### Department of Conservation and Development

30 Muir Road Martinez, CA 94553

Phone:1-855-323-2626

## Contra Costa County



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Deputy Director

Gabriel Lemus Assistant Deputy Director

### August 15, 2024

# NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to the State of California Public Resources Code and the "Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970" as amended to date, this is to advise you that the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, Community Development Division, has prepared an initial study evaluating the potential environmental impacts of the following project:

1. Project Title: Ariey Lane Three-Lot Minor Subdivision, Rezoning,

and Preliminary & Final Development Plan

**2.** County File Number: CDMS20-00010, CDRZ22-03264, CDDP22-03002

3. Lead Agency: Contra Costa County, Department of Conservation and

Development

4. Lead Agency Contact Person: Syd Sotoodeh, Senior Planner

(925) 655-2877

syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us

5. **Project Location:** A 6.18-acre parcel located at: 85 Ariey Lane in the

unincorporated Lafayette area

(Assessor's Parcel Number: 167-010-017)

**6. Applicant:** MGJ Development LLC

c/o Nick Ott

3515 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Unit #111

Lafayette, CA 94549

#### 7. Description of Project:

The applicant is requesting approval of a vesting tentative map to subdivide the subject 6.18-acre parcel into three parcels, resulting in an approximately 2.86-acre (gross) Parcel A, an

approximately 2.51-acre Parcel B, and an approximately 0.81-acre Parcel C. Access to the minor subdivision would extend from Ariey Lane, a private road, via an existing bridge that crosses Grayson Creek. Proposed site improvements include an extension of Ariey Lane from the bridge as a new 20-foot-wide private road within a 25-foot private access easement with slopes up to a 20% gradient. No structural improvements are proposed for the existing bridge. Water, electrical, telecommunication, and other utility extensions as needed would be attached beneath the bridge using an existing utility trapeze. Additional site improvements include curbs, gutters, three bioretention basins for stormwater control, a drainage outfall and headwall approximately 1 foot in height, and an 8-inch rock over coir riprap outfall within the creek area adjacent to the bridge for erosion control. It is anticipated that for the future private roadway and future residential foundation pads the project will entail ±4,100 cubic yards (CYS) of cut and ±4,100 CYS of fill for a zero (0) net CYS of grading.

The applicant is also seeking approval to construct improvements within the approximately 1.32-acre creek structure setback (CSS) easement area (OR-303003, recorded 2002) spanning the southernmost area of the property. The improvements include approximately 945 square feet of the private roadway and curbs extending from the bridge, approximately 380 square feet of a stormwater treatment bioretention basin (IMP-3), a drainage outfall and headwall, and retaining walls appurtenant to these improvements. Section 914-14.014 of the County Ordinance prohibits any permanent structure within the creek structure setback other than drainage structures. The applicant has requested an exception to this Code requirement, citing the unique topographic constraints of the site. The upper northern corner of the property has been protected through an approximately 1.98-acre scenic easement (OR-303002, recorded 2002) and will remain undeveloped. No changes are proposed that would reduce the square footage of either restricted development area.

The applicant requests a rezone of the property from R-10, Single-Family Residential to P-1, Planned Unit District (P-1) and approval of a Preliminary and Final Development Plan for development of each parcel. A total of five dwelling units are proposed, including two attached accessory dwelling units (ADU). Future approval of any ADU will require a separate ministerial application. The proposed development of each parcel is described below:

- <u>Parcel A</u>: 6,244-square-foot, two-story, single-family residence up to 26 feet in height, an 886-square-foot garage, driveway, pool, and seven retaining walls up to 7 feet in height.
- <u>Parcel B</u>: 6,545-square-foot, two-story, single-family residence up to 32 feet in height, an approximately 990-square-foot ADU within the residential building, an 1,848-square-foot garage, driveway, and three retaining walls up to 6 feet in height.
- Parcel C: 4,424-square-foot, two-story split-level, single-family residence stepping up the existing grade with a height up to 28 feet, an approximately 747-square-foot ADU within the residential structure, a 974-square-foot garage, driveway, and two retaining walls up to 6 feet in height.

The applicant also requests approval of a tree permit for project-related impacts to twenty-eight code-protected trees, including the removal of thirteen code-protected trees (one (1)

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Aleppo pine tree, three (3) Arizona cypress trees, seven (7) coast live oak trees, and two (2) incense cedar trees) and work within the driplines (construction, trenching or grading) of fifteen code-protected trees (one (1) valley oak tree, two (2) California bay trees, and twelve (12) coast live oak trees) located on the subject property. Project impacts are due to the trees being located within the footprint of site improvements or the new residential structures. In addition, several trees would be removed due to poor health or condition as recommended by the project arborist.

### 8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The subject property is bounded by Grayson Creek and single-family residences to the south and southeast, the Oakmont Memorial Park And Mortuary to the north and northeast, and the Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery & Mortuary to the west. Other land uses in the vicinity include the Briones Regional Park approximately 3/4-miles west of the subject property. Briones Park trailheads are located approximately 1/4-mile to the south and west of the project site. As designated by the U.S. Census Bureau urban area reference map, the subject property is located within the Concord-Walnut Creek urbanized area, however, there is an element of suburban/rural character along the small roads and lanes of the residential area in the vicinity.

Developments in the surrounding unincorporated area are located within a variety of single-family residential zoning districts (R-10, R-15, R-20, or R-65), Planned Unit (P-1) districts, and General Agriculture (A-2) districts. Reliez Valley Road is located approximately 300 feet south of the subject property, providing access to Taylor Boulevard approximately 3/4-miles to the east. Nearby town centers include Pleasant Hill approximately 2 miles to the east, Lafayette approximately 3.5 miles to the south, and Walnut Creek approximately 3.5 miles to the southeast.

The subject property is an undeveloped, approximately 6.18-acre, triangular lot located at 85 Ariey Lane (a private road) and within a Single-Family Residential (R-10) zoning district, created as Lot 7 of Subdivision Tract 7410 (446M28, filed in August 2002). Located within a hilly area of unincorporated Lafayette, the subject property has fairly steep topography with an approximately 206-foot change in elevation from the southeastern property line (228 feet contour elevation) to the northern property line (434 feet contour elevation). The project site is located in the approximate center of the property where slopes are between approximately 15% and 26% in grade. The development rights of approximately 3.3 acres of the subject property have been grant deeded to the County in the northern portion of the property where slopes exceed 26% grade and along the southern boundary accounting for the creek structure setback of the perennial creek (Grayson Creek) bordering the property. Thus, approximately half of the property is restricted from development. Forty-four mature, code-protected trees (measuring more than 6.5-inches in diameter) on the subject property were inventoried by the project arborist.

### 9. Determination:

The County has determined that the project may result in impacts to the environment, but those impacts will be less than significant with mitigations. Therefore, pursuant to California Code of Regulations Section 15070, an Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared. Prior to adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the County will be

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accepting comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration/initial study during a 30-day public comment period.

The initial study/draft mitigated negative declaration can be viewed online at the following link: <a href="https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4841/Public-Input">https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4841/Public-Input</a>. Any documents referenced in the reference index can be provided upon request by contacting the project planner.

**Public Comment Period** – The period for accepting comments on the adequacy of the environmental document will **begin Friday**, **August 16**, **2024**, **and extend to 5:00 P.M.**, **Monday**, **September 16**, **2024**. Any comments should be submitted in writing to the following:

Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
Attn: Syd Sotoodeh
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

or;

via email to syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be considered for adoption at a meeting of the County Zoning Administrator. The hearing date before the County Zoning Administrator has not yet been scheduled. Hearing notices will be mailed prior to the finalized hearing date.

**Additional Information** – For additional information on the Mitigated Negative Declaration and the proposed project, you can contact me by email at <a href="mailto:syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us">syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us</a> or by telephone at (925) 655-2877.

Sincerely,

Syd Sotoodeh Project Planner

Department of Conservation & Development

attch: Project Vicinity Map

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Vesting Tentative Map and Development Site Plan

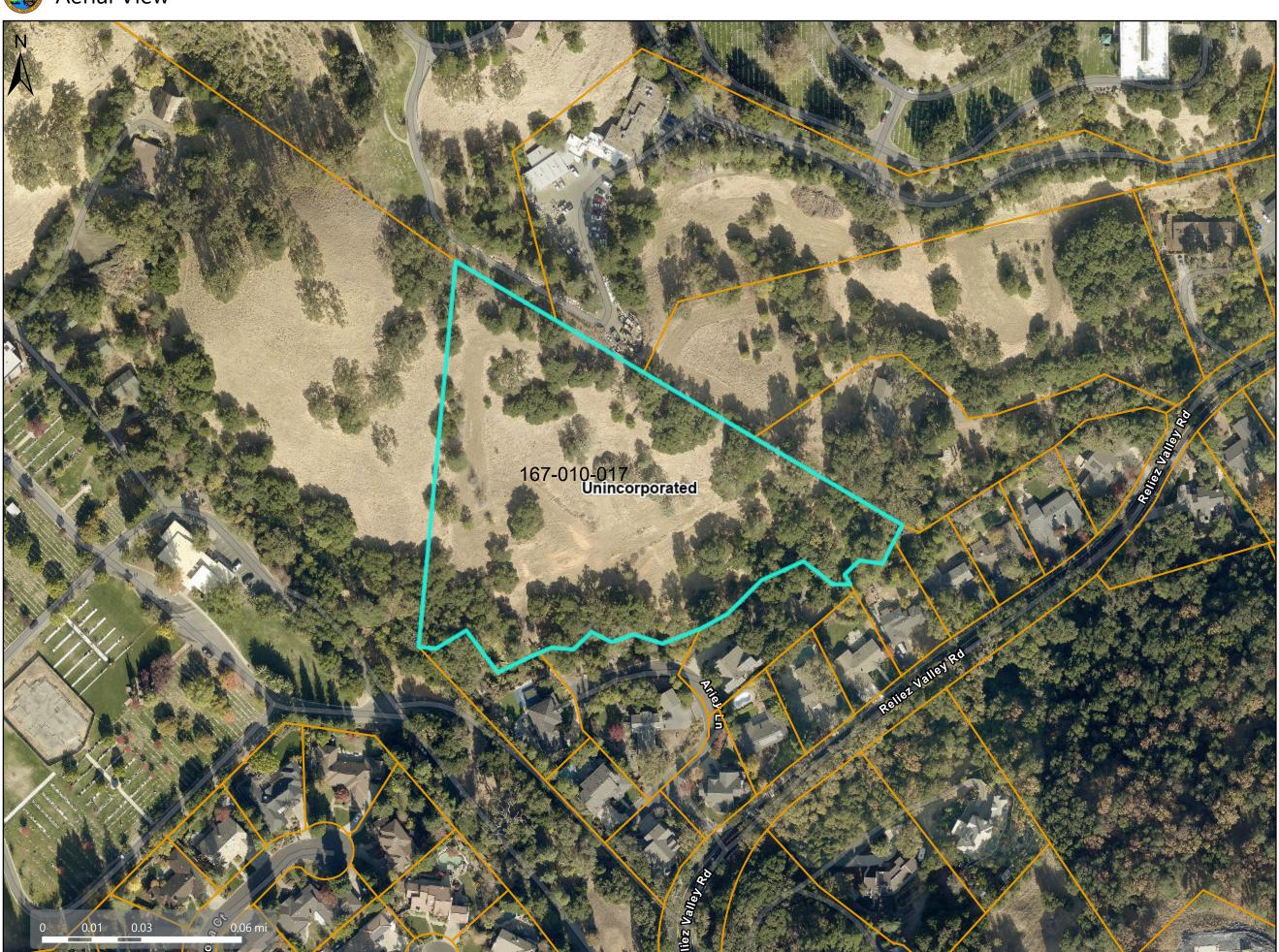
cc: County Clerk's Office (2 copies)

Adjacent Occupants and Property Owners

**Notification List** 

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Assessment
Parcels
Unincorporated
Aerials 2019
RGB
Red: Band\_1
Green: Band\_2

Blue: Band\_3

EGIS CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

hap is a user generated, static output from an internet mapping application and is intended for reference use on Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION.

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