

Planning Commission Memorandum

Community & Economic Development Department Planning Division 3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522 | Phone: (951) 826-5371 | RiversideCA.gov

PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING DATE: JANUARY 9, 2020 AGENDA ITEM NO.: 3

PROPOSED PROJECT

| Case Number | P19-0353 (Street Vacation) | |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Request | To consider a Street Vacation to vacate an approximately 514 square foot L- shaped segment of public right-of-way at the terminus of Ninth Street, to facilitate the expansion of the existing Riverside Downtown North Layover Facility. | |
| Applicant | Hector Casillas on behalf of the Riverside County Transportation Commission | |
| Project Location | A segment of Ninth Street, east of Santa Fe Avenue | "Mireesirav |
| APN | N/A | Internet to the second |
| Project Area | 514 square feet | |
| Ward | 2 | Minin ST D |
| Neighborhood | Eastside | Area to be Vacated |
| General Plan Designation | N/A | Commerces |
| Zoning Designation | N/A | NORTH |
| Staff Planner | Veronica Hernandez, Associate Planner 951-826-3965 <u>vhernandez@riversideca.gov</u> | |

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

- 1. **RECOMMEND that the City Council DETERMINE** that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) subject to Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Rule) of the CEQA Guidelines, as it can be seen with certainty that the project will have no significant effect on the environment; and
- 2. **RECOMMEND that the City Council APPROVE** Planning Case P19-0353 (Street Vacation), based on the findings outlined in the staff report and subject to the recommended conditions (Exhibit 1).

BACKGROUND

The segment of Ninth Street to be vacated is designated in the General Plan 2025 as a 66-foot wide local street, with one travel lane in each direction. Ninth Street terminates at the railroad.

The proposed area to be vacated is surrounded by a vacant packing house to the north, an office building to the west (formerly Brightwood College), and an existing train car layover track to the east and south.

PROPOSAL

The applicant is requesting approval of a Street Vacation to vacate an approximately 514 square foot L-shaped portion of Ninth Street to accommodate the expansion of the existing Riverside Downtown North Layover Facility. The expansion will accommodate the removal of the existing layover track, the installation of three new layover storage tracks with an overall storage capacity of three six-car train sets, and associated maintenance and infrastructure upgrades.

PROJECT ANALYSIS

STREET VACATION

Pursuant to State law, specifically Public Streets, Highways, and Services Easements Vacation Law (commencing with Section 8300 of the Streets and Highway Code and Section 21101 of the Vehicle Code of the State of California), the City may regulate traffic on its public streets, alleys, and walkways only to the extent expressly authorized. The law permits the City to vacate a street, alley, or walkway only upon a finding supported by substantial evidence that the right-of-way is no longer needed for vehicular or pedestrian traffic and is unnecessary for present or prospective public use.

The following facts are provided to support the proposed vacation of the subject portion of Ninth Street:

- The proposed area to be vacated will no longer be needed for street purposes or for access to adjacent parcels, as adequate access will be provided through the surrounding streets, including the remaining portion of Ninth Street, Santa Fe Street to the north, and Vine Street to the west. The existing power pole north of the area to be vacated will not be affected.
- The proposed area to be vacated is unnecessary for present or prospective public use or vehicular traffic. The only use for this segment of Ninth Street is for access to the existing train tracks and infrastructure there is no public outlet on this street. The area to be vacated will not interfere with the existing drive aisle of the property to the south or impede any public movement.
- As stated above, properties to the north, south, and west of the proposed vacation will maintain public access from Santa Fe Street and Vine Street and the remaining segment of Ninth Street. The area to be vacated will not be necessary for access to any parcels.
- The proposed vacation will not impact access to any other parcels as all other streets will remain in their current configuration, and the proposed vacation will not impact vehicular or pedestrian circulation.

Based on the findings above, it can be concluded that the subject right-of-way is not needed for vehicular or pedestrian traffic or for present or prospective public use. The vacated right-of-way will be placed within the CR-SP – Commercial Retail and Specific Plan (Marketplace) Overlay Zones and designated C – Commercial based on the City's General Plan.

In compliance with State Law and local ordinance, should the Planning Commission approve the proposed street vacation, the City Council will consider a Resolution of Intent to set a public hearing to consider the vacation at a date not sooner than 15 days following adoption of the Resolution of Intent. At least 15 days prior to the public hearing date established with the Resolution

of Intent, a notice will be posted at all intersections and at points occurring each 300 feet along the affected roadway segment.

FINDINGS SUMMARY

The vacation of a segment of Ninth Street will not impact access or circulation to surrounding properties or to the City's overall circulation element. The project, as proposed, will not be materially detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of the public or otherwise injurious to the environment or to the property or improvements within the area. The portion of Ninth Street proposed to be vacated is primarily used by the Riverside County Transportation Commission for access to the train tracks and infrastructure. Traffic on Ninth Street currently has no outlet to any other public streets. Vehicular and pedestrian traffic will continue to utilize the remaining segment of Ninth Street in the same manner as the existing condition.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Planning Division Staff has determined that the proposed street vacation is categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Rule) of the CEQA Guidelines, which stipulates that a project is exempt from CEQA if covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects that have a potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. As the proposal involves the vacation of a local street, not identified as a major component of the local roadway network, it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment. Further, in that Ninth Street currently terminates at the train tracks, there would be no change to existing conditions.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENTS

Public hearing notices were mailed to property owners within 300 feet of the site. As of the writing of this report, no responses have been received by staff regarding this project.

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 Department Public Information Section, 3rd Floor, City Hall.

EXHIBITS LIST

- 1. Staff Recommended Conditions of Approval
- 2. Location Map
- 3. General Plan Map
- 4. Zoning and Specific Plan Maps
- 5. Project Plans (Survey Plan and Water and Sewer Plan)
- 6. Legal Description and Plat Map
- 7. Existing Site Photos

Prepared by: Veronica Hernandez, Associate Planner Reviewed by: Patricia Brenes, Principal Planner, and Candice Assadzadeh, Senior Planner Approved by: Mary Kopaskie-Brown, City Planner



PLANNING DIVISION

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTDEPARTMENT

EXHIBIT 2 – STAFF RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS & GENERAL INFORMATION NOTES

PLANNING CASE: P19-0353 (Street Vacation)

Planning Division

1. There shall be a one-year time limit in which to satisfy the conditions and finalize this action.

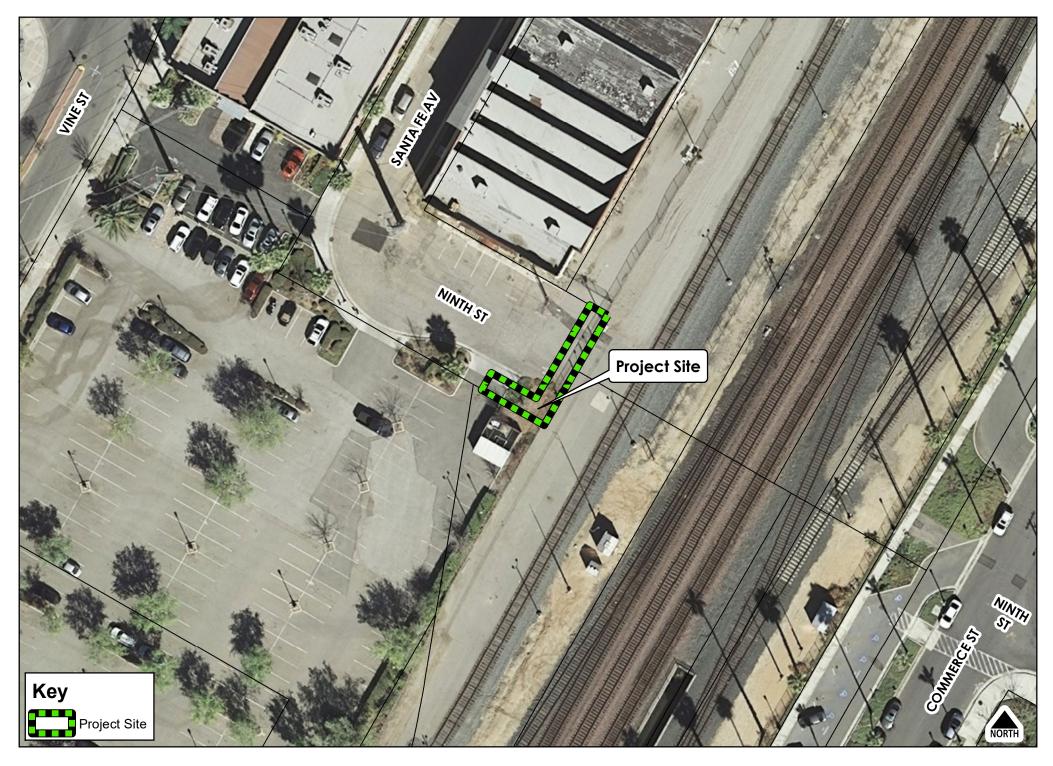
Fire Department

2. Fire access shall be maintained at all times. Any future gates shall be equipped with a Knox device. Minimum fire access width is 20 feet.

Public Works

Conditions to be fulfilled prior to case finalization, unless otherwise noted:

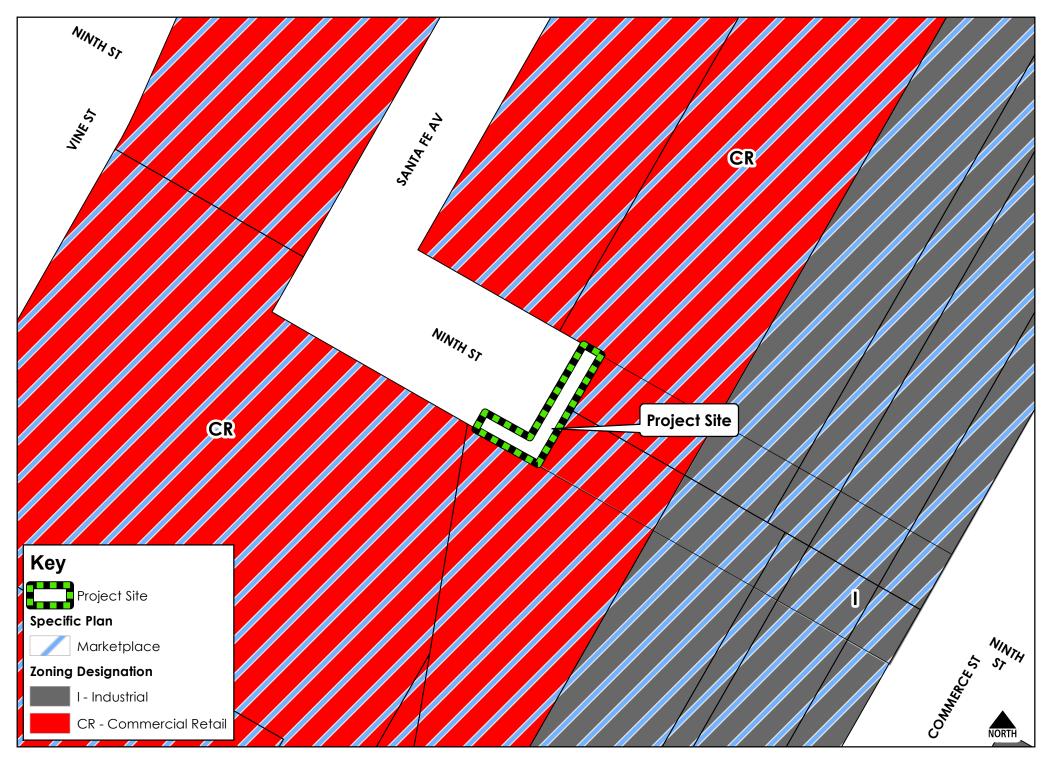
- 3. All conditions placed upon this case must be fulfilled prior to the recording of the vacation resolution by the City Clerk. The case is not finalized until the City Clerk records the Vacation Resolution.
- 4. If the disposition of land is other than by operation of law the applicant shall have quitclaim deeds exchanging the property prepared to the satisfaction of Planning, City Attorney's Office and Public Works Departments. All necessary parcel descriptions and plats shall be prepared, signed and sealed by a licensed Land Surveyor or Civil Engineer authorized to practice Land Surveying in the State of California. DESCRIPTIONS and PLATS ARE REQUIRED TO BE ON 8.5 inch by 11-inch FORMAT.
- 5. Council authorizes the City Manager to execute quitclaims documents on behalf of the City of Riverside to extinguish the desired public rights within the vacated right of way that does not revert by operation of law.
- 6. Prior to finalization of the case, the applicant shall provide the appropriate documentation that the lender(s) / trustee(s) has(have) agreed to modify any Trust Deed(s) to reflect the reconfigured parcel(s).
- 7. Property transfers to the final proposed parcel configurations must be accomplished concurrently with the finalization of this case. Ownership of the property shall remain undivided prior to recordation of the Certificate of Compliance for Lot Line Adjustment.
- 8. All recording fees of the Riverside County Recorder, including transfer documents, grants of right-of-way and the Certificate of Compliance for Lot Line Adjustment are the responsibility of the applicant.
- 9. Applicant shall prepare Grant Deeds that have each owner grant to themselves each of the parcels in their final configuration. This requirement is necessary to ensure that the final parcel configurations and ownerships are clearly identified in the Land Title History.
- 10. VC P19-0353 to be completed prior to issuance of the Certificate of Compliance.



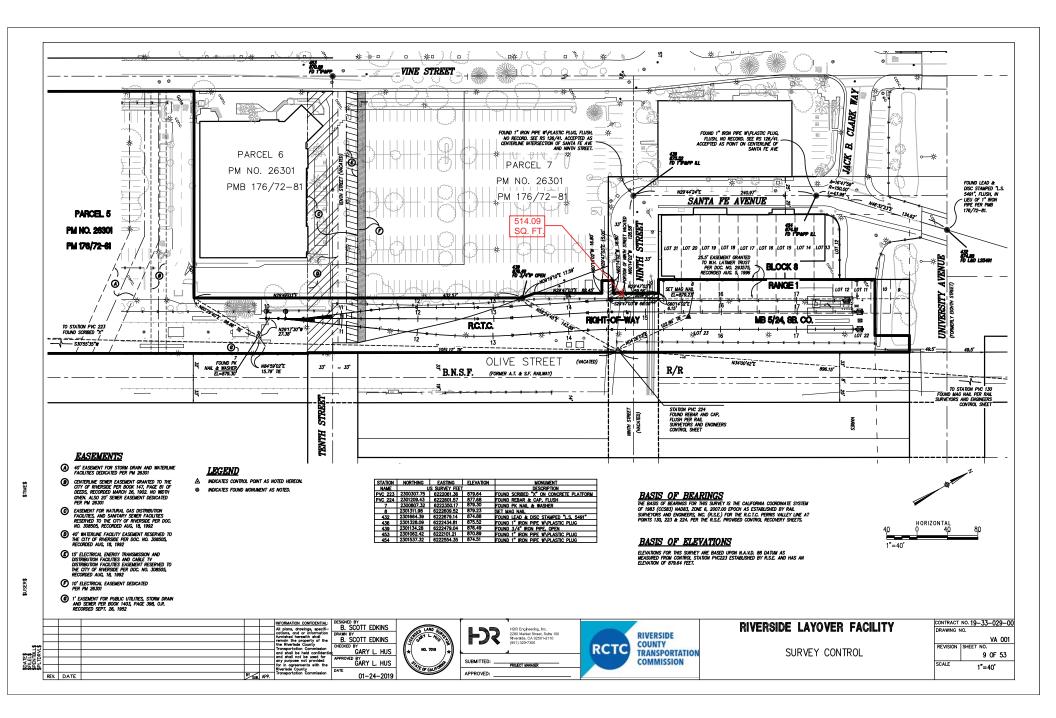
P19-0353, Exhibit 2 - Location Map



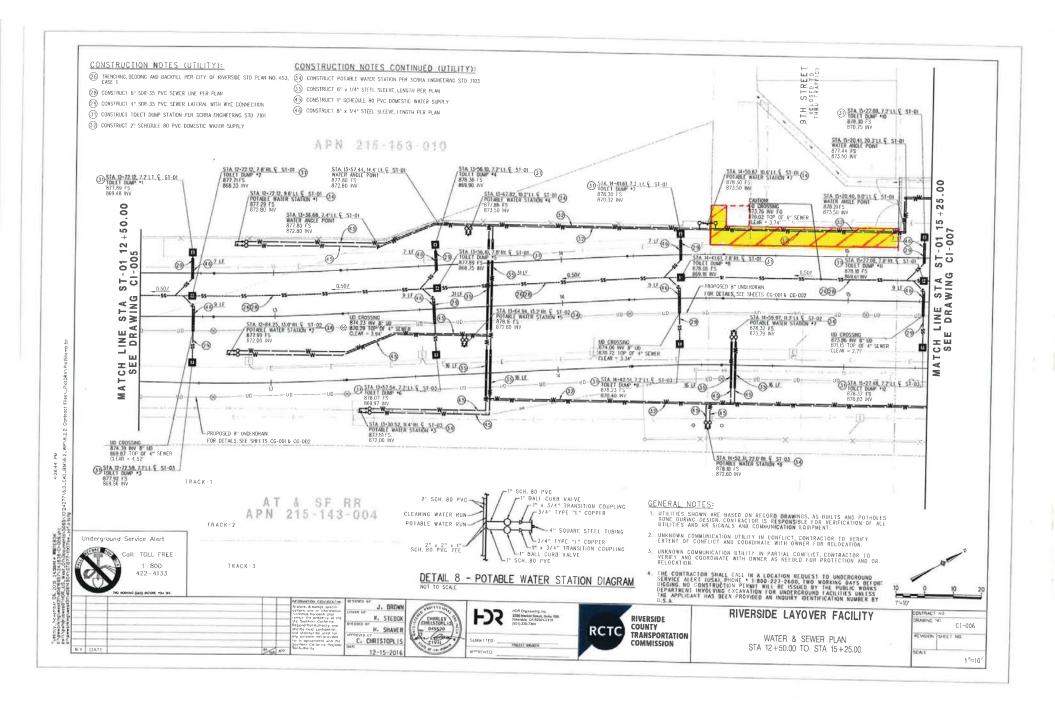
P19-0353, Exhibit 3 - General Plan Map



P19-0353, Exhibit 4 - Zoning and Specific Plan Map



P19-0353, Exhibit 5 - Project Plans



P19-0353, Exhibit 5 - Project Plans

EXHIBIT A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

That certain real property located in the City of Riverside, County of Riverside, State of California, described as follows:

That portion of 9th Street, 66.00 feet in width, adjoining Block 8 and Block 9 in Range 1 of the Riverside Fruit Company's Subdivision, as shown on map on file in Book 5, Page 24 of Maps, Records of San Bernardino County, California, also being a portion of 9th Street as shown on Parcel Map No. 26301, as shown by map on file in Book 176 Pages 72 through 81 of Parcel Maps, Records of Riverside County, California, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the most Westerly corner of that portion of 9th Street Vacated by Riverside City Council Resolution No. 22209, recorded October 24, 2013, as document No. 2013-0507352 of Official Records of Riverside County, California; thence along the Southwesterly right-of-way line of 9th Street, being 66 feet wide, North 60°14'02" West. 22.95 feet; thence leaving said Southwesterly line, North 29°47'03" East, 6.44 feet: thence South 60°14'02" East, 16.80 feet; thence North 29°47'03" East, 59.56 feet to a point on the Northeasterly right-of-way line of said 9th Street; thence along said Northeasterly right-of-way line, South 60°14'02" East, 6.15 feet to the Northwest line of said portion of 9th Street vacated; thence along said Northwest line, South 29°47'03" West. 66.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Said parcel contains 514 square feet, more or less.

08/0 DAVID W. AMBLER

L.S. 7322

DESCRIPTION APPROVAL:

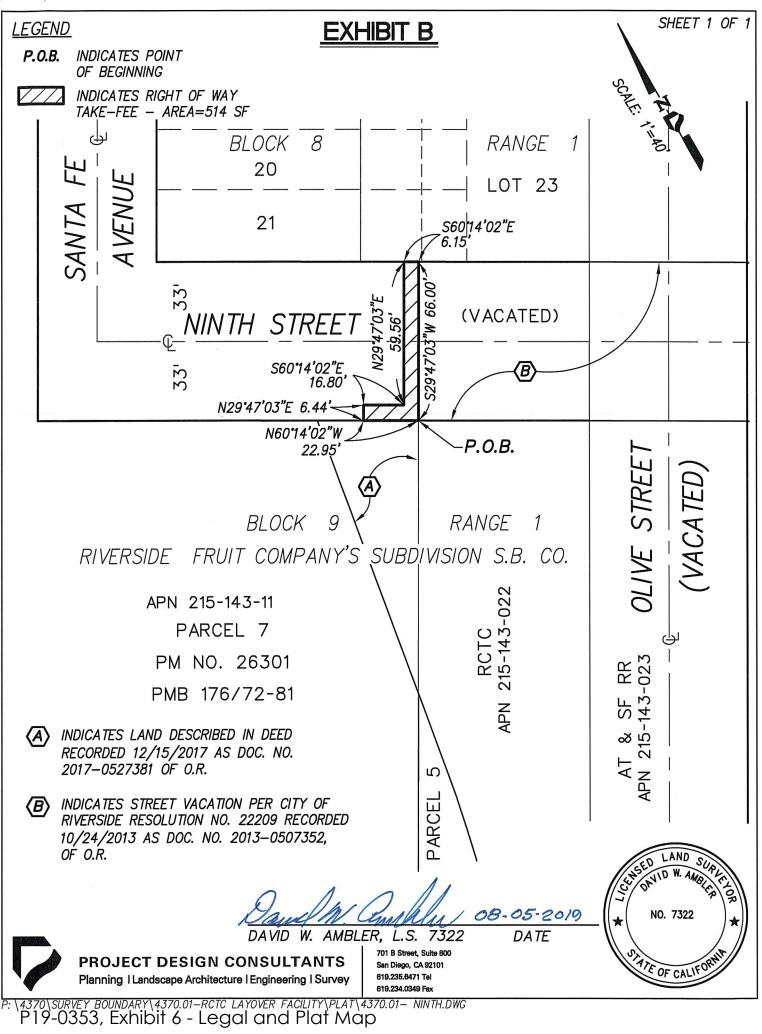
DATE

CURTIS C. STEPHENS, L.S. 7519 CITY SURVEYOR



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P:\4370\Survey Boundary\4370.01-RCTC Layover Facility\Legal\4370.01-RCTC-9th St- Legal.doc P19-0353, Exhibit 6 - Legal and Plat Map



Vacation Portion of Ninth Street



Looking easterly from Ninth Street and Santa Fe Ave



Looking southerly from Ninth Street

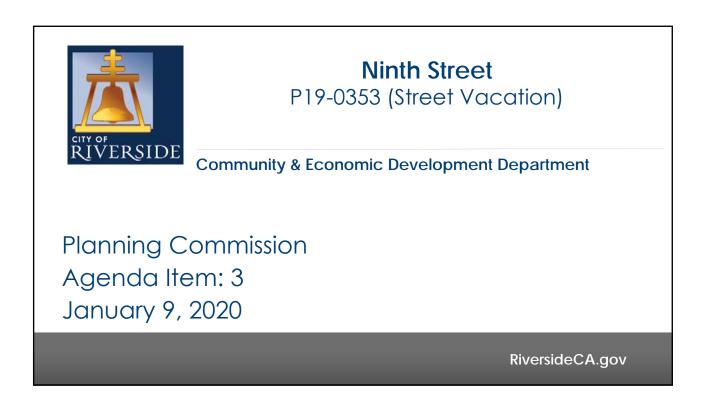
Vacation Portion of Ninth Street

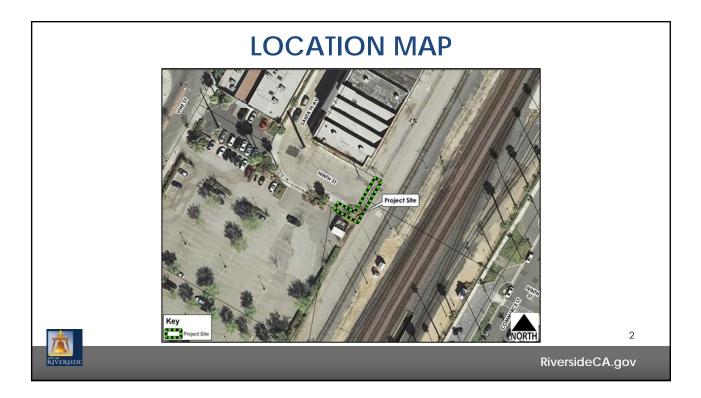


Looking westerly from end of Ninth Street

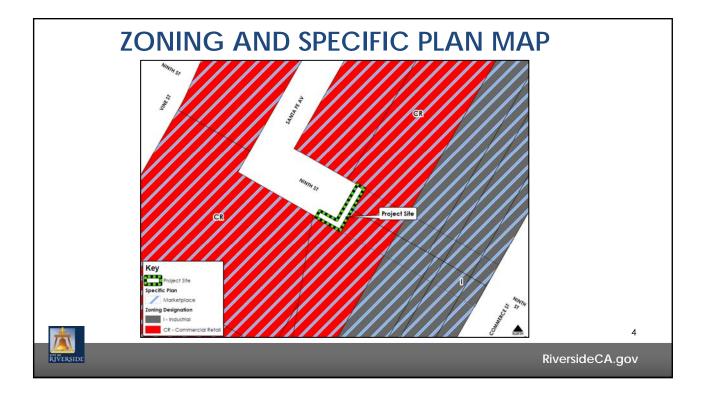


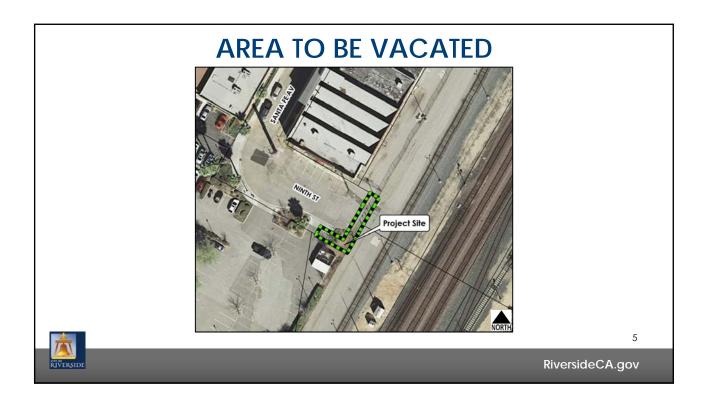
Looking northerly from end of Ninth Street











RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

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- RECOMMEND that the City Council DETERMINE that the proposed project is exempt from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) (Common Sense Rule) of the CEQA Guidelines, as the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 2. **RECOMMEND APPROVAL** of Planning Case P19-0353 (Street Vacation) based on the findings outlined in the staff report and subject to the recommended conditions.

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