

# Planning Commission Memorandum

**Community Development Department** 

**Planning Division** 

3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING DATE: OCTOBER 18, 2018

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

# PROPOSED PROJECT

Case Numbers	P18-0504 (Plot Plan Review), P18-0574 (Variance), P18-0609 (Variance)				
Request	Appeal of an approval by the Development Review Committee for the following entitlements: 1) a Design Review for the construction of a 4,397 square foot single-family residence; 2) a Variance to allow for two stories where the Zoning Code allows for a maximum of one story; and 3) a Variance to allow a building height of 26-feet where the Zoning Code allows for a maximum height of 20-feet.				
Applicant	Michael Hunting				
Appellant	Mike Sadeghian				
Project Location	376 Eternal Way, located south of Overlook Parkway, at the terminus of Eternal Way				
APN	243-590-009				
Project area	1.03 acres				
Ward	4 Project Site				
Neighborhood	Alessandro Heights				
General Plan Designation	HR – Hillside Residential				
Zoning Designation	RC – Residential Conservation Zone				
Staff Planner	Jack Cartledge, Planning Technician 951-826-5592 jcartledge@riversideca.gov				

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the City Planning Commission:

- 1. **DETERMINE** that the proposed case is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) subject to Section 15303(a) (New Construction of a single-family residence), as this project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 2. DENY THE APPEAL, UPHOLD the decision of the Development Review Committee and APPROVE Planning Cases P18-0504 (Plot Plan Review), P18-0574 (Variance), and P18-0609 (Variance), based on the findings outlined in the staff report and subject to the conditions of approval.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION/ BACKGROUND

The subject 1.03-acre project site is located at the western terminus of Eternal Way, a private residential street in the Alessandro Heights Neighborhood within the community of Hawarden Meadows. The property is within the Residential Conservation (RC) Zone. The site is listed as Lot 10 within Tract Map 29628, initially approved as a 34-lot subdivision in November 2005. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for the Tract Map and certified in February 2006. Legal action was taken by the Friends of Riverside's Hills on the project, which concluded with a settlement agreement being reached. The agreed terms allow a maximum building height of 30-feet for certain lots within the development, including the subject property, subject to City approval.

The applicant is requesting a Design Review of a plot plan and building elevations for the construction of a 4,397 square foot two-story residence with driveway access from Eternal Way. The RC Zone allows for single-family dwellings of no more than one story and 20 feet in height. Because of development restrictions imposed by the RC Zone, the applicant has requested variances to allow for the second story and a height increase to 26 feet. Variance findings are included within the attached Development Review Committee (DRC) staff report (Exhibit 5).

The proposed home includes a 440 square foot detached casita, 1,318 square feet of covered porch area, a 966 square foot, a three-car garage, and an additional 385 square foot garage. The project site has been rough-graded, and limited vegetation exists on-site. Grading plans identify a project-specific Water Quality Management Plan with on-site water flow directed toward a bio-retention basin along the southern property line.

### **APPEAL - FINDINGS**

On September 5, 2018, the Development Review Committee (DRC) approved the project and initiated a 10-day appeal period. On September 6, 2018, the DRC's decision was appealed by Mike Sadeghian. The following are responses to the concerns listed in letters submitted to the Planning Division:

Concern: Views from adjacent properties will be negatively impacted should the proposal be constructed.

Response: An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Tract 29628 and technical studies were prepared in accordance with CEQA laws, and the report was adopted by City Council in 2006 prior to grading. As part of the assessment, each individual lot was examined for classification as a Visual Receptor or determined to be located atop a prominent ridgeline. Lot 10 (376 Eternal Way) was not determined to be classified as either a visual receptor nor located atop a prominent ridgeline.

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There are two properties adjoining the south property line of the project site that would potentially be impacted. However, the graded pad of the project site is situated 13 feet and 22 feet lower than the graded pads of the two southern-adjoining parcels, resulting in limited visual impacts to those properties.

The 826 square feet second story portion of the proposed dwelling makes up approximately 21% of the building footprint and is concentrated within the northernmost portion of the residence. The second story portion is 108 feet from the southern parcel line, providing separation and reduced visual impact to the residences to the south.

Based upon the determination made in the Tract Map Final EIR and the pad sizes of both the subject site and surrounding properties, Staff concludes that limited impacts to sightlines will occur with the granting of the proposed variances.

The development of this site with a single-family dwelling is consistent with the existing development of the adjacent single-family residential properties and within the surrounding area of the Alessandro Heights Neighborhood and the community of Hawarden Meadows.

**Concern:** The proposal is in conflict with the intent of Proposition R and Measure C.

<u>Response:</u> The subject site has a General Plan Land Use designation of HR – Hillside Residential. This designation limits development of Riverside's ecologically sensitive and visually prominent hillside areas for parcels with RC zoning, consistent with Proposition R and Measure C.

The proposal is consistent with the density allowances for the HR designation. The development will be limited to the existing graded pad and comply with Section 17.28.020 of the Grading Code for hillside grading. Per the Zoning Code, development standards within the RC Zone may be modified subject to the granting of a Variance, provided the required variance findings can be made. The findings to support the variances were reviewed and subsequently approved by the Development Review Committee.

The development is also consistent with the Land Use and Urban Design Element of the City's General Plan, and is consistent with the following policies:

Policy LU-4.1: Adhere to the protections for hillside development set forth in Proposition R and Measure C.

Policy LU-4.2: Enforce hillside grading provisions of the City's Grading Code (Title 17) to minimize ground disturbance associated with hillside development; respect existing land contours to maximum feasible extent.

As proposed, the single-family dwelling matches surrounding land uses, and Staff concludes that the entitlements do not conflict with the intent of Proposition R and Measure C.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Staff determined the proposed project is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15303(a) (New Construction of a single-family residence), as this project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS**

Public Hearing Notices were mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the subject site. As of the writing of this report, Planning Division staff received a total of three comment letters in opposition to the proposal. Staff has reviewed submitted comments where residents expressed concerns with impacts to views of surrounding natural features and of the project's conformance with the Residential Conservation Zone.

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No additional analysis is needed. Comments received have been addressed within this staff report and the EIR associated with the previously approved Tract Map.

### **APPEAL INFORMATION**

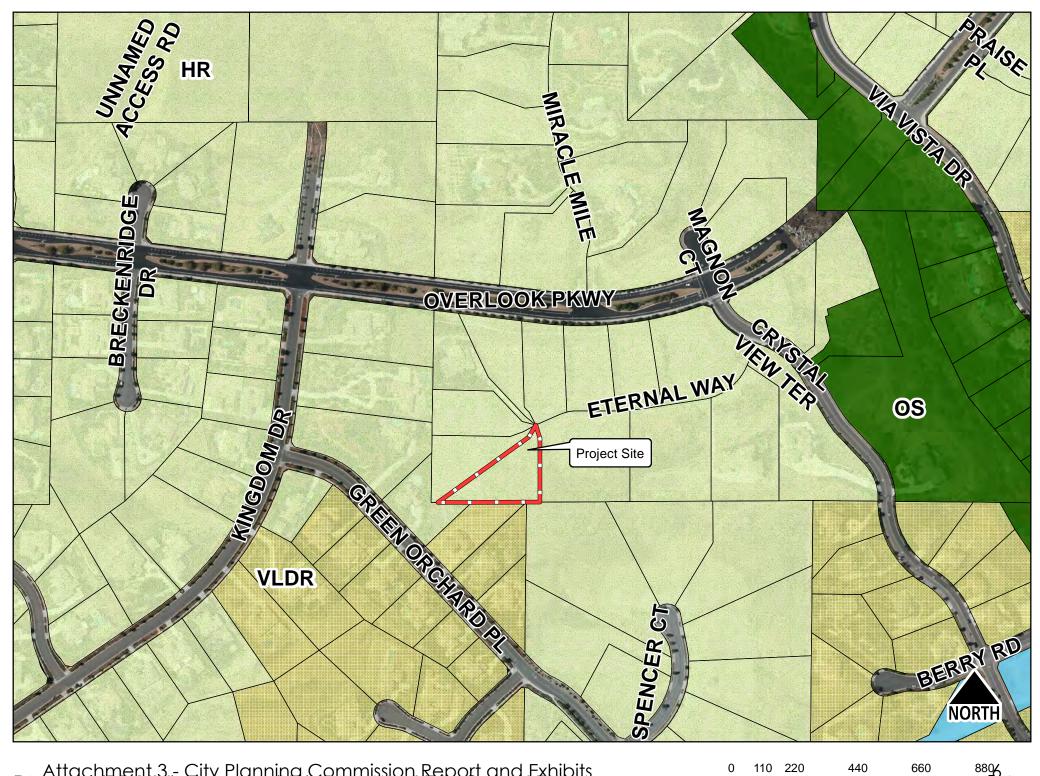
Actions by the City Planning Commission including any environmental finding, may be appealed to the City Council within ten calendar days after the decision. Appeal filing and processing information may be obtained from the Planning Division front counter, 3rd Floor, City Hall.

### **EXHIBITS LIST**

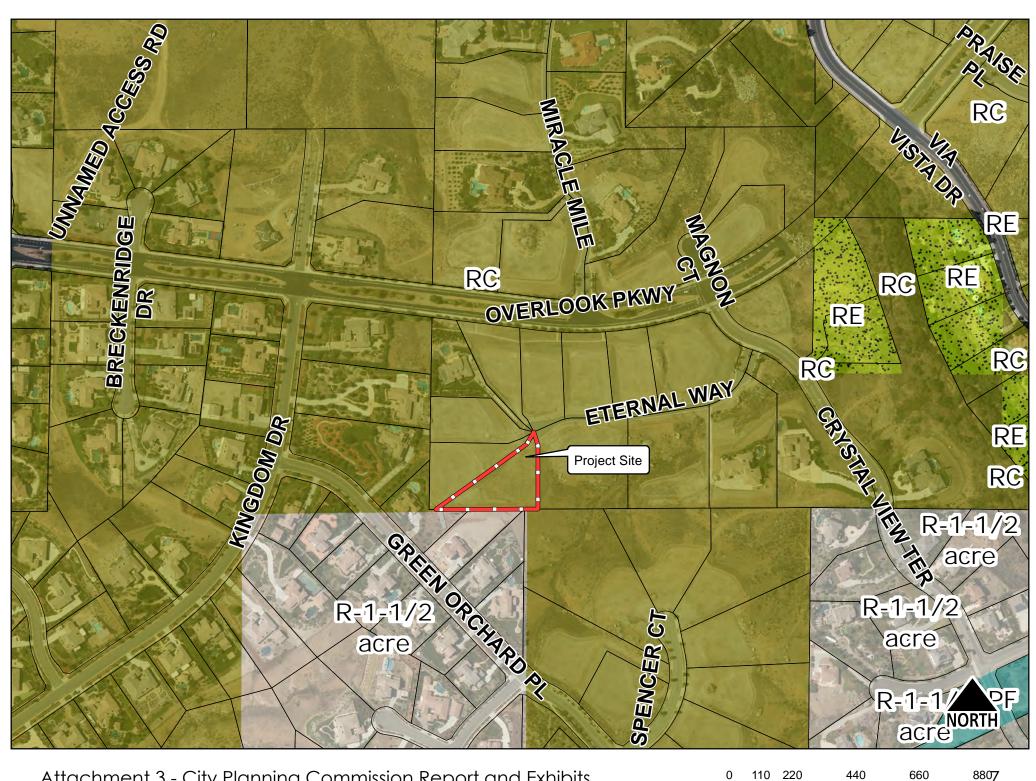
- 1. Location Map
- 2. General Plan Map
- 3. Zoning Map
- 4. Site Plan, Floor Plans, Elevations
- 5. Development Review Committee Staff Report
- 6. Development Review Committee appeal letter
- 7. Comment Letters

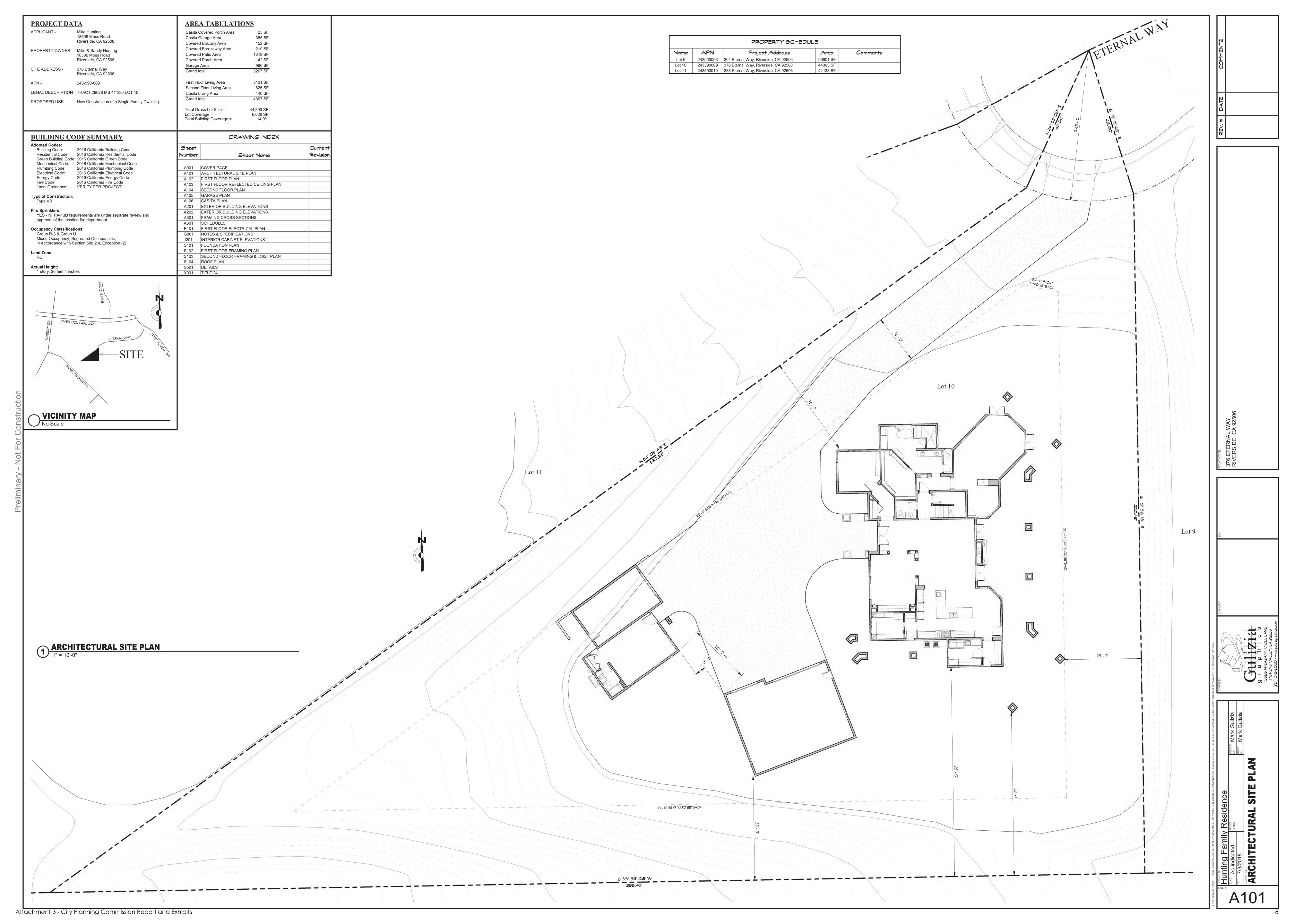


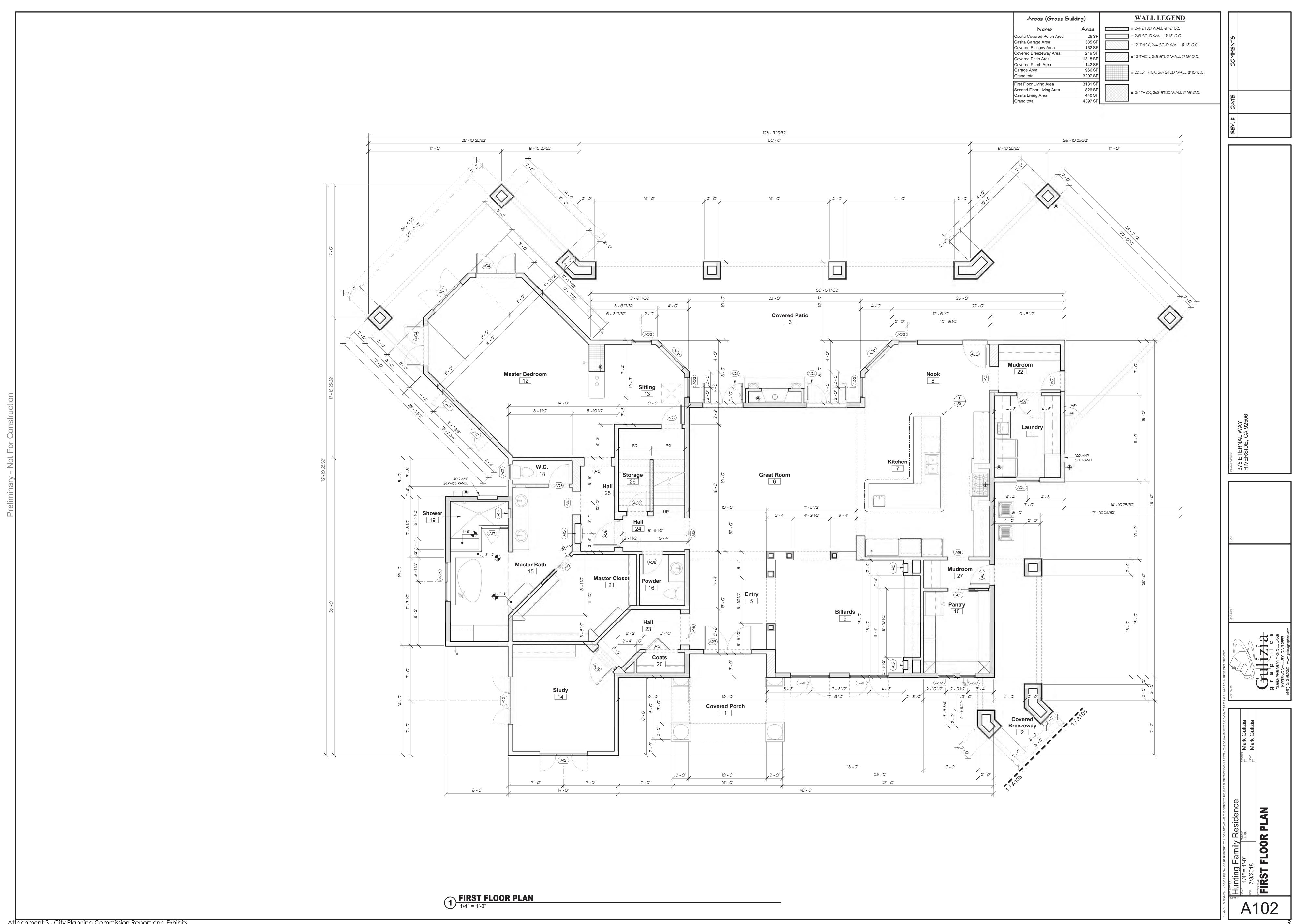
Attachment 3 - City Planning Commission Report and Exhibits P18-0504 (PP-MIN), P18-0574 (VR), P18-0609 (VR) - Location



Attachment 3 - City Planning Commission Report and Exhibits P18-0504 (PP-MIN), P18-0574 (VR), P18-0609 (VR) - General Plan

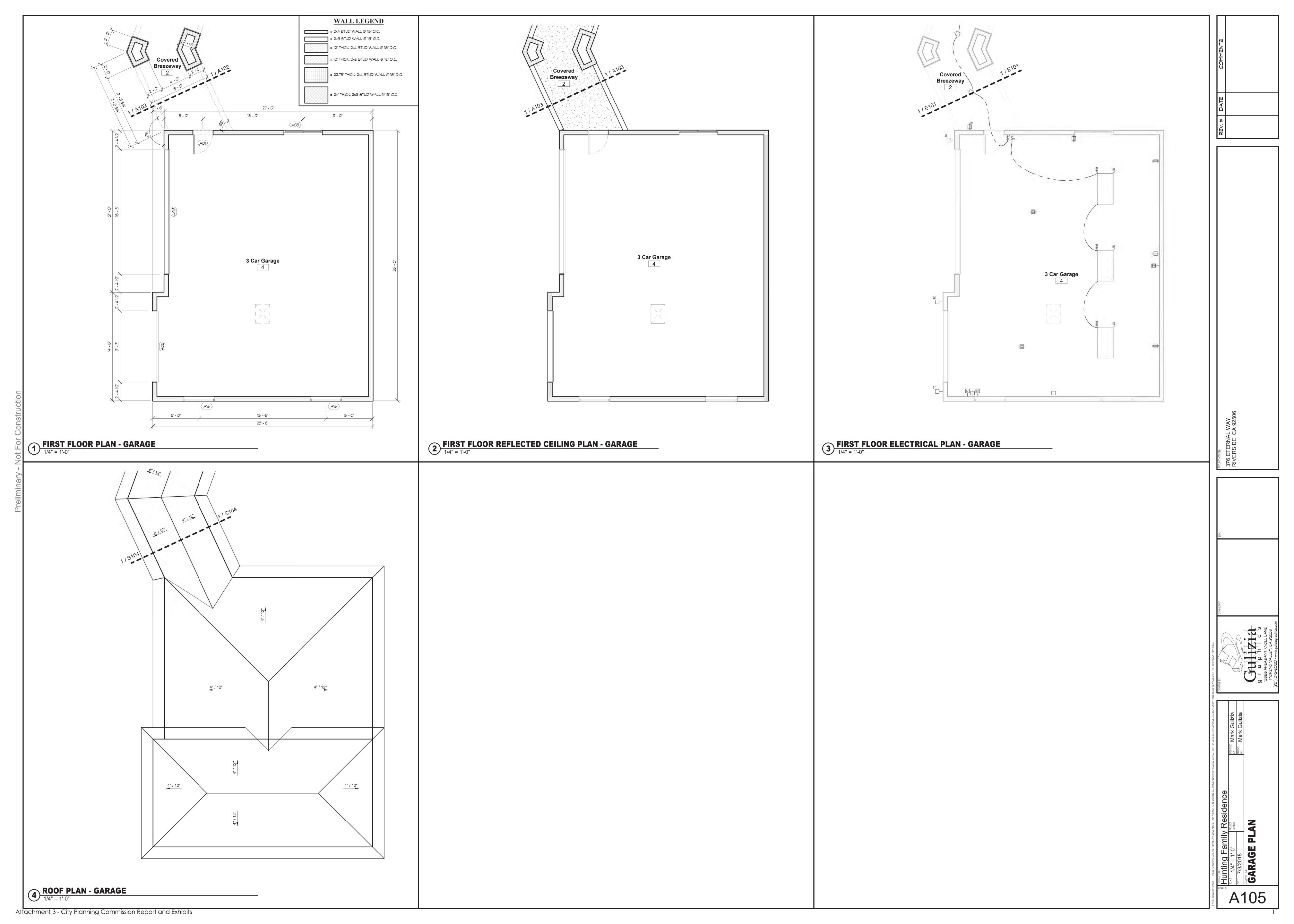


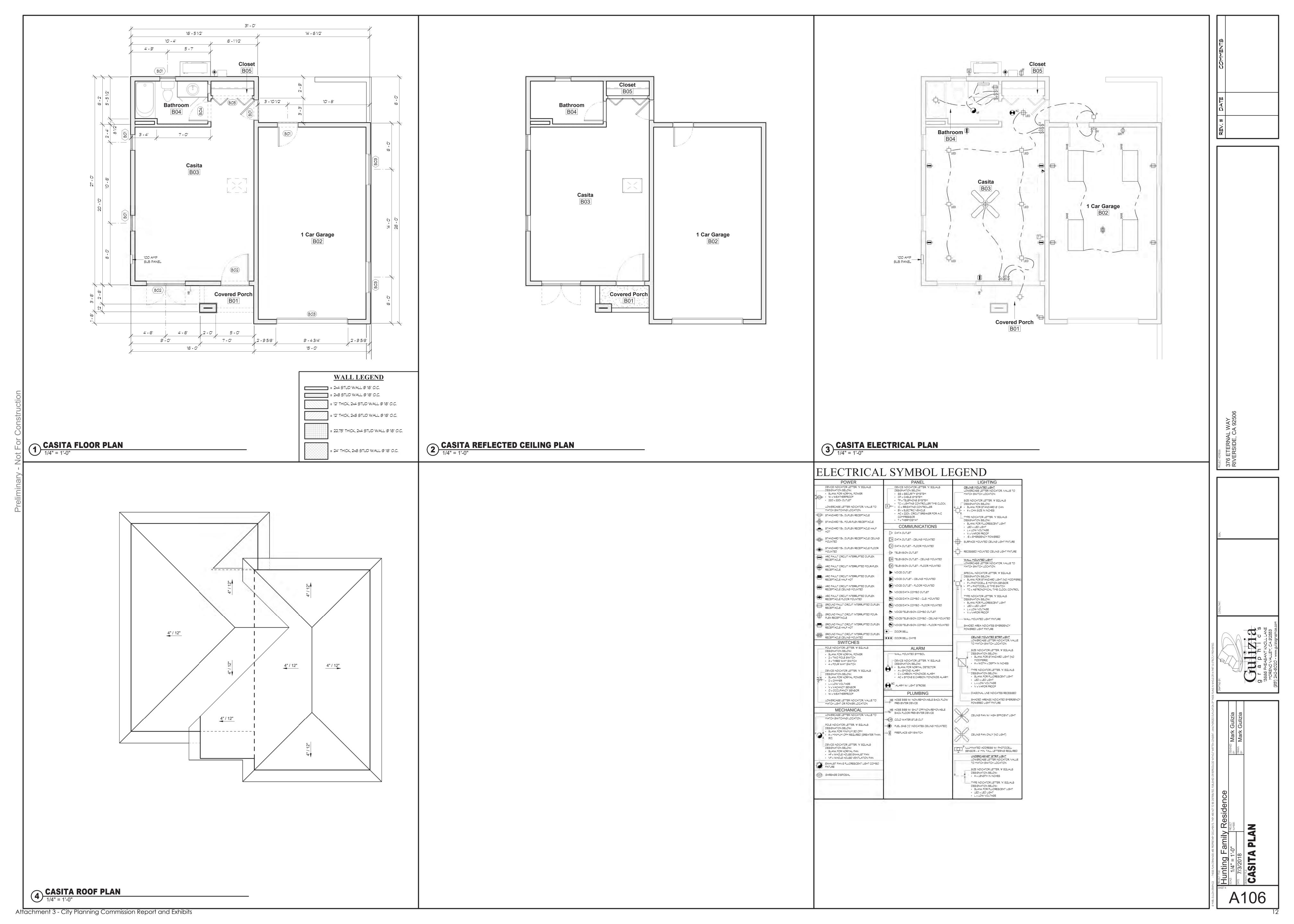




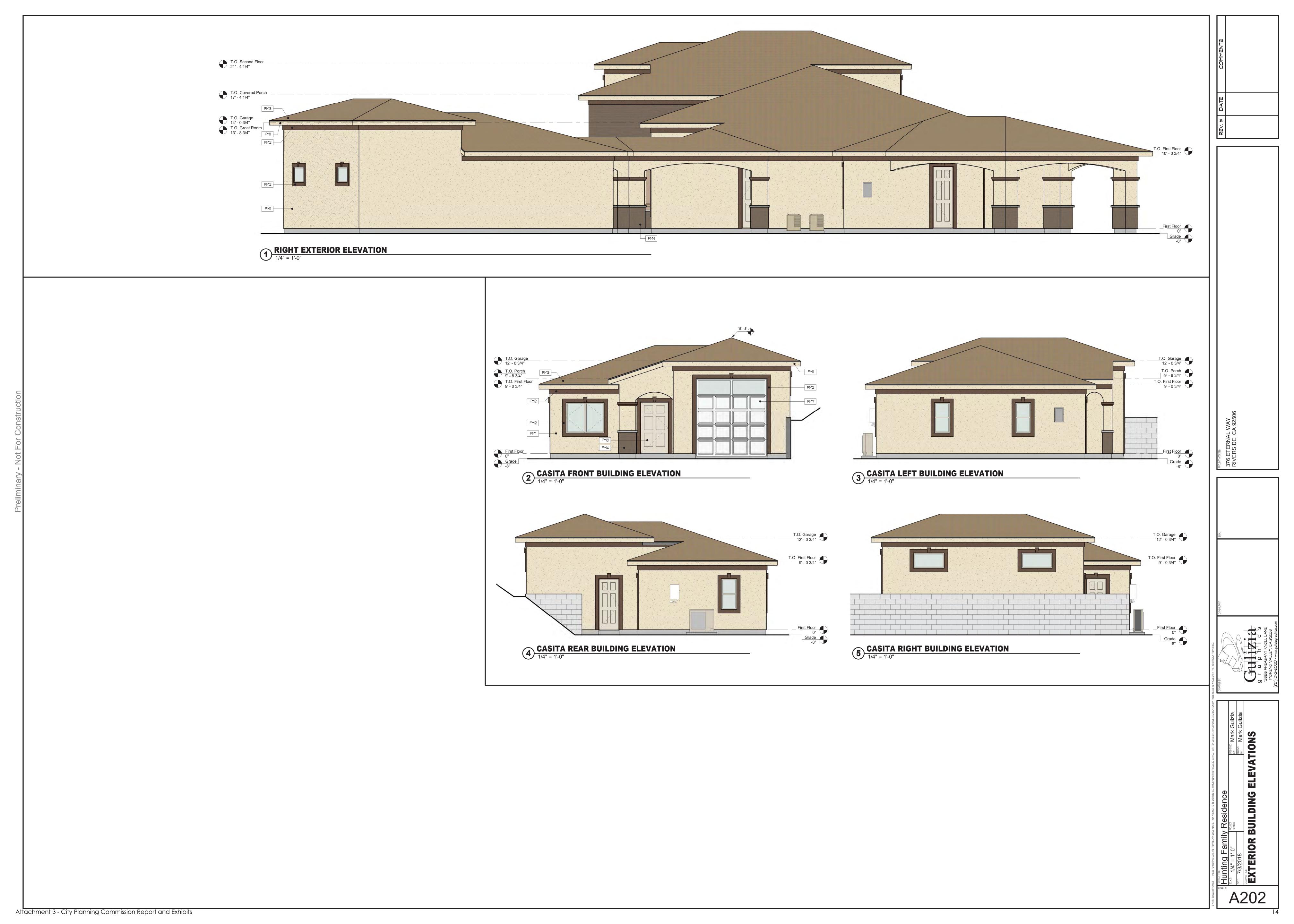
Attachment 3 - City Planning Commission Report and Exhibits













### **Community Development Department**

**Planning Division** 

3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

### PLOT PLAN REVIEW

PROJECT DETAILS

CASE NUMBERS: P18-0504, Plot Plan Review

P18-0574, Variance P18-0609, Variance

**CONTACT PLANNER**: Jack Cartledge, Planning Technician

951-826-5592; jcartledge@riversideca.gov

APPLICANT: Michael Hunting

**PROPERTY ADDRESS:** 376 Eternal Way

**ZONE**: RC – Residential Conservation

**NEIGHBORHOOD AREA**: Alessandro Heights

GENERAL PLAN: HR – Hillside Residential

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The subject 1.03-acre project site is located at the western terminus of Eternal Way, a private residential street in the Alessandro Heights neighborhood and within the community of Hawarden Meadows. The parcel is listed as Lot 10 within Tract Map 29628 and was initially approved as a 34-lot subdivision in November of 2005. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this Tract Map and was certified in February of 2006. The site has been previously rough-graded, and limited vegetation currently exists on-site.

The applicant is requesting a design review of plot plan and building elevations for the construction of a 4,397 square foot two-story residence with driveway access from Eternal Way. Due to development restrictions imposed by the Residential Conservation Zone, the applicant has requested variances for building height and second story to analyze in conjunction with the design review. Submitted variance justifications will be examined further in subsequent sections of this report.

The proposed home includes a 440 square foot detached casita, 1,318 square feet of covered porch area, a 966 square foot, three-car garage, and an additional 385 square foot garage. Grading plans identify a project-specific Water Quality Management Plan with on-site water flow directed toward a bio-retention basin along the southern property line.

### PROJECT ANALYSIS

The project site is located within the RC – Residential Conservation Zone, which permits single-family residences subject to the development standards established in Chapter 19.100 of the Zoning Code and outlined below:

Resident	tial Conservation	Proposed	Consistent	Inconsistent	
Min. Setbacks	Front	30'	78'	$\boxtimes$	
	Side	25'	Left=25' Right=33'	×	
	Rear	25'	68'-0"	$\boxtimes$	
Min. Parking	2 Car Garage		4 Car Garage	×	
Max. Number of Stories	1		2		$\boxtimes$
Max. Height	20	0'	26'4"		$\boxtimes$

The site also lies within both the boundary and setback area of the Alessandro Arroyo, and this was identified with the Environmental Impact Report published with the Tract Map in February of 2006. Grading of the site occurred after approval of the report, and the tract was assessed for native and endangered wildlife subject to the Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan of Western Riverside County.

The proposed project meets the objectives of the City's Grading Code (Title 17), Zoning Code (Title 19), and Citywide Design Guidelines, subject to the justifications provided and the recommended conditions of approval detailed below.

### NEIGHBORHOOD COMPATIBILITY

Planning Staff received two written responses to public notices opposing the requested variances. The given reasons, along with Staff responses, are outlined below:

- 1. Views from adjacent properties would be negatively impacted with the construction of a two-story, 26-foot high residence at the subject property.
  - a. The site's graded pad area is situated below adjacent properties on three sides by several feet, and the Final Environmental Impact Report for the related tract map determined this lot as not being located atop either a prominent ridgeline or visual receptor. The second story area is less than 19 percent of the home's

total square footage and is concentrated on one side of the structure to minimize visual impact.

- 2. The RC-Residential Conservation Zone requires only one-story, 20-foot high structures, and this proposal runs in conflict with the intent of Proposition R and Measure C.
  - a. The Zoning Code allows for variances to development standards subject to approval by the Development Review Committee. The applicant has provided justifications to allow for the additional height, and in addition the Friends of Riverside's Hills has certified that two-story homes on this specific lot within Tract Map 29628 meet the intentions of the RC Zone and are in conformance with both Proposition R and Measure C.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION**

The project represents New Construction, which is categorically exempt per the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15303 of the CEQA Guidelines.

### DEVELOPMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE'S DECISION

The Development Review Committee **APPROVES** Planning Cases P18-0504 (Plot Plan Review), P18-0574 (Variance), and P18-0609 (Variance) subject to the attached conditions.



### **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

PLANNING DIVISION

## **VARIANCE FINDINGS**

### Variance Findings pursuant to Chapter 19.720.040

- a. The strict application of the provisions of the Zoning Code would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardships inconsistent with the general purpose and intent of the Zoning Code.
  - The proposal <u>complies</u> with this finding. The property is an irregular pie-shaped lot with 40 feet of grade change, and allowing the construction of a home that meets building setbacks, provides septic and bioretention systems, and allows for usable yard space results in practical difficulties for the landowner.
- b. There are special circumstances or conditions applicable to the property involved or to the intended use or development of the property that do not apply generally to other property in the vicinity and under the identical zoning classification.
  - The proposal <u>complies</u> with this finding. The irregular parcel shape makes development of the site difficult. Additionally, the Riverside Municipal Code limits hillside construction to a single graded pad area, rendering a significant portion of the lot unbuildable. The Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) for the homeowner's association require a minimum 4,000 square feet of living space, and the applicant is compelled to build upward to meet this standard.
- c. The granting of such variance will not be materially detrimental to the public welfare or injurious to the property or improvements in the zone or neighborhood in which the property is located.
  - The proposal <u>complies</u> with this finding. Following the resolution of arbitration related to the tract map, a settlement agreement was entered between the developer and petitioner to allow the exceeding of height and story standards for particular lots pending variance. 376 Eternal Way was included in this agreement, and a further 12 additional lots within the same tract have submitted for and were approved for height and story variances since 2007. The granting of such variance will not prove detrimental to the area.
- d. The granting of the variance will not be contrary to the objectives of any part of the General Plan.
  - The proposal <u>complies</u> with this finding. The tract map's Final Environmental Impact Report did not list the subject site as being situated atop a prominent ridgeline or visual receptor, and the structure will respect the sightlines of surrounding properties while still permitting its development. In addition, the Friends of Riverside's Hills has certified that a two-story home on this specific lot conforms with the intent of both Proposition R and Measure C. The granting of the height and story variances will not be contrary to the objectives of any part of the General Plan.

### CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

### Planning

Prior to Building Permit Issuance

1. Construction plans submitted to the Building and Safety Division shall reflect all materials and colors utilized on the plans submitted to planning.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION CONDITIONS:**

- 2. This approval is for design concept only, and does not indicate the project has been thoroughly checked for compliance with all requirements of law. As such, it is not a substitute for the formal building permit plan check process, and other changes may be required during the plan check process.
- 3. There is a one-year time limit on this approval.
- 4. This project shall fully and continually comply with all applicable conditions of approval, State, Federal and local laws in effect at the time the permit is approved and exercised and which may become effective and applicable thereafter, and in accordance with the terms contained within the staff report and all testimony regarding this case. Failure to do so will be grounds for Code Enforcement action, revocation or further legal action.

### APPEAL INFORMATION

The applicant or any interested person can appeal the Development Review Committee decision or any conditions of approval to the Planning Commission within ten days of this action. To appeal this decision, submit a letter stating what you wish to appeal and why, along with the General Application form and fee made payable to the City of Riverside. The Planning Division's address is:

City of Riverside Community & Economic Development Department Planning Division 3900 Main Street, 3rd Floor Riverside, CA 92522

cw: Jack Cartledge, Planning Technician

# Mike Sadeghian

3595 Van Buren Blvd. Suite 212 Riverside CA 92503 (951)359-5359

Thursday, September 06, 2018

Re: P18-0504, Plot Plan Review

P18-0574, Variance P18-0609, Variance

Mr. Jack Cartledge,

We would like to appeal the staff's decision on the above cases since we are directly behind this property and would be effected significantly with the height of this residence.

Please be advice that we need this to be reviewed by the planning commission.

We are the owners of the APN No. 243-220-061 and 243-220-060.

I would appreciate your comments and your written response back to us with the date of the hearing.

Thank you

Mike Sadeghian

From: Mike Sadeghian
To: Cartledge, Jack

**Subject:** [External] p-18-0504, p18-0574, p18-0609 **Date:** Wednesday, September 05, 2018 11:39:12 AM

Jack,

We own the two properties directly behind this parcel APN 243220061, APN 243220062 and we have paid a very large premium for the view on these parcels knowing that there is a height restriction.

This 24' high residence will be blocking most of our view, please reject the extra variance on the Hight on this parcel.

Best regards,

Mike Sadeghian I (President)

Van Buren Land & Investment Inc. 3595 Van Buren Blvd. Suite 212 Riverside CA 92503

p. (951)359-5359 c. (951)660-1035

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From: Rhonda Strout-Garcia
To: Cartledge, Jack

Subject: [External] Response to Request for Public Comment - 376 Eternal Way Project Location

**Date:** Saturday, August 25, 2018 7:49:51 PM

Attachments: CCF08252018.cleaned.pdf

This email's attachments were cleaned of potential threats by The City of Riverside's Security Gateway.

Click <u>here</u> if the original attachments are required (justification needed).

Dear Mr. Cartledge:

Please find attached a response to the request for public comment related to the property at 376 Eternal Way.

We would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt of the enclosed response, if you would kindly reply to this email. Additionally, please keep us informed of any hearings in this matter, as we wish to be present.

Thank you,

Rhonda & Henry Garcia

Rhonda D. Strout-Garcia, MSHR Principal Consultant

HR Dynamics & Performance Management, Inc.

<u>rhonda@hrdpm.com</u> (951) 905-0025



Henry & Rhonda Garcia 461 Green Orchard Place Riverside, CA 92506 (951) 999-1617 or (951) 905-0025

City of Riverside Attn: Jack Cartledge Community Development Department, Planning Division 3900 Main Street Riverside, CA 92522

Subject:

Request for Public Comment - Project Location 376 Eternal Way - Case

Numbers: P18-0504 (PP-MIN), P18-0574 (VR), P18-0609 (VR)

Dear Mr. Cartledge:

This letter is in response to the City's notice requesting public comment concerning a variance to allow for a two-story home to be built on a vacant lot behind our property.

Please note that <u>we strongly object</u> to the request for a variance of a two story home to be constructed at the project location. The existing homes in the Pulte development, ours included, as well as surrounding vacant lots within other developments, come at a premium price. This is not only due to the size of the lots, and larger square footage of the homes, but <u>largely attributable to the view of the City below</u>. The lots alone in many cases are currently selling for in excess of \$300,000, and sold for much more – in some cases double - at the peak of the real estate market.

Any potential obstruction of our view, and that of our neighbors, impacts our home values, and our expectation of enjoyment of our view. Our expectation comes from the <u>existing zoning rules</u> which clearly states a maximum of one story homes, and a maximum height of 20-feet. We purchased our home in 2009, having done our research, and were comfortable in our investment, knowing that the lots behind us would not impact our view, nor have the ability to look down upon our property and impede our privacy.

It is our opinion that Mr. Michael Hunting purchased his lot, very well knowing the existing rules and restrictions, yet proceeded with plans for a two-story home structure that will have a negative impact on existing neighbors including view, privacy, and home values. It is inconceivable that his request could possibly be granted by the City, at an impact to those of us who were here first; who understood that the zoning rules would not allow for a loss of view, privacy and home value; and who had/have an expectation of enjoyment of the view for which a premium price was paid.

Our property at 461 Green Orchard is a unique shaped lot, and shares two vacant lots behind us, with Mr. Hunting's lot being one of the two. Our grave concern would be that the approval of his request would open the door to allow for other future variances to be granted. The second vacant lot behind us

Request for Public Comment – Project Location 376 Eternal Way – Case Numbers: P18-0504 (PP-MIN), P18-0574 (VR), P18-0609 (VR) Page 2 of 2 – Henry/Rhonda Garcia

(next to Mr. Hunting's lot) which sits higher than our lot, would have a direct view upon our property, if a second story home were to be approved in the future, and significantly block our view and impact our privacy. Therefore, it is most critical that the existing standards remain in place. We are well aware that one exception leads to another, and this must be stopped now.

In closing, <u>we strongly object</u> to the request for a variance at 376 Eternal Way, due to loss of view for our homes in the Pulte development; expectation of enjoyment of our view due to existing zoning rules; privacy concerns; impact on home values; and the potential impact of one variance approval leading to another, where future two-story homes could be built on remaining vacant lots which would have an even greater detrimental effect on our property value, privacy, view and enjoyment.

Please keep us informed on the progress of this case, and we will make every attempt to attend any public meetings or hearing on this matter to express our concerns. We hereby request to receive a copy of your report and analysis to be completed on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Sincerely,

Henry Garcia – Owner 461 Green Orchard Place

Monde Darcia

Rhonda Garcia – Owner 461 Green Orchard Place From: DALIP SETHI
To: Cartledge, Jack

Cc: <u>Dalip Sethi; Rupina Mann</u>

Subject: [External] PROJECT LOCATION -- 376 ETERNAL WAY ---- Request for Public Comments---- OBJECTION LETTER

8/23/18

**Date:** Thursday, August 23, 2018 9:04:53 PM

Hello Mr Jack Cartledge,

My name is DALIP SINGH SETHI and I live in 427 GREEN ORCHARD PLACE . I and my wife Dr Rupina Mann bought this property 6-8 years

ago and Paid Premium for it as I knew that there will NOT BODY WILL BE BUILDING a DOUBLE STORY behind my house to BLOCK MY CITY

view of the property as Single story are only will be allowed. I STRONGLY OBJECT to give a Variance to this person to build a double story house

as it will BLOCK MY VIEW COMPLETELY.

My property is all ready about 15' below the street level . I only get View from my Master bedroom and balcony upstairs. Applicant making a double

story and increase HEIGHT to 24' will Completely BLOCK MY VIEW. Hence I am Humbly requesting NOT TO ISSUE any Variance in 376 ETERNAL

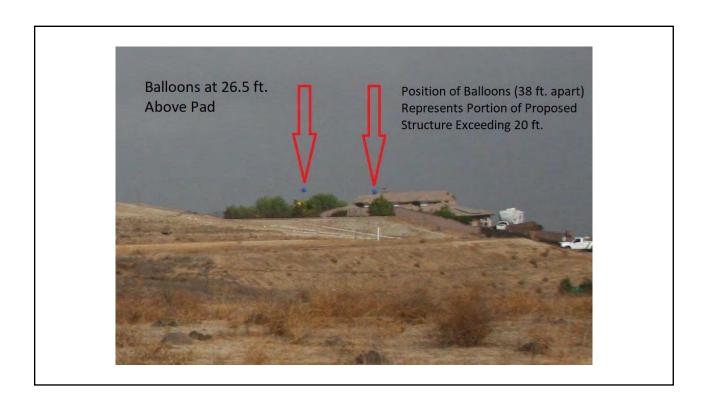
WAY house project.

Thank you very much in Advance for this consideration.

Dalip Singh Sethi owner 427 GREEN ORCHARD PLACE Riverside, California 92506 951-334-9924 dalip\_sethi@yahoo.com

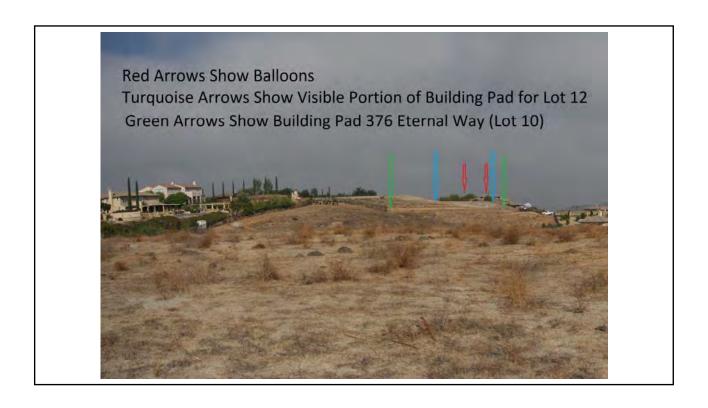
dalip Singh sethi



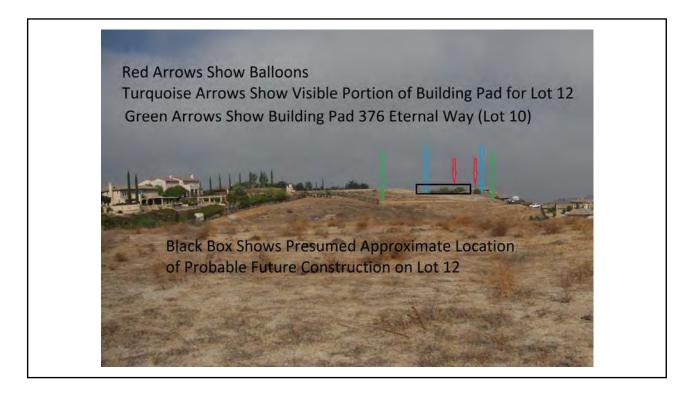














# Single Family Residence 376 Eternal Way

P18-0504, P18-0574, P18-0609

**Community & Economic Development Department** 

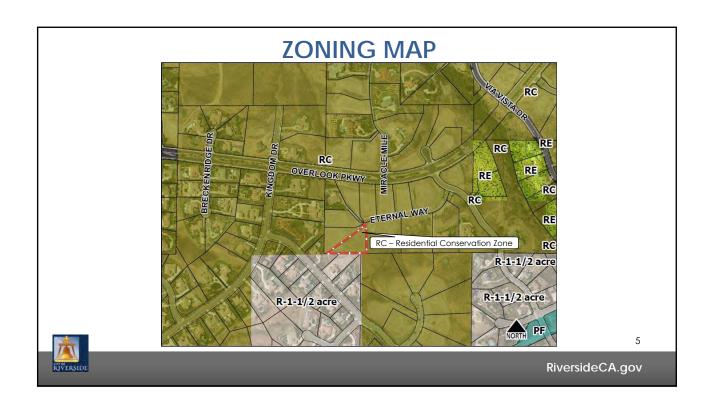
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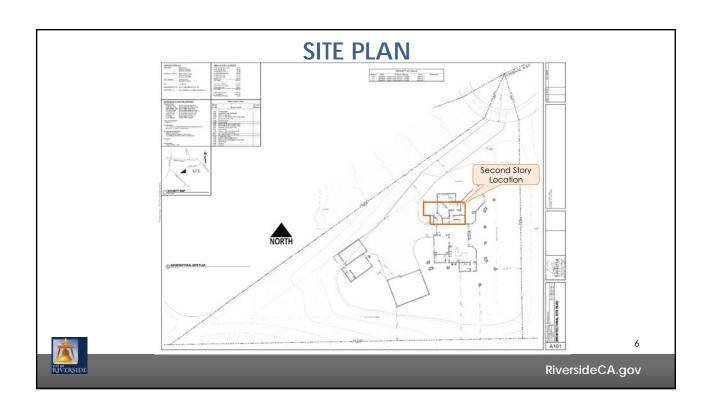
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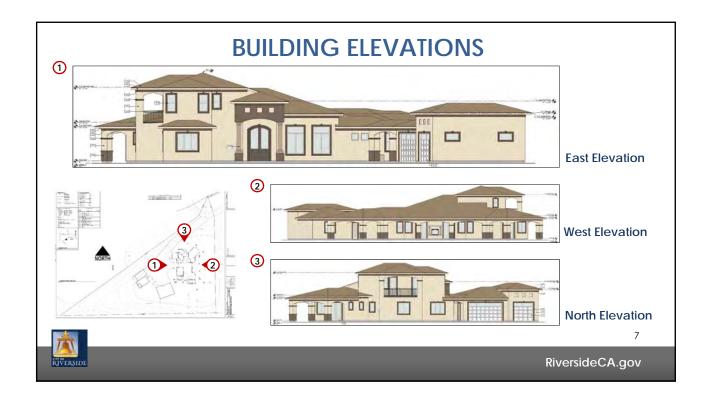
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# **Development Review Committee**

- September 5, 2018
  - DRC Approval
  - 10-day appeal period commenced
- September 6, 2018
  - Appeal received on behalf of Mike Sadeghian
- Three comment letters received



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# RECOMMENDATIONS

That the City Planning Commission:

- 1. DETERMINE that the proposed case is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) subject to Section 15303(a) (New Construction of a single-family residence), as this project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1. DENY THE APPEAL, UPHOLD the decision of the Development Review Committee and APPROVE Planning Cases P18-0504 (Plot Plan Review), P18-0574 (Variance), and P18-0609 (Variance), based on the findings outlined in the staff report and subject to the conditions of approval.



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