School Zone Speed Limit Study Update

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Department of Public Works

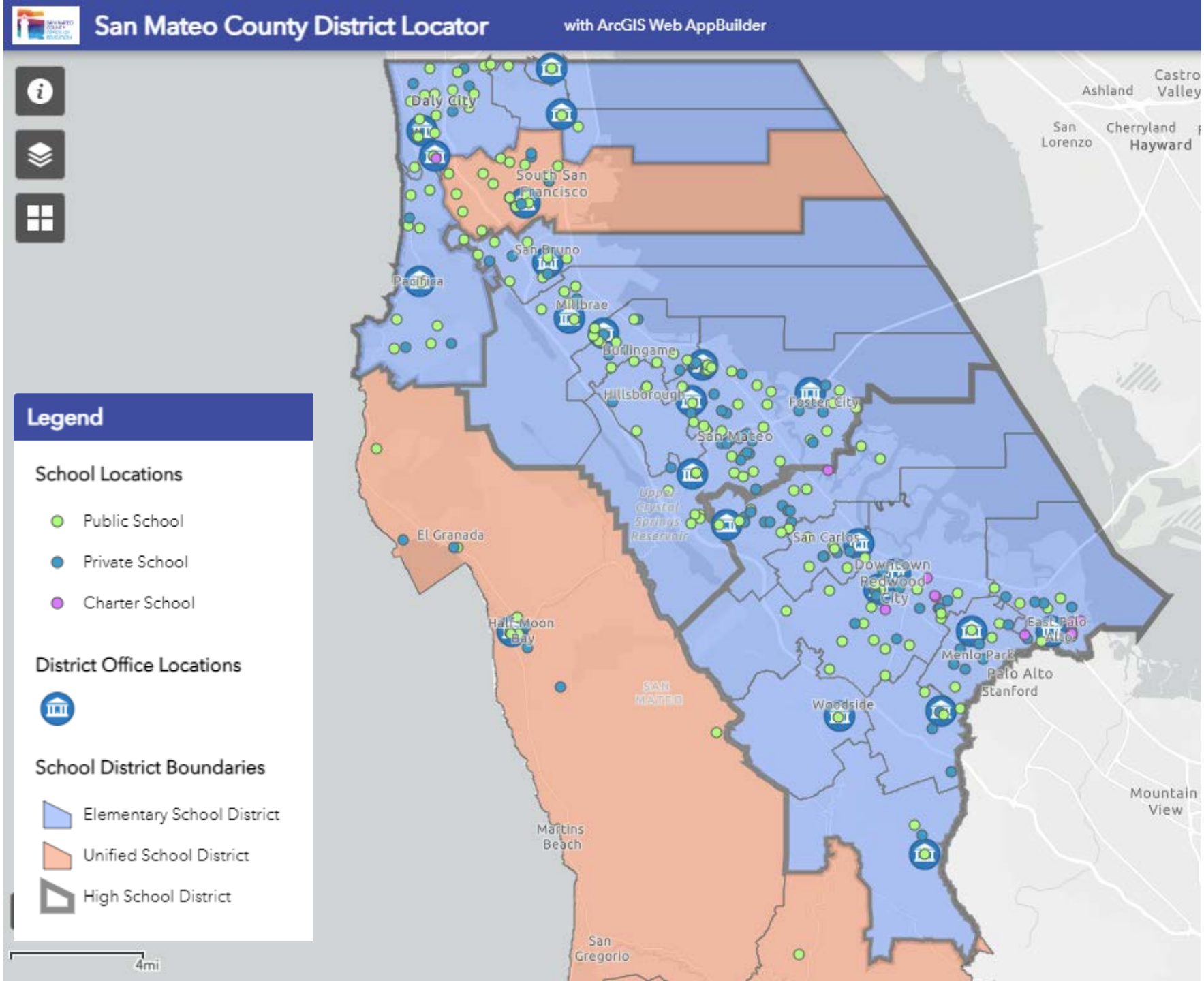
Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
October 16, 2026

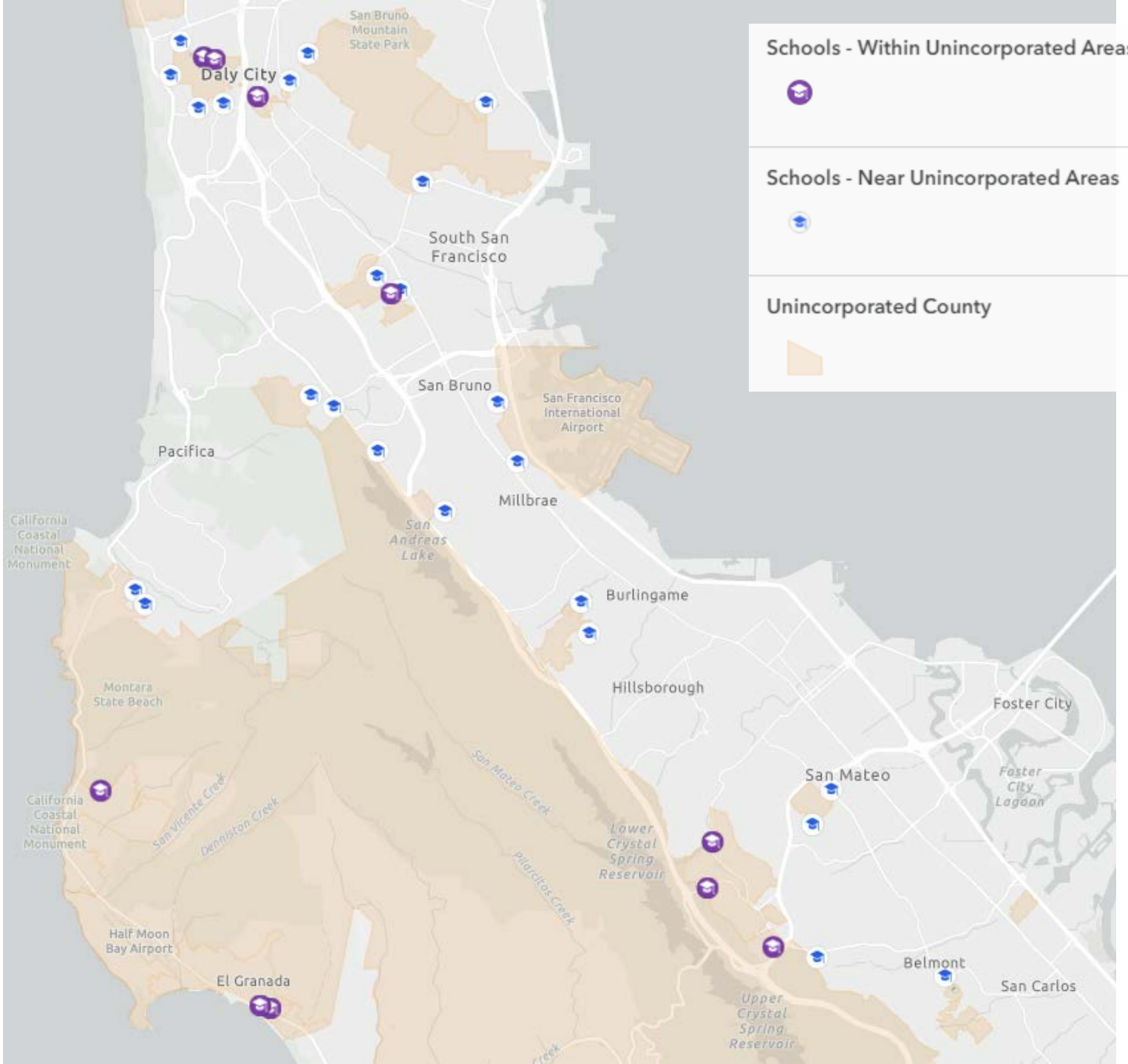
Original Scope from May 2024 Consultant School Zone Study

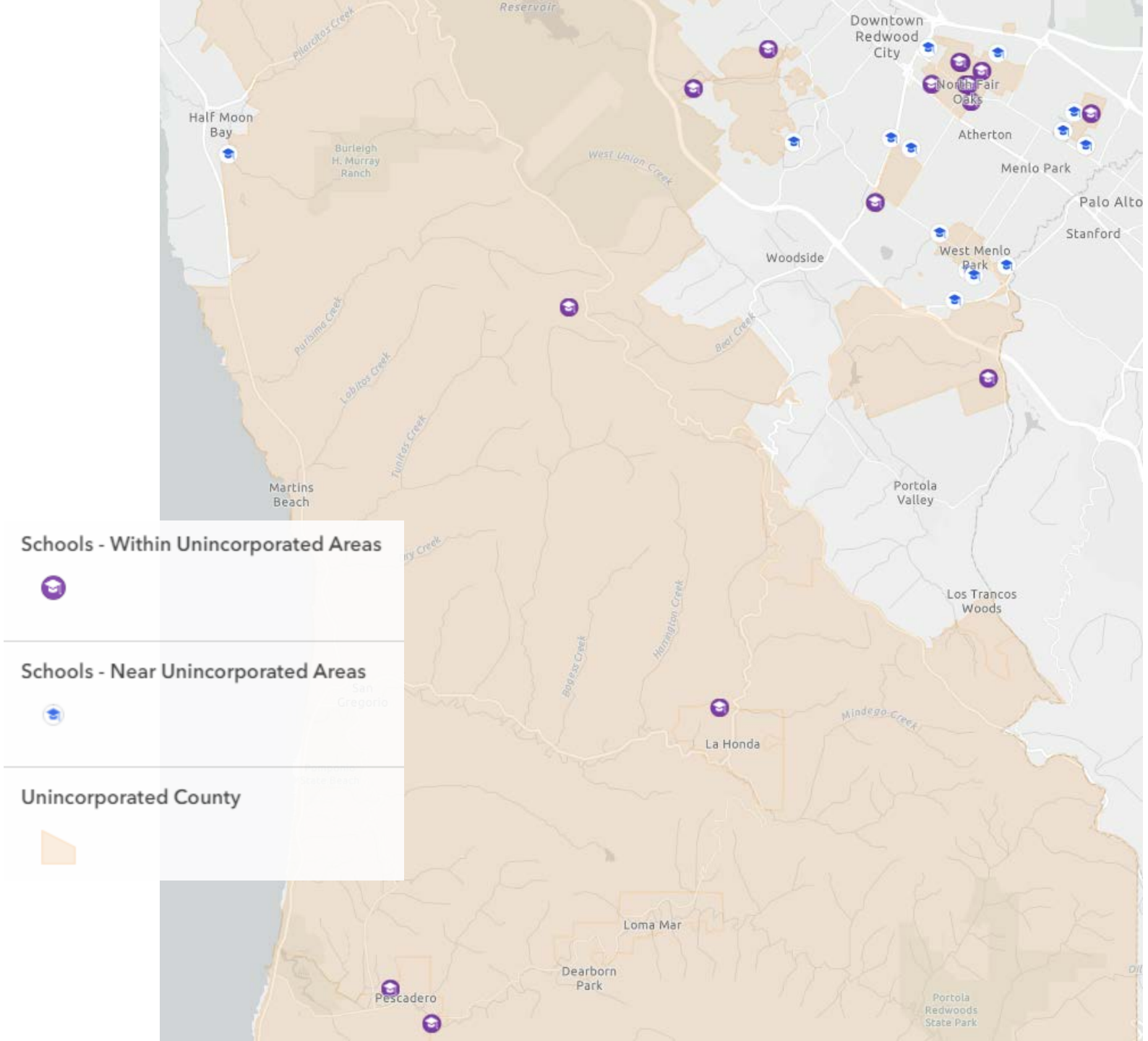
If the Ordinance is amended, the Department of Public Works will utilize a consultant to conduct a School Zone Study in the unincorporated areas of the County.

- Anticipate 9-12 months to complete
- Assess schools in 23 districts and 1 community college district in San Mateo County
- Develop a plan to identify qualified school zones and assess efforts needed by County to coordinate with neighboring agencies, schools, and school districts
- Determine criteria for prioritizing implementation of proposed changes
- Deliver a final Study Report

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO


San Mateo County District Locator
with ArcGIS Web AppBuilder
Legend
School Locations
Public School
Private School
Charter School
District Office Locations
School District Boundaries
Elementary School District
Unified School District
High School District
4mi
Daly City
South San Francisco
San Bruno
Pacifica
Millbrae
Burlingame
Hillsborough
Foster City
San Mateo
El Granada
San Carlos
Downtown Redwood City
Half Moon Bay
Menlo Park
Palo Alto
Stanford
Woodside
Martins Beach
San Gregorio
Mountain View
Ashland
Castro Valley
San Lorenzo
Cherryland
Hayward


Schools - Within Unincorporated Areas
Schools - Near Unincorporated Areas
Unincorporated County
San Bruno Mountain State Park
Daly City
South San Francisco
San Bruno
San Francisco International Airport
Pacifica
Millbrae
California Coastal National Monument
San Andreas Lake
Burlingame
Montara State Beach
Hillsborough
Foster City
San Mateo
Foster City Lagoon
San Mateo Creek
San Vicente Creek
Denniston Creek
Lower Crystal Spring Reservoir
Pilarcitos Creek
Half Moon Bay Airport
El Granada
Belmont
San Carlos
Upper Crystal Spring Reservoir


Schools - Within Unincorporated Areas
Schools - Near Unincorporated Areas
Unincorporated County
Downtown Redwood City
North Fair Oaks
Atherton
Menlo Park
Palo Alto
Stanford
West Menlo Park
Woodside
Half Moon Bay
Burleigh H. Murray Ranch
Martins Beach
Portola Valley
Los Trancos Woods
La Honda
Loma Mar
Dearborn Park
Pescadero
Portola Redwoods State Park
Pilarcitos Creek
West Union Creek
Purisima Creek
Lobitos Creek
Tunitas Creek
Bear Creek
Bogess Creek
Harrington Creek
Mindego Creek

Task	Original Schedule	Anticipated Completion
1. Project Initiation	May 2025	May 2025
2. Ex. Cond. School Zones	May - Sept 2025	DRAFT
3. Ex. Cond. Non-School Zones	May - Sept 2025	DRAFT
4. Speed Limit Crit. and Prioritization	July - Oct 2025	DRAFT Ongoing
TASK ORDER 4 – E&TS	**--- New Task ---**	**Ongoing**
5. Admin Draft, Draft Speed Limit Study	Nov – Feb 2026	Feb 2027
6. AB413 Daylighting Decision Matrix	April – Sept 2025	DRAFT
7. Safety Corridor Analysis	Jan – April 2026	TBD
8. Pilot Program – Farallone View Elem	Spring 2026	TBD
Meetings, Project Admin	Ongoing	Ongoing

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

4. Speed Limit Criteria and Prioritization

- Safety – High Injury Network Segments from Unincorporated San Mateo Local Road Safety Plan (LRSP)
- Equity Priority Areas (MTC)
- Existing Speed limits above 25 MPH
- E&TS Needed?
  - Radar enforceable
- Proximity to Schools (School Zones)
- Other Land Uses
  - Playground, Business Activity District
  - AB382, AB43
- Ease of Implementation (Non-School Zones)
- Multi-jurisdictional boundaries

Prioritization Criteria developed with an engineering lens that is defensible in the court of law

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Task Order 4: Engineering & Traffic Survey

- 47 Roadway Segments
- Requested by Sheriff's Office and California Highway Patrol (CHP) and segments prioritized and identified from Task 2 & 3
- Volume, Land Use and Classification, Character, Collisions, 85th Percentile Speed
- Determine which segments can be radar-enforced without an E&TS
  - Local Streets
  - Business Activity District
- E&TS wet signed, stamped, and sealed by a licensed professional civil or traffic engineer.
- Validates currently posted speed limits and ensures that the County is posting the most effective and appropriate school zone speed limit
- The E&TS provides highest level of defensibility in court of law

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Case Study: Canada Road

Public Road Functional Classification

F_System

- Interstate
- Principal Arterial - Other Freeways and Expressways
- Principal Arterial - Other
- Minor Arterial
- Major Collector
- Minor Collector
- Local

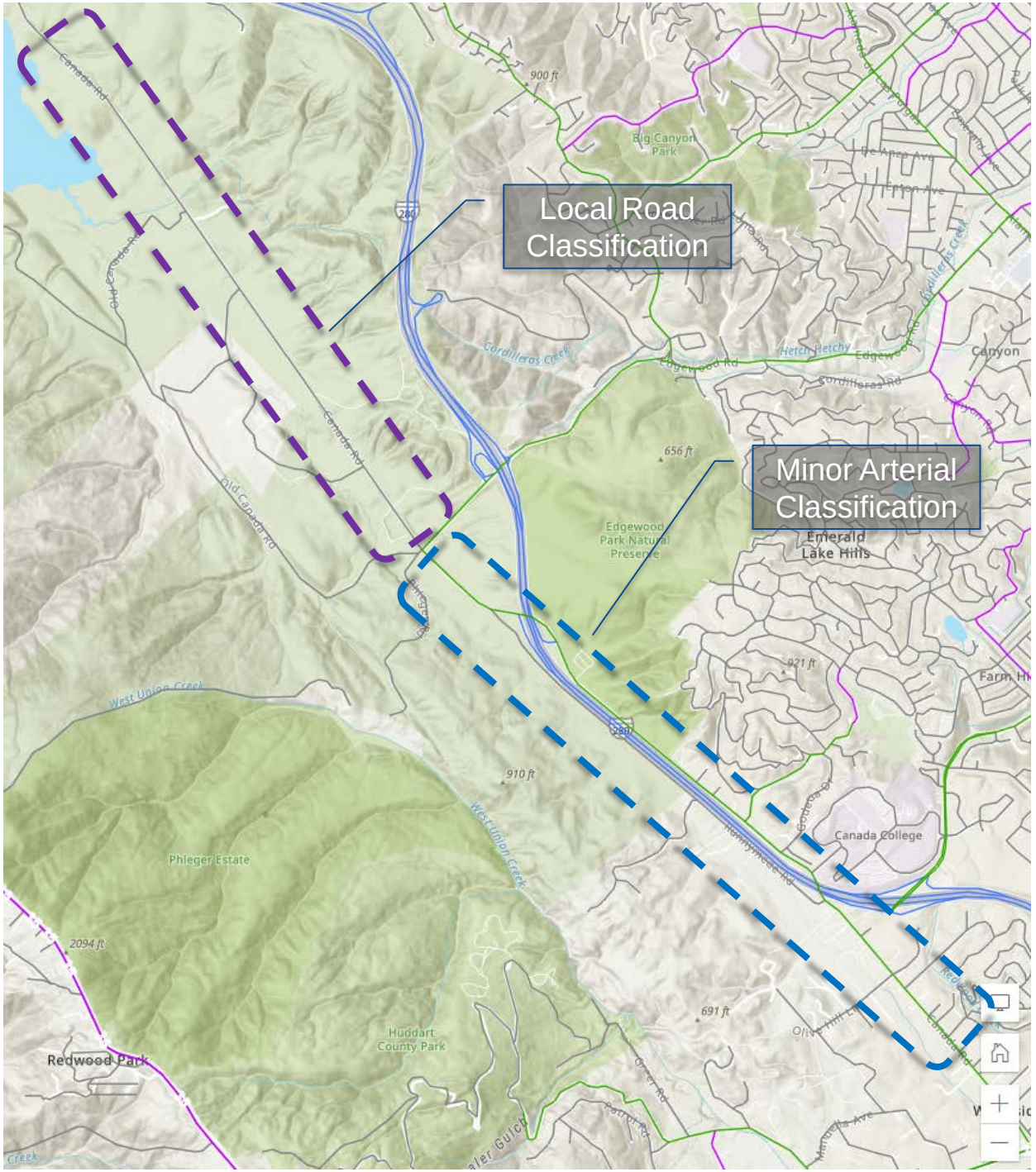
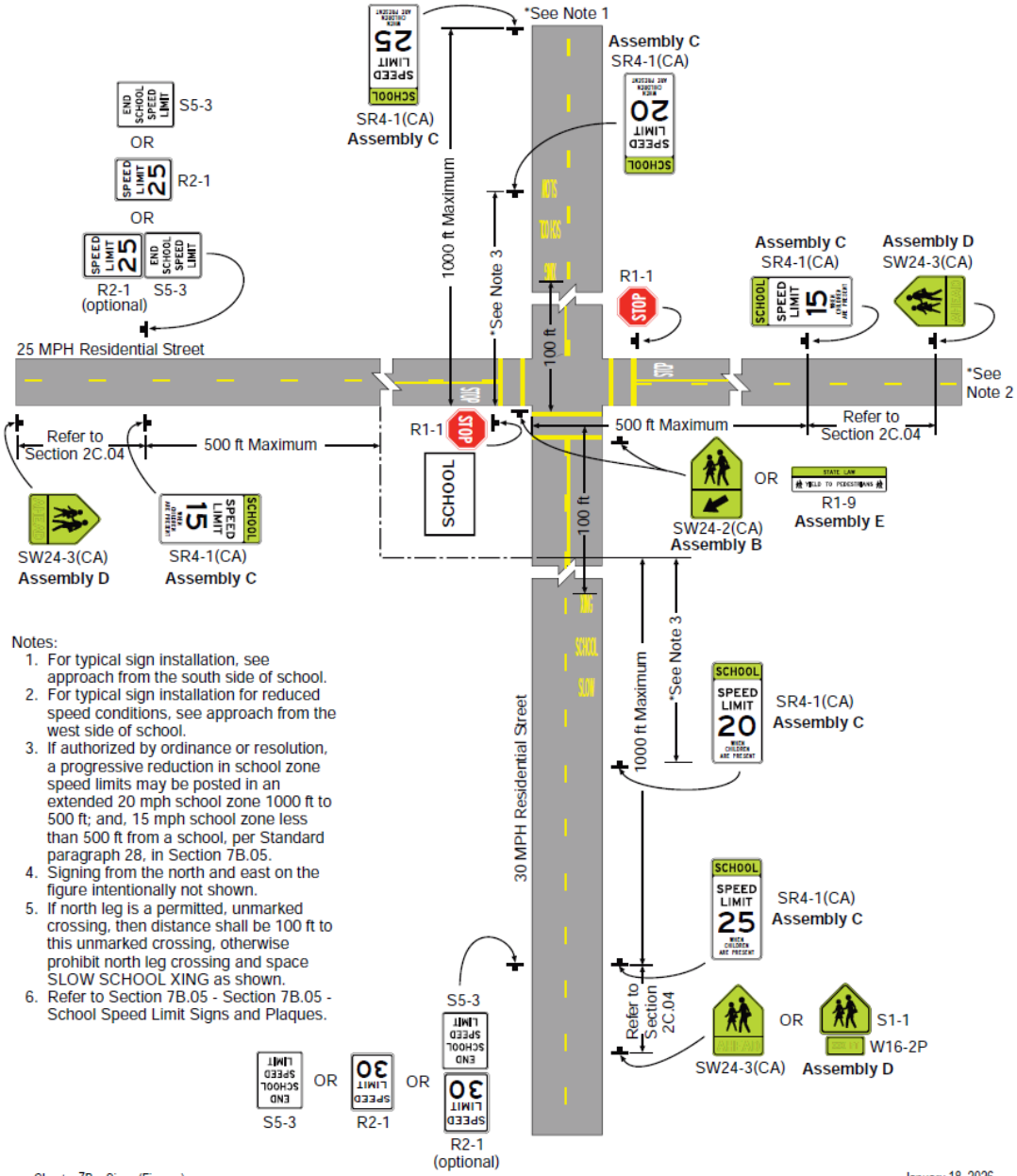


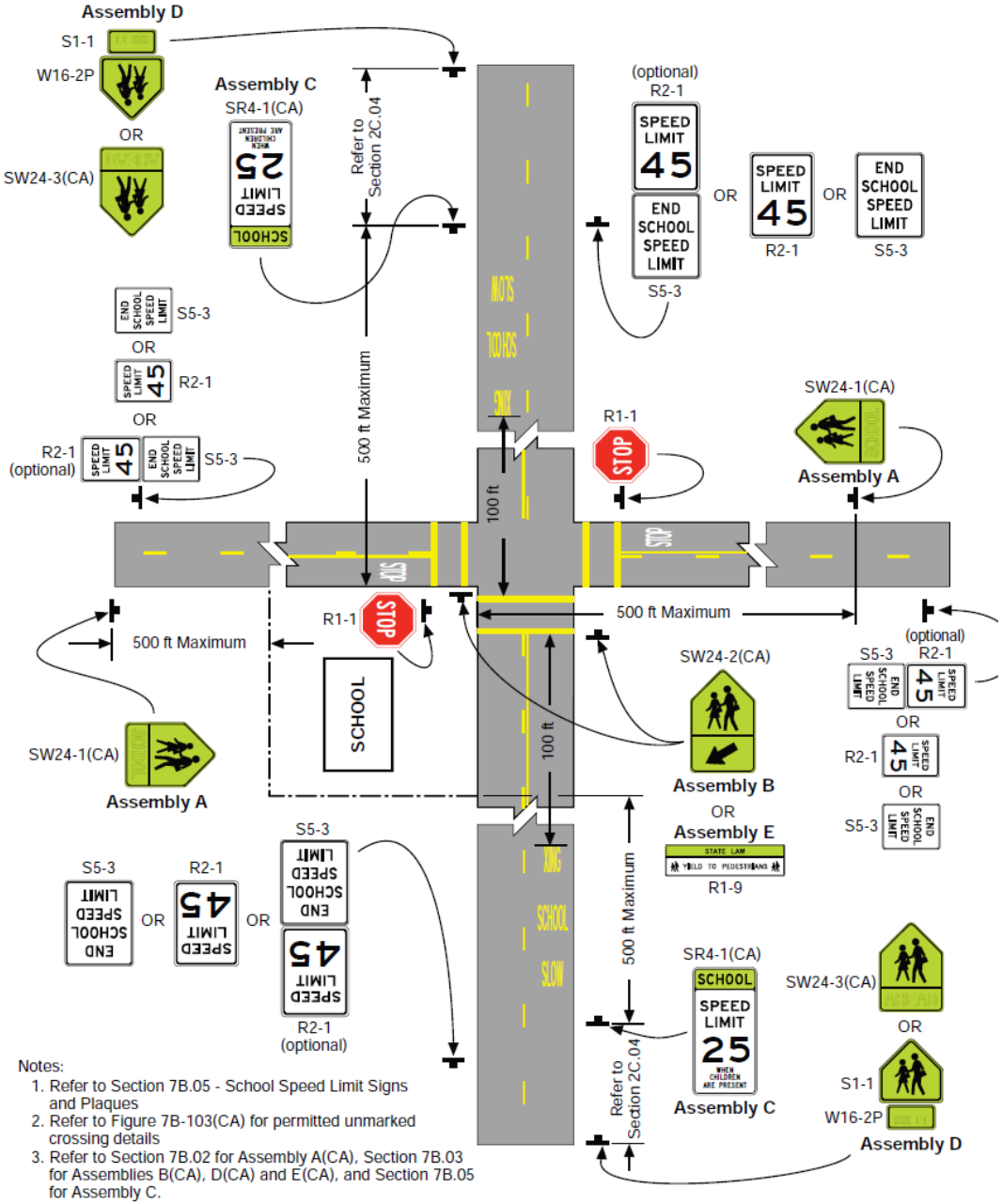
Figure 7B-103(CA). Example of Signing for School Area Traffic Control with Extended and/or Reduced School Zone Speed Limits



Notes:

1. For typical sign installation, see approach from the south side of school.
2. For typical sign installation for reduced speed conditions, see approach from the west side of school.
3. If authorized by ordinance or resolution, a progressive reduction in school zone speed limits may be posted in an extended 20 mph school zone 1000 ft to 500 ft; and, 15 mph school zone less than 500 ft from a school, per Standard paragraph 28, in Section 7B.05.
4. Signing from the north and east on the figure intentionally not shown.
5. If north leg is a permitted, unmarked crossing, then distance shall be 100 ft to this unmarked crossing, otherwise prohibit north leg crossing and space SLOW SCHOOL XING as shown.
6. Refer to Section 7B.05 - Section 7B.05 - School Speed Limit Signs and Plaques.

Figure 7B-2(CA). Example of Signing for a School Zone with a School Speed Limit and a School Crossing



Notes:

1. Refer to Section 7B.05 - School Speed Limit Signs and Plaques
2. Refer to Figure 7B-103(CA) for permitted unmarked crossing details
3. Refer to Section 7B.02 for Assembly A(CA), Section 7B.03 for Assemblies B(CA), D(CA) and E(CA), and Section 7B.05 for Assembly C.

Next Steps

- Finalize and Complete E&TS
- Finalize Speed Limit Criteria and Prioritization
  – Draft received March 2026
- Admin Draft, Draft Speed Limit Study Report
  – Completion aiming for Feb 2027
- Compete and apply for funding for design and implementation of school zones

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Lessons Learned

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Los Lomitas Elementary

Town of Atherton | County of San Mateo

Las Lomitas Elementary | Town of Atherton

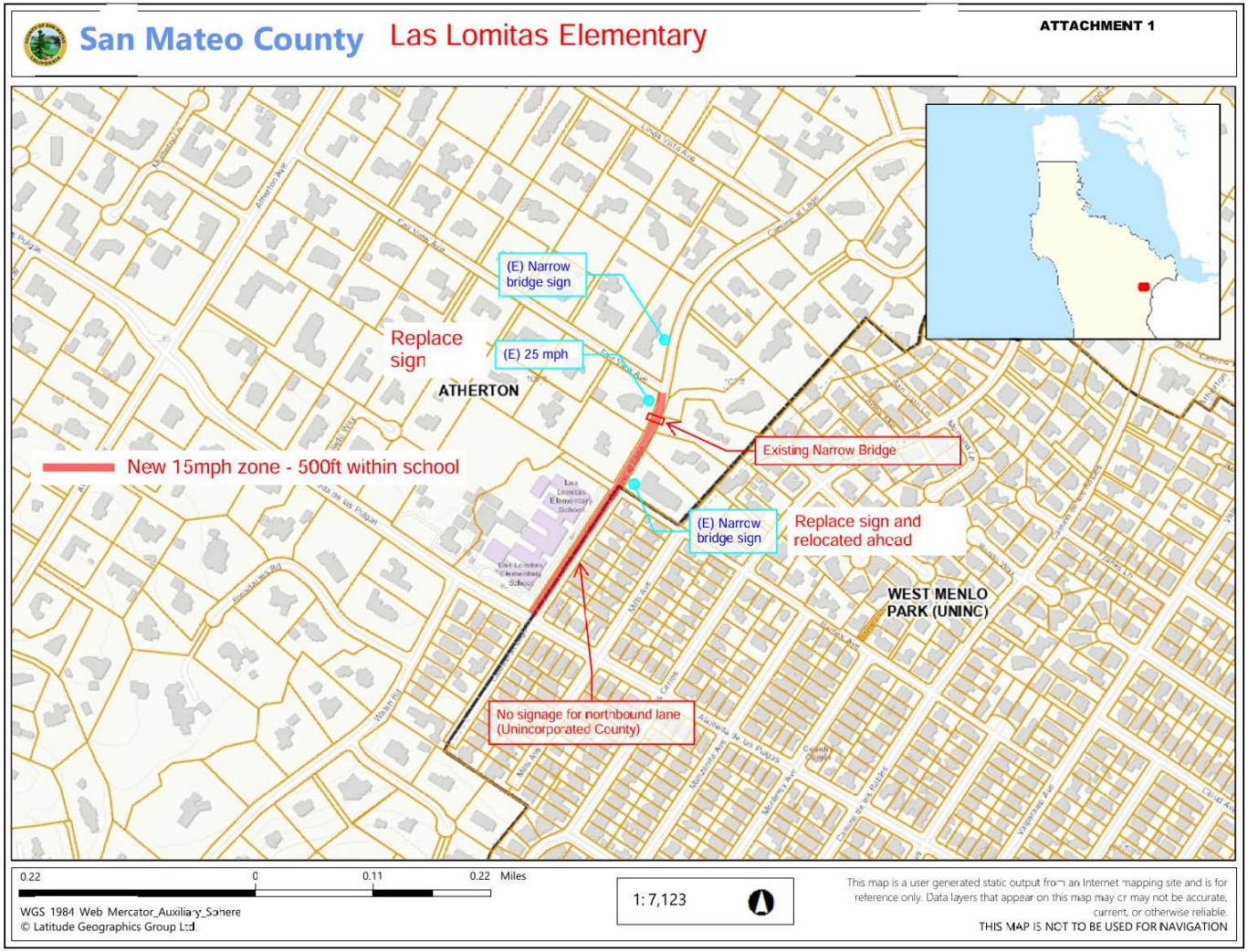
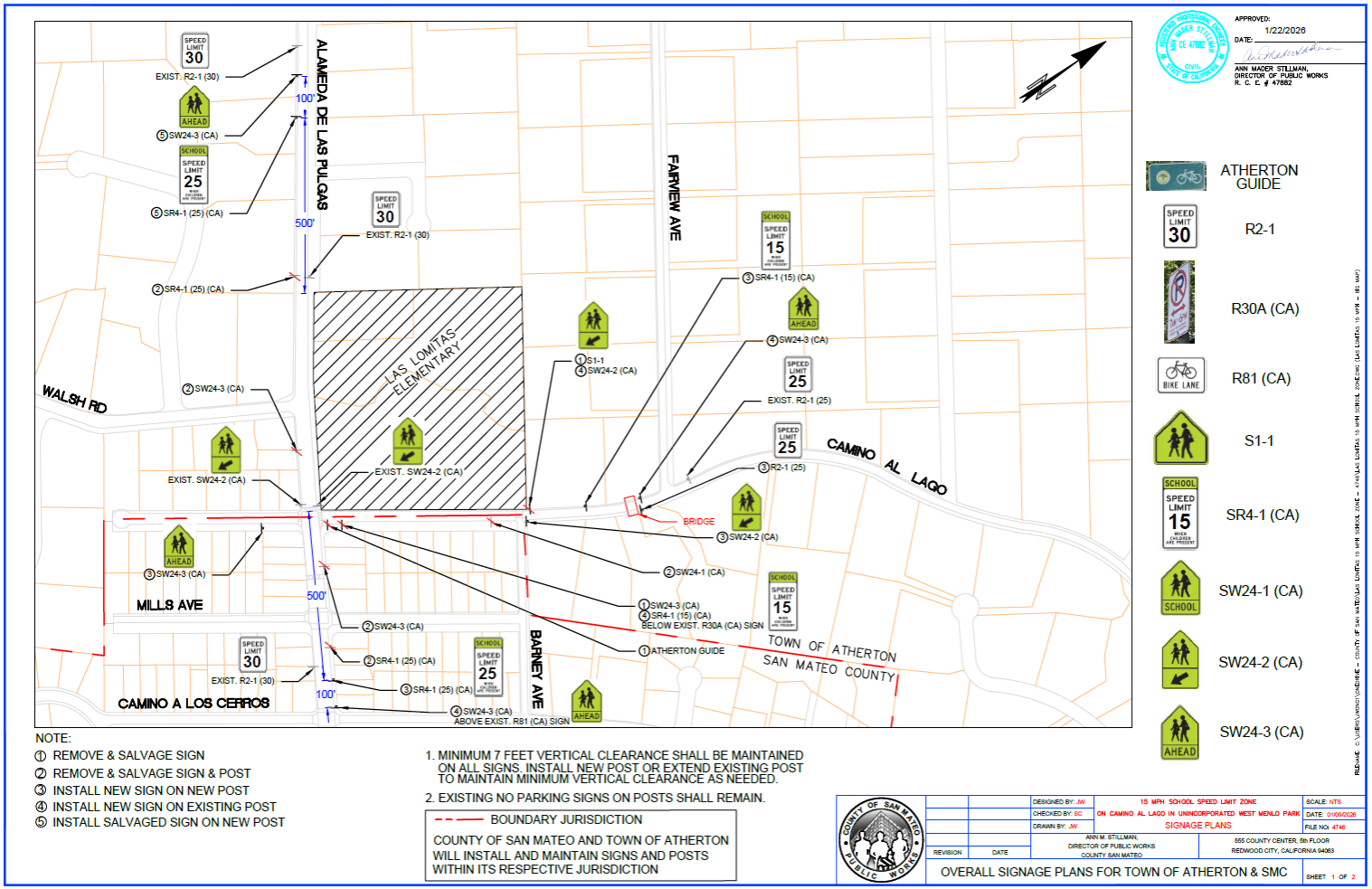


Exhibit presented to Town of Atherton City Council

Existing Speed Limits & Recommendation



Las Lomitas Elementary | Town of Atherton



NOTE:
① REMOVE & SALVAGE SIGN
② REMOVE & SALVAGE SIGN & POST
③ INSTALL NEW SIGN ON NEW POST
④ INSTALL NEW SIGN ON EXISTING POST
⑤ INSTALL SALVAGED SIGN ON NEW POST

1. MINIMUM 7 FEET VERTICAL CLEARANCE SHALL BE MAINTAINED ON ALL SIGNS. INSTALL NEW POST OR EXTEND EXISTING POST TO MAINTAIN MINIMUM VERTICAL CLEARANCE AS NEEDED.
2. EXISTING NO PARKING SIGNS ON POSTS SHALL REMAIN.

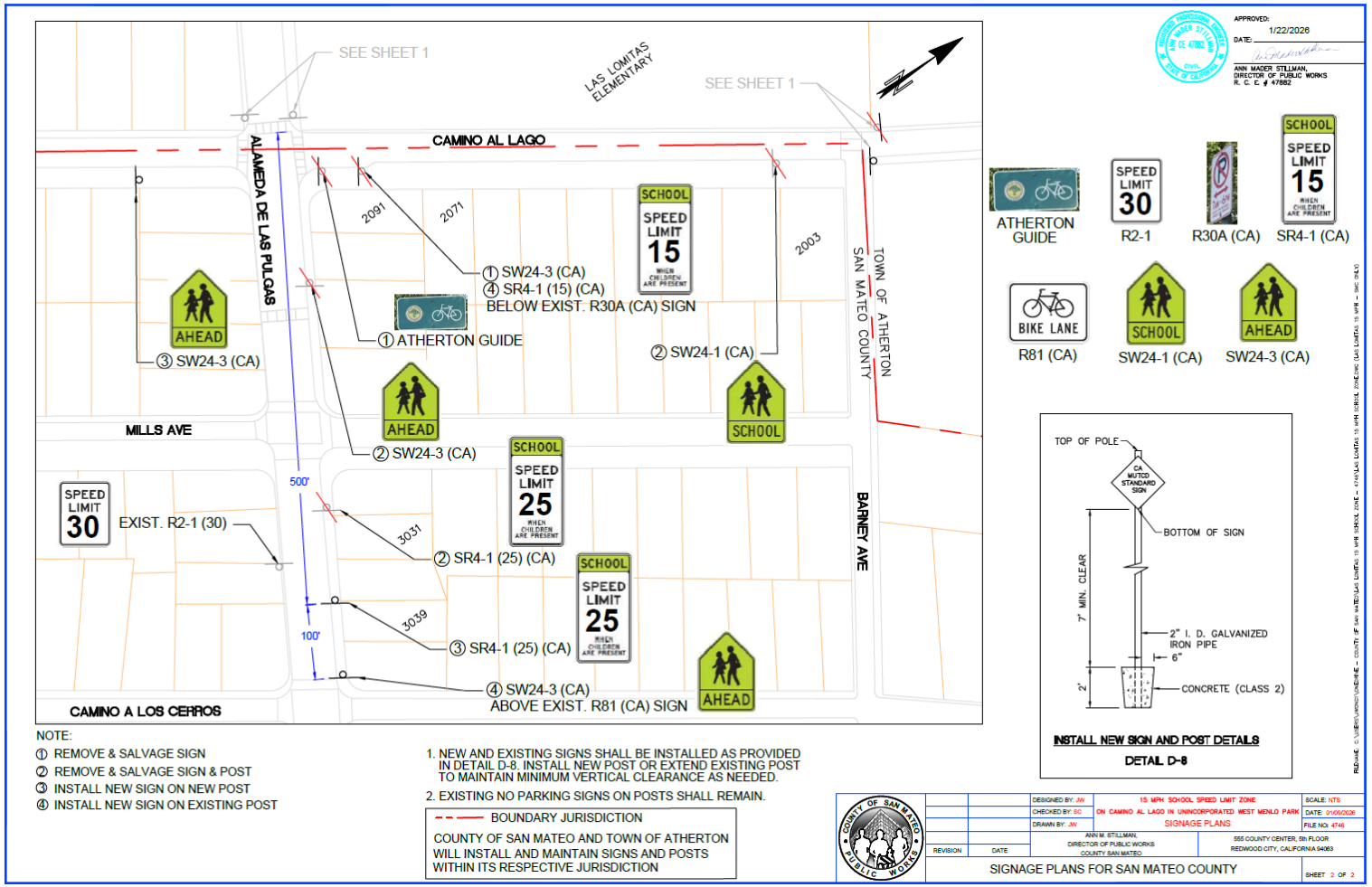
BOUNDARY JURISDICTION

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO AND TOWN OF ATHERTON WILL INSTALL AND MAINTAIN SIGNS AND POSTS WITHIN ITS RESPECTIVE JURISDICTION

DESIGNED BY: JW | CHECKED BY: BC | DRAWN BY: JW
15 MPH SCHOOL SPEED LIMIT ZONE
ON CAMINO AL LAGO IN UNINCORPORATED WEST MENLO PARK
SIGNAGE PLANS
SCALE: NTS | DATE: 01/06/2026 | FILE NO: 4746
ANN M. STILLMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, COUNTY SAN MATEO
555 COUNTY CENTER, 5th FLOOR, REDWOOD CITY, CALIFORNIA 94063
REVISION | DATE
OVERALL SIGNAGE PLANS FOR TOWN OF ATHERTON & SMC
SHEET 1 OF 2

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

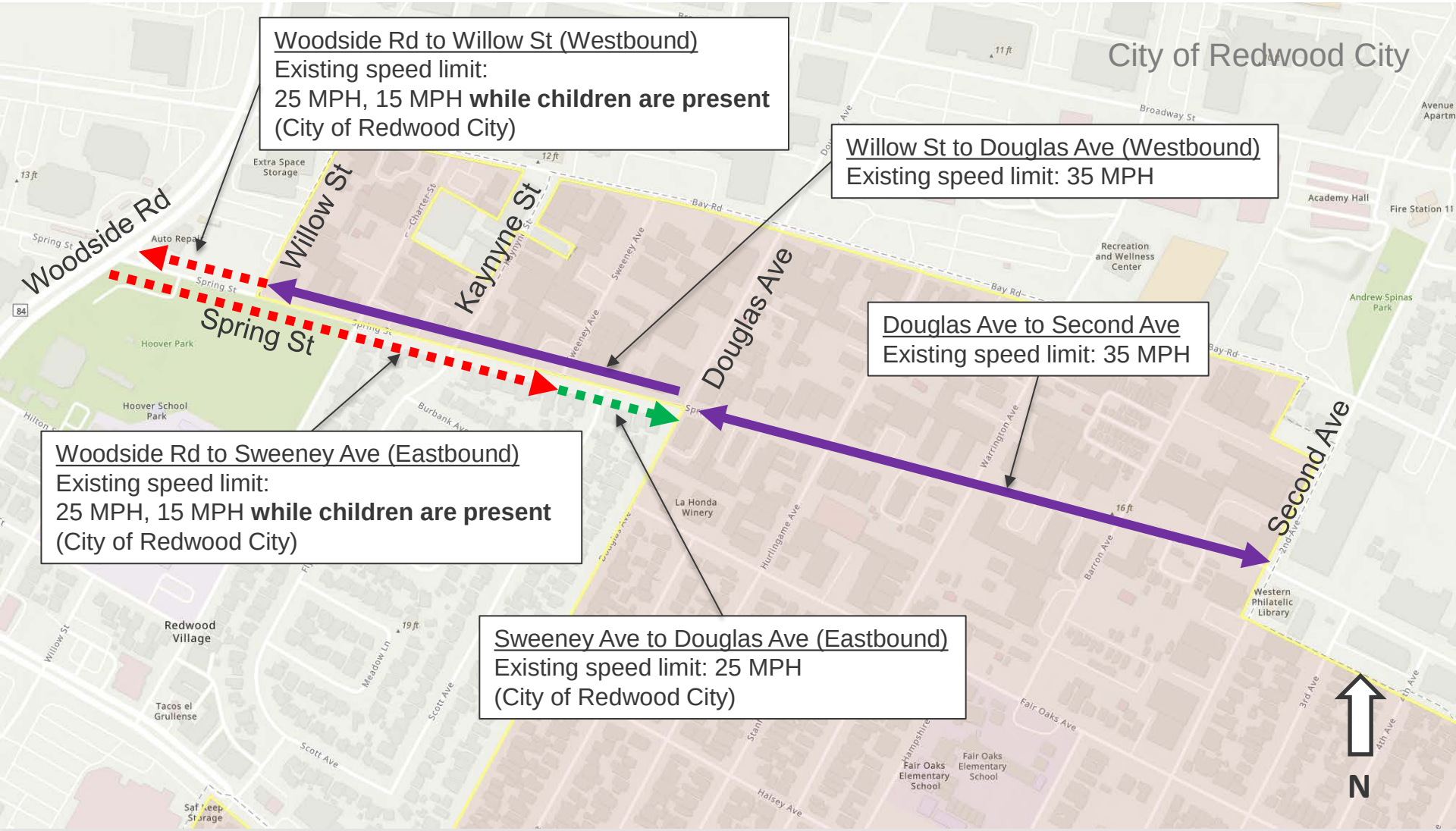
Las Lomitas Elementary | County of San Mateo



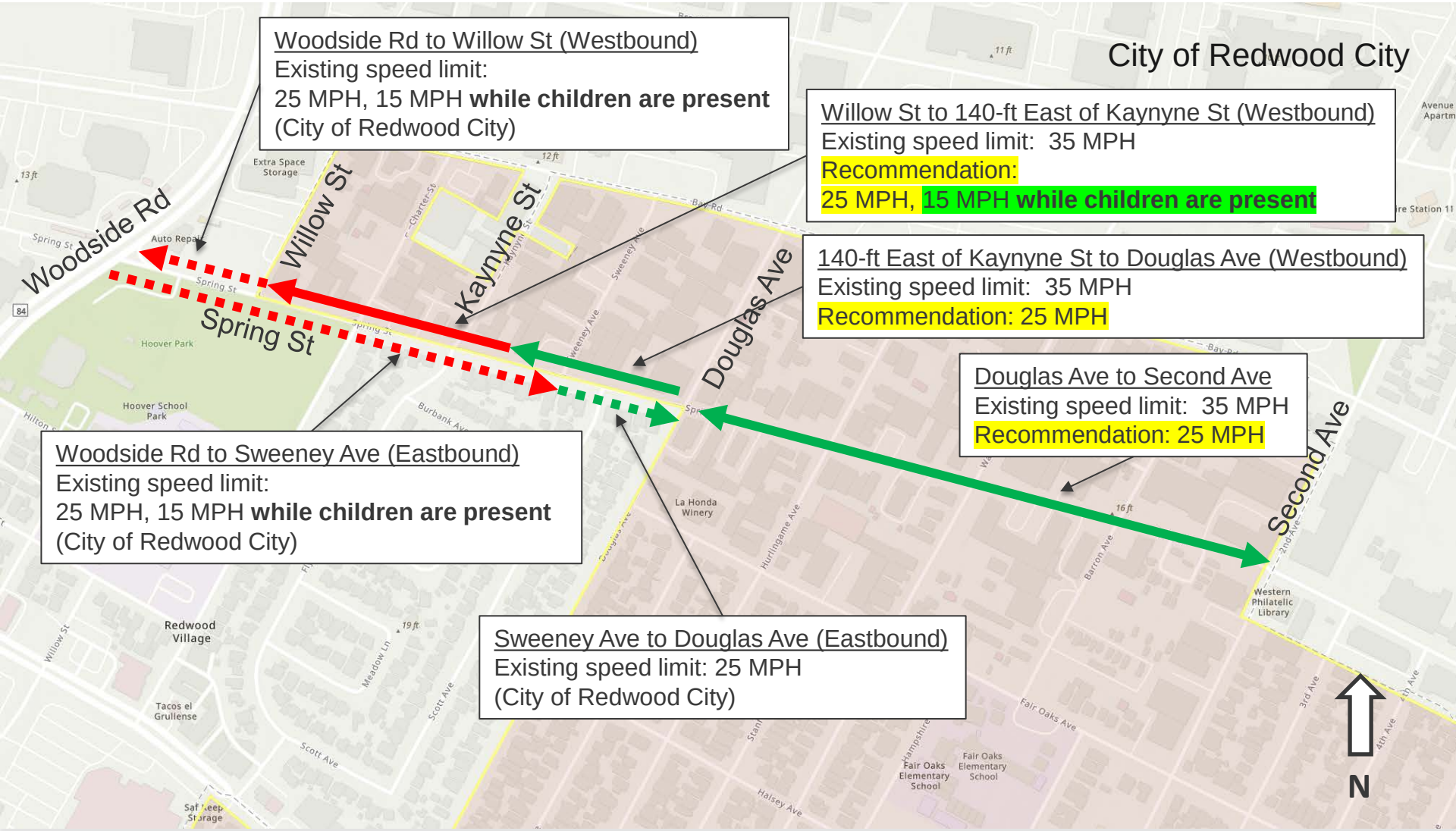
Hoover Elementary School

Redwood City | County of San Mateo

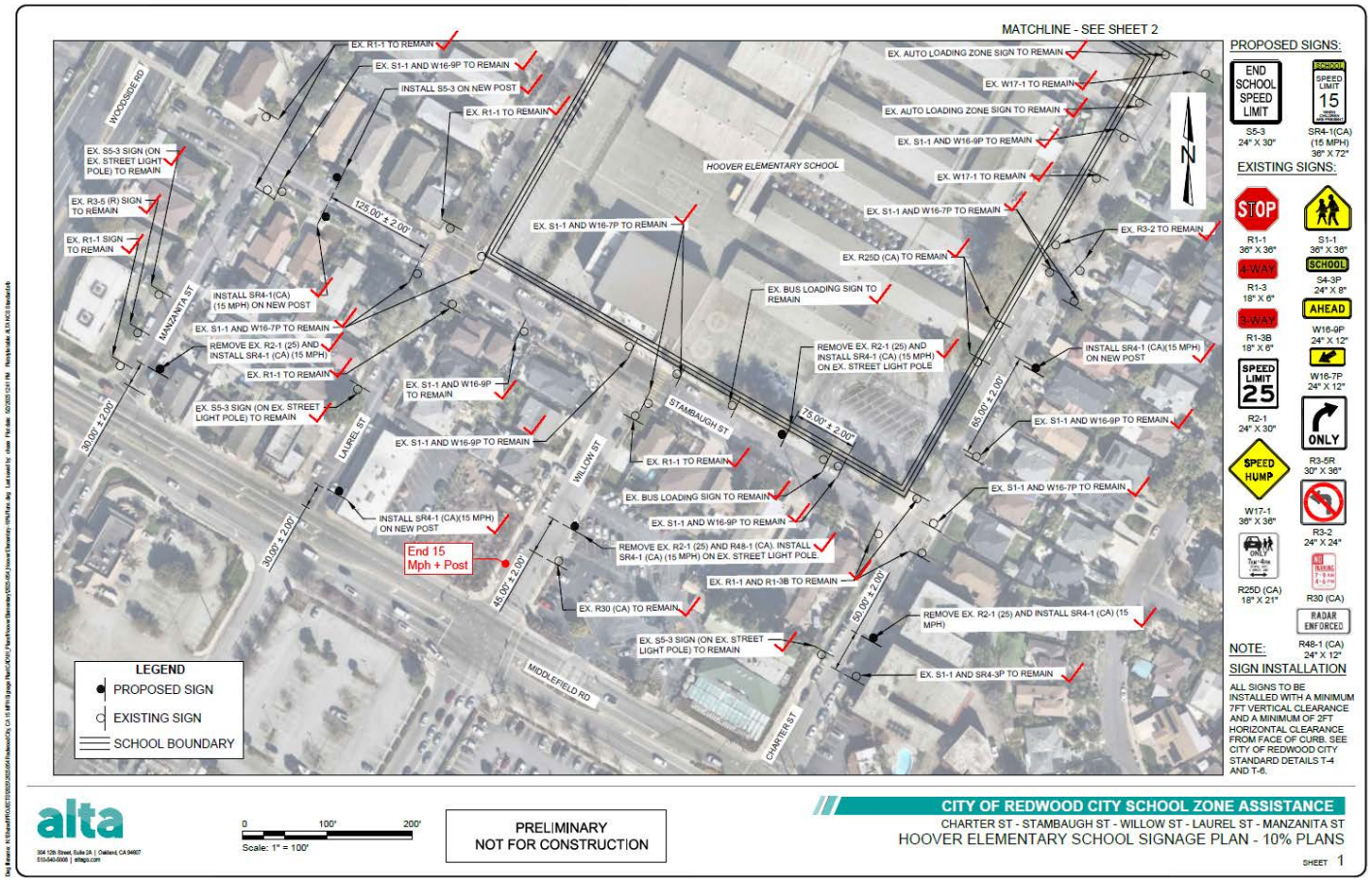
Existing Speed Limits



Existing Speed Limits & Recommendation

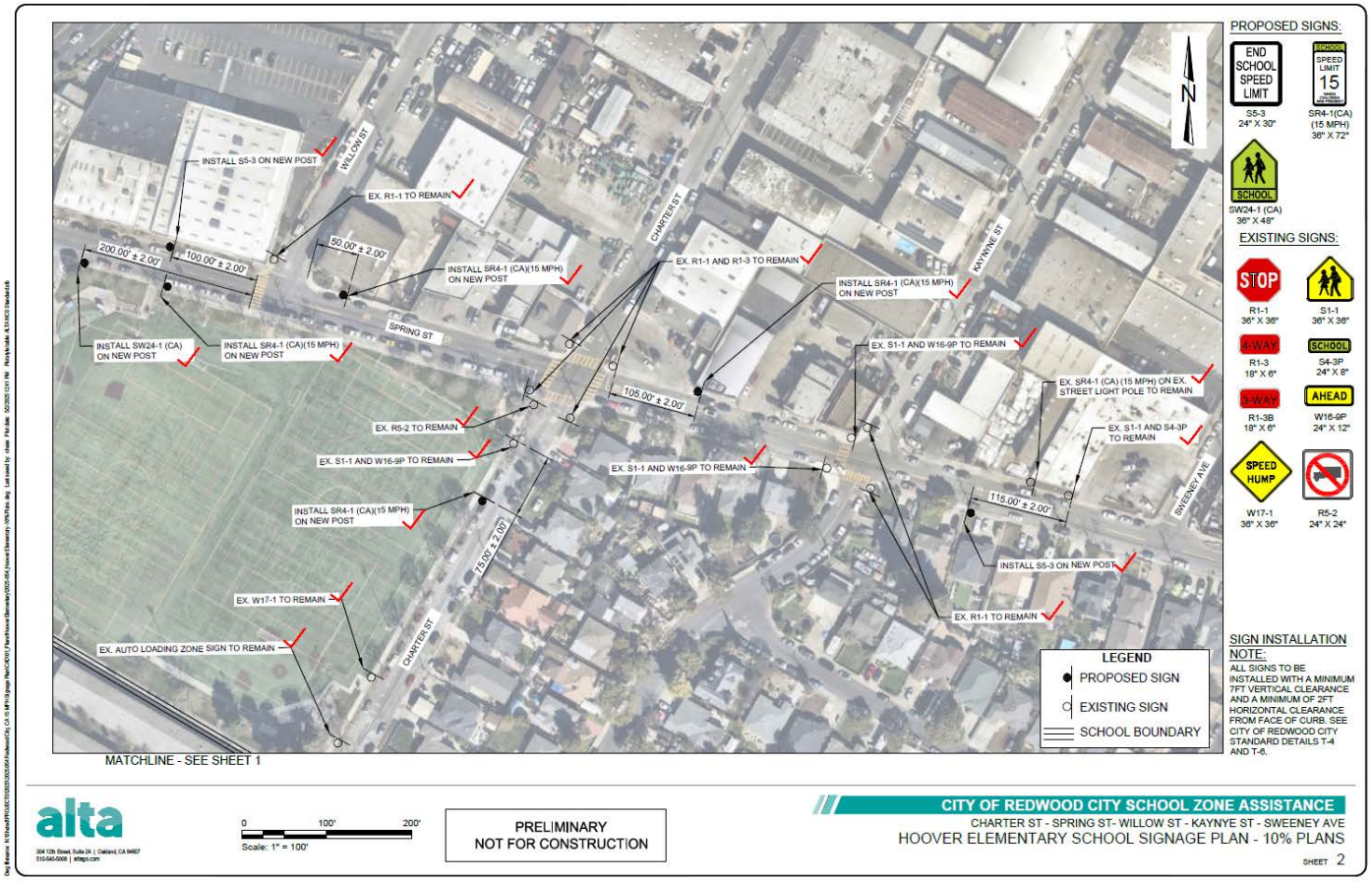


Hoover Elementary | Redwood City



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO CALIFORNIA EST. 1856

Hoover Elementary | Redwood City



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Taft Elementary School

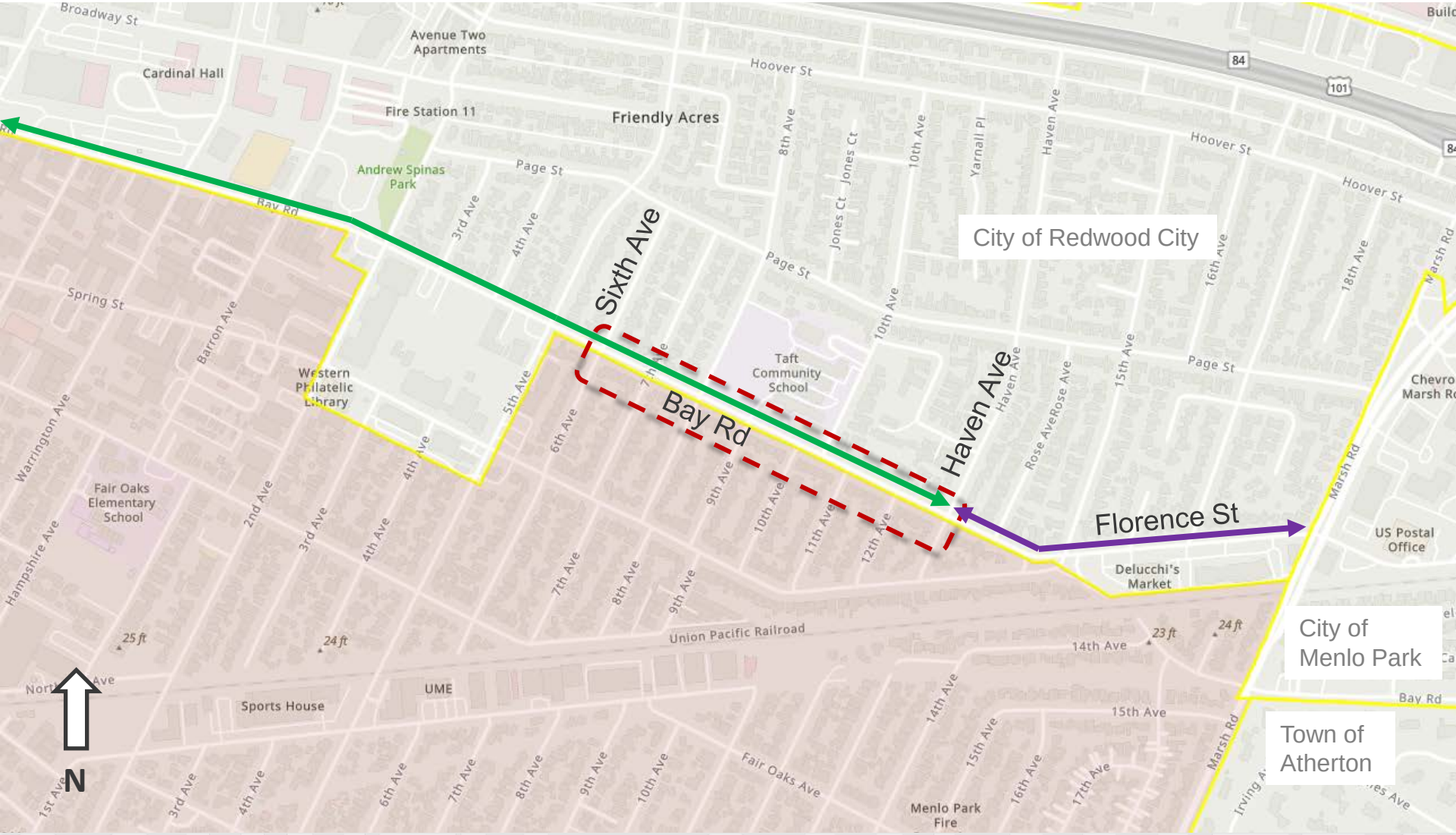
Redwood City | County of San Mateo

Taft Elementary School | Redwood City



Figure 2: Taft Elementary School

Existing Posted Speed Limits



25 MPH

30 MPH

Unincorporated San Mateo County

Recommendation



Taft Elementary School | Redwood City

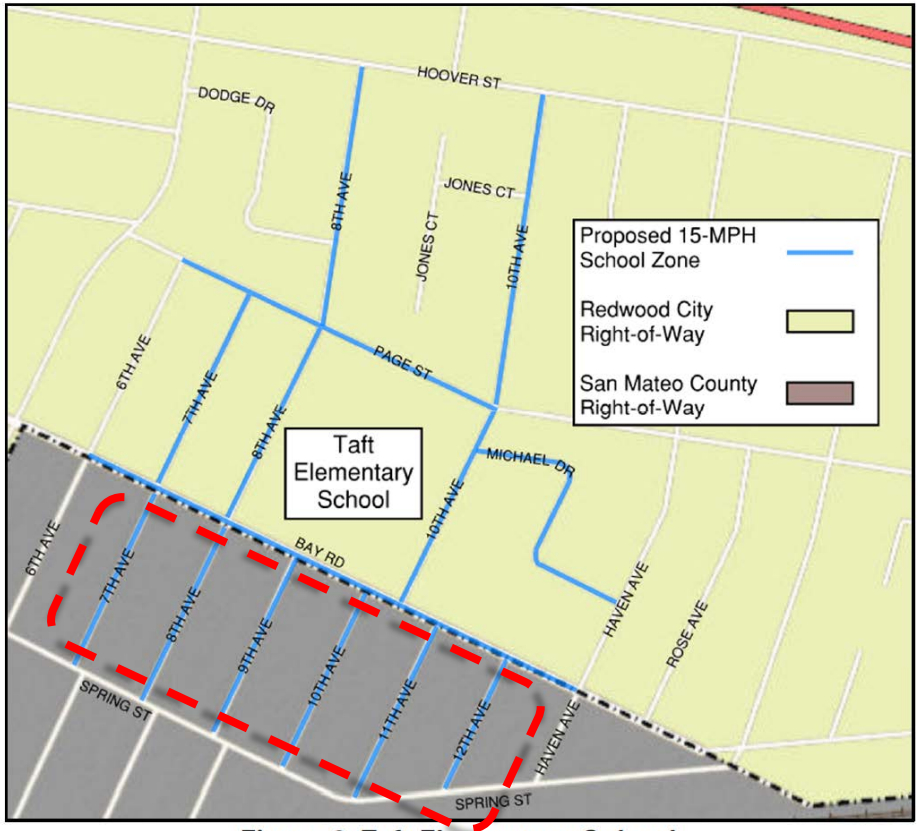
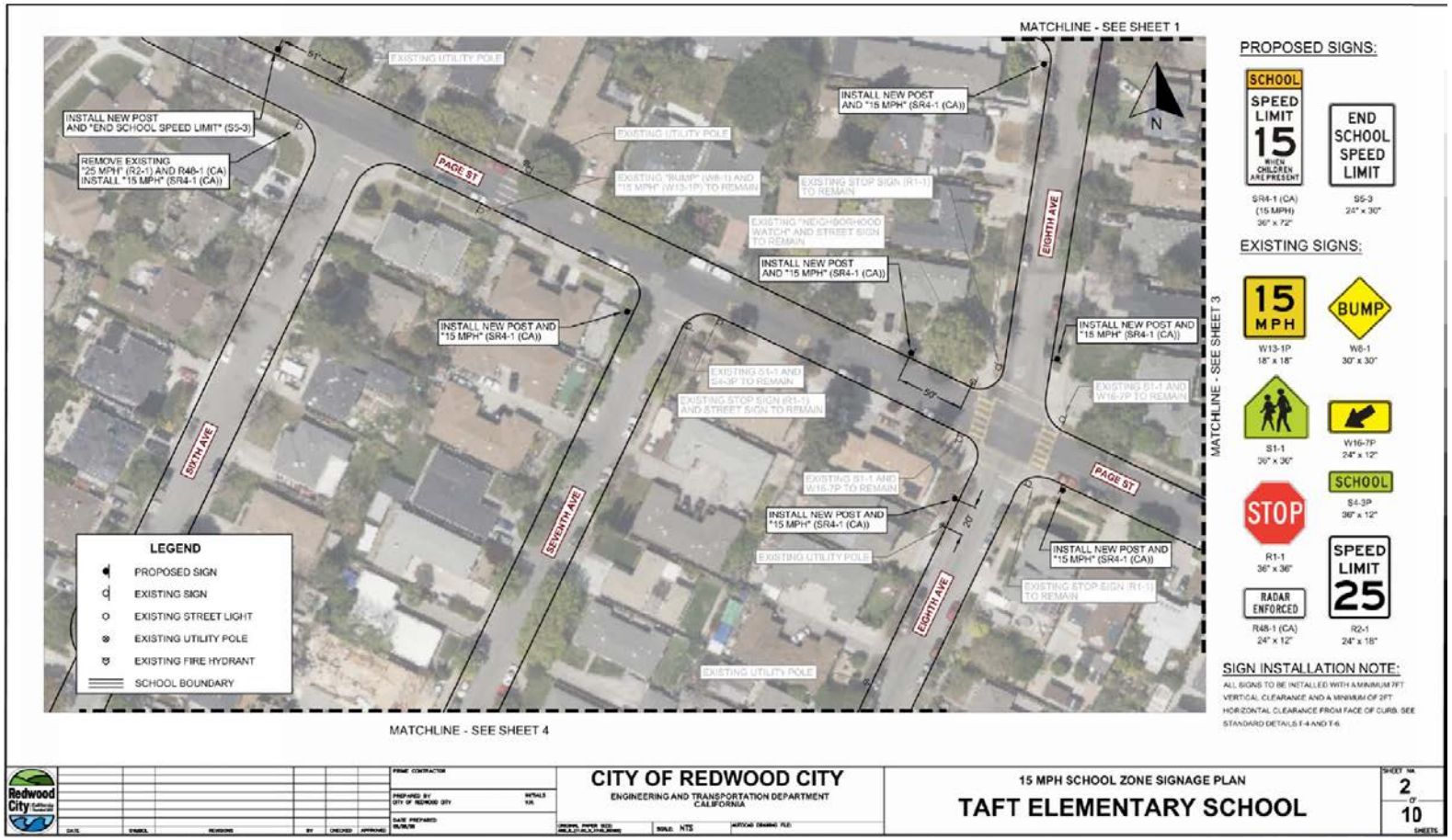


Figure 2: Taft Elementary School

Taft Elementary School | Redwood City



Thank You!

Questions?