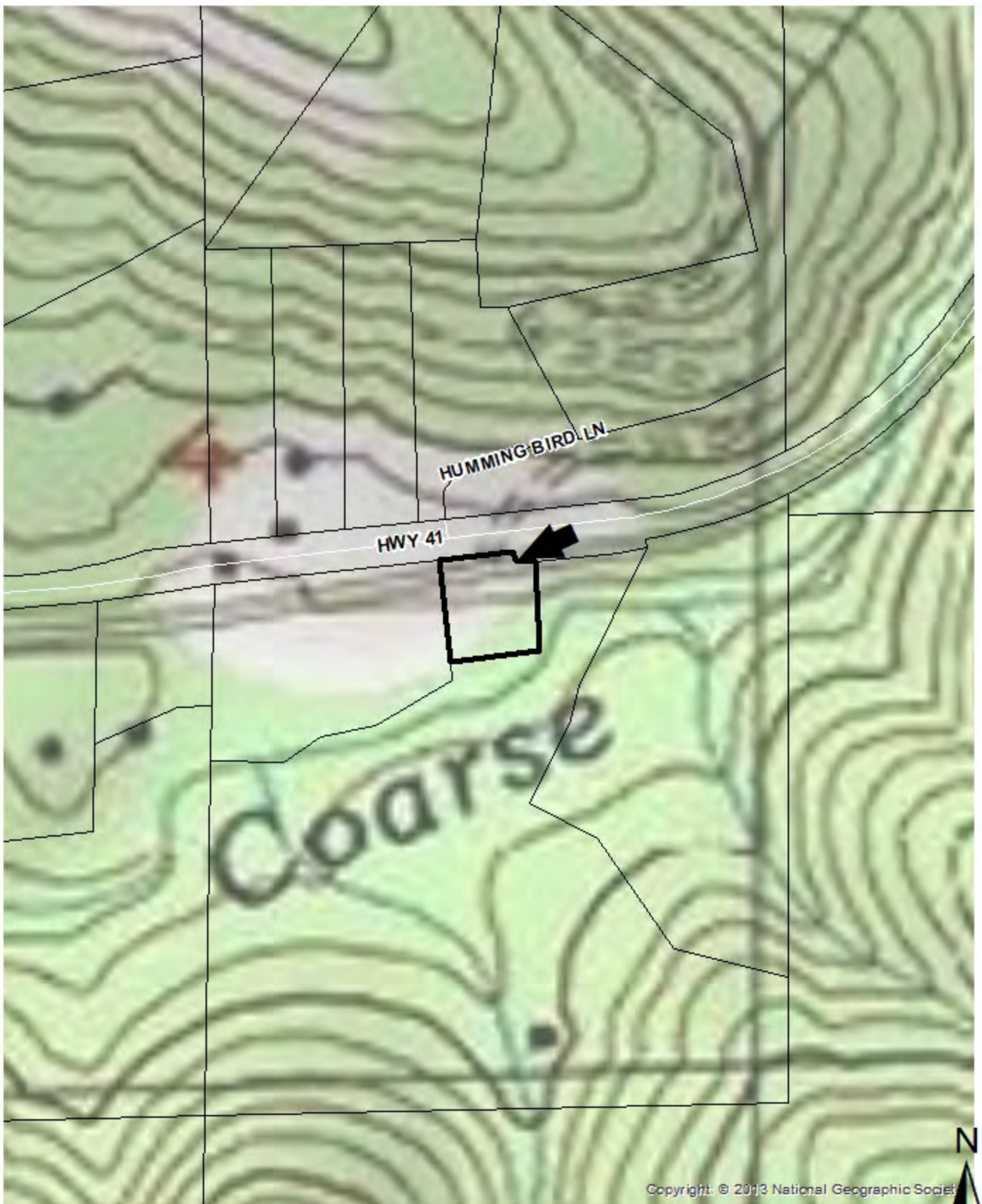


FRONT SIGN ELEVATION



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics,
CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User
Community

AERIAL MAP



TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP



Community and Economic Development
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OPERATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT
CHECKLIST

It is important that the operational/environmental statement provides for a complete understanding of your project proposal. Please be as detailed as possible.

1. Please provide the following information:

Assessor's Parcel Number: 054-260-003
 Applicant's Name: Gene Guadagnini
 Address: 35647 Hwy 41 Coarsegold Ca, 93614
 Phone Number: (559)683-4863

2. Describe the nature of your proposal/operation.

One double-sided off-premise sign. It isn't likely that the sign will have lights.
If chosen there will be two 9 inch square 50 Watt IP65 bulbs per side facing upward.

3. What is the existing use of the property?

None. The property is zoned CRM commercial, which is vacant and undeveloped.

4. What products will be produced by the operation? Will they be produced onsite or at some other location? Are these products to be sold onsite?

No products will be sold on this property.

5. What are the proposed operational time limits?

Months (if seasonal): The sign will be displayed at all times.
 Days per week: 7 days a week
 Hours (from 1am to 12pm) Total Hours per day: 24 Hours aday

6. How many customers or visitors are expected?

Average number per day: 0 No customers will be on the property.
 Maximum number per day: 0 No customers will be on the property.
 What hours will customers/visitors be there? 0. No customers will be on the property.

7. How many employees will there be?

Current: 0
 Future: 0
 Hours they work: 0
 Do any live onsite? If so, in what capacity (i.e. caretaker)? 0

8. What equipment, materials, or supplies will be used and how will they be stored? If appropriate, provide pictures or brochures.
None
9. Will there be any service and delivery vehicles? No
Number: 0
Type: None
Frequency: 0
10. Number of parking spaces for employees, customers, and service/delivery vehicles. Type of surfacing on parking area.
0. None
11. How will access be provided to the property/project? (street name)
Access for construction will occur on the parcel's own driveway just off of SR 41.
12. Estimate the number and type (i.e. cars or trucks) of vehicular trips per day that will be generated by the proposed development.
None. This question is not applicable
13. Describe any proposed advertising, including size, appearance, and placement.
One double-sided sign measuring 10ft x 25ft located on the north east corner of the parcel. If lighting is chosen, lights would be on the ground facing upward.
14. Will existing buildings be used or will new buildings be constructed? Indicate which building(s) or portion(s) of will be utilized and describe the type of construction materials, height, color, etc. Provide floor plan and elevations, if applicable.
No buildings are proposed, due to development constraints on this property and my desire to preserve the parcel's vegetation and natural beauty.
15. Is there any landscaping or fencing proposed? Describe type and location.
No.
16. What are the surrounding land uses to the north, south, east and west property boundaries?
The surrounding property is all zoned CRM commercial which is used for retail and off-premise advertising.
17. Will this operation or equipment used, generate noise above other existing parcels in the area?
None.
18. On a daily or annual basis, estimate how much water will be used by the proposed development, and how is water to be supplied to the proposed development (please be specific).
None.

19. On a daily or weekly basis, how much wastewater will be generated by the proposed project and how will it be disposed of?

There are none. There is no drainage on this parcel.

20. On a daily or weekly basis, how much solid waste (garbage) will be generated by the proposed project and how will it be disposed of?

None.

21. Will there be any grading? Tree removal? (please state the purpose, i.e. for building pads, roads, drainage, etc.)

None

22. Are there any archeological or historically significant sites located on this property? If so, describe and show location on site plan.

No grading and no tree removal.

23. Locate and show all bodies of water on application plot plan or attached map.

None. Not applicable

24. Show any ravines, gullies, and natural drainage courses on the property on the plot plan.

None. Not applicable.

25. Will hazardous materials or waste be produced as part of this project? If so, how will they be shipped or disposed of?

None. This question is not applicable

26. Will your proposal require use of any public services or facilities? (i.e. schools, parks, fire and police protection or special districts?)

No.

27. How do you see this development impacting the surrounding area?

The proposed sign will not impact the surrounding area. The property will remain undeveloped.

28. How do you see this development impacting schools, parks, fire and police protection or special districts?

None

This question is not applicable

29. If your proposal is for commercial or industrial development, please complete the following: Proposed Use(s): None. This question is not applicable

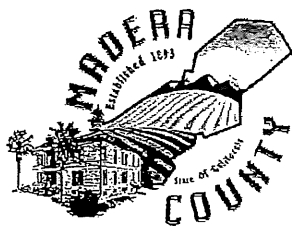
Square feet of building area(s): 0

Total number of employees: 0

Building Heights: Sign height will be 10 ft to 12 ft from ground level

30. If your proposal is for a land division(s), show any slopes over 10% on the map or on an attached map.

No. This question is not applicable. Just a simple sign is proposed for this parcel at ground level near SR 41 and away from the sloping ground on eastern portion of the property, which is one of the constraints that limit development on this property.



Community and Economic Development Planning Division

Norman L. Allinder, AICP
Director

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VARIANCE APPLICATION Findings of Fact (Simplified Wording Statement)

The Variance application requires Findings of Fact (County Code Section 18.106.040) be made by the Planning Commission or the Zoning Administrator for the granting of the request. Please answer the questions outlined below which are a simplified version of the wording used for the Findings in the County Code.

Your complete response to these questions (Findings of Fact) will be valuable to the Planning Commission and the Planning Department staff in evaluating your request. Based upon these provisions of the County Code a Variance may be granted only when all of the conditions outlined are present on the site being considered by the application.

The following questions (simplified Findings of Fact) should be answered individually if possible. Your answers need not be lengthy, but they should include the reasons and facts as to why you need relief from the rules or requirements that you have requested by filing this Variance:

1. What is unique or unusual about your property or the buildings on your site as compared to other properties in your neighborhood that have the same zoning as yours. These unique or unusual features are why you need relief from the rules or requirements that you have requested through this Variance procedure.
2. Explain why the granting of your request is needed to allow the reasonable use of this property.
3. Explain why you believe that your request will not effect the health or safety of persons who live or work in the neighborhood. Also, explain why your request will not effect the welfare of your neighbors or be detrimental to property or improvements in the neighborhood.
4. Explain why the granting of your request is necessary for you to use your property or make the improvements that you desire. You need to describe why your particular request would not be viewed as a special privilege that has not been granted to other similar properties. Reasons to grant the Variance may include that other properties in your neighborhood with the same zoning were granted a Variance or don't have the limitations of your property.
5. Describe the special or unusual physical features that relate to your property such as size, shape, topography, location, or surroundings which limit your ability to develop or use your property in the same way as other property in your neighborhood which has the same zoning as yours.

- 1) What is unique or unusual about your property or the buildings on your site as compared to other properties in your neighborhood that have the same zoning as yours.? These unique or unusual features are why you need relief from the rules or requirements that you have requested through this variance procedure.

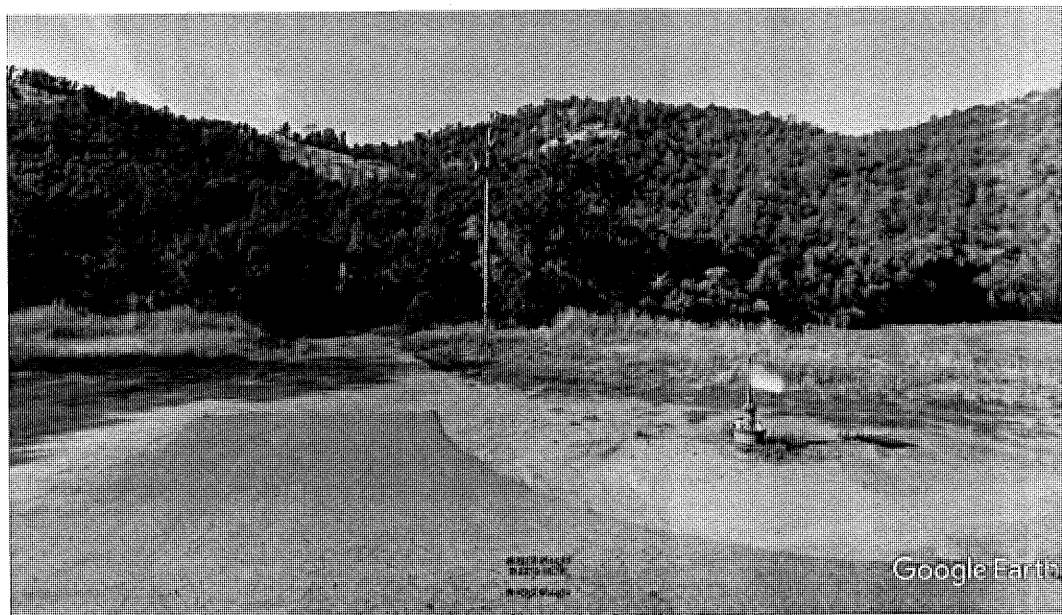
Response:

The unique circumstances or conditions that apply to this land and signage referred to in the application that do not apply generally to other property in the vicinity having identical zoning classification include the following:

- A. The subject parcel is located at the beginning of a large curve on Highway 41 which limits the line of sight to any potential sign or other structure.
- B. This one acre parcel has unique topographic features, in that the parcel is generally barely sloping (14") uphill easterly for about 60' from Highway 41. Then steeply sloping down an elevation of approximately 48', thereby limiting the flat area that is developable. Commercially developed properties on the north side of Highway 41 had upsloping natural terrain which was leveled to create those businesses (buildings, parking and reasonably control stormwater runoff without concern for erosion).
- C. The property has a large number of oak and other trees which limit the placement of any structure and would require significant leveling without tree removal. The westerly proposed location for the sign would allow visibility by motor-vehicle traffic and would not require tree removal. The Applicant wants to preserve as much natural vegetation and topography as possible, to avoid interfering with the natural character, downhill natural habitat areas and neighbors of the parcel.
- D. This parcel of land is approximately 700 feet away from an adjacent parcel that already has a permitted off-premise sign on it, so that it is not physically possible to move or enlarging the subject parcel another 300 feet in order to meet the 1000 ft sign separation requirement .
- E. The contour and configuration of the subject parcel constitute physical constraints on the Applicant's use of the land and limit the options available for development of the parcel, in that the buildable footprint is too small to accommodate other more traditional commercial development, such as retail sales stores, offices, and/or multi-family housing structures that are not reasonably feasible on this site. [See additional analysis which follows.]



View of proposed sign site from west. Note rapid sloping away to south and west that limits commercial building pad and required parking. Leveling would create steep slopes if filled and many oak trees would require removal.



View of proposed sign site from north. Note existing driveway (irrevocable easement) rapidly dropping off to the south and the Oak trees that would have to be removed for a commercial building pad and required parking. If the driveway were allowed to remain, leveling would create steep slopes when filled to the south exceeding County Fire 16% slope standard making the driveway illegal.



View to the east on Highway 41. Note the existing Oak trees forming a visual barrier to the proposed site that would create a significant line of sight hazard should a commercial building and parking lot be placed at the site. To prevent serious traffic hazards on SR 41 those Oak trees would have to be removed from the State Right-of-Way and neighboring property.

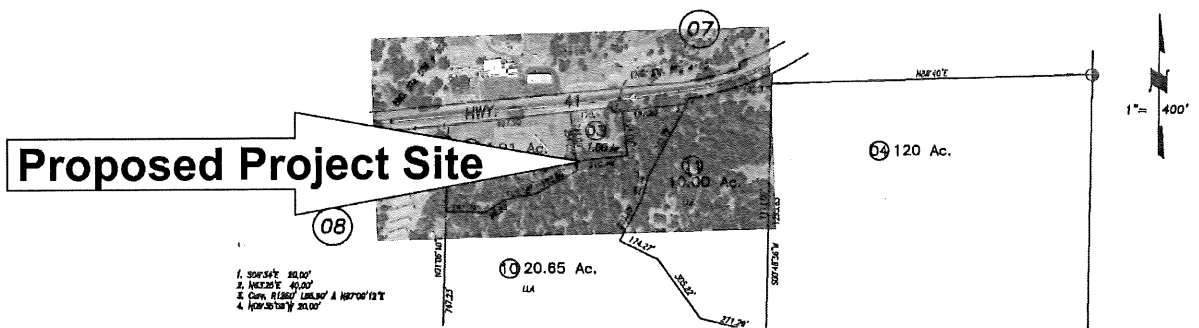


The above group of four photographs show the steepness of incline downhill from the approximately 11,100 sq.ft. (excluding the irrevocable driveway easement) of flat portion of the site adjacent to the highway.

OF S1/2 SEC.4 T.8S. R.21E. M.D.B.&M.

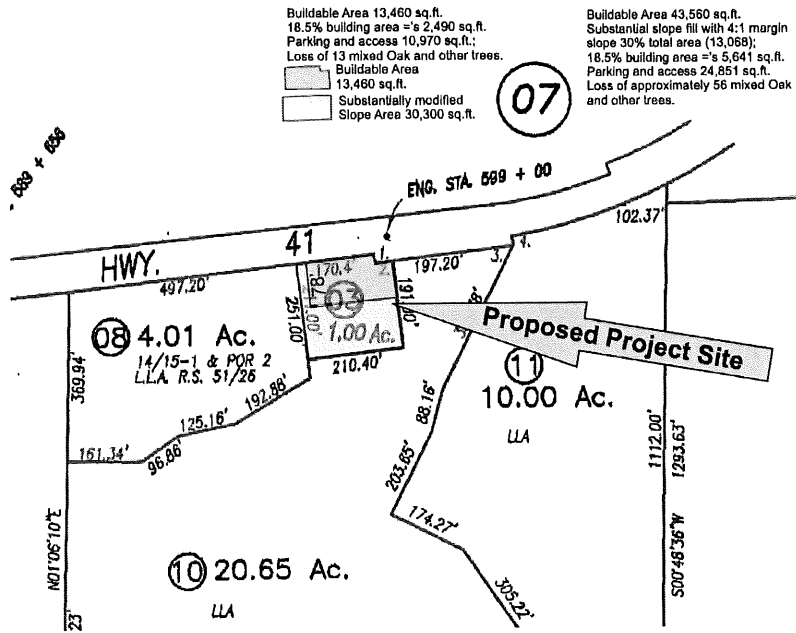
Tax Area Code
62-001
62-017

54-26



Subject Parcel shown on aerial overlay. Note location of between 17 and 56 existing oak and other trees that would be destroyed if site developed partially or fully as commercial. Note the logical access to the site from SR 41 would require a center pocket lane to be built on Highway 41 for safety. Cost of widening the highway to three lanes would be

overwhelming for a one-acre lot to provide and would only benefit the large existing commercial uses on the opposite side of the highway.



Proposed site if required to construct for commercial use. Substantial import fill and compaction, and drainage improvements would be required along with constructing containment areas for the site and the highway, destroying the natural topography and natural vegetation to create parking and access for a small commercial unit. Potential traffic conflicts would be created without highway widening for a substantial distance to allow left turns into the commercial use.



While the distance between existing permitted signs is slightly less than the standard of 1,000 feet, the orientation of the SR 41 curve makes a general standard permissibly reduced when taken together with the size and reasonable commercial development of the proposed site.

Westbound traffic on SR 41 would not be able to see a sign at 1,000 feet due to the curve, slope of terrain and trees in the curved portion of the highway. One of the permitted signs (Sign 2) is only visible to east bound traffic and is constructed on the entrance to the highway curve.

F. Therefore, I am requesting relief from the strict application of the zoning ordinance and am applying for this variance, so that the property may deviate from the strict application of the zoning ordinance to use this site for the most feasible use.

2) Explain why the granting of your request is needed to allow the reasonable use of this property.

Response:

The granting of this variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of the substantial property rights of the petitioner, which right is possessed by other property owners under like conditions in the vicinity having the identical zoning classification.

Due to the location of the property near a curve in the highway, the property cannot be developed to its highest and best use. The property's highest and best use cannot be achieved through the development of a retail store or other retail business facility or multi-family residential use, because these normal uses in this zone would require ingress and egress by substantial vehicular traffic entering and leaving the parcel in the normal course of business. Such traffic on a two-lane facility would likely create an unsafe condition near a curve in the highway.

This proposed sign will be the only safe use for this parcel because this option will leave no development foot print on the property or its surroundings. It will reduce the potentially significant impacts from the ordinary light, glare and noise that would normally be present with commercial, office, and/or multi-family development. It is by far the safest project proposal that could exist in the area both physically and cosmetically.

Essentially, without a zoning variance for the proposed off-premise sign, the subject property would be commercially unusable and undevelopable in commercial uses that are normally available to owners of other similarly zoned properties along Highway 41 like the ones directly across the highway from this property along this commercial corridor in the Coarsegold community.

Finally, the granting of this variance is also necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of the substantial property rights of the petitioner, which right is possessed by other property owners under like conditions in the vicinity having the identical zoning classification. Highway 41 has a number of off-premise free standing signs to which with the approval of this sign would allow the opportunity of advertising on this particular parcel that surrounding parcels have the right to do. This is because the parcel is zoned CRM commercial. It is in the CRM zone district where other parcels also maintain Madera county permits for off-premise signs which are currently allowed under the Madera county sign ordinance chapter 18.90.120.3.

3) Explain why you believe that your request will not affect the health or safety of persons who live or work in the neighborhood. Also, explain why your request will not affect the welfare of your neighbors or be detrimental to property or improvements in the neighborhood.

Response:

The granting of this variance will not materially affect adversely the health or safety of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the subject property and will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in that neighborhood for the following reasons:

- A. The off-premise sign will not create an additional hazard if approved in its proposed location, because its unique location has sufficient sight distance from the advertisement due to the size of the sign, so as it does not create a traffic hazard for oncoming traffic viewing it. One residential access easement exists on the property. Given the proposed setback from Highway 41, persons using this easement will have view of the highway that is far beyond the minimum amount required by both Madera county as well as Caltrans for extra safety.
- B. Moreover, with the exception of the existing access easement, the non-vehicular use proposed for the subject property eliminates any traffic safety issues, due to its use as an uninhabited structure and its distance from the Highway 41 traffic corridor.
- C. Lighting will likely not be chosen for this sign, however if lights are chosen, the illumination will be shielded and directed downward to reflect away from the Highway 41 traffic way and away from neighboring properties.
- 4) Explain why the granting of your request is necessary for you to use your property or make the improvements that you desire. You need to describe why your particular request would not be viewed as a special privilege that has not been granted to other similar properties. Reasons to grant the Variance may include that other properties in your neighborhood with the same zoning were granted a Variance or don't have the limitations of your property.

Response:

The granting of this variance will not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties in the vicinity and zone in which the subject property is situated for the following reasons:

- A. The surrounding area along Highway 41 has a number of off-premise free standing signs which are consistent with the approval of this sign would not constitute a special privilege.
- B. The owners of other commercially zoned properties along the Highway 41 commercial corridor in the Coarsegold community have enjoyed the use of their properties, which will not be diminished with the approval of this variance. This variance will not adversely affect the use of other neighboring properties in anyway.
- C. The proposed use and development of the Applicant's property is, actually, less intensive than existing commercial development along the Highway 41 corridor in the Coarsegold community.
- D. The Applicant's intent to preserve the natural vegetation including oak trees and his voluntary under-utilization of his property combined with the

elimination of on-site traffic, traffic accessing the subject property is, in fact, a benefit to the other property owners' use of their property. It also avoids an increase in the cumulative traffic safety impacts while not diminishing the views of the natural vegetation. All sign projects are also categorically exempt from CEQA (environmental review) and therefore the approval of this proposal will not in anyway effect the wildlife habitat of the Highway 41 commercial corridor.

As a result, the granting of the variance requested by Applicant does not adversely affect or materially interfere with the rights of the other commercial property owners along the commercial corridor. This due to the *reduction* in the land use intensity to which the Applicant is entitled.

Thus, the elected public decision-makers will not be viewed as granting a special use, with greater privileges, than are currently enjoyed by other property owners who are similarly situated. In fact, the Applicant is applying for a land use that grants a *less beneficial* use that is of *less value* than that to which the Applicant would be otherwise entitled. Therefore, the application of this property owner may be properly characterized as his forbearance from exercising his full right to *even more intensive* development, in order to avoid overburdening the commercial corridor in the public interest.

- 5) Describe the special or unusual physical features that relate to your property such as size, shape, topography, location, or surroundings which limit your ability to develop or use your property in the same way as other property in your ability to develop or use your property in the same way as other property in your neighborhood which has the same zoning as yours.

Response:

Because of special circumstances, applicable to the subject property, including size, shape, topography, location or surroundings, the strict application of the zoning ordinance would deprive the subject property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and under identical zone classifications for the following reasons:

As referred to above, due to the property's foothill location and topography along Highway 41 and its placement at the beginning of a large curve, with the numerous large oak and other trees and supporting natural vegetation on the parcel; the current zoning ordinance in relation to proximity between off-premise existing signs would deprive owner of advertising which is allowed on adjacent parcels.

- 6) General Plan consistency statement:

The parcel's zoning at the sign location with APN #054-260-003 is zoned CRM

Commercial, Rural, Median district.

If the variance and zoning permit is approved, the use as a sign will be consistent with the general plan of CC (Community Commercial) which allows for retail, wholesale, restaurants, professional office and administrative offices. The CRM zone district allows off-premise signs with approval of a zoning permit. See Madera County Code Ordinance Chapter 18.34.010 & (Chapter 18.90.120 sign regulations-commercial... Zone districts). Approval of the proposed project supports elements of the non-land use sections of the General Plan, including preservation of natural topography, vegetation, wildlife and scenic areas of Madera County. This project also supports circulation and traffic by limiting increases in vehicular traffic and incremental congestion. Furthermore, this project supports minimizing potential hazards by not landfilling slopes that would impact grades of existing easements and create emergency response delays in response or the need for alternative access.

Therefore, the proposed use of the subject property is consistent with the general plan upon approval of the variance to allow the shorter distance between off-premise signs and allows for a less intensive use of the subject property. This action will preserve the Applicant's private property right to develop his property to a less intensive land use, in order to afford the property owner a reasonable income from his property, without requiring him to overburden his property with too intensive a use given the foregoing analysis and to avoid overburdening the commercial corridor of the unincorporated community of Coarsegold.



Community and Economic Development
Environmental Health Division

Dexter Marr
Deputy Director

- 200 W. Fourth St.
- Suite 3100
- Madera, CA 93637
- TEL (559) 661-5191
- FAX (559) 675-6573
- TDD (559) 675-8970

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kamara Biawogi
FROM: Dexter Marr, Environmental Health Division
DATE: September 6, 2019
RE: Guadagnini, Gene - Project - PC - Coarsegold (054-260-003-000)

Comments

TO: Planning Division
FROM: Environmental Health Division
DATE: August 13, 2019
RE: Project (PRJ) #2019-006, Guadagnini, Coarsegold
APN 054-260-003

The Environmental Health Division Comments:

Maintain all County setback requirement as it pertains to onsite wastewater treatment systems and water wells.

The construction and then ongoing operation must be done in a manner that shall not allow any type of public nuisance(s) to occur including but not limited to the following nuisance(s); Dust, Odor(s), Noise(s), Lighting, Vector(s) or Litter. This must be accomplished under accepted and approved Best Management Practices (BMP) and as required by the County General Plan, County Ordinances and any other related State and/or Federal jurisdiction.

If there are any questions or comments regarding these conditions/requirements please, feel free to contact our Division at (559) 675-7823.

**County of Madera
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
Initial Study**

- 1. Project title:** PRJ-PC#2019-006 – Guadagnini, Gene
- 2. Lead agency name and address:** County of Madera
Community and Economic Development Department
200 West 4th Street, Suite 3100
Madera, California 93637
- 3. Contact person and phone number:** Kamara Biawogi, Planner
559-675-7821
Kamara.Biawogi@maderacounty.com
- 4. Project Location & APN:** The subject property is located on the south side of Highway 41, at its intersection with Hummingbird Lane (no situs), Coarsegold.

APN #: 054-260-003
- 5. Project sponsor’s name and address:** Gene Guadanini
35647 Highway 41
Coarsegold, CA 93614
- 6. General Plan Designation:** CC (Community Commercial) Designation
- 7. Zoning:** CRM (Commercial, Rural, District) Designation
- 8. Description of project:**
The applicant is requesting a Zoning Permit for one double-sided off-premise sign, and a Variance to allow sign placement within five hundred feet (500ft) of a road interchange and within one thousand feet (1000ft) of an existing off-premises sign.
- 9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:**
Commercial, Residential
- 10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:**
None

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

No known resources exist in the vicinity of this project. Tribal contacts have indicated that they do not have any concerns regarding this project

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural/Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DETERMINATION (to be completed by Lead Agency)	
On the basis of this initial evaluation:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signed: _____ Date: Nov. 5, 2019

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Responses:

(a - b) No Impact. There are no scenic vistas in the vicinity of this project site. There are no scenic resources on this property that will be damaged as a result of this project. The site is currently vacant.

(c - d) Less than Significant Impact. The applicant is requesting for placement of a double-sided off-premise sign to be located near the end of a commercial stretch off Highway 41 in Coarsegold. The proposed sign location is within one thousand feet of two other existing off-premises signs.

Madera County Zoning Ordinance states: *“No off-premises sign shall be located within one thousand feet of any other off-premises sign nor within five hundred feet of any road or railroad interchange, intersection at grade or any safety road side rest area.”*

Approval of the sign placement would create unfavorable blight due to the multiple existing signs in the area and become public nuisance to drivers and residents in the region.

A nighttime sky in which stars are readily visible is often considered a valuable scenic/visual resource. In urban areas, views of the nighttime sky are being diminished by “light pollution.” Light pollution, as defined by the International dark-Sky Association, is any adverse effect of artificial light, including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night, and energy waste. Two elements of light pollution may affect city residents: sky glow and light trespass. Sky glow is a result of light fixtures that emit a portion of their light directly upward into the sky where light scatters, creating an orange-yellow glow above a city or town. This light can interfere with views of the nighttime sky and can diminish the number of stars that are visible. Light trespass occurs when poorly shielded or poorly aimed fixtures cast light into unwanted areas, such as neighboring property and homes.

Light pollution is a problem most typically associated with urban areas. Lighting is necessary for nighttime viewing and for security purposes. However, excessive lighting or inappropriately designed lighting fixtures can disturb nearby sensitive land uses through indirect illumination. Land uses which are considered “sensitive” to this unwanted light include residences, hospitals, and care homes.

Daytime sources of glare include reflections off of light-colored surfaces, windows, and metal details on cars traveling on nearby roadways. The amount of glare depends on the intensity and direction of sunlight, which is more acute at sunrise and sunset because the angle of the sun is lower during these times.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether agricultural impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Responses:

(a - e) No Impact. The project will not convert Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use. The project parcel is zoned for commercial use and its surroundings are not zoned for timberland uses, so there will be no impacts.

The project is not subject to the Williamson Act. The proposed project is not significantly displacing the existing agricultural operation or within any Timberland Protection zone.

General Information

The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 -- commonly referred to as the Williamson Act -- enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agricultural or related open space use. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments which are much lower than normal because they are based upon farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value.

The Department of Conservation oversees the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California’s agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called Prime Farmland. The maps are updated every two years with the use of a computer mapping system, aerial imagery, public review, and field reconnaissance. The program’s definition of land is below:

PRIME FARMLAND (P): Farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long term agricultural production. This land has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

FARMLAND OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE (S): Farmland similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture. Land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

UNIQUE FARMLAND (U): Farmland of lesser quality soils used for the production of the state’s leading agricultural crops. This land is usually irrigated, but may include no irrigated orchards or vineyards as found in some climatic zones in California. Land must have been cropped at some time during the four years prior to the mapping date.

FARMLAND OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE (L): Land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee.

GRAZING LAND (G): Land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This category was developed in cooperation with the California Cattlemen's Association, University of California Cooperative Extension, and other groups interested in the extent of grazing activities. The minimum mapping unit for Grazing Land is 40 acres.

URBAN AND BUILT-UP LAND (D): Land occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres, or approximately 6 structures to a 10-acre parcel. This land is used for residential, industrial, commercial, institutional, public administrative purposes, railroad and other transportation yards, cemeteries, airports, golf courses, sanitary landfills, sewage treatment, water control structures, and other developed purposes.

OTHER LAND (X): Land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres. Vacant and nonagricultural land surrounded on all sides by urban development and greater than 40 acres is mapped as Other Land.

VACANT OR DISTURBED LAND (V): Open field areas that do not qualify as an agricultural category, mineral and oil extraction area, off road vehicle areas, electrical substations, channelized canals, and rural freeway interchanges.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with, or obstruct implementation of, the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a - e) No Impact. No impacts have been identified as a result of this project.

Global Climate Change

Climate change is a shift in the “average weather” that a given region experiences. This is measured by changes in temperature, wind patterns, precipitation, and storms. Global climate is the change in the climate of the earth as a whole. It can occur naturally, as in the case of an ice age, or occur as a result of anthropogenic activities. The extent to which anthropogenic activities influence climate change has been the subject of extensive scientific inquiry in the past several decades. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), recognized as the leading research body on the subject, issued its Fourth Assessment Report in February 2007, which asserted that there is “very high confidence” (by IPCC definition a 9 in 10 chance of being correct) that human activities have resulted in a net warming of the planet since 1750.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires an agency to engage in forecasting “to the extent that an activity could reasonably be expected under the circumstances. An agency cannot be expected to predict the future course of governmental regulation or exactly what information scientific advances may ultimately reveal” (CEQA Guidelines Section 15144, Office of Planning and Research commentary, citing the California Supreme Court decision in Laurel Heights Improvement Association v. Regents of the University of California [1988] 47 Cal. 3d 376).

Recent concerns over global warming have created a greater interest in greenhouse gases (GHG) and their contribution to global climate change (GCC). However at this time there are no generally accepted thresholds of significance for determining the impact of GHG emissions from an individual project on GCC. Thus, permitting agencies are in the position of developing policy and guidance to ascertain and mitigate to the extent feasible the effects of GHG, for CEQA purposes, without the normal degree of accepted guidance by case law.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of a native wildlife nursery site?

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Responses:

(a - f) No Impact. The proposed project does not contain any natural riparian habitat or designated wetlands. In addition, it is not redirecting, obstructing or change a wildlife corridor for native resident species. The project does not reside within an existing habitat conservation plan.

There are no habitats identified on this parcel, so no modifications are expected as a result of this project. There are no activities associated with this project off-site, therefore there will be no indirect impacts to habitats as a result. While there are candidate species identified in the quadrangle in which this project is located, given the commercial uses that has occurred in the area over the years, the chances of any of the listed species being on the parcel are less than likely.

There are no federally protected wetlands on or in the vicinity of this project. There are no streams or bodies of water of which migratory fish or other species that would use bodies of water would be impacted by this project.

The site is a vacant lot surrounded by commercial land. There is minimal chance that any of the listed species might migrate through, given the proposed development on the site and its surroundings it is unlikely to inhabit.

While the list below shows a number of species listed in the quadrangle in which this project

is located, this does not necessarily mean that these species are actually located on the project site either in a habitat setting or migrating through. As mentioned, given the development in the immediate area, the chances of disturbing any species are considerably minimal.

General Information

Special Status Species include:

- Plants and animals that are legally protected or proposed for protection under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) or Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA);
- Plants and animals defined as endangered or rare under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15380;
- Animals designated as species of special concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG);
- Animals listed as “fully protected” in the Fish and Game Code of California (§3511, §4700, §5050 and §5515); and
- Plants listed in the California Native Plant Society’s (CNPS) Inventory of
- Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California.

A review of both the County’s and Department of Fish and Wildlife’s databases for special status species have identified the following species:

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Dept. of Fish and Game Listing	CNPS Listing
foothill yellow-legged frog	None	Candidate Threatened	SSC	-
rufous hummingbird	None	None	-	-
An andrenid bee	None	None	-	-
western bumble bee	None	Candidate Endangered	-	-
valley elderberry longhorn beetle	Threatened	None	-	-
Sierra Nevada red fox	Candidate	Threatened	-	-
pallid bat	None	None	SSC	-
western pond turtle	None	None	SSC	-
Hall's wyethia	None	None	-	4.3
orange lupine	None	None	-	1B.2
Mariposa pussypaws	Threatened	None	-	1B.1
Yosemite evening-primrose	None	None	-	4.3
Kings River monkeyflower	None	None	-	3
slender-stalked monkeyflower	None	None	-	1B.2
Gray's monkeyflower	None	None	-	4.3

Madera leptosiphon	None	None	-	1B.2
Ewan's larkspur	None	None	-	4.2

Ahwahnee Quadrangle

List 1A: Plants presumed extinct

List 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere.

List 2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere

List 3: Plants which more information is needed – a review list

List 4: Plants of Limited Distributed - a watch list

Ranking

0.1 – Seriously threatened in California (high degree/immediacy of threat)

0.2 – Fairly threatened in California (moderate degree/immediacy of threat)

0.3 – Not very threatened in California (low degree/immediacy of threats or no current threats known)

SSC Species of Special Concern

WL Watch List

Movement corridors are characterized by the regular movements of one or more species through relatively well defined landscape features. They are typically associated with ridgelines, wetland complexes, and well-developed riparian habitats.

The area surrounding the parcel site has been developed for agricultural purposes, and there are some residential uses in the area, so the chances of habitats being present for nesting or migratory species are minimal. There is no construction proposed on the parcel, so there will be no disruptions in that regard. The storage of the gondolas is the only operational component proposed, with these units being hauled in and out on a periodic basis. Operations of the facilities will have negligible impacts.

General Information

Effective January 1, 2007, Senate Bill 1535 took effect that has changed de minimis findings procedures. The Senate Bill takes the de minimis findings capabilities out of the Lead Agency hands and puts the process into the hands of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formally the California Department of Fish and Game). A Notice of Determination filing fee is due each time a NOD is filed at the jurisdictions Clerk’s Office. The authority comes under Senate Bill 1535 (SB 1535) and Department of Fish and Wildlife Code 711.4. Each year the fee is evaluated and has the potential of increasing. For the most up-to-date fees, please refer to: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/ceqa/ceqa_changes.html.

The Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) was listed as a threatened species in 1980. Use of the elderberry bush by the beetle, a wood borer, is rarely apparent. Frequently, the only exterior evidence of the elderberry’s use by the beetle is an exit hole created by the larva just prior to the pupal stage. According to the USFWS, the Valley Elderberry

Longhorn Beetle habitat is primarily in communities of clustered Elderberry plants located within riparian habitat. The USFWS stated that VELB habitat does not include every Elderberry plant in the Central Valley, such as isolated, individual plants, plants with stems that are less than one inch in basal diameter or plants located in upland habitat.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a - c) No Impact. No known resources exist in the vicinity of this project. Tribal contacts have not indicated any concerns regarding the proposed project.

General Information

Public Resource Code 5021.1(b) defines a historic resource as “any object building, structure, site, area or place which is historically significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of California.” These resources are of such import, that it is codified in CEQA (PRC Section 21000) which prohibits actions that “disrupt, or adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or a property of historical or cultural significance to a community or ethnic or social groups; or a paleontological site except as part of a scientific study.”

Archaeological importance is generally, although not exclusively, a measure of the archaeological research value of a site which meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Is associated with an event or person of recognized significance in California or American history or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory.
- Can provide information which is both of demonstrable public interest and useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable archaeological research questions.
- Has a special or particular quality such as oldest, best example, largest, or last surviving example of its kind.

- Is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity (i.e. it is essentially undisturbed and intact).
- Involves important research questions that historic research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods.

Reference CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 for definitions.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a & b) No Impact. There has been no evidence that the proposed projects energy consumption will have any significant impact in the immediate area. No impacts have been identified as a result of this project.

During the operational period of the project, there will be ongoing trip generation. The length of these trips and the individual vehicle fuel efficiencies are not known; therefore the resulting energy consumption cannot be accurately calculated. Adopted federal vehicle fuel standards have continually improved since their original adoption in 1975 and assists in avoiding the inefficient, wasteful and unnecessary use of energy by vehicles.

With mitigations, the impact will remain less than significant.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Map issued by the State Geologist for the area, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Be located on a geological unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Responses:

(a – e) No Impact. There are no known impacts that will occur as a direct or indirect result of this project.

General Information

Madera County is divided into two major physiographic and geologic provinces: the Sierra Nevada Range and the Central Valley. The Sierra Nevada physiographic province in the northeastern portion of the county is underlain by metamorphic and igneous rock. It consists mainly of homogenous types of granitic rocks, with several islands of older metamorphic rock. The central and western parts of the county are part of the Central Valley province, underlain by marine and non-marine sedimentary rocks.

The foothill area of the County is essentially a transition zone, containing old alluvial soils that have been dissected by the west-flowing rivers and streams which carry runoff from the Sierra Nevada's.

Seismicity varies greatly between the two major geologic provinces represented in Madera County. The Central Valley is an area of relatively low tectonic activity bordered by mountain ranges on either side. The Sierra Nevada's, partly within Madera County, are the result of movement of tectonic plates which resulted in the creation of the mountain range. The Coast Ranges on the west side of the Central Valley are also a result of these forces, and continued movement of the Pacific and North American tectonic plates continues to elevate the ranges. Most of the seismic hazards in Madera County result from movement along faults associated with the creation of these ranges.

There are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. The County does not lie within any Alquist Priolo Special Studies Zone for surface faulting or fault creep.

However, there are two significant faults within the larger region that have been and will continue to be, the principle sources of potential seismic activity within Madera County.

San Andreas Fault: The San Andreas Fault lies approximately 45 miles west of the county line. The fault has a long history of activity and is thus a concern in determining activity in the area.

Owens Valley Fault Group: The Owens Valley Fault Group is a complex system containing both active and potentially active faults on the eastern base of the Sierra Nevada Range. This group is located approximately 80 miles east of the County line in Inyo County. This system has historically been the source of seismic activity within the County.

The *Draft Environmental Impact Report* for the state prison project near Fairmead identified faults within a 100 mile radius of the project site. Since Fairmead is centrally located along Highway 99 within the county, this information provides a good indicator of the potential seismic activity which might be felt within the County. Fifteen active faults (including the San Andreas and Owens Valley Fault Group) were identified in the *Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation*. Four of the faults lie along the eastern portion of the Sierra Nevada Range, approximately 75 miles to the northeast of Fairmead. These are the Parker Lake, Hartley Springs, Hilton Creek and Mono Valley Faults. The remaining faults are in the western portion of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as within the Coast Range, approximately 47 miles west of Fairmead. Most of the remaining 11 faults are associated with the San Andreas, Calaveras, Hayward and Rinconada Fault Systems which collectively form the tectonic plate boundary of the Central Valley.

In addition, the Clovis Fault, although not having any historic evidence of activity, is considered to be active within quaternary time (within the past two million years), is considered potentially active. This fault line lies approximately six miles south of the Madera County line in Fresno County. Activity along this fault could potentially generate more seismic activity in Madera County than the San Andreas or Owens Valley fault systems. However, because of the lack of historic activity along the Clovis Fault, there is inadequate evidence for assessing maximum earthquake impacts.

Seismic ground shaking, however, is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County because of the County's seismic setting and its record of historical activity (General Plan Background Element and Program EIR). The project represents no specific threat or hazard from seismic ground shaking, and all new construction will comply with current local

and state building codes. Other geologic hazards, such as landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, and liquefaction have not been known to occur within Madera County.

According to the Madera County General Plan Background Report, groundshaking is the primary seismic hazard in Madera County. The valley portion of Madera County is located on alluvium deposits, which tend to experience greater groundshaking intensities than areas located on hard rock. Therefore, structures located in the valley will tend to suffer greater damage from groundshaking than those located in the foothill and mountain areas.

Liquefaction is a process whereby soil is temporarily transformed to a fluid form during intense and prolonged ground shaking. According to the Madera County General Plan Background Report, although there are areas of Madera County where the water table is at 30 feet or less below the surface, soil types in the area are not conducive to liquefaction because they are either too coarse in texture or too high in clay content; the soil types mitigate against the potential for liquefaction.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Responses:

(a - b) Less Than Significant Impact. The operations of a double sided off-premises sign will have a less than significant impact relating to emitting greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. What little greenhouse gases generated will be from vehicular traffic related to construction on the site.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: The potential effect of greenhouse gas emission on global climate change is an emerging issue that warrants discussion under CEQA. Unlike the pollutants discussed previously that may have regional and local effects, greenhouse gases have the potential to cause global changes in the environment. In addition, greenhouse gas emissions do not directly produce a localized impact, but may cause an indirect impact if the local climate is adversely changed by its cumulative contribution to a change in global climate. Individual development projects contribute relatively small amounts of greenhouse gases that when added to other greenhouse gas producing activities around the world would result in an increase in these emissions that have led many to conclude is changing the global climate. However, no threshold has been established for what would constitute a cumulatively considerable increase in greenhouse gases for individual development projects. The State of California has taken several actions that help to address potential global climate change impacts.

Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, outlines goals for local agencies to follow in order to bring Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels (a 25% overall reduction) by the year 2020. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) holds the responsibility of monitoring and reducing GHG emissions through regulations, market mechanisms and other actions. A Draft Scoping Plan was adopted by CARB in order to provide guidelines and policy for the State to follow in its steps to reduce GHG. According to CARB, the scoping plan's GHG reduction actions include: direct regulations, alternative compliance mechanisms, monetary and non-monetary incentives, voluntary actions, and market-based mechanisms such as a cap-and-trade system.

Following the adoption of AB 32, the California State Legislature adopted Senate Bill 375, which became the first major bill in the United States that would aim to limit climate change by linking directly to "smart growth" land use principles and transportation. It adds incentives for projects which intend to be in-fill, mixed use, affordable and self-contained developments. SB 375 includes the creation of a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) through the local Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) in order to create land use patterns which reduce overall emissions and vehicle miles traveled. Incentives include California Environmental Quality Act streamlining and possible exemptions for projects which fulfill specific criteria.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

f) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Responses:

(a – g) No Impact. The proposed off-premises sign would not obtain any hazardous materials nor emit hazardous emissions into the environment. The project site is not within an Airport/Airspace Overlay District nor within proximity to any known airports and airstrips. No impacts are identified.

General Information

Any hazardous material because of its quantity, concentration, physical or chemical properties, pose a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety, or the environment the California legislature adopted Article I, Chapter 6.95 of the Health and Safety Code, Sections 25500 to 25520 that requires any business handling or storing a hazardous material or hazardous waste to establish a Business Plan. The information obtained from the completed Business Plans will be provided to emergency response personnel for a better-prepared emergency response due to a release or threatened release of a hazardous material and/or hazardous waste.

Business owners that handle or store a hazardous material or mixtures containing a hazardous material, which has a quantity at any one time during the year, equal to or greater than:

- 1) A total of 55 gallons,
- 2) A total of 500 pounds,
- 3) 200 cubic feet at standard temperature and pressure of compressed gas,
- 4) Any quantity of Acutely Hazardous Material (AHM).

Assembly Bill AB 2286 requires all business and agencies to report their Hazardous Materials Business Plans to the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) information electronically at <http://cers.calepa.ca.gov>

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (iv) Impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Responses:

(a - e) No Impact. No impacts identified as a result of this project. The proposed project will not require water usage for operation

A seiche is an occasional and sudden oscillation of the water of a lake, bay or estuary producing fluctuations in the water level and caused by wind, earthquakes or changes in barometric pressure. A tsunami (from the Japanese language, roughly translated as “harbor wave”) is an unusually large sea wave produced by seaquake or undersea volcanic eruption. According to the California Division of Mines and Geology, there are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. Additionally,

there are no bodies of water (lakes, etc.) within proximity of the site. Madera County is geographically located in the center of the state, therefore not affected by tsunamis.

Rainfall is unable to percolate into paving that is expected to be on each site (building pad, driveways, structures, etc.) and is converted almost entirely into storm run-off, often exceeding the capacity of existing drainage system, causing intermittent flooding, increased flooding and other adverse impacts. It is possible that the quality of storm water may be affected by pollution such as, but not limited to, oil, grease, fuel, dissolved metals from batteries and glycols from automotive coolant or antifreeze. The applicant shall mitigate any impacts associated with storm water contamination caused by this project.

There is the potential of localized flooding that could occur in the vicinity of the project. This is dependent on rain fall, site features and drainage.

General Information

Groundwater quality contaminants of concern in the Valley Floor include high salinity (total dissolved solids), nitrate, uranium, arsenic, methane gas, iron, manganese, slime production, and dibromochloropropane with the maximum contaminant level exceeded in some areas. Despite the water quality issues noted above, most of the groundwater in the Valley Floor is of suitable quality for irrigation. Groundwater of suitable quality for public consumption has been demonstrated to be present in most of the area at specific depths.

Groundwater quality contaminants of concern in the Foothills and Mountains include manganese, iron, high salinity, hydrogen sulfide gas, uranium, nitrate, arsenic, and methylbutylethylene (MTBE) with the maximum concentration level being exceeded in some areas. Despite these problems, there are substantial amounts of good-quality groundwater in each of the areas evaluated in the Foothills and Mountains. Iron and manganese are commonly removed by treatment. Uranium treatment is being conducted on a well by the Bass Lake Water Company.

A seiche is an occasional and sudden oscillation of the water of a lake, bay or estuary producing fluctuations in the water level and caused by wind, earthquakes or changes in barometric pressure. A tsunami (from the Japanese language, roughly translated as "harbor wave") is an unusually large sea wave produced by seaquake or undersea volcanic eruption. According to the California Division of Mines and Geology, there are no active or potentially active faults of major historic significance within Madera County. As this property is not located near any bodies of water, no impacts are identified.

The flood hazard areas of the County of Madera are subject to periodic inundation which results in loss of life and property, health and safety hazards, disruption of commerce and governmental services, extraordinary public expenditures for flood protection and relief, and impairment of the tax base, all of which adversely affect the public health, safety and general welfare. These flood losses are caused by uses that are inadequately elevated, floodproofed, or protected from flood damage. The cumulative effect of obstruction in areas of special flood hazards which increase flood height and velocities also contribute to flood loss.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a - b) No Impact. This project will not physically divide an existing community nor will have any significant environmental impact on the existing area. The surrounding area consist of commercial and residential zoned parcels.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a - b) No Impact. There are no known minerals in the vicinity of the project site.

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinances, or applicable standards of other agencies? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Responses:

(a) Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed off-premise sign is not expected to result in permanent noise increases from any operational sources. Noise will be generated on the site in the short-term from construction activities.

(b) No Impact. The proposed project is not subject to ground borne vibration, nor would it generate any permanent source of ground borne.

(c) No Impact. This project is not within proximity to an airstrip or airport. It is not within an airport/airspace overlay district. There will be no impacts as a result.

General Discussion

The Noise Element of the Madera County General Plan (Policy 7.A.5) provides that noise which will be created by new non-transportation noise sources shall be mitigated so as not to exceed the Noise Element noise level standards on lands designated for noise-sensitive uses. However, this policy does not apply to noise levels associated with agricultural operations. All the surrounding properties, while include some residential units, are designated and zoned for agricultural uses. This impact is therefore considered less than significant.

Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending upon the nature or phase of construction (e.g. demolition/land clearing, grading and excavation, erection). The United States Environmental Protection Agency has found that the average noise levels associated with construction activities typically range from approximately 76 dBA to 84 dBA Leq, with intermittent individual equipment noise levels ranging from approximately 75 dBA to more than 88 dBA for brief periods.

Short Term Noise

Noise from localized point sources (such as construction sites) typically decreases by approximately 6 dBA with each doubling of distance from source to receptor. Given the noise attenuation rate and assuming no noise shielding from either natural or human-made features (e.g. trees, buildings, and fences), outdoor receptors within approximately 400 feet of construction site could experience maximum noise levels of greater than 70 dBA when onsite construction-related noise levels exceed approximately 89 dBA at the project site boundary. Construction activities that occur during the more noise-sensitive eighteen hours could result in increased levels of annoyance and sleep disruption for occupants of nearby existing residential dwellings. As a result, noise-generating construction activities would be considered to have a potentially significant short-term impact. However with implementation of mitigation measures, this impact would be considered less than significant.

Long Term Noise

Mechanical building equipment (e.g. heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems, and boilers), associated with the proposed structures, could generate noise levels of approximately 90 dBA at 3 feet from the source. However, such mechanical equipment systems are typically shielded from direct public exposure and usually housed on rooftops, within equipment rooms, or within exterior enclosures.

Landscape maintenance equipment, such as leaf blowers and gasoline powered mowers, could result in intermittent noise levels that range from approximately 80 to 100 dBA at 3 feet, respectively. Based on an equipment noise level of 100 dBA, landscape maintenance equipment (assuming a noise attenuation rate of 6 dBA per doubling of distance from the source) may result in exterior noise levels of approximately 75 dBA at 50 feet.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE FOR
NON-TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES*

		Residential	Commercial	Industrial (L)	Industrial (H)	Agricultural
Residential	AM	50	60	55	60	60
	PM	45	55	50	55	55
Commercial	AM	60	60	60	65	60
	PM	55	55	55	60	55
Industrial (L)	AM	55	60	60	65	60
	PM	50	55	55	60	55
Industrial (H)	AM	60	65	65	70	65
	PM	55	60	60	65	60
Agricultural	AM	60	60	60	65	60
	PM	55	55	55	60	55

*As determined at the property line of the receiving land use. When determining the effectiveness of noise mitigation measures, the standards may be applied on the receptor side of noise barriers at the property line.

AM = 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM
 PM = 10:00 PM to 7:00 AM
 L = Light
 H = Heavy

Note: Each of the noise levels specified above shall be lowered by 5 dB for pure tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music, or for recurring impulsive noises. These noise level standards do not apply to residential units established in conjunction with industrial or commercial uses (e.g. caretaker dwellings).

Vibration perception threshold: The minimum ground or structure-borne vibrational motion necessary to cause a normal person to be aware of the vibration by such direct means as, but not limited to, sensation by touch or visual observation of moving objects. The perception threshold shall be presumed to be a motion velocity of one-tenth (0.1) inches per second over the range of one to one hundred Hz.

Reaction of People and Damage to Buildings from Continuous Vibration Levels		
Velocity Level, PPV (in/sec)	Human Reaction	Effect on Buildings
0.006 to 0.019	Threshold of perception; possibility of intrusion	Damage of any type unlikely
0.08	Vibration readily perceptible	Recommended upper level of vibration to which ruins and ancient monuments should be subjected
0.10	Continuous vibration begins to annoy people	Virtually no risk of architectural damage to normal buildings
0.20	Vibration annoying to people in buildings	Risk of architectural damage to normal dwellings such as plastered walls or ceilings
0.4 to 0.6	Vibration considered unpleasant by people subjected to continuous vibrations	Architectural damage and possibly minor structural damage

Source: Whiffen and Leonard 1971

With mitigations, this impact will be maintained as less than significant.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation Less Than Significant Impact No Impact

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and business) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Responses:

(a - c) No Impact. No impacts identified as a result of this project.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a-i) No Impact. The Madera County Fire Department exists through a contract between Madera County and CalFire (California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention) and operates six stations for County responses in addition to the state-funded CALFIRE stations for state responsibility areas. Under an “Amador Plan” contract, the County also funds the wintertime staffing of four fire seasonal CALFIRE stations. In addition, there are ten paid-call (volunteer) fire companies that operate from their own stations. The administrative, training, purchasing, warehouse, and other functions of the Department operate through a single management team with County Fire Administration.

The building construction will be governed by the requisite Building, Life, Safety and Fire Codes applicable at the time of construction. The mitigation tied to this finding is written in

such a manner as to leave open as to what year the applicable codes will be enforced at the time of construction. This will ensure that the most current codes are followed instead of being tied to outdated codes.

(a - ii) No Impact. Crime and emergency response is provided by the Madera County Sherriff’s Department. There will be an incidental need for law enforcement in the events of theft and vandalism on the project site.

A Federal Bureau of Investigations 2009 study suggests that there is on average of 2.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population for all reporting counties. The number for cities had an average of 1.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population.

(a-iii) No Impact. No impacts are anticipated as a result of this project as it does not relate to any educational programs, or increase the surrounding population.

Single Family Residences have the potential for adding to school populations. The average per Single Family Residence is:

Grade	Student Generation per Single Family Residence
K – 6	0.425
7 – 8	0.139
9 – 12	0.214

(a - iv) No Impact. No impacts are anticipated as a direct, indirect, short or long term impact as a result of this project.

The Madera County General Plan allocates three acres of park available land per 1,000 residents’ population.

(a - v) No Impact. No impacts identified as a result of this project.

Crime and emergency response is provided by the Madera County Sherriff’s Department. There will be an incidental need for law enforcement in the events of theft and vandalism on the project site.

County Sherriff’s Department personnel are strapped for resources as well. With new development, the potential for criminal activity (including but not limited to: home burglaries, assaults, auto thefts) increases.

Currently, the Madera County’s Sherriff’s Department provides law enforcement and patrols in the planning area, operating from substations in Oakhurst on Road 425B and the Mountain Government Center in Bass Lake.

A Federal Bureau of Investigations 2009 study suggests that there is on average of 2.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population for all reporting counties. The number for cities had an average of 1.7 law enforcement officials per 1,000 population.

XVI. RECREATION

- a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a - b) No Impact. No impacts as a result of this project.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

- a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?
- b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?
- c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Responses:

(a-b, d) No Impact. No impacts identified as a result of this project.

(c) Less Than Significant Impact. Due to the placement of the proposed off-premise sign being located at the beginning of a large curve on Highway 41 and within five hundred feet (500ft) of a road interchange, there could be a significant impact in the immediate area. The proposed off-premise sign could become a visual obstruction for the public when navigating throughout Highway 41 in Coarsegold.

In the area around the proposed project, opportunities for bicycles and pedestrians, especially as an alternative to the private automobile, are significantly limited by lack of developed shoulders, sidewalks or pavement width accommodating either mode. The condition is not uncommon in rural areas where distances between origins and destinations are long and the terrain is either rolling or mountainous. In the locations outside urbanized portions of the County, the number of non-recreational pedestrians/cyclists would likely be low, even if additional facilities were provided.

As with most rural areas, Madera County is served by limited alternative transportation modes. Currently, only limited public transportation facilities or routes exist within the area. Volunteer systems such as the driver escort service, as well as the senior bus system, operate for special purpose activities and are administered by the Madera County Action Committee. The rural densities which are prevalent throughout the region have typically precluded successful public transit systems, which require more concentrated populations in order to gain sufficient ridership.

Local circulation is largely deficient with these same State Highways and County Roads composing the only existing network of through streets. Most local streets are dead-end drives, many not conforming to current County improvement standards. Existing traffic, particularly during peak hour and key intersections, already exhibits congestion.

Madera County currently uses Level of Service “D” as the threshold of significance level for roadway and intersection operations. The following charts show the significance of those levels.

Level of Service	Description	Average Control Delay (sec./car)
A	Little or no delay	0 – 10
B	Short traffic delay	>10 – 15
C	Medium traffic delay	> 15 – 25
D	Long traffic delay	> 25 – 35
E	Very long traffic delay	> 35 – 50
F	Excessive traffic delay	> 50

Unsignalized intersections.

Level of Service	Description	Average Control Delay (sec./car)
A	Uncongested operations, all queues clear in single cycle	< 10
B	Very light congestion, an occasional phase is fully utilized	>10 – 20
C	Light congestion; occasional queues on approach	> 20 – 35
D	Significant congestion on critical approaches, but intersection is functional. Vehicles required to wait through more than one cycle during short peaks. No long-standing queues formed.	> 35 – 55
E	Severe congestion with some long-standing queues on critical approaches. Traffic queues may block nearby intersection(s) upstream of critical approach(es)	> 55-80
F	Total breakdown, significant queuing	> 80

Signalized intersections.

Level of service	Freeways	Two-lane rural highway	Multi-lane rural highway	Expressway	Arterial	Collector
A	700	120	470	720	450	300
B	1,100	240	945	840	525	350
C	1,550	395	1,285	960	600	400
D	1,850	675	1,585	1,080	675	450
E	2,000	1,145	1,800	1,200	750	500

Capacity per hour per lane for various highway facilities

Madera County is predicted to experience significant population growth in the coming years (62.27 percent between 2008 and 2030). Accommodating this amount of growth presents a challenge for attaining and maintain air quality standards and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The increase in population is expected to be accompanied by a similar increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) (61.36 percent between 2008 and 2030).

Horizon Year	Total Population (thousands)	Employment (thousands)	Average Weekday VMT (millions)	Total Lane Miles
2010	175	49	5.4	2,157
2011	180	53	5.5	NA
2017	210	63	6.7	NA
2020	225	68	7.3	2,264
2030	281	85	8.8	2,277

Source: MCTC 2007 RTP

The above table displays the predicted increase in population and travel. The increase in the lane miles of roads that will serve the increase in VMT is estimated at 120 miles or 0.94 percent by 2030. This indicates that roadways in Madera County can be expected to become much more crowded than is currently experienced.

Emissions of CO (Carbon Monoxide) are the primarily mobile-source criteria pollutant of local concern. Local mobile-source CO emissions near roadway intersections are a direct function of traffic volume, speed and delay. Carbon monoxide transport is extremely limited; it disperses rapidly with distance from the source under normal meteorological conditions. Under certain meteorological conditions, however, CO concentrations close to congested roadway or intersection may reach unhealthy levels, affecting local sensitive receptors (residents, school children, hospital patients, the elderly, etc.). As a result, the SJVAPCP recommends analysis of CO emissions of at a local rather than regional level. Local CO concentrations at intersections projected to operate at level of service (LOS) D or better do not typically exceed national or state ambient air quality standards. In addition, non-signalized intersections located within areas having relatively low background concentrations do not typically have sufficient traffic volumes to warrant analysis of local CO concentrations.

As this project is not within an airport/airspace overlay district, or in proximity to any airport or airstrip within the County, no impacts to airspace or air flight will occur as a result.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES					
Would the project:					
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:					
i.	Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii.	A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Responses:

(a) No Impact. No impacts have been identified as a result of this project. Tribes were contacted as a result of standard review process.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it had adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a - e) No Impact. There will be no utilities needed for the proposed project. No other impacts have been identified as a result of with this project.

Water Quality Issues

Erosion and sedimentation/siltation are two potentially significant impacts related to development with the entire Oakhurst area. These impacts are generally proportional to

the intensity of development which occurs in an area, including the amount of the clearing and grading which is necessary.

Rainfall is unable to percolate into the portions of each site that are paved over and is converted almost entirely into storm run-off, often exceeding the capacity of existing drainage system, causing intermittent flooding, increased flooding and other adverse impacts. Pollutants associated with parking lots (oil & grease predominately) will be found in high quantities after the first rain of the season. These pollutants have the potential of contaminating ground and surface water sources.

Groundwater availability issues

Groundwater within the area is generally limited and unpredictable as a result of geologic formation which characterizes the mountain and foothill regions of Madera County. These areas are generally underlain by impervious bedrock, and “groundwater” is available only through water bearing fractures within these formations. Within these “fracture” systems the ability to store and transmit water is solely dependent on the development of secondary openings such as faults, joints and exfoliation planes.

Due to these concerns regarding the uncertainty of groundwater, the Area Plan outlines the need to both understand groundwater availability for the area, and to examine opportunities to develop a source of surface water for the community. Several potential surface water sources for the greater eastern Madera County area have been evaluated over the years. Planning documents for the area beginning in the early 1960's identified the potential for a “Soquel” reservoir above Oakhurst within the Sierra National Forest. Later concepts included purchasing surface rights and delivering water from Bass Lake or the Fresno River. Most recently, the potential to purchase and deliver water from Redinger Lake has been studied. The development and implementation of a plan for surface water source been hindered by the presence of existing commitments for all surface water in the area. Additionally, environmental clearances, technical requirements, and the costs associated with developing a surface water source are significant. Despite these hurdles, the Area Plan notes that a surface water source must be viewed as the long-term solution and includes as a policy the initiation of a study to examine opportunities for a surface water source. The following Area Plan policies are proposed to address issues related to the provision of water.

Wastewater Issues

The reliance on septic systems has generated concerns regarding potential impacts to both surface and ground water quality, particularly where septic systems are concentrated on individual lots. This project will have an on-site treatment facility.

Solid Waste Issues

According to the Madera County General Plan Background report, all solid waste generated in the unincorporated area is currently disposed of at the Fairmead Landfill, which is owned by the County and operated by Madera Disposal Systems, Inc. The landfill facility is located on 48 acres at the southeast corner of Road 19 and Avenue 22. The landfill is expected to reach capacity in 2020. If additional waste can be diverted, the life of the expansion area could be increased. There is the potential for approximately 28 residential units' total that would be in need of disposing of residential related waste material to this landfill. Recycling measures are strongly encouraged. According to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the generation rate per resident is 0.63 pounds per day of trash.

General Discussion

Madera County has 34 County Service Areas and Maintenance Districts that together operate 30 small water systems and 16 sewer systems. Fourteen of these special districts are located in the Valley Floor, and the remaining 20 special districts are in the Foothills and Mountains. MD-1 Hidden Lakes, Bass Lake (SA-2B and SA-2C) and SA-16 Sumner Hill have surface water treatment plants, with the remaining special districts relying solely on groundwater.

The major wastewater treatment plants in the County are operated in the incorporated cities of Madera and Chowchilla and the community of Oakhurst. These wastewater systems have been recently or are planned to be upgraded, increasing opportunities for use of recycled water. The cities of Madera and Chowchilla have adopted or are in the process of developing Urban Water Management Plans. Most of the irrigation and water districts have individual groundwater management plans. All of these agencies engage in some form of groundwater recharge and management.

Groundwater provides almost the entire urban and rural water use and about 75 percent of the agricultural water use in the Valley Floor. The remaining water demand is met with surface water. Almost all of the water use in the Foothills and Mountains is from groundwater with only three small water treatment plants relying on surface water from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries.

In areas of higher precipitation (Oakhurst, North Fork, and the topographically higher part of the Coarsegold Area), groundwater recharge is adequate for existing uses. However, some problems have been encountered in parts of these areas due to well interference and groundwater quality issues. In areas of lower precipitation (Raymond-Hensley Lake and the lower part of the Coarsegold area), groundwater recharge is more limited, possibly requiring additional water supply from other sources to support future development.

Madera County is served by a solid waste facility (landfill) in Fairmead. There is a transfer station in North Fork. The Fairmead facility also provides for Household Hazardous Materials collections on Saturdays. The unincorporated portion of the County is served by Red Rock Environmental Group. Above the 1000 foot elevation, residents are served by EMADCO services for solid waste pick-up.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?
- c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?
- d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Responses:

(a - d) No Impact. No impacts have been identified as a result of this project.

XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are significant when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Responses:

CEQA defines three types of impacts or effects:

- Direct impacts are caused by a project and occur at the same time and place (CEQA §15358(a)(1).
- Indirect or secondary impacts are reasonably foreseeable and are caused by a project but occur at a different time or place. They may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate and related effects on air, water and other natural systems, including ecosystems (CEQA §15358(a)(2).
- Cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts (CEQA §15355(b)). Impacts from individual projects may be considered minor, but considered retroactively with other projects over a period of time, those impacts could be significant, especially where listed or sensitive species are involved.

(a - c) No Impact. While there have been some minimal impacts identified through this study, none are considered significant in and of themselves, and/or cumulative inducing enough to be considered significant.

Mitigation Measures

None

Bibliography

California Department of Finance

California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)

California Integrated Waste Management Board

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Caltrans website http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/scenic_highways/index.htm accessed October 31, 2008

California Department of Fish and Wildlife “California Natural Diversity Database”
<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Maps-and-Data#43018410-cnddb-quickview-tool>

Madera County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan

Madera County Dairy Standards Environmental Impact Report

Madera County General Plan

Madera County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Madera County Department of Environmental Health

Madera County Fire Marshall’s Office

Madera County Department of Public Works

Madera County Roads Department

State of California, Department of Finance, *E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties, and the State, 2011 and 2012, with 2010 Benchmark*. Sacramento, California, May 2012

ND 2019-24

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November 5, 2019

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

ND

RE: PRJ-PC#2019-006 – Gene Guadagini

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

The property is located on the South side of Highway 41, approximately 0.30 miles East from its intersection with Morava Road (no situs), Coarsegold. The applicant is requesting a zoning permit for one double-sided off-premise sign, and a Variance to allow sign placement within five hundred feet (500ft) of a road intersection and within one thousand feet (1000ft) of an existing off-premises sign.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

No adverse environmental impact is anticipated from this project

BASIS FOR NEGATIVE DECLARATION:

See attached

Madera County Environmental Committee

A copy of the negative declaration and all supporting documentation is available for review at the Madera County Planning Department, 200 West Fourth Street, Ste. #3100, Madera, California.

DATED: November 5, 2019

FILED:

PROJECT APPROVED: