



Paradise Unified School District
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NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Lead Agency: Paradise Unified School District (PUSD)

Project Title: Paradise High School Expansion Project

Notice of Preparation Review Period: March 13, 2026 to April 13, 2026 (30 days)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Paradise Unified School District (PUSD or District), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the Paradise High School Expansion Project pursuant to the California Public Resources Code (PRC), Division 13, Section 21000 et seq. (CEQA Statute) and the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq. (CEQA Guidelines).

The purpose of the Notice of Preparation is to (1) serve as a public notice of an EIR pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 that a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be prepared; and (2) advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the DEIR to be prepared. The District, as Lead Agency, respectfully requests that any responsible and trustee agencies responding to this notice respond in a manner consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b). Comments and suggestions should, at a minimum, identify the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that should be explored in the EIR, in addition to whether the responding agency will be a responsible or trustee agency for the proposed project, and any related issues raised by interested parties.

In compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(d) and 15082, the District will not be preparing an initial study and will begin work directly on the Draft EIR.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Paradise HS campus is located at 5911 Maxwell Drive, in the Town of Paradise, Butte County. The project site is located near the southern boundary of the Paradise HS campus, and includes five Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN) 053-111-015, 053-111-014, 053-111-028, 053-111-030, and 053-111-034. The project site is approximately 6 miles west of State Route (SR) 70, approximately 6.6-mile east of SR-32, and approximately 9.5 miles north of SR-99. The project site is

bound by Maxwell Drive to the east; Elliot Road to the south, the Paradise HS campus to the north, and a residential property to the west. See Figure 1, *Regional Location* and Figure 2, *Aerial Photograph*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would occur on a 7.31-acre project site, and would consist of three components, including the construction of one new parking lot, one new agricultural building, and a new football stadium and practice sports field. See Figure 3, *Project Site Plan*.

The new parking lot would make up approximately 1.97 acres (approximately 85,870 sq. ft.) of the project site and will be located immediately west of the new stadium and practice fields. The proposed parking lot would provide approximately 121 parking spaces, including 114 standards parking spaces and seven Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking spaces. The parking lot would operate between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and would include a fence along the perimeter. Vehicular access to the parking lot would be provided via one access point on Elliot Road and two access points on an internal campus roadway that crosses the campus east-west, located north of the parking lot.

The agricultural building would be located directly west of the proposed parking lot. The agricultural building would include a 1,728-square-foot (sf) barn for the agricultural education program for Paradise HS students and 7,728 sf would of landscaping and concrete hardscape. The proposed building would include eight stalls for livestock and an accessible walk pathway that would run through the middle of the barn and lead to the outside. The proposed project would connect to existing underground utilities. No mechanical equipment, including HVAC, compressor, or farm equipment, would be located at the project site, nor would any diesel-powered equipment be required during operation. The proposed building would not require natural gas. The agricultural building would be exclusively used by the Paradise HS agricultural program and would serve the existing students of the high school. Operation of the proposed project would occur during school hours, which begins at 8:30 a.m. and concludes at 3:25 p.m.

The proposed project would include the installation a new athletic stadium and practice field located on the eastern portion of the project site, near the intersection of Maxwell Drive and Elliott Road. The new sports field would make up approximately 4 acres of the project site, and would include a new public address (PA) system, bleachers, concession stand, and restrooms. The new stadium would be used for sporting events and practices, community events and physical education for students at Paradise HS. Sporting events and practices are anticipated to consist of tackle football, girls and boys soccer, and track and field. The field may also be used for other school events, such as band practices. Additionally, the new athletic stadium would include a similar athletics schedule and number of attendees as the current football stadium.

The proposed project would not include the demolition of any structures or buildings. However, the proposed project would include the removal of approximately 69,496 sq. ft. of pavement from the project site. Construction of the agricultural building is anticipated to be completed in approximately 9 months beginning in Winter 2026 and ending in Summer 2027. Construction of the new stadium and parking lot is anticipated to begin in 2030 with an opening date in 2031. Construction would include grading and excavation, trenching for site utilities, building construction, architectural coatings, and driveway and walkway construction.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the District has prepared this NOP to provide agencies, organizations, and interested parties with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects. Consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the following environmental topics may be analyzed in an EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Noise
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Energy
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Public Services
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Biological Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Transportation
- Wildfire

The District has determined that the proposed project could potentially affect 15 of the 20 environmental topic areas identified in Appendix G. These 15 topical areas are aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. These impacts will be analyzed in detail in the EIR. Feasible mitigation measures will be proposed for impacts that are determined to be potentially significant and reasonable alternatives will be considered. The proposed project is expected to have no impact on agricultural and forestry resources, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, and recreation; therefore, the EIR will not present a detailed analysis of the project's impact on these topics.

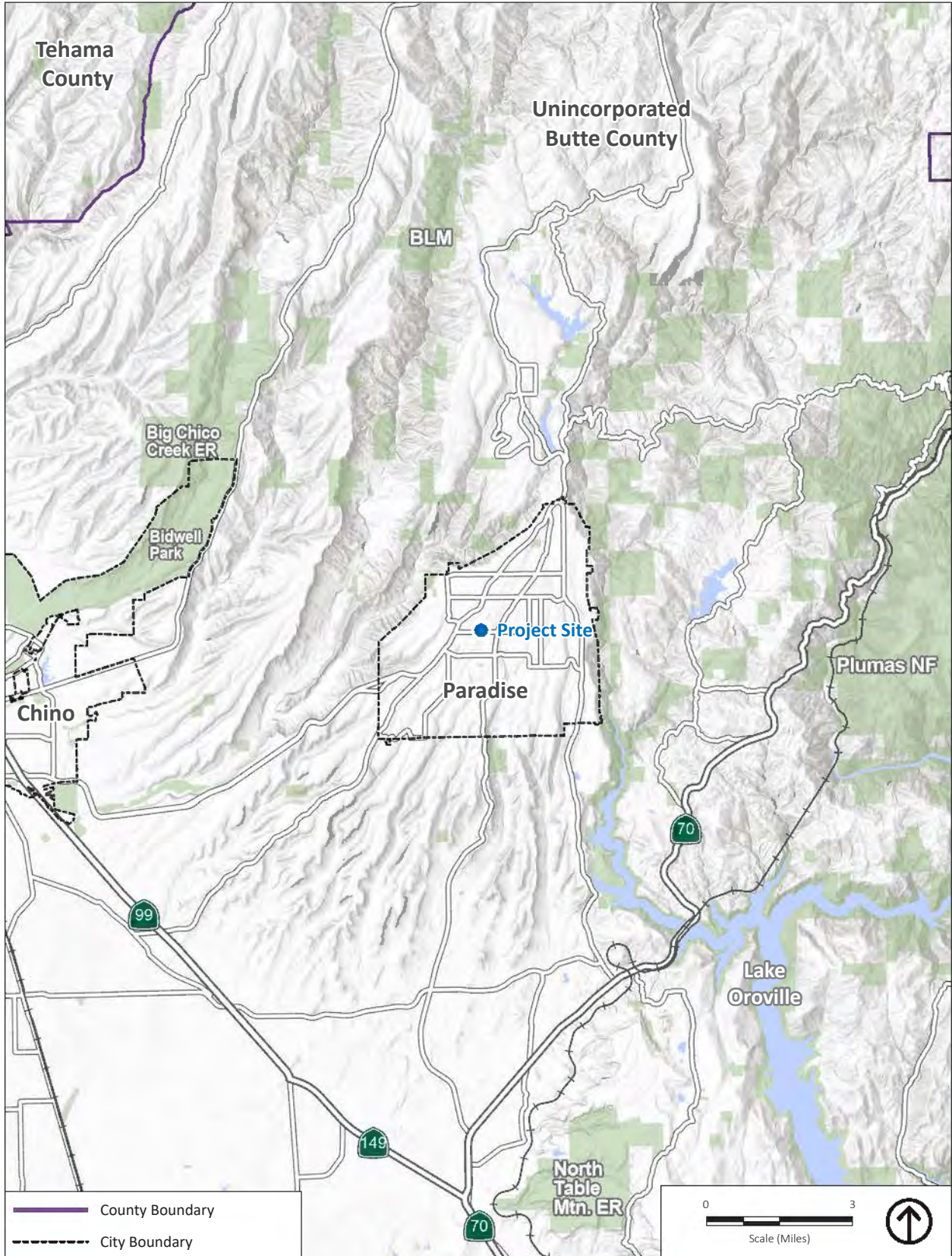
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The 30-day public review period for the NOP is from **March 13, 2026** to **April 13, 2026**. In accordance with the time limits mandated by State law, if there are any concerns about the scope and content of the information to be addressed in EIR, please send written comments to the District, at the address below, at the earliest possible date but not later than 5:00 p.m. on **April 13, 2026**. This NOP is also available at:

- Paradise Unified School District (address below)
- Paradise Unified School District website: <https://www.pusdk12.org/Departments/District-Services/Maintenance--Operations/index.html>
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Please send your comments to:

ATTN: David E. McCready, Assistant Superintendent, Business Services
Mailing Address: Paradise Unified School District
6696 Clark Road, Paradise, CA 95969

Comments can also be sent via e-mail to dmccready@pusdk12.org. Please include **“Paradise High School Expansion Project”** in the subject line. If you require additional information, please contact David McCready at (530) 872-6400.

PARADISE HIGH SCHOOL EXPANSION PROJECT NOTICE OF PREPARATION
PARADISE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT



Source: Generated using GIS Pro 2025.

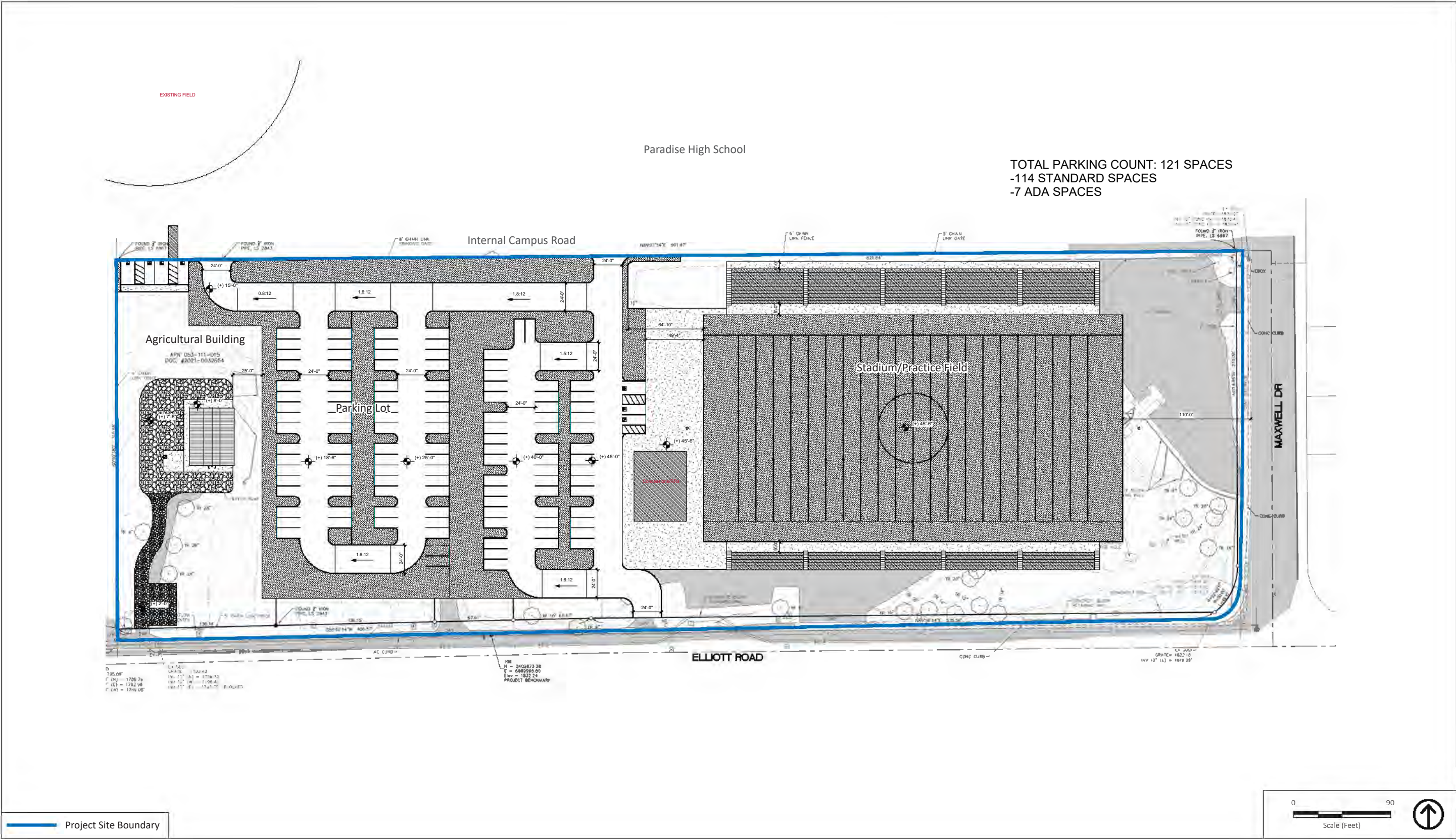
Figure 1
Regional Location

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Source: Nearmap 2025.

Figure 2
Aerial Photograph



TOTAL PARKING COUNT: 121 SPACES
 -114 STANDARD SPACES
 -7 ADA SPACES

Source: Studio W Architects 2026.

Figure 3
 Project Site Plan