

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE AGENCY PLANNING DIVISION

County of Placer

HEARING DATE: May 17, 2018

TIME: 11:00 AM

TO: Zoning Administrator

FROM: Development Review Committee

DATE: April 27, 2018

SUBJECT: Saddleback Community Mailbox Shelter Variance (PLN18-00125)

PLAN AREA: Auburn/Bowman Community Plan

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: Rural Residential 2.3 – 4.6 Ac. Min.

ZONING: F-AO 4.6 Ac. Min; F-FH-AO 4.6 Ac. Min. (Farm, Combining Airport Overflight, Combining 4.6 Acre Minimum; Farm, Combining Flood Hazard, Combining Airport Overflight, Combining 4.6 Acre Minimum)

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 076-390-001-000

STAFF PLANNER: Kally Kedinger-Cecil, Assistant Planner

LOCATION: 0.17 miles north of the intersection of Dry Creek Road and Blue Grass Drive, on the west side of 14545 Riva Ridge Road.

APPLICANT: K.P. Martin General Engineering, Inc. on behalf of the Saddleback Homeowners Association

PROPOSAL:

The applicant requests approval of a Variance to allow for the replacement and reconstruction of a mailbox shelter 0 feet from the edge of easement on Blue Grass Drive where 50 feet is normally required.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:

The project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to provisions of Section 15303 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and Section 18.36.050(E) of the Placer County Environmental Review Ordinance (Class 3 – New Construction) because the proposed structure is an accessory structure.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Staff conducted a field review on April 12, 2018. The existing mailbox shelter is located on a turnout constructed on the west side of 14545 Riva Ridge Road, a 6.1-acre residential property. The mailbox shelter is approximately 0.17 miles north of the intersection of Dry Creek Road and Blue Grass Drive.

The mailbox shelter is used by the residents of the Saddleback subdivision. The shelter is accessed by a turnout adjacent to Blue Grass Drive. The concrete for the turnout and the mailboxes were installed

prior to the shelter. A building permit was not obtained or likely required for the shelter, however the Saddleback Homeowner's Association President provided drawings for the shelter dated 1993.

The shelter is outside of the right of way for Blue Grass Drive but is within the property lines of the Riva Ridge Road property. The property owner has allowed the shelter to be constructed and used on the property and has submitted a letter stating the shelter can continue to be used in its current location.

The existing shelter is 9 feet tall and approximately 324 square feet. The proposed shelter would be expanded to 10.5 feet tall and 432 square feet. Lighting is proposed in the shelter and an existing light pole provides additional lighting.

The site plans submitted for the project show the roofline of the mailbox extending to the edge of the property line. River rock and railroad ties act as a barrier between Blue Grass Drive and the mailbox. The mailbox faces the turnout to the east, so drivers can safely access the mailbox without stopping on the side of Blue Grass Drive. Additionally, the mailbox is conditioned to prohibit eaves or roofing to project into the setback, further ensuring the structure avoids extending into the roadway.

Special Circumstances:

Many subdivisions install mailbox shelters on common lots or near the subdivision entrance. The Saddleback subdivision does not have any common lots where community amenities can be located. The Saddleback subdivision entrance at the intersection of Blue Grass Drive and Dry Creek Road has two lots designated as "Non Valid Building Sites" flanking the sides of Blue Grass Drive. Both of these lots are too close to the intersection for motorists to safely decrease speed to approach a structure. Blue Grass Drive slopes downhill from Dry Creek Road before flattening out. The slope further prevents the structure from being located closer to the subdivision entrance. The road begins to flatten out at a crossing over Dry Creek, which has a Flood Hazard designation on either side. The existing location is outside of the Flood Hazard zone.

The existing location of the mailbox shelter is on private property. A row of trees screens the shelter from the home. If the mailbox shelter were moved outside of the 50 foot setback, it would be in this row of trees, and the natural screening provided by the trees would be lost. This would have an adverse impact on the property and would limit the property owner's sense of privacy.

Given the lack of a common area to place the shelter, the slope of Blue Grass Drive, the location of Dry Creek and the associated Flood Hazard zone, the existing location is the most logical placement of the mailbox shelter. This location also has the lease amount of impact on the private property owner where the shelter is located. Staff finds that the strict application of the setbacks would deprive the property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity in the same zone district.

PUBLIC NOTICES AND REFERRAL FOR COMMENTS:

Public noticed were mailed to property owners of record within 300 feet of the project site and posters were posted at conspicuous places on, or adjacent to, the land affected. Other appropriate agencies, public interest groups, and citizens were sent copies of the public hearing notice. Community Development Resource Agency staff including the Engineering and Surveying Division, Environmental Health Division, and the Department of Public Works and Facilities were transmitted copies of the project plans and application for review and comment. Comments received from County staff have been incorporated into this report. No comments from the public were received at the time of this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of a Variance to allow for the replacement and reconstruction of a mailbox shelter 0 feet from the edge of easement on Blue Grass Drive where 50 feet is normally required.

FINDINGS:

CEQA:

The project is categorically exempt from environmental review pursuant to provisions Section 15301 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines and Section 18.36.050(E) of the Placer County Environmental Review Ordinance (Class 3 – New Construction) because the proposed project is an accessory structure.

VARIANCE:

- There are special circumstances applicable to the location of the mailbox shelter, including the slope of Blue Grass Drive, the location of Dry Creek and the Flood Hazard zone, and the absence of a common lot where the mailbox shelter could be relocated, and because of these circumstances the strict application of the Zoning Ordinance has been found to deprive the subject property of privileges enjoyed by other properties in the vicinity and under similar zoning classifications.
- 2. The granting of this Variance will not constitute a grant of special privileges inconsistent with the limitations upon other properties and in the same zone district, in that residential accessory structures including mailbox shelters are allowed in residential zone districts.
- 3. The Variance does not authorize a use that is otherwise not allowed in the F-AO 4.6 Ac. Min. (Farm, Combining Airport Overflight, Combining Minimum Building Site of 4.6 Acres) zone district, in that residential accessory structures including mailbox shelters are allowed in residential zone districts.
- 4. The granting of this Variance does not, under the circumstances and conditions applied in this particular case, adversely affect public health and safety, is not materially detrimental to the public welfare, nor injurious to nearby property or improvements, in that the mailbox shelter expansion will not encroach over other property lines and will be consistent with the existing development. These factors ensure that the granting of the Variance will not create detriment to the public or general welfare of neighboring residences of residents.
- 5. The Variance is consistent with the Auburn/Bowman Community Plan.
- 6. The Variance is not the minimum departure from the applicable requirements of Section 17.54.140: Setbacks and Yards, as the request is for a 0 foot setback; however staff finds the location is severely limited by the existing circumstances.

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL:

- 1. Approval of this Variance allows for the replacement and reconstruction of a mailbox shelter 0 feet from the edge of easement on Blue Grass Drive where 50 feet is normally required. (PLN)
- 2. A Building Permit shall be obtained for the proposed new construction. (PLN)
- 3. No portions of the structure including roof, eaves, or gutter shall extend over the property line. (PLN)
- 4. Any entrance temporary or permanent structure proposed shall be located such that there is no interference with driver site distance as determined by the Engineering and Surveying Division, and shall not be located in the right-of-way. (ESD)
- 5. An Encroachment Permit shall be obtained from the Department of Public Works and Facilities (DPWF) for any work performed within the right-of-way. (ESD)

- 6. The applicant shall, upon written request of the County, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the County of Placer, the County Board of Supervisors, and its officers, agents and employees, from any and all actions, lawsuits, claims, damages, or costs, including attorney's fees awarded by a certain development project known as PLN18-00125 Saddleback Mailbox Shelter Variance. The applicant shall, upon written request of the County, pay or, at the County's option, reimburse the County for all costs for preparation of an administrative record required for any such action, including the costs of transcription, County staff time, and duplication. The County shall retain the right to elect to appear in and defend against any such action on its own behalf regardless of any tender under this provision. This indemnification obligation is intended to include, but not be limited to, actions brought by third parties to invalidate any determination made by the County under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) for the Project or any decisions made by the County relating to the approval of the Project. Upon request of the County, the applicant shall execute an agreement in the form approved by County Counsel incorporating the provision of this condition. (PLN)
- 7. This Variance (PLN18-00125) shall expire on May 17, 2020 unless previously exercised with issuance of a building permit for the mailbox shelter. (PLN)

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A: Site Plans and Elevations

Attachment B: Photos

Attachment C: Engineering and Surveying Division Memo Attachment D: Environmental Health Services Division Memo

cc: Cristina Lupercio – Engineering and Surveying Division
Joseph Scarbrough – Environmental Health Services Division
Kevin Martin – Applicant
Sylvia and Philip Fontes – Property Owners
Marshall Westfall – Saddleback Homeowners Association President

NEW MAIL BOX COVER

WWW.PDND.COM

9799-828 (089)

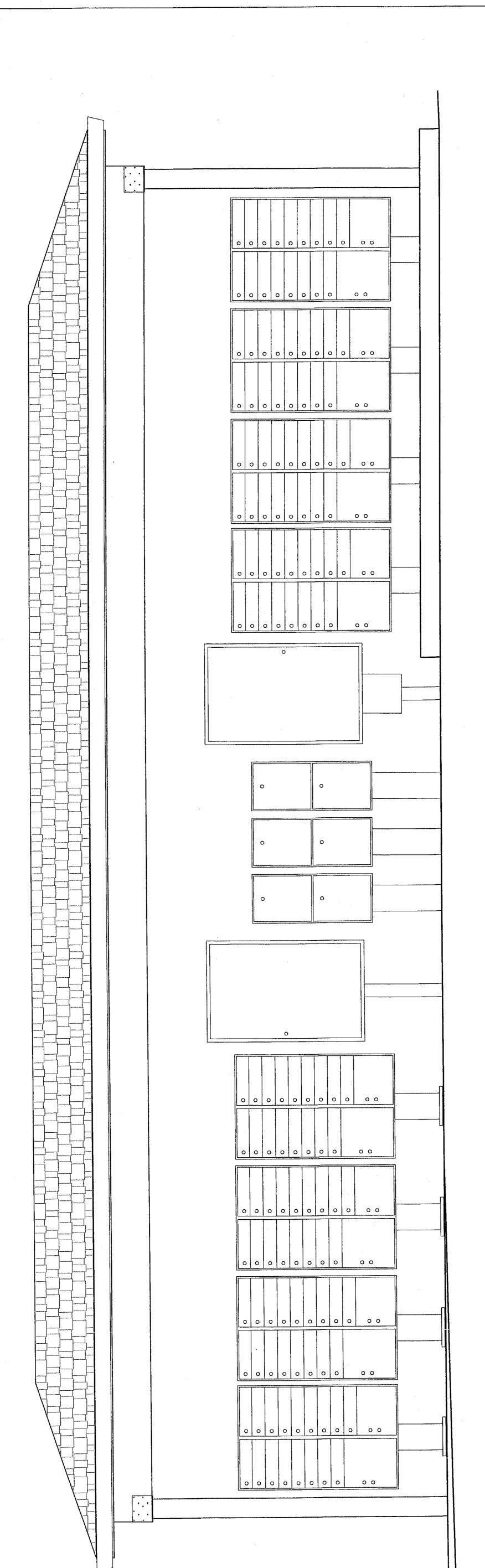
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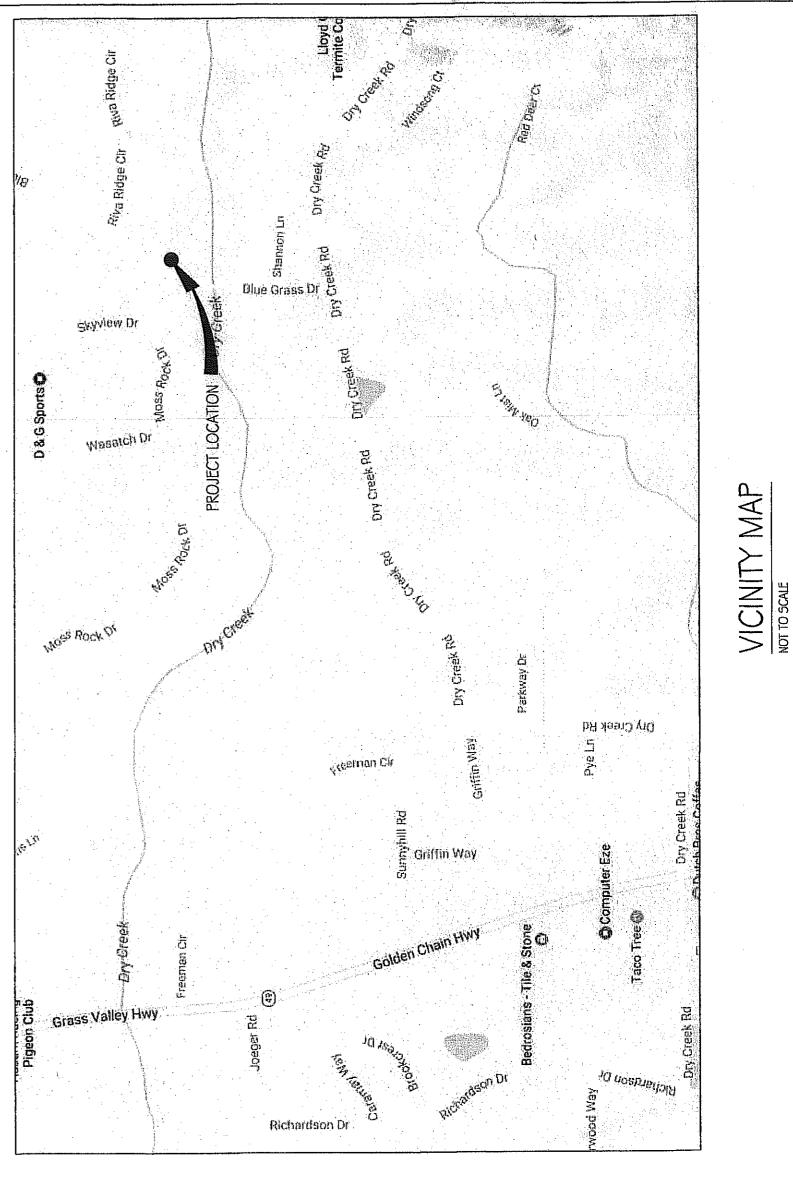


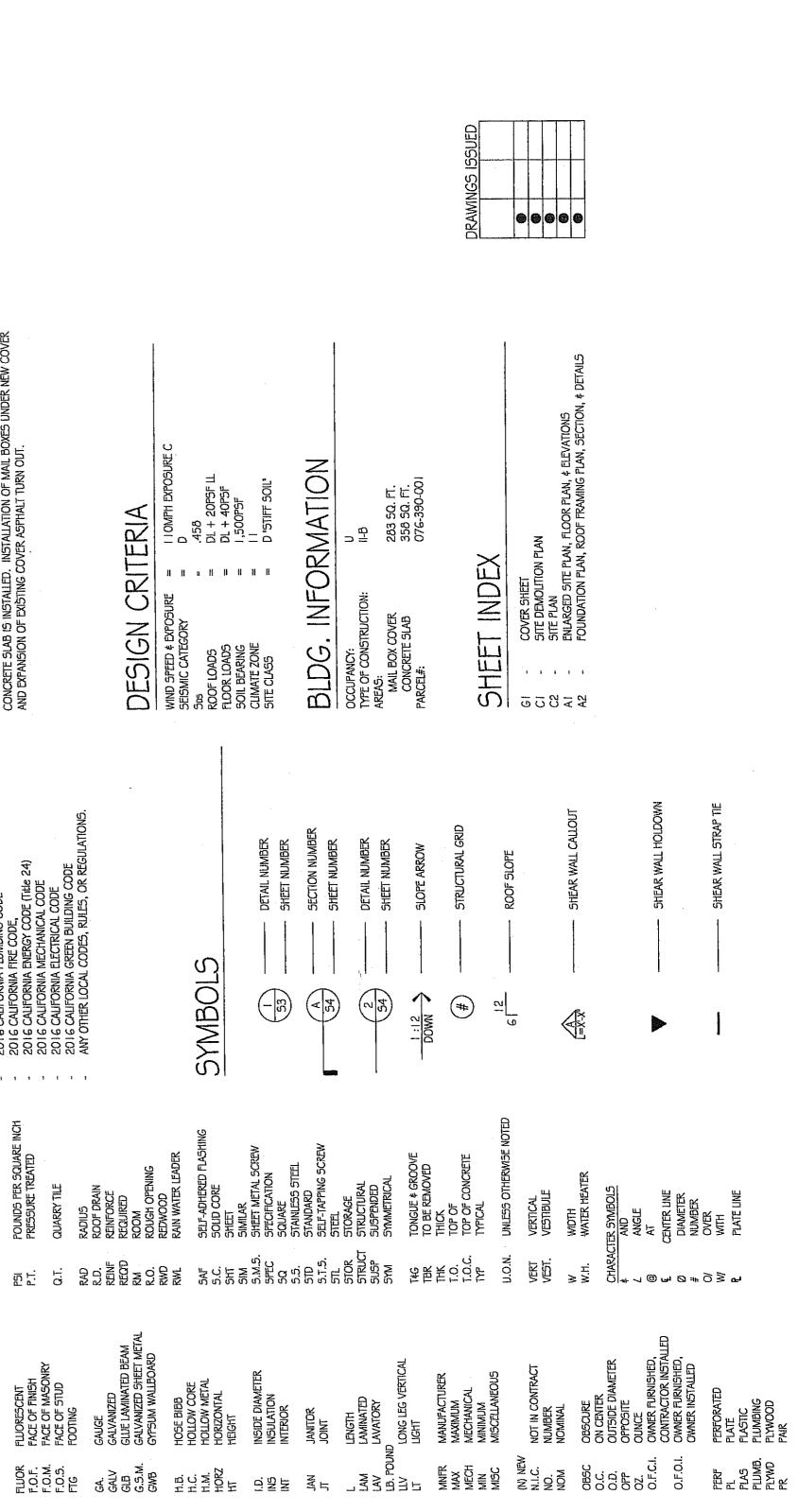
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BLUE GRASS DR

MAIL BOX SHELTER

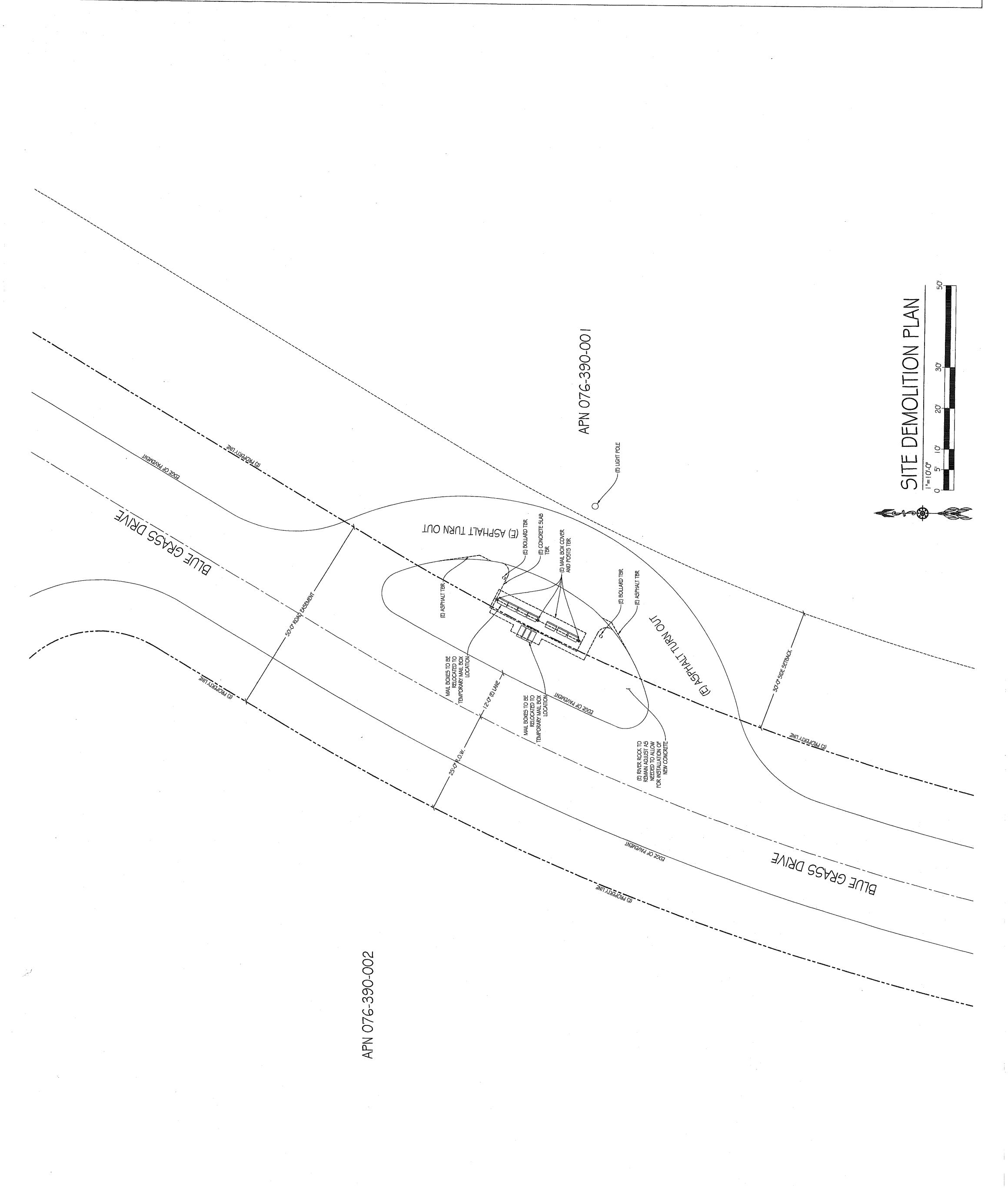
SADDLEBACK COMMUNITY





DESIGN CRITERIA

ABBREVIATIONS



AUBURN, CA 95602

BLUE GRASS DR

MAIL BOX SHELTER

SADDLEBACK COMMUNITY

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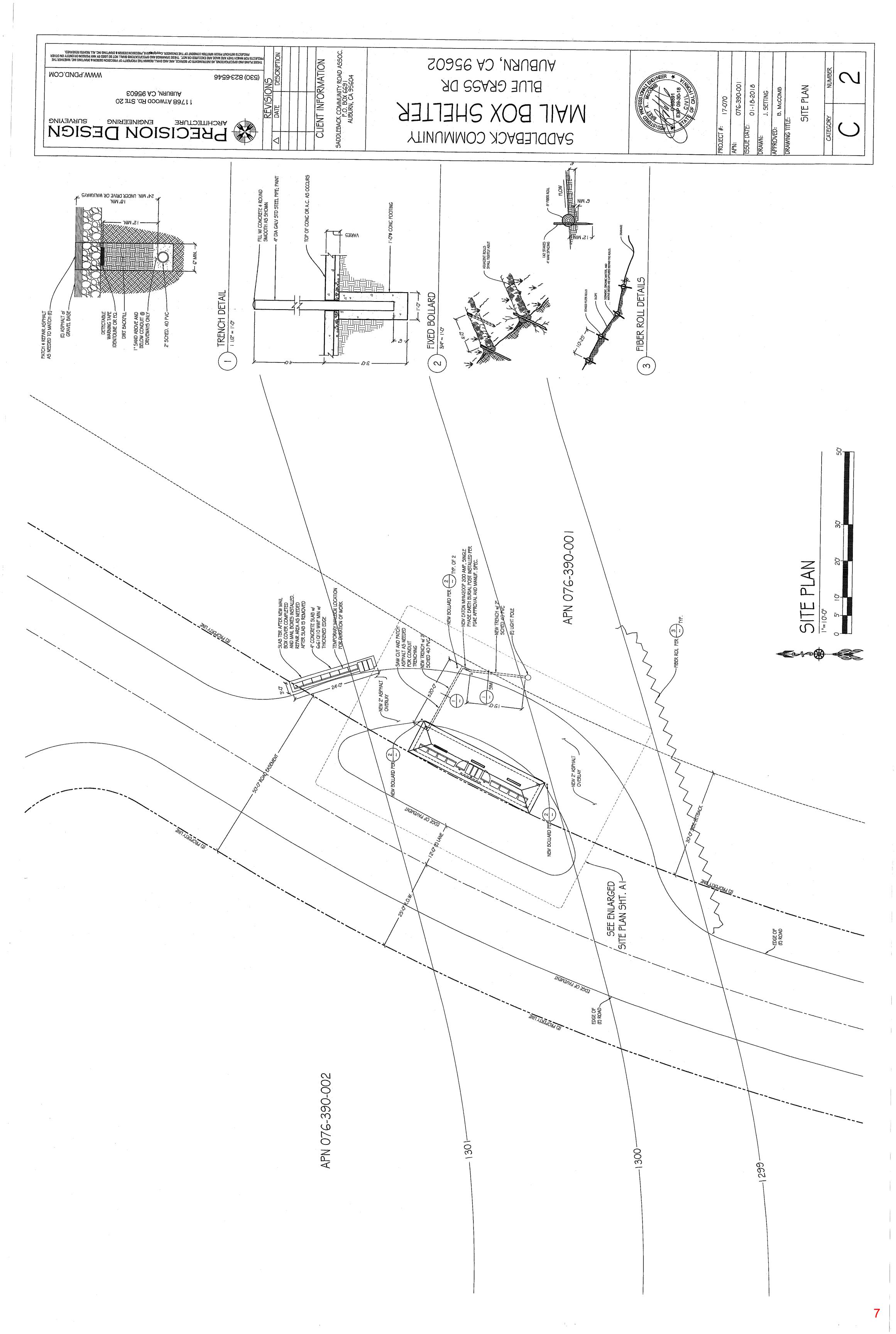
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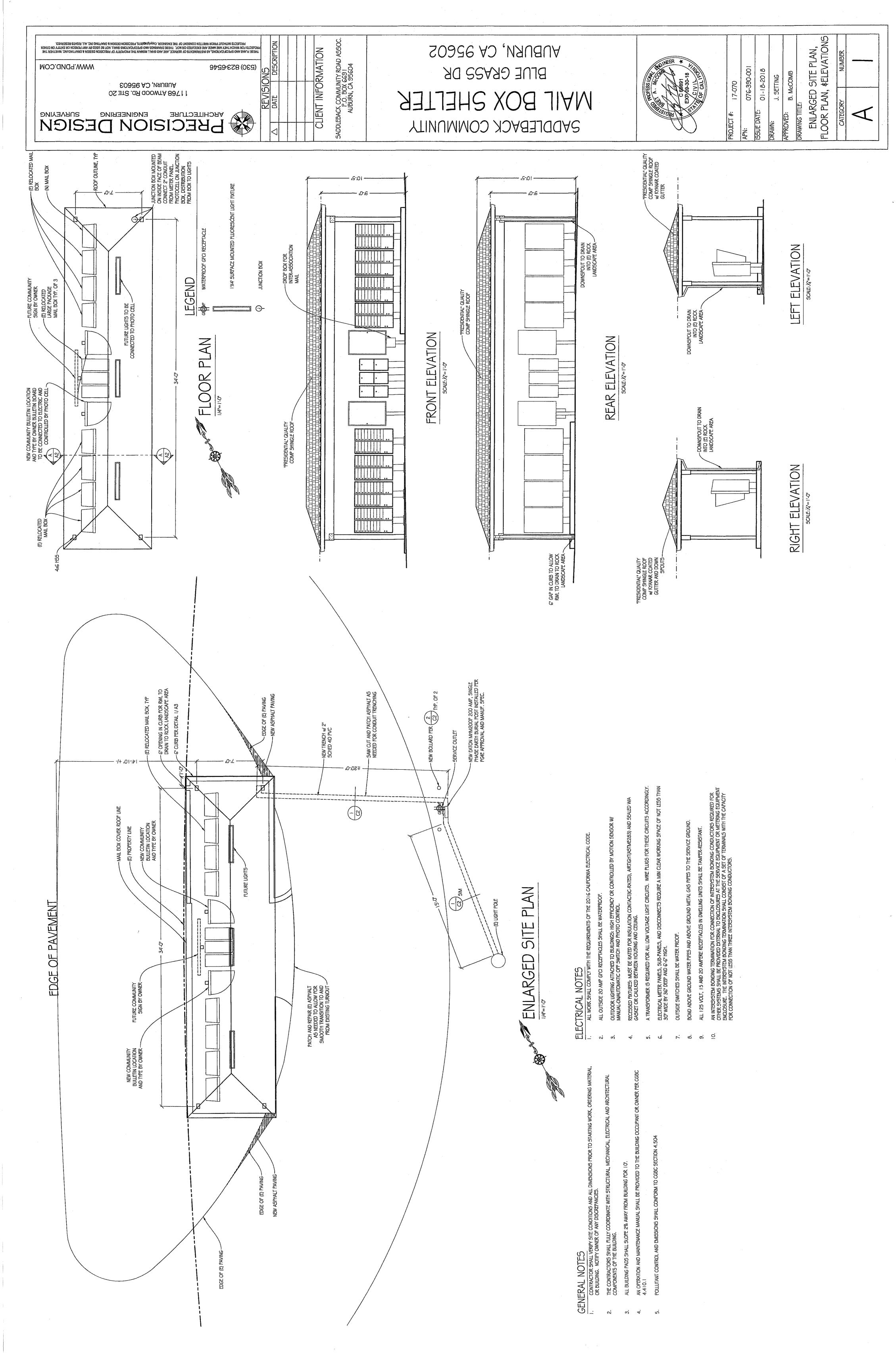
CLIENT INFORMATION

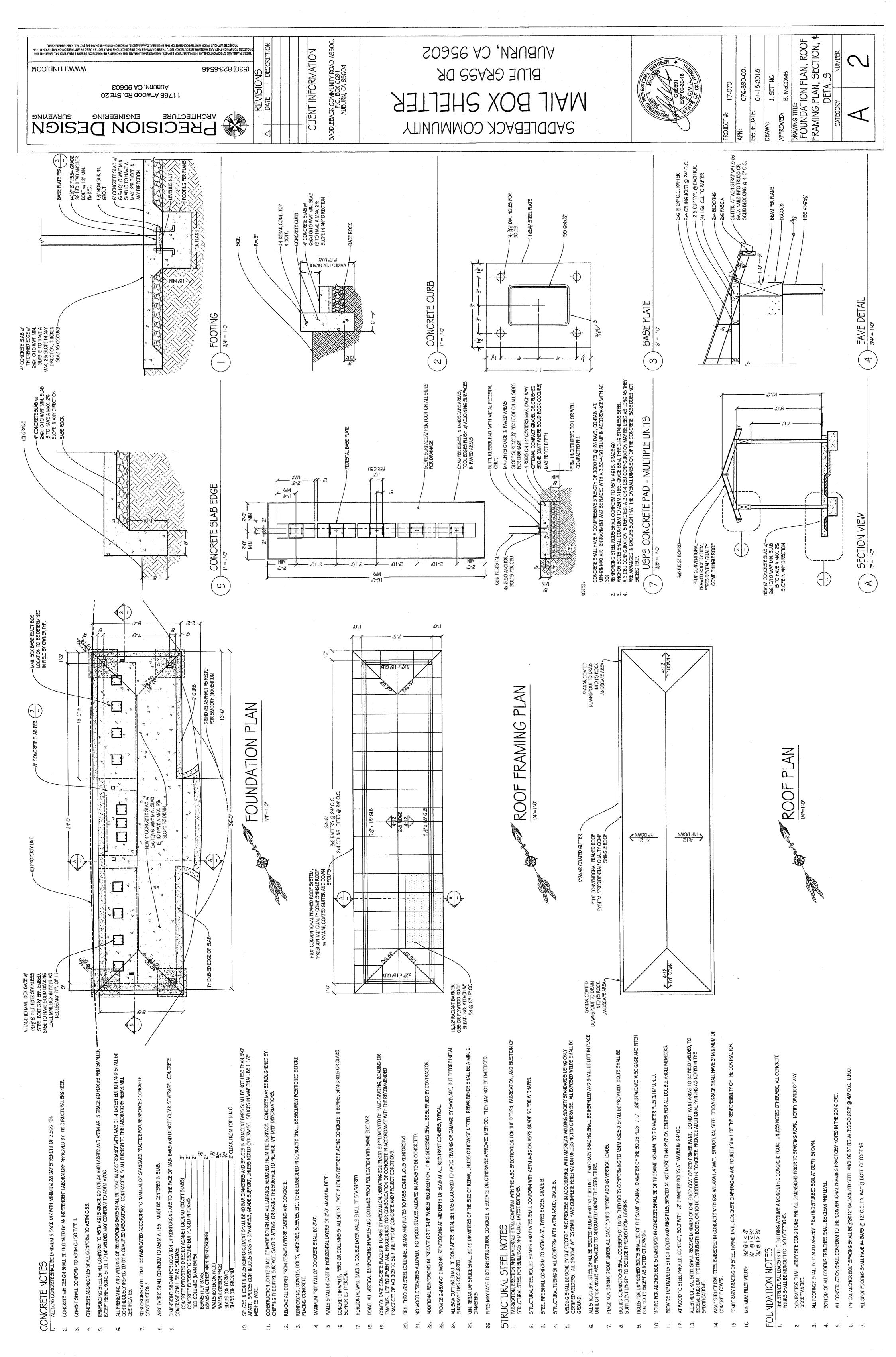
SITE DEMOLITION PLAN

B. McCOMB

01-18-2018







Saddelback Mailbox Shelter Variance



Top: The edge of the easement for Blue Grass Drive extends to the edge of pavement, where the red arrow is pointed. The shelter is 0 feet from the edge of easement where a 50 foot setback is normally required.

Bottom: Blue Grass Drive slopes downhill from Dry Creek Road before flattening out. Shown here is the slope and the Dry Creek crossing.







Top: The row of trees to the east of the shelter provide natural screening of the shelter.

Bottom: Shown here is the existing light pole. This picture also provides another shot of the row of trees. If the shelter were to be moved 50 feet back from the edge of easement, some of these trees would need to be removed. Without the trees, the shelter and motorists stopping at the shelter would be in full view of the property owner's home, which would deprive the property of a sense of privacy.



MEMORANDUM

TO: KALLY KEDINGER-CECIL, PLANNING SERVICES DIVISION

FROM: CRISTINA LUPERCIO, ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING DIVISION (x3015)

SUBJECT: PLN18-00125; SADDLEBACK VARIANCE; BLUE GRASS DR; AUBURN

(APN: 076-390-001)

DATE: MAY 1, 2018

The applicant is requesting a setback variance. The Engineering and Surveying Division (ESD) **supports** the Development Review Committee's recommendation for this application, subject to the following conditions of approval:

- 1. Any entrance temporary or permanent structure proposed shall be located such that there is no interference with driver sight distance as determined by the Engineering and Surveying Division, and shall not be located within the right-of-way.
- 2. An Encroachment Permit shall be obtained from the Department of Public Works and Facilities (DPWF) for any work performed within the right-of-way.





Placer County Health and Human Services Department

MEMORANDUM

Environmental Health Division

Date: April 13, 2018

To: Zoning Administrator

From: Joey Scarbrough, Technical Specialist

Subject: PLN18-00125 Saddleback Community Mailbox Variance, APN 076-390-001

Environmental Health has reviewed the above submittal and has no concerns or conditions of approval.