

**Department of
Conservation and
Development**

30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Phone: 1-855-323-2626

**Contra
Costa
County**



John Kopchik
Director

Jason Crapo
Deputy Director

Deidra Dingman
Deputy Director

Ruben Hernandez
Deputy Director

Gabriel Lemus
Deputy Director

May 27, 2026

**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:** San Pablo Dam Road-La Honda Road Storm Drain and Slide Repair Project
- 2. County File Number:** CP# 23-18, Project No. 0672-6U6272
- 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:** On the north side of San Pablo Dam Road, approximately 200 feet southeast of La Honda Road, in unincorporated El Sobrante, CA. Assessor's Parcel Number: 433-242-018
- 6. Applicant:** Contra Costa County Public Works Department
Contact: Christina Kelleher, (925) 313-2161

7. Description of Project:

The San Pablo Dam Road–La Honda Road Storm Drain and Slide Repair Project (proposed project) involves the stabilization of an embankment failure, the repair of the northern side of San Pablo Dam Road, and replacement of an existing culvert approximately 200 feet southeast of La Honda Road in unincorporated El Sobrante, Contra Costa County, California. The proposed project would install a stitch pile wall 50 feet north of San Pablo Dam Road between the roadway and San Pablo Creek with an approximate length of 150 feet. The wall consists of cast-in-drilled-hole concrete piles about 50 feet in depth that are spaced six feet apart. The slope between the proposed stitch pile wall and San Pablo Dam Road would be excavated to a maximum depth of 24 feet. The slope would be rebuilt with the excavated material reinforced with layers of geogrid placed at 2-foot vertical spacing to provide long-term stabilization.

The 18-inch existing culvert outfall within the embankment failure area would be relocated west of the proposed stitch pile wall with the installment of two manholes and 75 feet of reinforced concrete pipe intended to convey stormwater to the outfall location. The existing 18-inch culvert under San Pablo Dam Road would be repaired using cured-in-place-pipe lining through the installation of a flexible liner inside the culvert to restore previous hydraulic conditions while the damaged segment towards San Pablo Creek would be removed. The 18-inch relocated culvert outfall would be reinforced concrete pipe enhanced with a concrete flared end section outfalling to a rock slope protection pad to disperse flow and to prevent bank erosion around the inlet. Approximately 200 feet of San Pablo Dam Road would be repaired along the embankment failure including restriping and placement of a 170-foot guardrail.

Demolition and Construction Activities

Construction of the proposed project is expected to begin in mid or late 2026 and would last approximately 100 working days. Construction activities would involve excavations 50 feet in depth for the installment of the cast-in-drilled-hole concrete piles associated with the stitch pile wall and excavations 24 feet in depth between the stitch pile wall and San Pablo Dam Road, minimal grading in front of the stitch pile wall, the removal of approximately 67 trees, and roadway repairs including restriping and placement of approximately 170 feet of guardrail. Construction activities would require the establishment of three temporary staging areas with the first on the northbound lane on La Honda Drive, a second on the north shoulder of San Pablo Dam Road, and a third smaller staging area south of San Pablo Dam Road directly across the embankment failure (Exhibit 1 of CEQA document).

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

Project Location

The proposed project is located on the northern side of San Pablo Dam Road approximately 100 feet south of San Pablo Creek and directly east of the San Pablo

Dam Road and La Honda Road intersection in El Sobrante, Contra Costa County (County) in the eastern San Francisco Bay Area of California (Exhibit 2 of CEQA document). The 1.62-acre project site consists of one Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) with APN 433-242-018 within the *Richmond* 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle Township 1 North, Range 4 West, Section 3 (Latitude 37° 57' 45.13" North and Longitude 122° 17' 08.54" West).

General Plan and Zoning Designations

The Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan (General Plan) delineates the project site having a land use designation of Resource Conservation (RC). The purpose of the RC land use designation is to preserve ecologically significant and environmentally sensitive areas that allow land uses intended for resource management, low-intensity agriculture and recreation with associated low-density structures while prohibiting land uses that increase density including urban development and the establishment of subdivisions.

The project site is zoned within the single-family residential (R-7) district. The R-7 zoning district permits one detached single-family dwelling unit on lots that are greater than seven thousand square feet in area, 70 feet in average width, 90 feet in depth, and shall remain less than 35 feet in height. Furthermore, the R-7 zoning district requires a side yard width of 15 feet, a front yard setback of 20 feet, and a rear yard of 15 feet, along with two off-street covered or open surfaced area automobile storage spaces.

Environmental Setting

The project site is located in unincorporated El Sobrante, Contra Costa County, California along an approximate 480-foot segment of San Pablo Dam Road, an arterial roadway that extends from the northern end of Orinda, California to Interstate 80 (I-80) in San Pablo, California to the northwest. The project site is approximately 155 feet above mean sea level (amsl) and is relatively flat in terrain along San Pablo Dam Road, with relatively steep terrain beginning north of San Pablo Dam Road that decreases by 120 feet amsl towards San Pablo Creek. The segment of San Pablo Dam Road within the project site consists of four total lanes with the right westbound lane temporarily closed due to the embankment failure approximately 200 feet southeast of the La Honda Road and San Pablo Dam Road intersection. The segment of San Pablo Dam Road contains three private driveways with two on the north side of the roadway approximately 200 feet east of the embankment failure, and one private driveway on the south side of the roadway directly southwest of the embankment failure. Each private driveway serves as access points to single-family residential units. Overhead power lines run parallel to San Pablo Dam Road along the northern unpaved shoulder. San Pablo Dam Road is surrounded by dense vegetation on both sides. Riparian habitat is located north of the roadway along San Pablo Creek that consists of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), coast live oak

(*Quercus agrifolia*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), and glossy privet (*Ligustrum lucidum*) with an understory of non-native and invasive vegetation. Photos of the Biological Study Area (BSA) are included in Appendix B of the CEQA document and locations of the photos are provided in Exhibit 4 of the CEQA document.

The San Pablo Creek is an approximately 18.7-mile-long perennial stream serving as a tributary to the San Pablo Bay in a southeast to northwest direction about 100 feet north of San Pablo Dam Road. Headwaters of the San Pablo Creek begin approximately 2 miles southeast at the San Pablo Dam that conveys northwest directly north of the project site before emptying into the San Pablo Bay. The watershed consists of grasslands, evergreen forests, and low intensity residential development with tributaries comprised of numerous creeks and artificial storm drains that includes the project site comprising of an existing 18-inch culvert outfall located beneath San Pablo Dam Road that conveys storm water northward into San Pablo Creek.

The project site is surrounded by low-density residential development with built features consisting of overhead power lines, collector roads, single-family residential units, and associated structures and infrastructure. San Pablo Dam Road transects the project site in a southeast and northwest direction. Natural features are comprised of dense native and non-native trees and understory with San Pablo Creek approximately 100 feet north of San Pablo Dam Road (Exhibit 3 of the CEQA document). Land uses surrounding the project site are delineated as having a General Plan Land Use Designation of Residential-Low Medium Density (RLM) to the north and south, and Residential-Low Density (RL) and Residential-Medium High Density (RMH) to the east and west.

9. Determination:

An Initial Study for the proposed project identified potentially significant impacts in the environmental areas of biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, and tribal cultural resources. Environmental analysis determined that measures were available to mitigate potential adverse impacts to insignificant levels. As a result, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080(c), 21064.5, and Article 6 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Pursuant to the requirements of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15071) the MND describes the proposed project; identifies, analyzes, and evaluates the potential significant environmental impacts, which may result from the proposed project; and identifies measures to mitigate adverse environmental impacts. Mitigations identified in this document designed for the proposed project will ensure that the project will not cause a significant impact on the environment.

Prior to adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration, the County will be accepting comments on the Initial Study and Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration during a 30-day public comment period.

The initial study/draft mitigated negative declaration may be reviewed at the Contra Costa County Public Works Department, 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, during normal business hours, or viewed online at the following link: <https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4841/Public-Input>. All documents referenced in the reference index can be provided upon request.

Public Comment Period – The period for accepting comments on the adequacy of the environmental document will **begin Wednesday, May 27, 2026, and extend to 4:00 P.M., Friday, June 26, 2026**. Any comments should be submitted in writing to the following:

Christina Kelleher
Contra Costa County Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553
christina.kelleher@pw.cccounty.us

The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration will be considered for adoption at a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors. The hearing date before the County Board of Supervisors has not yet been scheduled. To confirm the Board date, please contact Christina Kelleher at christina.kelleher@pw.cccounty.us or directly at (925) 313-2161.

Sincerely,

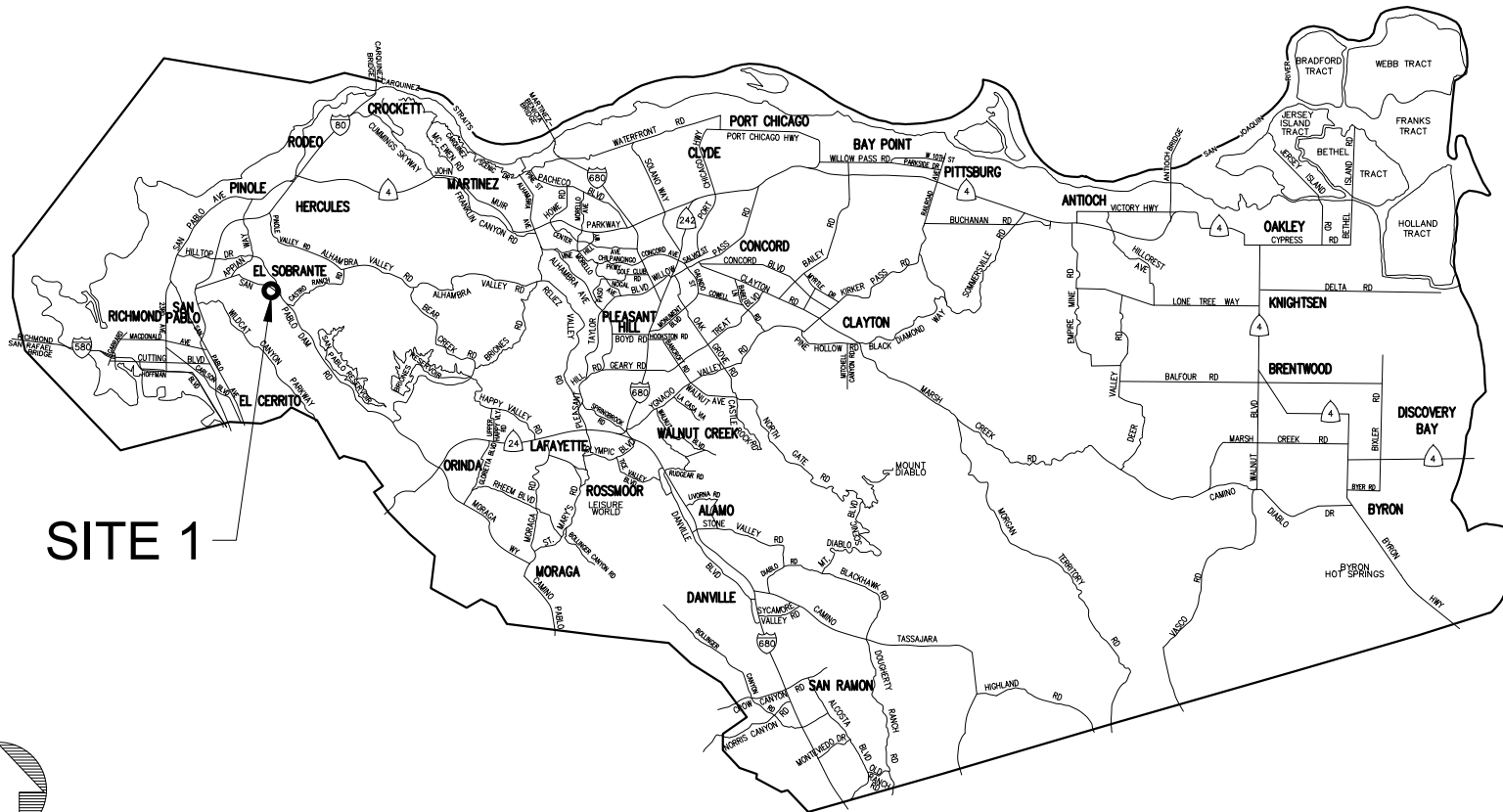


Syd Sotoodeh
Senior Planner
Department of Conservation & Development

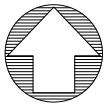
attach: Regional Location Map
Local Vicinity Map
Layout Plan

cc: County Clerk's Office (2 copies)
Adjacent Occupants and Property Owners

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CALIFORNIA



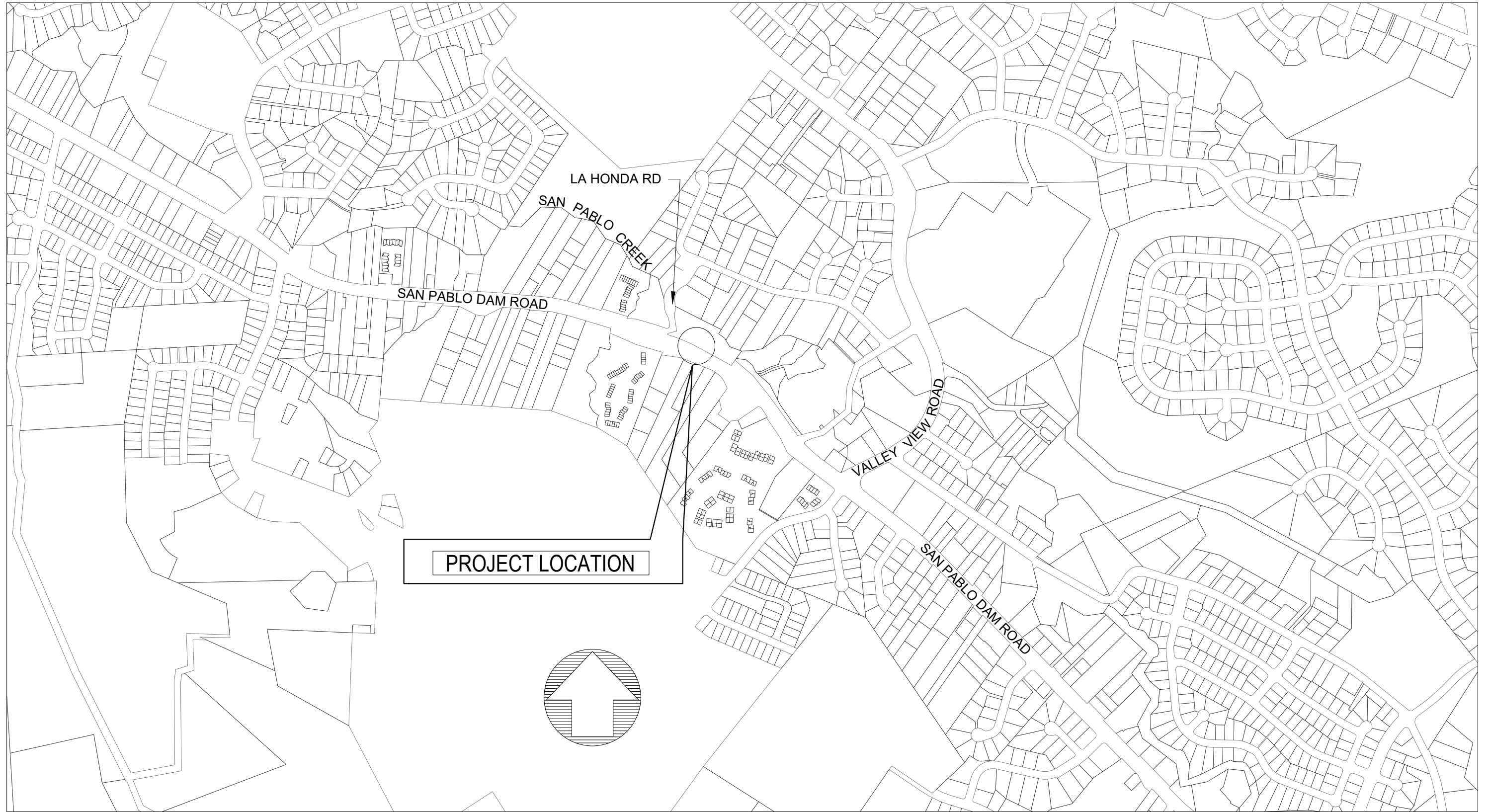
SITE 1



Contra Costa County
Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

San Pablo Dam Road - Storm Drain and Erosion Repair



Contra Costa County
Public Works Department
255 Glacier Drive
Martinez, CA 94553

VICINITY MAP

SITE 1: San Pablo Dam Road - Storm Drain and Erosion Repair

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
 SAN PABLO DAM ROAD STORM DAMAGE

CONSULTANT FUNCTIONAL SUPERVISOR
 ROBERT FERGUSON

CALCULATED/DESIGNED BY
 CHECKED BY

M. DAMBACHER
 T. EATON

REVISED BY
 DATE REVISED

IMPACTED AREAS			
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACTED AREA (SQFT)	MAX DEPTH IMPACTED
[Grey Box]	PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT	5,191 SQFT	2.2'
[Green Grid Box]	RECONSTRUCT SLOPE WITH SUBSURFACE GEOGRID	6,550 SQFT	18.4' (TEMPORARY)
[Teal Box]	MISCELLANEOUS GRADING	5,406 SQFT	19.4' (TEMPORARY)
[Brown Box]	ACCESS ROAD/BENCH	1,886 SQFT	8.2'
[Blue Dotted Box]	STITCH PILE WALL	600 SQFT	50.0'
[Yellow Box]	MINOR CONCRETE	695 SQFT	0.5'

IMPACTED AREAS (CONTINUED)			
SYMBOL	DESCRIPTION	IMPACTED AREA (SQFT)	MAX DEPTH IMPACTED
[Blue Diagonal Box]	SUBSURFACE CULVERT REHABILITATION (EXCAVATION/TRENCHING NOT REQUIRED)	128 SQFT	0.0'
[Red Diagonal Box]	CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT STORAGE & ACCESS AREA	7,112 SQFT	0.0'
[Blue Diagonal Box]	SUBSURFACE CULVERT REHABILITATION (EXCAVATION/TRENCHING NOT REQUIRED) AND PAVEMENT REPLACEMENT	97 SQFT	2.2'
[Yellow Grid Box]	SUBSURFACE PROPOSED CULVERT (EXCAVATION/TRENCHING REQUIRED) AND MINOR CONCRETE	263 SQFT	10.2'
[Blue Grid Box]	SUBSURFACE CULVERT REHABILITATION (EXCAVATION/TRENCHING REQUIRED) AND MISCELLANEOUS GRADING	86 SQFT	10.2'
[Blue Circle Box]	ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION AND MISCELLANEOUS GRADING	251 SQFT	2.5'
[Blue Circle Box]	ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION AND ACCESS ROAD/BENCH	84 SQFT	2.5'

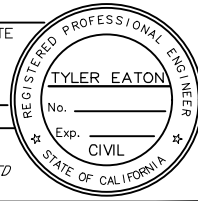
Dist	COUNTY	ROUTE	POST MILES TOTAL PROJECT	SHEET No.	TOTAL SHEETS
04	CC	SPD RD		1	1

REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER DATE

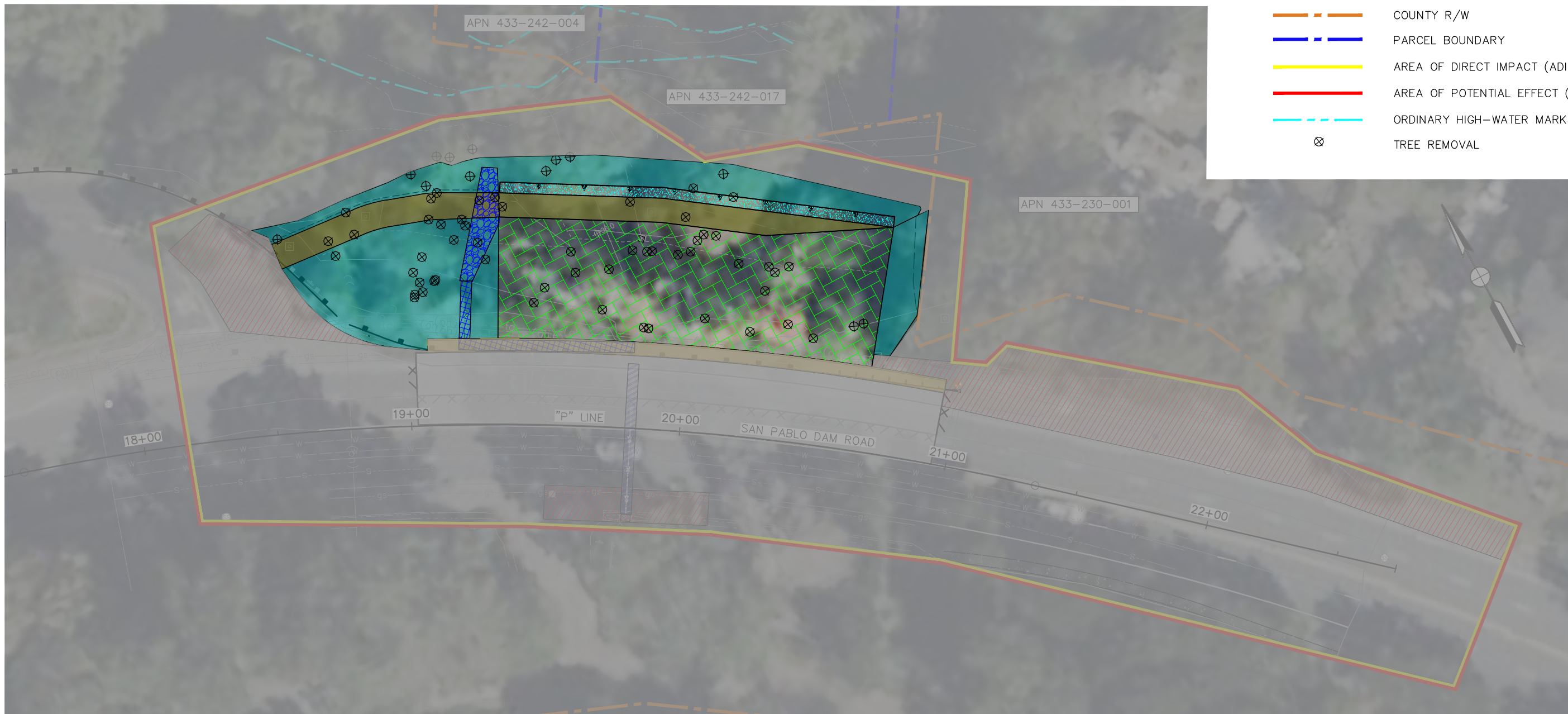
PLANS APPROVAL DATE

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA OR ITS OFFICERS OR AGENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF SCANNED COPIES OF THIS PLAN SHEET.

11017 COBBLEROCK DRIVE, SUITE 100
 RANCHO CORDOVA, CA 95670
 P: 916.368.9181



- LEGEND:
- [Orange Dashed Line] COUNTY R/W
 - [Blue Dashed Line] PARCEL BOUNDARY
 - [Yellow Line] AREA OF DIRECT IMPACT (ADI)
 - [Red Line] AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT (APE)
 - [Cyan Dashed Line] ORDINARY HIGH-WATER MARK (OHWM)
 - [Circle with X] TREE REMOVAL



IMPACTED AREAS EXHIBIT
 SCALE: 1"=40'