



AMADOR COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION
AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jared Critchfield

Superintendent, Amador County Unified School District

Superintendent, Amador County Office of Education

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**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Project: Amador County Unified School District Consolidation Program Project

Lead Agency: Amador County Unified School District

Review Period: September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026 (30 days)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Amador County Unified School District (District) has prepared an Initial Study (IS)/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Amador County Unified School District Consolidation Program Project (proposed project) to address the potential environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed project. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21165 and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15050, the District is the lead agency for the project. The purpose of this notice is to 1) serve as a Notice of Intent (NOI) to adopt an IS/MND and 2) advise and solicit comments regarding the content of the IS/MND.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT: The District invites you to comment on the IS/MND. The IS/MND will be available for a 30-day public review from **September 1, 2026**, to **September 30, 2026**. We ask that any person wishing to comment on the IS/MND provide written comments by the end of the public review period at 5:00 p.m., **September 30, 2026**.

Copies of the IS/MND are available for review at the following locations:

Amador County Unified School District

217 Rex Avenue
Jackson, California 95642

The document can also be accessed online at: <https://www.amadorcoe.org/consolidationinfo>

You may send comments by email or mail to the addresses below:

Amador County Unified School District
Jared Critchfield, Superintendent
217 Rex Avenue
Jackson, California 95642
jcritchfield@acUSD.org

PROJECT LOCATION: Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD or District) is the only public school district serving Amador County. The county is 45 miles southeast of Sacramento in the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The county is surrounded by El Dorado County to the north, Alpine County to the east, Calaveras County to the south, San Joaquin County to the southwest, and Sacramento

County to the west. The northeast portion of the county is in Eldorado National Forest. The proposed project would affect six of ACUSD's school campuses: Amador High School (HS), Independence HS, Argonaut HS, Jackson Junior HS, Ione Junior HS, and Ione Elementary School (ES).

- Amador HS is at 330 Spanish Street, Sutter Creek, California, 95685, in the northern part of the city. The campus has an Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) of 018-020-029-000. It is 0.3 miles east of State Route 49 (SR-49) and 1.4 miles north of Independence HS.
- Independence HS is at 525 Independence Drive, Sutter Creek, California, 95685, in the southwest part of the city. The campus has an APN of 044-010-080-000. It is 0.18 mile north of SR 104 and 1.4 miles south of Amador HS.
- Argonaut HS is at 501 Argonaut Lane, Jackson, California, 95642, in the northwest corner of the city. The campus has an APN of 044-100-009-000. It is 0.4 mile west of SR-88 and 0.5 mile south of SR-49.
- Jackson Junior HS is at 747 Sutter Street, Jackson, California, 95642, in the western part of the city. The campus has an APN of 020-161-001-000. It is 0.09 mile west of SR-88 and 0.6 mile southeast of Argonaut HS.
- Ione Junior HS is at 450 South Mills Street, Ione, California, 95640, in the southern part of the city. The site has an APN of 004-250-001-000. It is 0.08 mile west of SR-124.
- Ione ES is at 415 South Ione Street, Ione, California, 95640, in the southern part of the city. The site as an APN of 004-261-002-000. It is directly west of State Route 104 (SR 104) and approximately 0.1 miles east of SR 124.

See Figure 1, *Location Map and Existing Conditions*.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The District is proposing to consolidate six schools onto five campuses. This would require minor physical improvements at four campuses—Argonaut High School, Amador High School, Jackson Junior High School, and Ione Junior High School. The proposed project would not change the elementary school attendance boundaries but would change the junior high school boundaries and the high school boundaries.

Site improvements at the Amador HS campus would consist of relocating two existing portable classrooms, currently at Jackson Junior HS, to the Amador HS campus for the proposed districtwide high school that would total nearly 2,000 square feet of classroom space. The two portable classrooms would be relocated to the southern portion of the Amador HS campus and placed side-by-side. This relocation may require minor asphalt improvements to accommodate the classroom pads, as well as utility improvements to provide power. Site improvements at the Amador HS campus will also require limited site improvements to support operational and program needs and circulation associated with placement of the relocated portable classrooms and the reorganization of the campus. See Figure 2, *Amador High School Site Improvements*.

The Argonaut High School campus would require minor modifications to support middle school programming associated with the consolidation of the District's junior high schools. These modifications would consist of program and operational adjustments. Physical improvements would include changes to interior classroom configurations, student support spaces, and circulation. These programs would not generate any exterior construction.

Site improvements at the Jackson Junior HS campus would consist of interior renovations to accommodate adult learning environments to support the District Adult Education Program and the Adult Transition Program that would be moved to the current Jackson Junior HS campus. These renovations include reconfiguration or adaptation of existing interior spaces and other minor interior improvements necessary to support adult learning environments.

Site improvements at the current Ione Junior High School campus would include constructing up to four new classrooms in a single classroom building, totaling up to 4,500 square feet, in the northern

portion of the campus. To accommodate the new kindergarten/preschool classroom building and related site improvements, up to four trees would be removed. The northern parking lot would be reconfigured (restriped) to increase the parking capacity from 20 spaces to 68 spaces. The reconfiguration would be within the existing parking lot footprint and would not expand the paved surface area or include any demolition of the existing asphalt. Additional improvements would include age-appropriate playground equipment and a dedicated kindergarten pick-up and drop-off loop constructed at the eastern portion of the campus. See Figure 3, *Lone Junior High School Site Improvements*.

Construction for the site improvements at Amador HS would begin in Spring of 2027 and conclude in Summer of 2027. Construction for the site improvements at Lone Junior HS would begin in Fall of 2029 and conclude in Spring of 2030.

The discretionary actions and approvals required for project implementation are 1) project approval, 2) the adoption of the MND, and 3) the adoption of a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The District has prepared an IS to determine the proposed project's potential impact on the environment. The District has determined that the proposed project may have significant impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, transportation, and tribal cultural resources but, by implementing the identified mitigation measures, the proposed project's impacts would be reduced to less-than-significant levels. Accordingly, the District intends to adopt an IS/MND.

Applicant: Amador County Unified School District

Lead Agency: Amador County Unified School District

Consulting Firm: PlaceWorks

Date: September 1, 2026

Signature:



Jared Critchfield, Superintendent
Amador County Unified School District

AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM PROJECT
AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

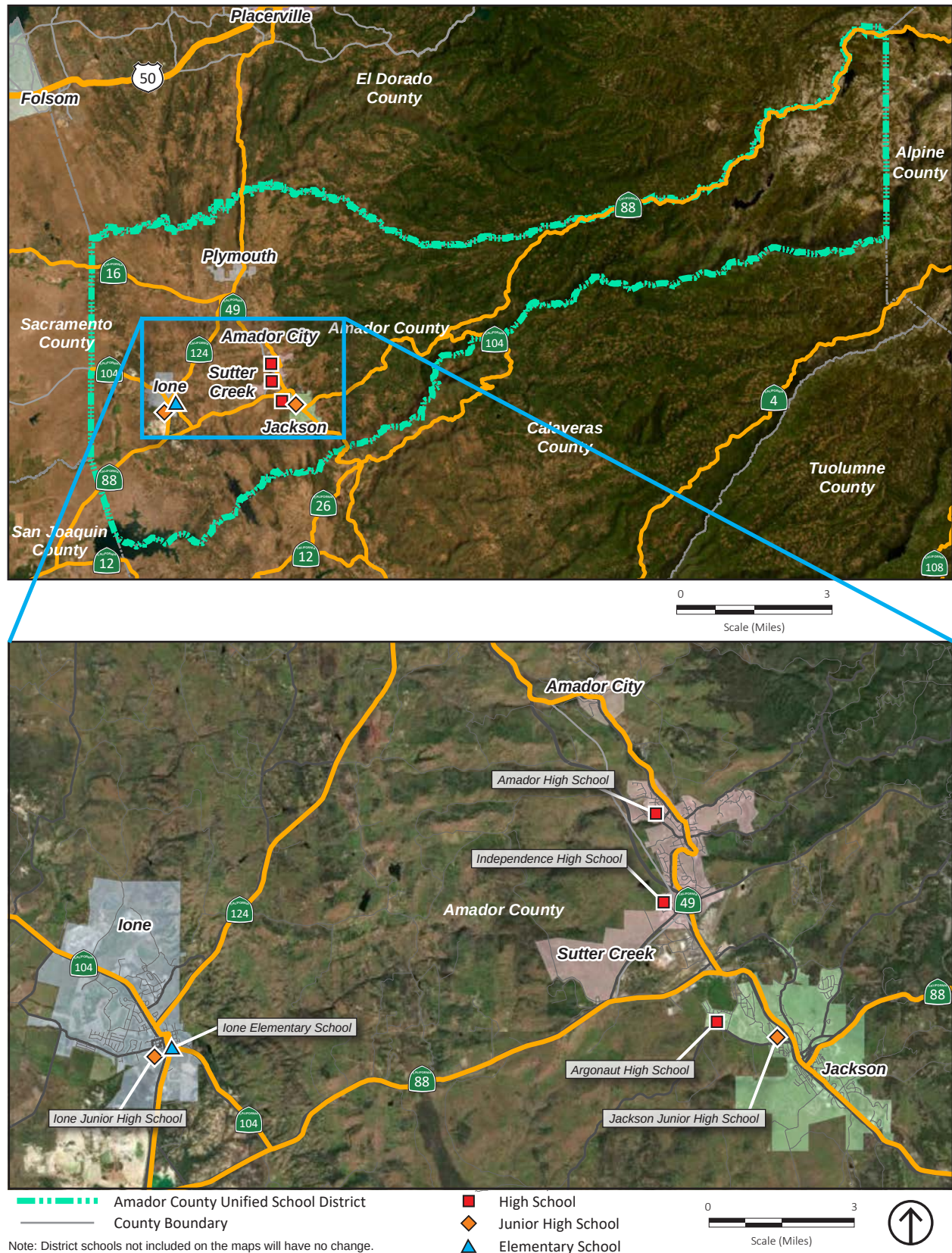
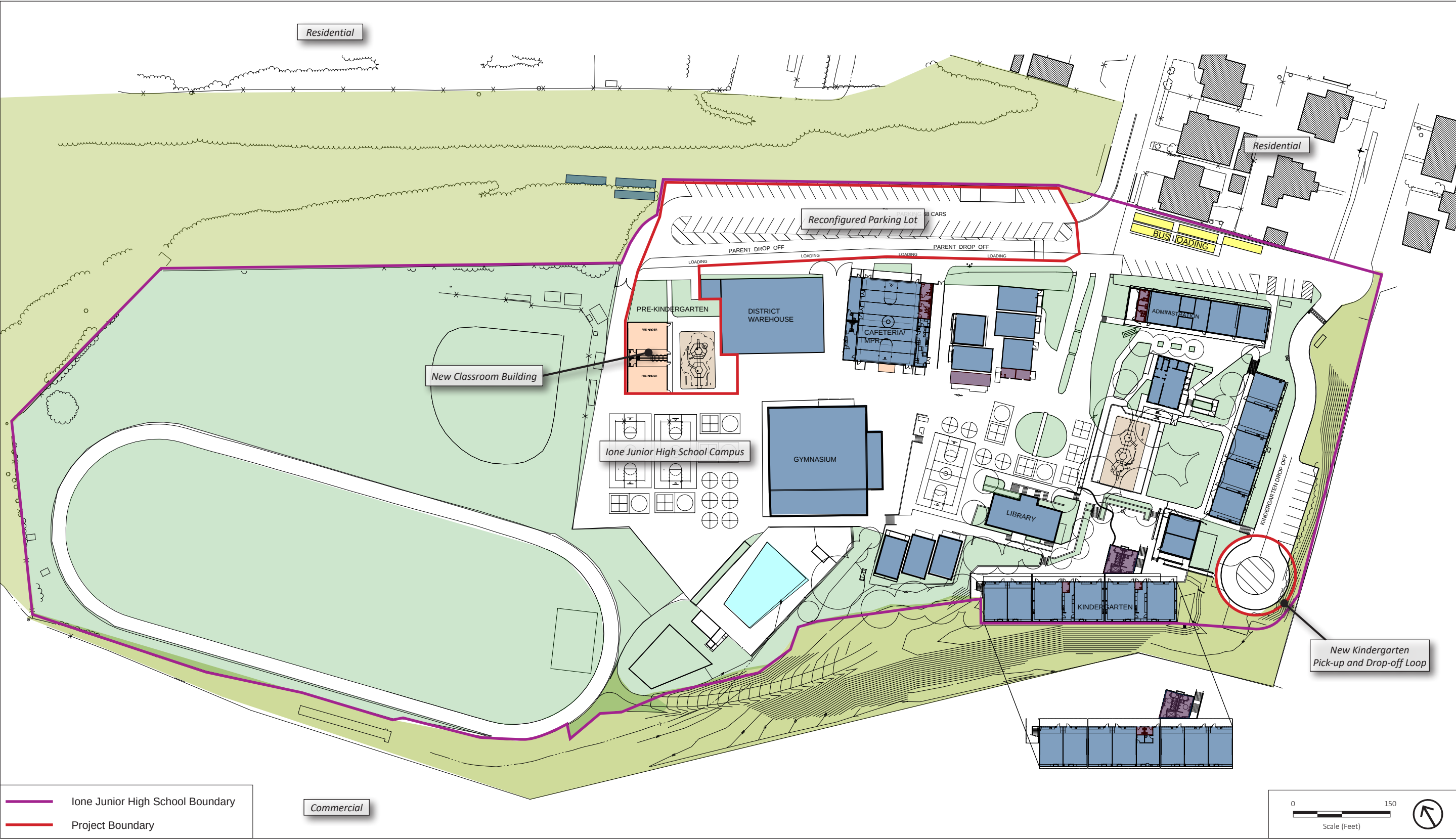


Figure 1
Location Map and Existing Conditions



Source: California Design W

Figure 2
Amador High School Site Improvements



Source: California Design West Architects 2023.

Figure 3
Lone Junior High School Site Improvements