



October 17, 2013

MEMO TO: Stanislaus County Planning Commission

FROM: Department of Planning and Community Development

**SUBJECT: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. 2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITE DISTRICT**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

This is a request to amend the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 21.44 - Historical Site District (HS), by modifying the division of land standards and clarifying the number of permitted single-family dwelling units per parcel. The existing historical site districts include the communities of Knight's Ferry and La Grange.

Over the past decade, the historic communities of Knights Ferry and La Grange have seen limited growth in terms of new development; however, recent development approved within Knights Ferry has raised concerns over the ability to maintain the historic characteristics of the community and potential impacts such as contamination to private/public water sources (including groundwater and the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers) from new septic systems. Within Knights Ferry, the community members feel that the community character has been threatened due to the provisions of the HS District allowing for creation of smaller lots in the "rural area" outside the "Downtown Core". The intent of this Ordinance Amendment is to protect and promote public health, safety, and general welfare by preserving the historic characteristics that make historic communities an asset to Stanislaus County and to protect water sources by limiting new development.

Specifically, this request provides clarification, within Section 21.44.020 - Permitted Uses of the Historical Site District, that only one dwelling unit per parcel is permitted. Section 21.44.040(B) has been added to allow additional dwellings if a Historical Site Permit is obtained and is in conformance with the density requirements set forth within the General Plan, which allows for residential densities from one (1) to seven (7) units per net acre with a population density of two (2) to 25 persons per net acre. Any approval shall be subject to a finding that the use will not be detrimental to the unique historical character of the community or to the residents of the community and must include prescribed development standards which conform to all guidelines established by the Knights Ferry or La Grange community plans.

Lastly, Section 21.44.070 - Site Area has been added to establish standards for minimum parcel sizes. This section establishes the boundaries of the Knights Ferry Downtown Core (Downtown Core) where smaller parcel sizes are permitted. Those boundaries are as follows: sites bordered to the south by the Stanislaus River, 250-feet west of Sonora Road (to the west), 250-

feet north of Valentine Street (to the north), and 250-feet east of Lynde Street (to the east). (See Exhibit B - Maps, Knight's Ferry Downtown Core.) Parcels existing within the Downtown Core have a minimum allowable area of 20,000 square feet where public water and septic services are available and one (1) acre for sites serviced by private well and septic facilities. Sites existing outside of the Downtown Core and inside of the HS zoning district have a minimum parcel size of five (5) acres. No changes to the minimum allowable area for creation of parcels within the La Grange HS zoning district are being proposed, which are 20,000 square feet for sites serviced by public water and septic tank facilities and one (1) acre for sites serviced by private well and septic facilities. Additional restrictions to minimum parcel size may apply depending on the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) review of site specific factors, such as the depth of the water table.

On April 30, 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution of Intention to initiate an amendment to the Historical Site District, as allowed under Section 21.108.020 of the Stanislaus County Code. This action ensured that any applications for development within any Stanislaus County HS zoning district received after April 30, 2013, but before the Ordinance Amendment is formally adopted, would be held to the standards proposed in the revised HS zoning district.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

**Knights Ferry** - The historic Community of Knights Ferry is located in the northern part of the County in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The Stanislaus River borders the southern edge of the historic community. The Knights Ferry Recreation Area and Historic Covered Bridge are located on the eastern boundary of the historic community. Agricultural lands, including dryland pasture, irrigated pasture, orchards, scattered single-family dwellings, and ranchettes surround the historic community on its northern and western boundaries. The City of Oakdale is located approximately nine (9) miles to the southwest and the County of Tuolumne is located just northeast of the community.

**La Grange** - The historic community of La Grange is located on the eastern border of Stanislaus County along the Tuolumne River. The community is located northeast of the Turlock Dam and Modesto Reservoir and south of the Don Pedro Reservoir. Dawson Lake is located just south of La Grange and the La Grange Dam and La Grange Regional Park run north of the community. Surrounding land use consists of dryland pasture, scattered ranchettes, and a few gravel mining operations. The city of Waterford is located approximately 15 miles west of La Grange. The borders of Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Merced counties exist approximately 1.5 miles east of the historic downtown.

### **ISSUES**

This Ordinance Amendment is intended to address issues of potential development impacts to Historical Character and Water Quality within and surrounding Historical Site zoned parcels.

## **Historical Character**

The communities of Knights Ferry and La Grange are recognized as historic resources by Stanislaus County, by the State of California, and federally.

Knights Ferry is registered as a historic community with the State of California as California State Historical Landmark No. 347 and is registered as a historic community in the National Register of Historic Places. The Knights Ferry HS zoning designation extends to the north opening of the Knights Ferry Covered Bridge which is included within the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and, recently, in the National Register of Historic Places.

La Grange is registered as a historic community with the State of California as California State Historical Landmark No. 414. The HS zoning designation includes the downtown corridor of the community of La Grange and a few other historic sites scattered throughout the La Grange area including: the French Bar Cemetery; the Basso Ferry Bridge; a Gold Dredger; and a Gold Dredging Town. Although La Grange is not registered federally as a historic community, multiple sites throughout the community are in the National Register of Historic Places including: the Gold Dredge site; the Kingen Hotel; Louie's Place; the Odd Fellows Hall; the Old Adobe Barn; the Old La Grange Schoolhouse; the Shell Gas Station; St. Louis Catholic Church; and the Stage Shop. These historic resources are well recognized, are registered with multiple agencies overseeing historic resources, and are subject to the rules and regulations of Chapter 21.44 - Historical Site District (HS) of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance.

## **Water Quality**

Both historic communities run parallel to rivers. The southern border of the Knights Ferry HS zoning district, which parallels the Stanislaus River, is located within a flood zone classified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as AE - High Risk base floodplain. A small portion of the northern border of the La Grange HS zoning district, which parallels the Tuolumne River, is located within a flood zone classified by FEMA as A - High Risk for flooding with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage.

Both the Knights Ferry and La Grange HS districts utilize septic systems as their means for waste water treatment. Knights Ferry receives public water from the Knight's Ferry Community Services District. La Grange receives public water from the Turlock Irrigation District.

Recent development approved within Knights Ferry raised community concerns over potential impacts (including contamination) to private/public water sources (including groundwater and the Tuolumne and Stanislaus Rivers) from new septic systems. The intent of this Ordinance Amendment is to protect historic and water resources by limiting new development.

If approved, discretionary review will be conducted to fully evaluate the potential for impacts when residential development beyond the density of one (1) unit per parcel occurs. Clarification

is being provided within this Ordinance Amendment that one dwelling per parcel is permitted. Additional dwellings are permitted with a Historic Site Permit which requires discretionary review of potential impacts.

In an effort to prevent future development along the outer edges of the Knight's Ferry Historical Site District, this Ordinance Amendment will also restrict parcels outside of the established boundaries of the Downtown Core from splitting into parcels less than five (5) acres in size. Consistent with the standards set forth within Chapter 21.08.050 – Building Site Area – Sanitary sewers or public water not available, language to establish the minimum parcel sizes for the creation of new lots within Historical zoned sites in La Grange and within Knight's Ferry's designated Downtown Core has also been included in this Ordinance Amendment. Those standards include a minimum parcel size of 20,000 square feet when only one public service (sewer or water) is available, and one (1) acre when neither service is available.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Community Advisory Councils/Associations**

This project was brought to the Knight's Ferry Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) and the La Grange Improvement Association on two separate occasions. Prior to the April 30, 2013, Board Hearing to Adopt a Resolution of Intention for the Historical Sites Ordinance Amendment, staff attended both the Knight's Ferry MAC and La Grange Improvement Association meetings to get community input on the proposed changes. The Knight's Ferry MAC was in support of the amendments made to the HS Ordinance. The La Grange Improvement Association provided comments regarding an interest in revising zoning standards for the La Grange area, such as parking standards and permitted uses, which were outside of the scope of this ordinance amendment. They also requested that the final version of the Ordinance Amendment be brought back to them for comment. County staff returned to both community groups to present the Ordinance Amendment prior to the scheduled October 17, 2013, Planning Commission hearing. The Knight's Ferry MAC provided a letter of support for the Ordinance Amendment. The La Grange Improvement Association provided a letter of support for the Ordinance Amendment and provided comments during the meeting that they were interested in working with County staff to evaluate the potential for future revisions to the HS zoning ordinance.

### **General Plan Update Committee**

The project was presented to the General Plan Update Committee on June 7, 2012. Members were generally supportive of the changes.

### **Public Comments**

A number of calls have been received from residents of the Knight's Ferry and La Grange communities with general questions regarding the Ordinance Amendment.

## **GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY**

The site is currently designated “Historical” in the Stanislaus County General Plan and this designation is consistent with an HS zoning district. The proposed project is addressed by the following goal, objectives, and policies of the Land Use and Conservation/Open Space Elements of the General Plan:

### **Land Use Element**

Under the Land Use Element of the General Plan, the intent of the Historical Designation is “to preserve areas of local, regional, state or national historical significance.” The Land Use Element states that, “Historical areas should be protected by zoning controls emphasizing the need for new development (or rehabilitation) to be compatible with the historic nature of the area.” According to the Land Use Element of the General Plan, “due to the unique nature of this kind of designation, population density and building intensity for any new projects must be reviewed on an individual basis.”

Both Knight’s Ferry and La Grange are recognized by the Land Use Element of the General Plan as Historical Communities which, due to limitations of their current water systems, lack of public sewer, and surrounding Williamson Act properties, are not anticipated to experience significant growth in the coming years; however, if and when development does occur, the amendments being proposed are intended to allow opportunity to evaluate potential impacts to historic character on an individual basis.

### **Conservation/Open Space Element**

**Goal 2:** Conserve water resources and protect water quality in the County.

**Policy 5** - Protect groundwater aquifers and recharge areas, particularly those critical for the replenishment of reservoirs and aquifers.

### **Implementation Measures**

2. The Department of Environmental Resources shall identify and require control of point sources for pollutants stored, handled or disposed of on the surface of the soil or in the vadose zone that is located in the zone or aeration immediately above the groundwater level. Potential sources of pollutants to the groundwater may also include high densities of individual on-site sewage treatment units and/or the use of community package treatment plants. The Department of Environmental Resources shall require the adoption of groundwater monitoring programs for projects where hydrogeological assessments indicate the potential for groundwater deterioration is likely.

**Policy 6** - Preserve vegetation to protect waterways from bank erosion and siltation.

### **Implementation Measures**

1. Development proposals including or in the vicinity of waterways and/or wetlands shall be closely reviewed to ensure that destruction of riparian habitat and vegetation is minimized. This shall include referral to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State Department of Fish and Game.

**Goal 8:** Preserve areas of national, state, regional and local historical importance.

**Policy 24** - The County will support the preservation of Stanislaus County's cultural legacy of historical and archeological resources for future generations.

### **Implementation Measures**

1. The County shall continue to utilize the HS (Historical Site) zone in Knight's Ferry and La Grange to protect the historical character of the communities.
2. The County shall seek input from the Knight's Ferry Municipal Advisory Council concerning any development proposals in the HS zone in Knight's Ferry.
5. The County shall utilize the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process to protect archaeological or historic resources. Most discretionary projects require review for compliance with CEQA. As part of this review, potential impacts must be identified and mitigated.

The requested ordinance amendment will meet the goals of the General Plan to protect the County's historic and water resources through establishing minimum parcel sizes and by requiring environmental review be conducted for densities exceeding one (1) single-family dwelling per parcel on parcels existing within the County's Historical Site Districts.

### **ZONING ORDINANCE CONSISTENCY**

All amendments to the Zoning Ordinance must be consistent with the General Plan. Staff believes this amendment request to be consistent with the General Plan, as described above.

In accordance with Chapter 21.108 – Amendments of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance, an ordinance amendment may be initiated by a Resolution of Intention of the Board of Supervisors. This Resolution was adopted by the Board on April 30, 2013.

The specific findings required for approval of the proposed ordinance amendment are outlined in Exhibit A of this report. Staff believes that all of the findings necessary for approval of this request can be made.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed project was circulated to all interested parties and responsible agencies for review and comment and no significant issues were raised. (See Exhibit I - *Environmental Review Referrals*.) A Negative Declaration has been prepared for approval as the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. (See Exhibit H – *Negative Declaration*.)

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Based on the discussion above and on the whole of the record provided to us, staff is requesting that the Planning Commission provide a recommendation of approval of Ordinance Amendment Application No. 2012-01 – Historical Site District to the Board of Supervisors. If the Planning Commission decides to provide a recommendation for approval, Exhibit A provides an overview of all of the findings required for project approval.

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**Note:** Pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Section 711.4, all project applicants subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) shall pay a filing fee for each project; therefore, the applicant will further be required to pay \$2,213.25 for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (formerly the Department of Fish and Game) and the Clerk Recorder filing fees.

Contact Person: Kristin Doud, Associate Planner, (209) 525-6330

### Attachments:

- Exhibit A - Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval
- Exhibit B - Maps
- Exhibit C - Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Chapter 21.44
- Exhibit D - Board of Supervisor’s Resolution of Intention, adopted April 30, 2013
- Exhibit E - Knight’s Ferry Municipal Advisory Council Letter of Support
- Exhibit F - La Grange Improvement Association Letter of Support
- Exhibit G - Initial Study
- Exhibit H - Negative Declaration
- Exhibit I - Environmental Review Referrals

**Exhibit A**  
**Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval**

1. Adopt the Negative Declaration pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(b), by finding on the basis of the whole record, including the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Negative Declaration reflects Stanislaus County's independent judgment and analysis;
2. Order the filing of a Notice of Determination with the Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21152 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15075;
3. Find that the project is consistent with the overall goals and policies of the Stanislaus County General Plan; and
4. Approve Ordinance Amendment Application No. 2012-01 – Historical Site Districts.

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES**  
*KNIGHT'S FERRY GENERAL PLAN MAP*

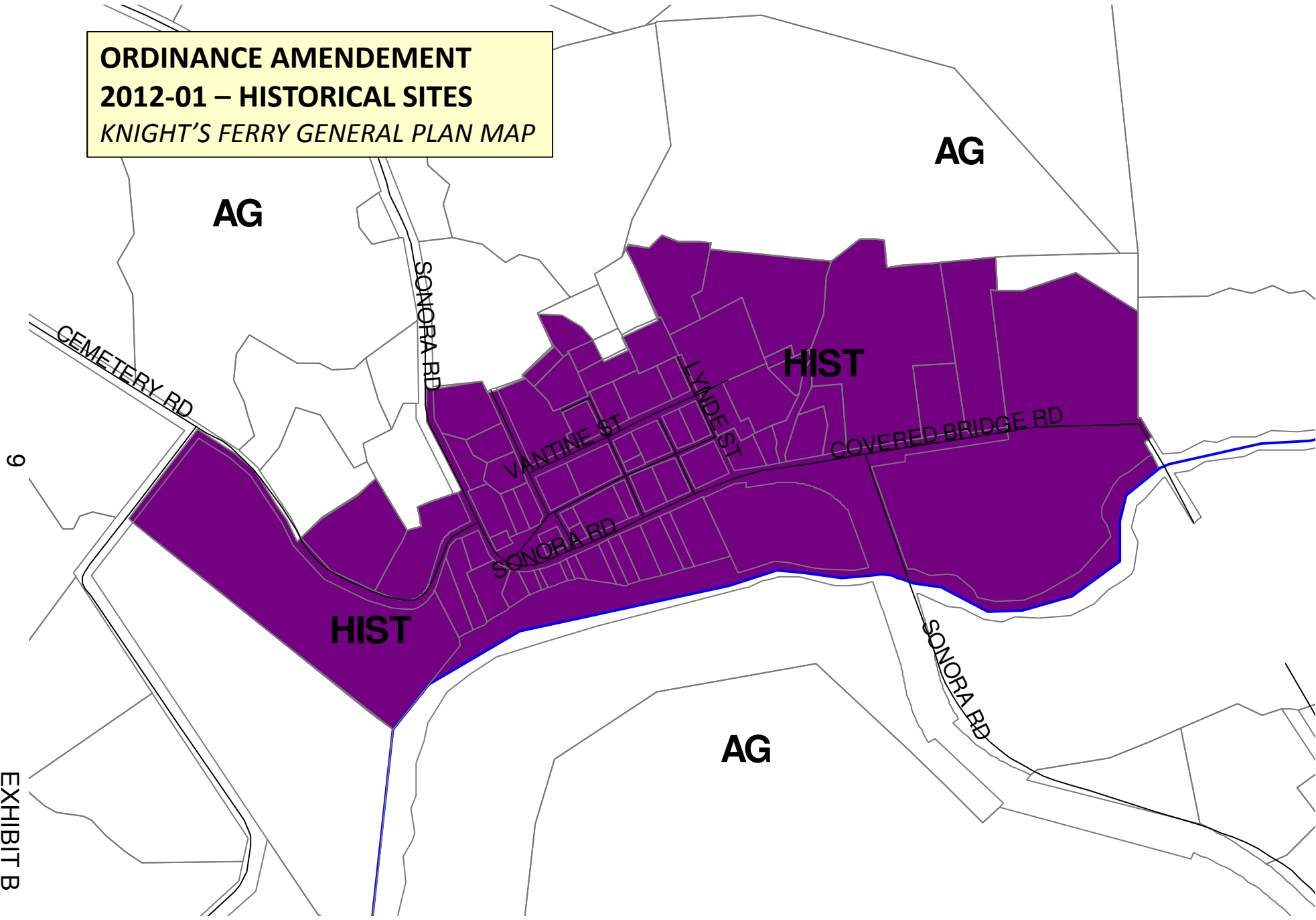


EXHIBIT B

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES**  
*KNIGHT'S FERRY ZONING MAP*

A-2-40

A-2-5

30.67

16.41

5.94

1.21

1.03

1.89

3.52

7.62

2.89

H-S

19.56

SONORA RD

28.64

4.24

1.25

2.83

2.13

2.43

12.29

1.88

0.60

Stanislaus River

76.72

A-2-5

A-2-40

104.75

-  KF-Community Services District
-  Historic Site District

FRYMIRE RD

CEMETERY RD

DEWITT ST

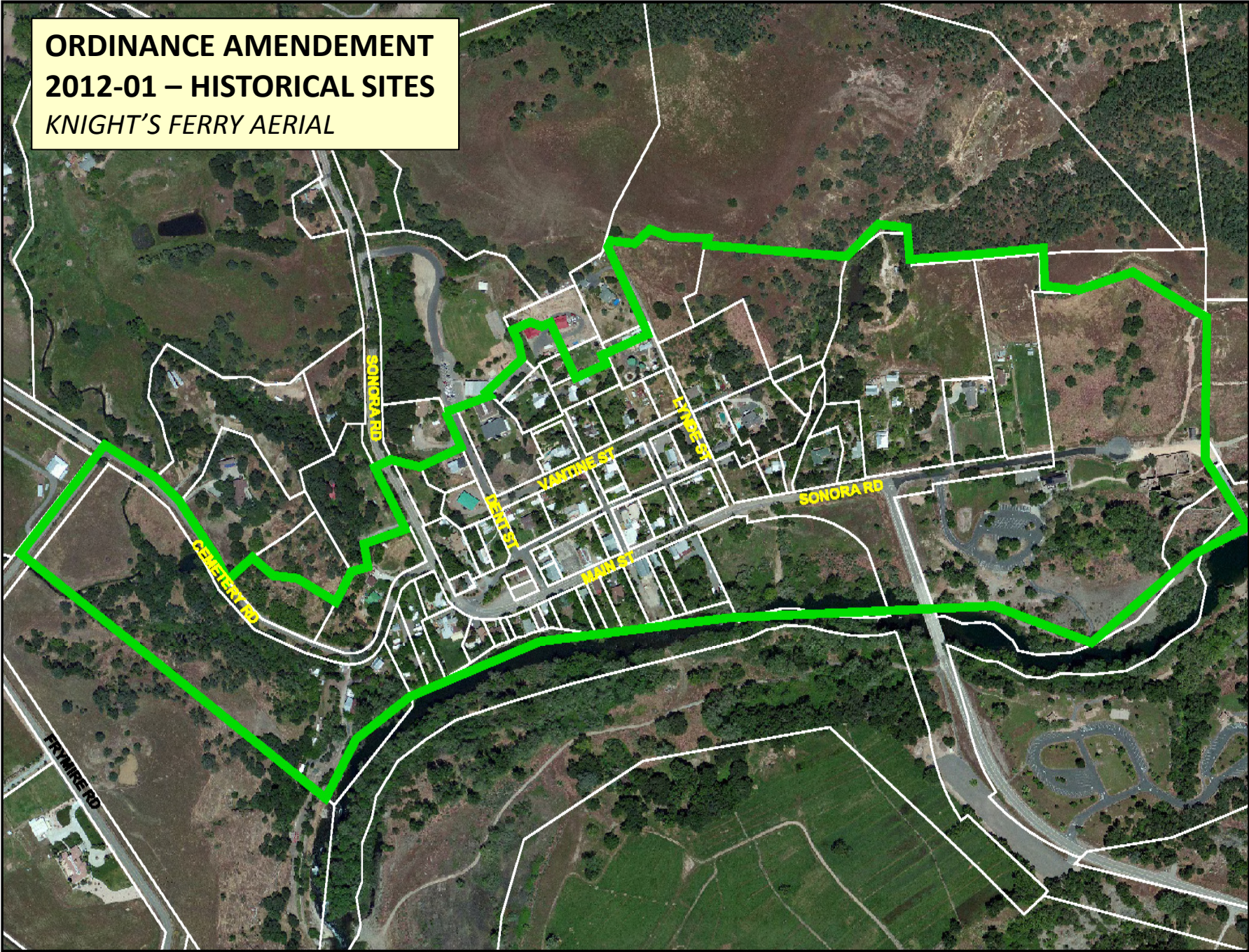
VANTINE ST

MAIN ST

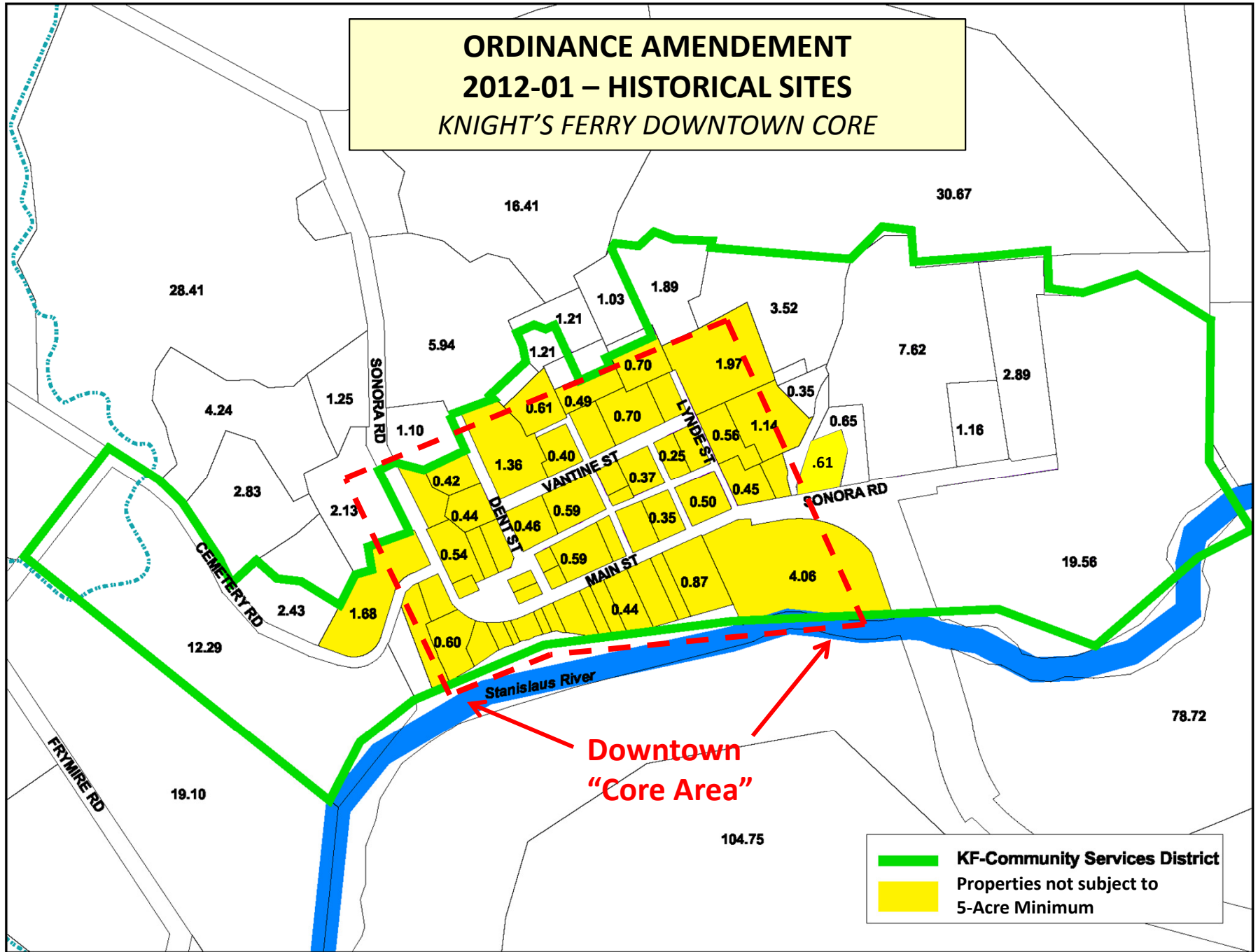
LYNDE ST

SONORA RD

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES**  
*KNIGHT'S FERRY AERIAL*

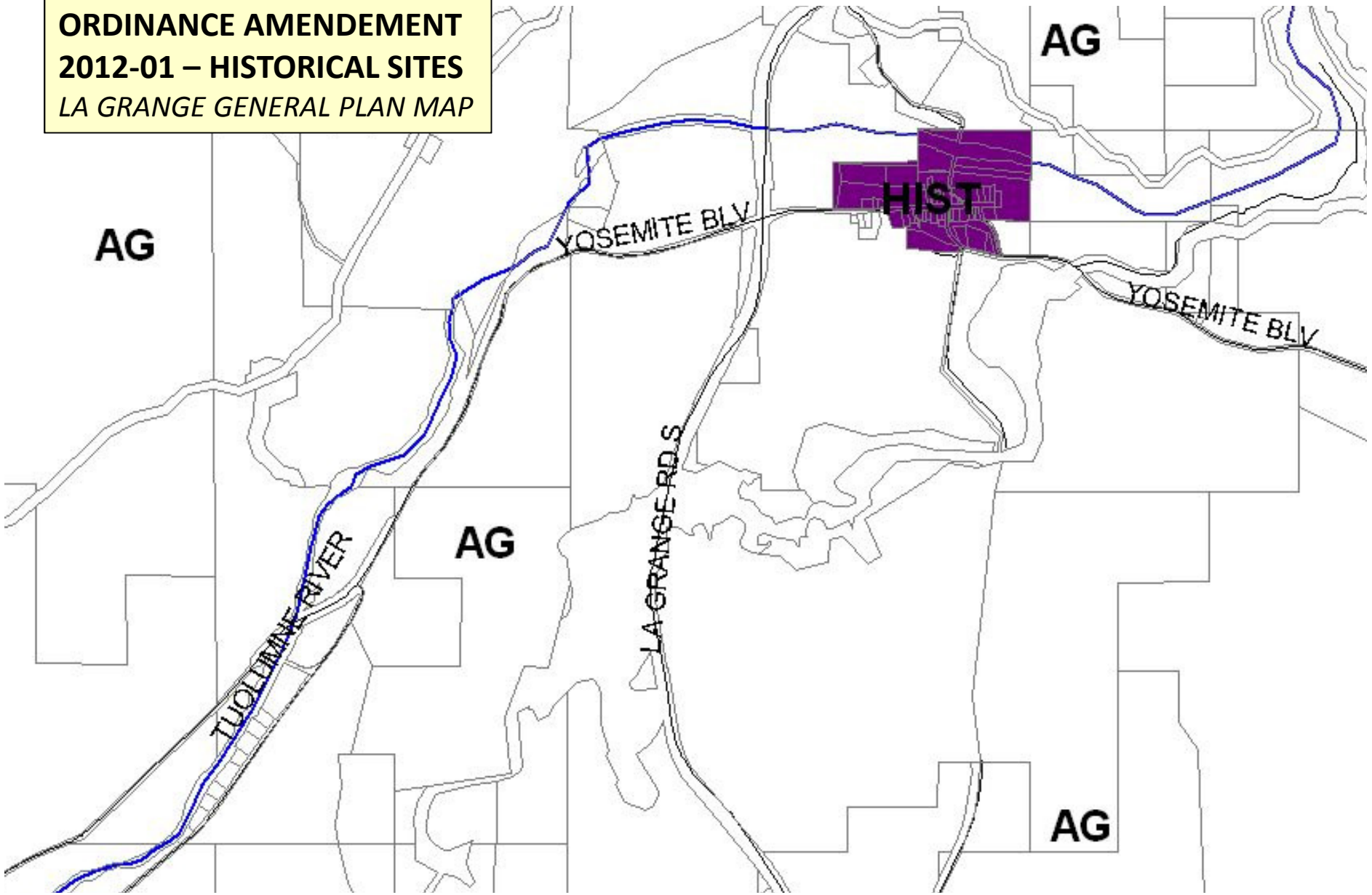


**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES  
KNIGHT'S FERRY DOWNTOWN CORE**

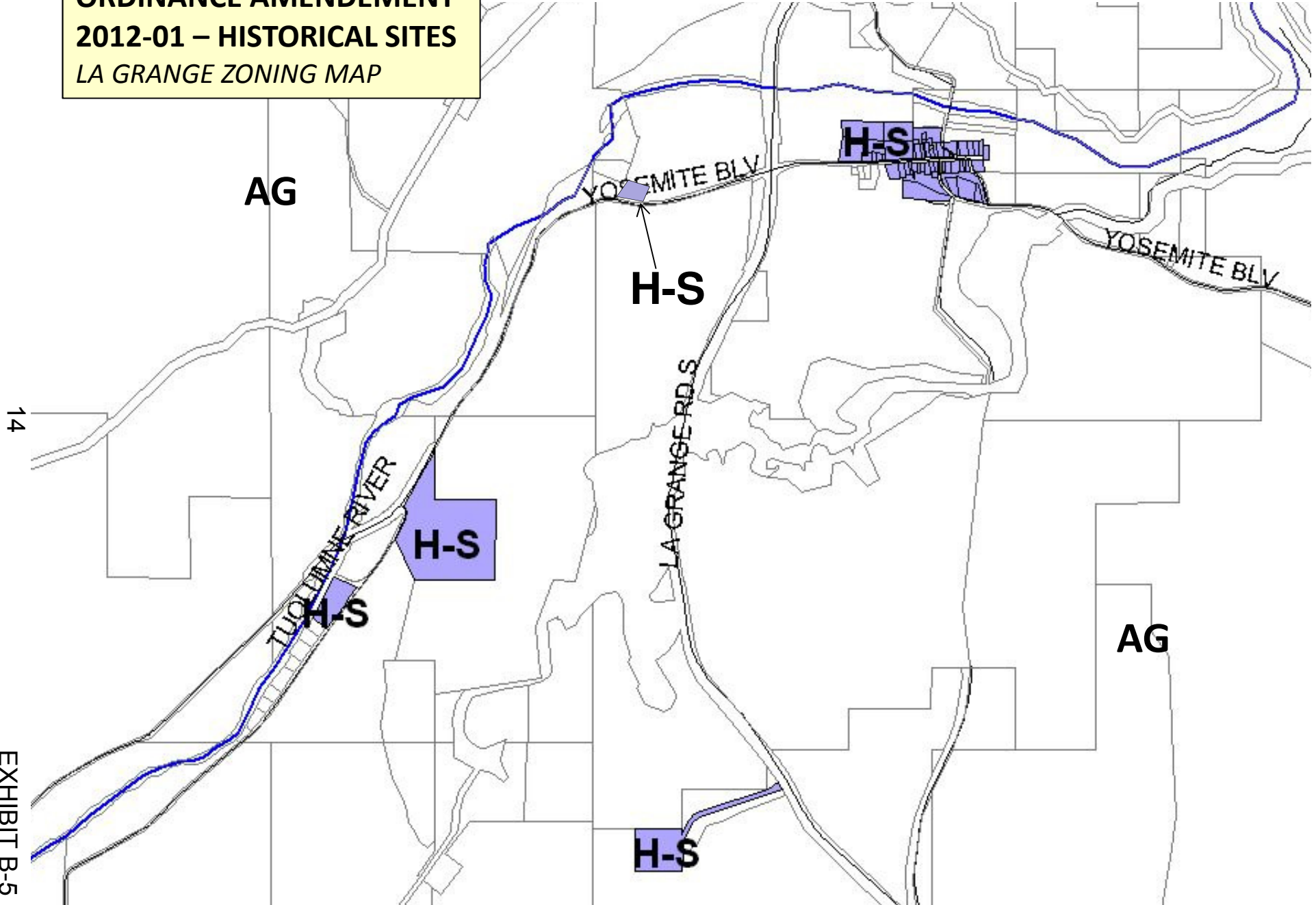


**KF-Community Services District**  
**Properties not subject to 5-Acre Minimum**

**ORDINANCE AMENDMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES**  
*LA GRANGE GENERAL PLAN MAP*



**ORDINANCE AMENDEMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES**  
*LA GRANGE ZONING MAP*



**ORDINANCE AMENDEMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES**  
*LA GRANGE HISTORIC SITES*

**FRENCH BAR CEMETARY**

**COMMUNITY OF LA GRANGE**

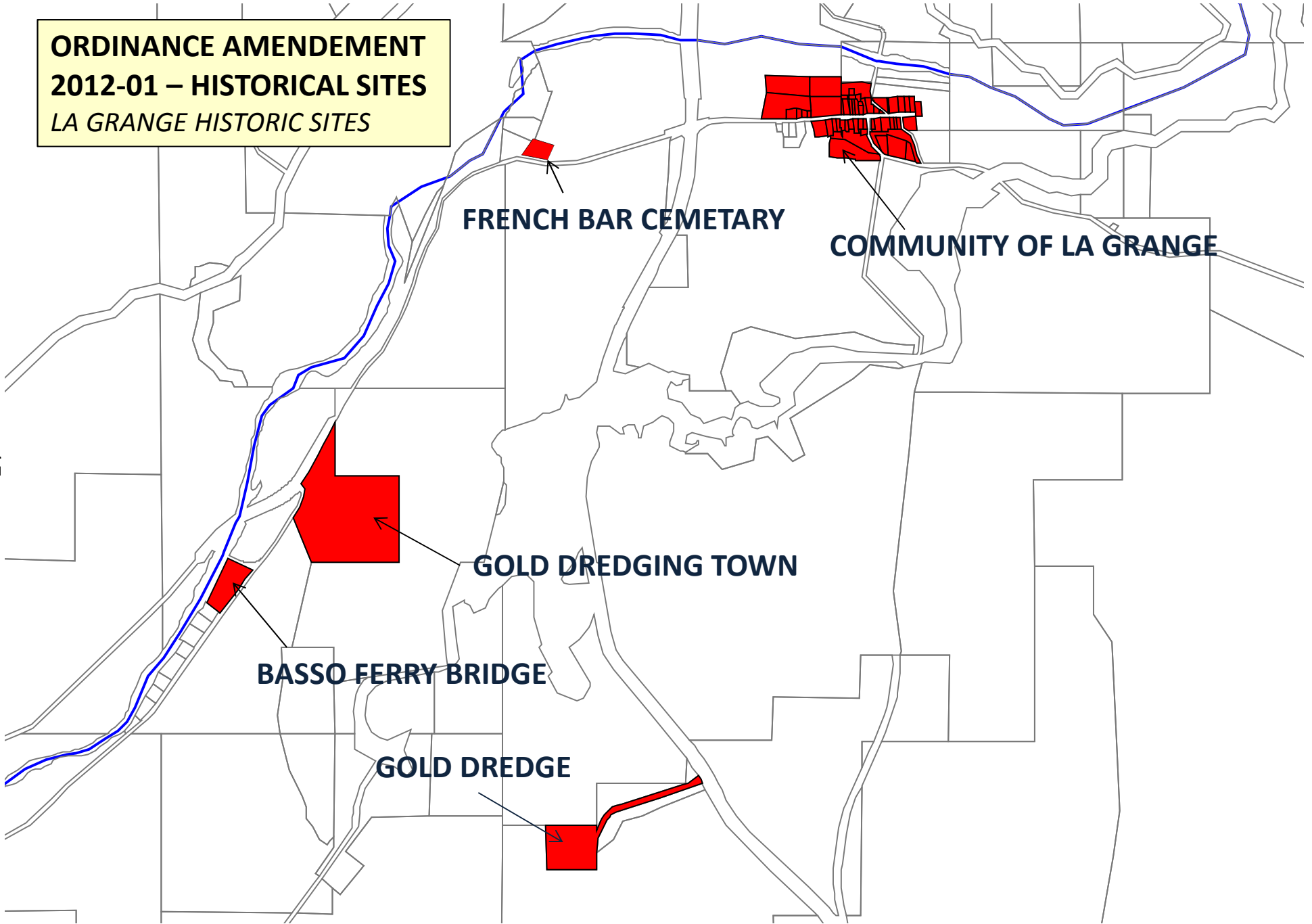
**GOLD DREDGING TOWN**

**BASSO FERRY BRIDGE**

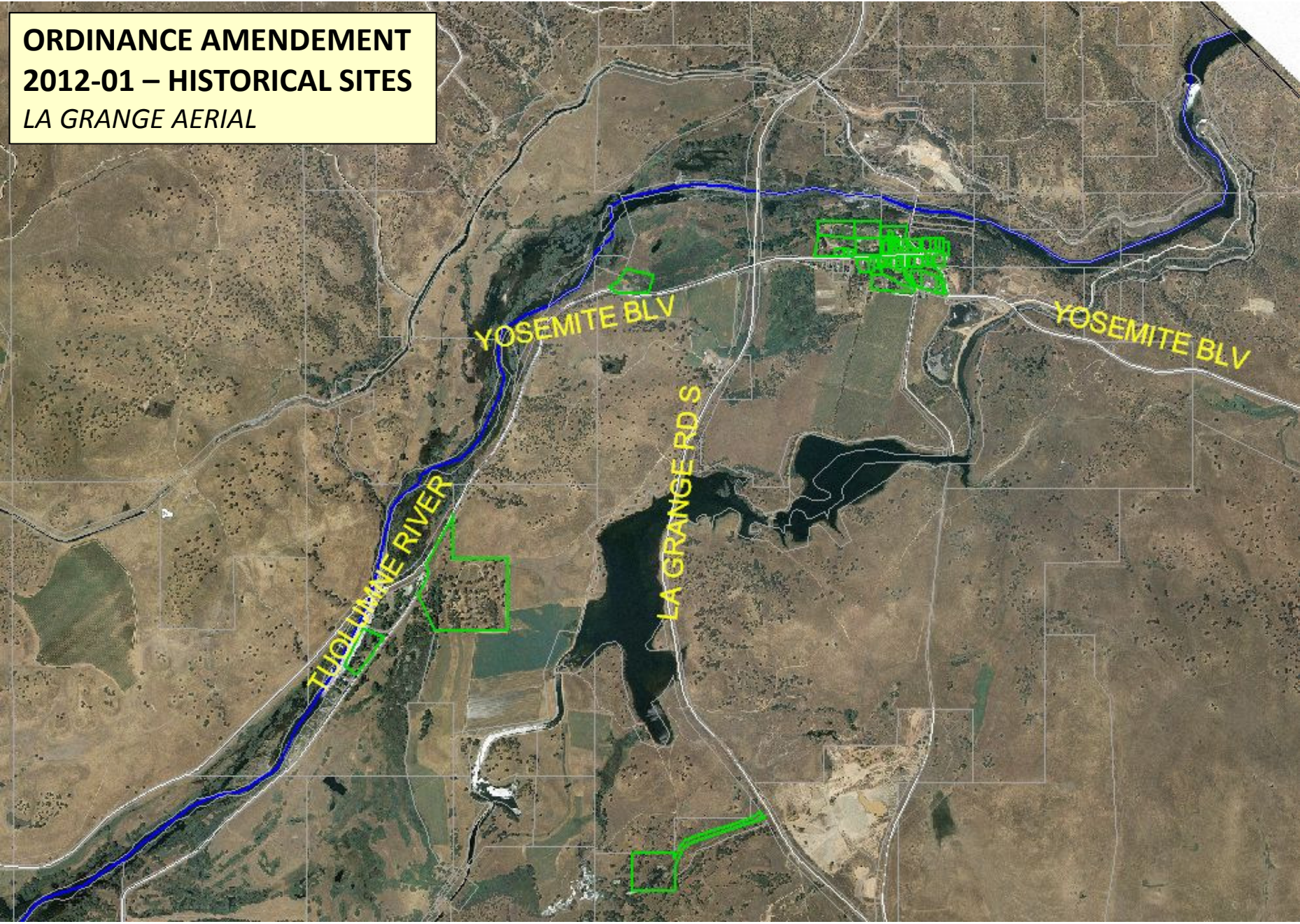
**GOLD DREDGE**

15

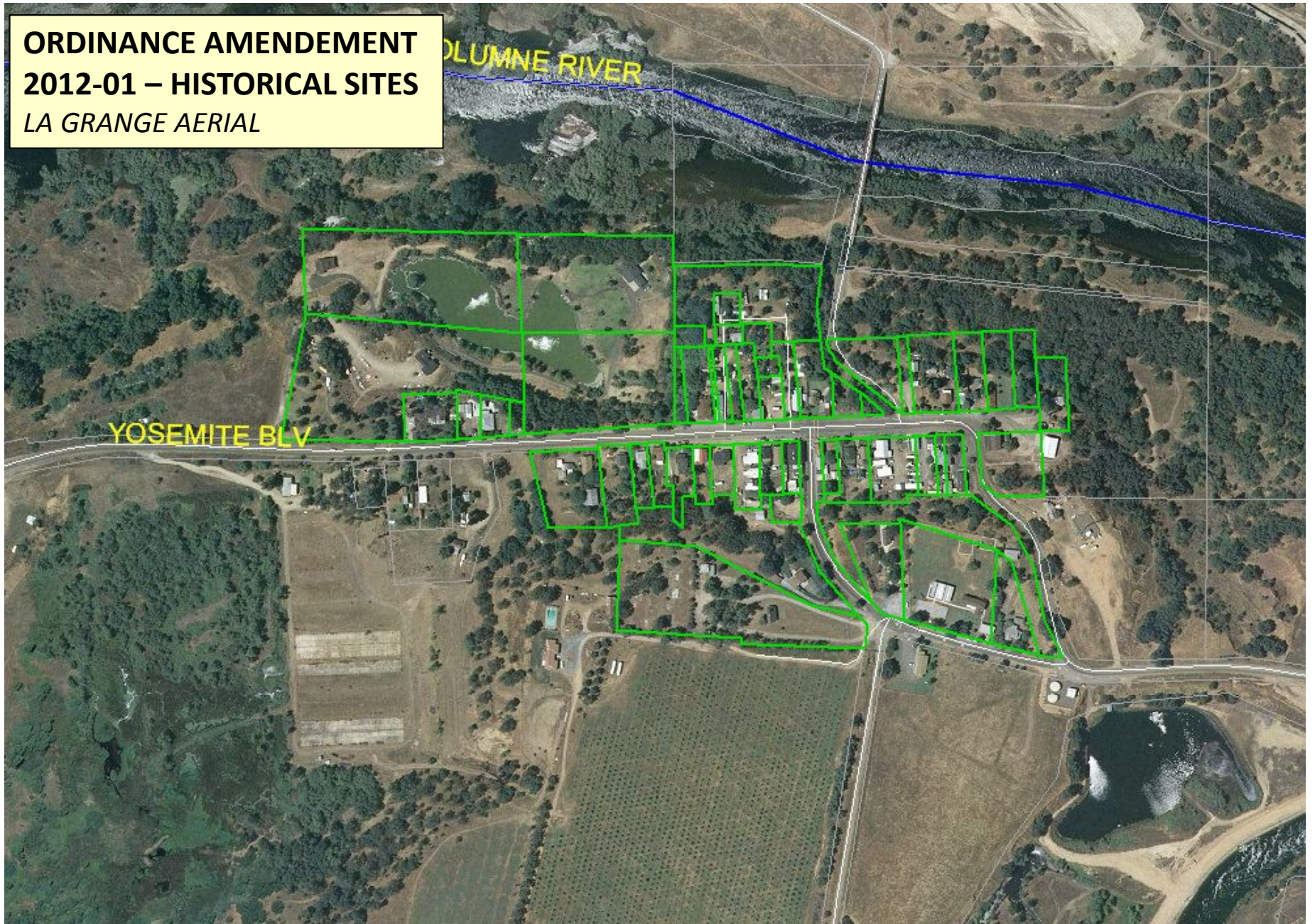
EXHIBIT B-6



**ORDINANCE AMENDEMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES  
LA GRANGE AERIAL**



**ORDINANCE AMENDEMENT  
2012-01 – HISTORICAL SITES**  
*LA GRANGE AERIAL*



**Note:** New wording is shown in **bold text** and deleted wording is shown as ~~strike-through~~ text.

## CHAPTER 21.44

# HISTORICAL SITE DISTRICT (HS)

### SECTIONS:

21.44.010	PURPOSE
21.44.020	PERMITTED USES
21.44.030	PROHIBITED USES
21.44.040	USES REQUIRING HISTORICAL SITE PERMIT
21.44.050	EXEMPTIONS FROM BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS
21.44.060	DEMOLITION
21.44.070	SITE AREA

### 21.44.010 PURPOSE

It is the intent of these district regulations to support and enhance the character of historical areas within the county. These district regulations also recognize historical structures as a finite resource which is a product of another time and worthy of special consideration. When new additions, alterations, or rehabilitation projects are proposed to existing structures and are approved by the historical site subcommittee of the county planning commission or planning staff, these district regulations shall enable the building official to grant exemptions from building code requirements when in his opinion such maintenance of the historical character of such buildings or structures and the granting of the exemptions will not create or allow any condition which is immediately hazardous to life or property. The existing unique character of these areas is considered a scenic and economic asset and has significant value to the general welfare. The review provided for by this chapter is intended to ensure that any development in the subject areas will not be unsightly, undesirable, or obnoxious to the extent that such development will impair the quality of the area. The following regulations shall apply in HS districts and shall be subject to the provisions of Chapter 21.08. (Ord. CS 106 Sec. 8 (part), 1984).

### 21.44.020 PERMITTED USES

Uses permitted in HS districts:

- A. One sign, unlighted, not over four square feet in area, and pertaining only to the sale, lease or rental of the property upon which the sign is located;
- B. Home occupations as regulated in Chapter 21.94;
- C. Crop farming and pasturing, but excluding small animal farming, hog farming, and feed lots;
- D. Garage sales;
- E. **One New** single-family dwellings, additions to already existing buildings requiring a building permit, and accessory uses and buildings normally incidental to single-family dwellings. The new dwelling or addition shall adhere to the guidelines for new construction and rehabilitation of older buildings within the adopted community plan for each historic community. Evidence of its conformance may be required. (Ord. CS 106 Sec. 8 (part), 1984).

- F. Small family day care homes for eight or fewer persons;
- G. Large family day care homes for seven through fourteen persons when the following criteria are met:
  1. One off-street parking space shall be provided for each employee plus two spaces;
  2. The two additional parking spaces shall be located so that vehicles will head-in and head-out and not use the public road for maneuvering, loading or unloading;
  3. There shall be no other day care facilities for more than eight persons within three hundred feet of the exterior boundary of the property.

**21.44.030 PROHIBITED USES**

Uses prohibited in HS districts:

- A. Mobile homes;
- B. Replacement of or addition to any existing mobile home shall be prohibited, except that mobile homes located within any mobile home park existing on the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter may be replaced. (Ord. CS 106 Sec. 8 (part), 1984).

**21.44.040 USES REQUIRING HISTORICAL SITE PERMIT**

Uses permitted subject to first securing an historical site permit in each case:

- A. Land uses not listed in Sections 21.44.020 or 21.44.030 may be permitted subject to first obtaining approval in each case. This approval shall be requested on forms provided by the department of planning and community development staff and shall require a fee equal to that required for use permit approval. Following receipt of a properly completed application, an advertised public hearing shall be held at a location within the historical site district by a five-person subcommittee of the county planning commission. Any approval shall be subject to a finding that the use will not be detrimental to the unique historical character of the community or to the residents of the community. Any approval shall have prescribed conditions as to the architecture of proposed construction, the area of building site, yards required, height limitation permitted, automobile standing space, signs which may be displayed, driveway and parking area improvements, provision for sewage and storm water disposal, domestic water supply, street widening and improvement to be required and shall be consistent with all guidelines established by the community plan. (Ord. CS 106 Sec. 8 (part), 1984).
- B. **Additional single-family dwellings provided the Historical General Plan density requirements are maintained.**

**21.44.050 EXEMPTIONS FROM BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS**

Repairs, alterations and additions necessary for the preservation, restoration, rehabilitation or continued use of a building or structure may be made without conformance to all of the requirements of the building code, when authorized by the building official, provided:

- A. Any unsafe or substandard conditions will be corrected in accordance with approved plans;
- B. The restored building or structure will be less hazardous, based on life and fire risk, than the existing building. (Ord. CS 106 Sec. 8 (part), 1984).

**21.44.060 DEMOLITION**

No building or structure, or portion thereof, shall be removed, relocated, demolished or structurally altered without prior approval of the director of planning and community development in the form of a staff approval permit. (Ord. CS 106 Sec. 8 (part), 1984).

**21.44.070 SITE AREA**

**The minimum allowable area for creation of a parcel within Knights Ferry shall be determined based on the location of the subject parcel as follows:**

- A. **Sites bordered to the south by the Stanislaus River, 250-feet west of Sonora Road (to the west), 250-feet north of Valentine Street (to the north), and 250-feet east of Lynde Street (to the east), sites serviced by public water and septic tank facilities, twenty thousand square feet. Sites serviced by private well and septic tank facilities, one acre.**
- B. **Sites within any historical zoned land and outside of the area described above, the minimum building site area shall be five (5) acres.**

**The minimum allowable area for creation of a parcel within La Grange shall be twenty thousand square feet for sites serviced by public water and septic tank facilities; and one acre for sites serviced by private well and septic tank facilities.**

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: April 30, 2013

2013-200

On motion of Supervisor Withrow Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED: Item # \*D-1

**RESOLUTION OF INTENTION BY THE STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TO INITIATE AN AMENDMENT TO TITLE 21 (ZONING) OF THE ORDINANCE CODE OF  
STANISLAUS COUNTY FOR THE HISTORICAL SITE DISTRICT (TITLE 21, CHAPTER 21.44)**

WHEREAS, the Ordinance Code of Stanislaus County (Title 21, Chapter 21.108.020) stipulates that an amendment to the Ordinance Code of Stanislaus County (Title 21) may be initiated by a Resolution of Intention of the Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the "Historical" General Plan Designation is to preserve areas of local, regional, state, or national significance by utilizing zoning controls, emphasizing the need for new development, including the division of land, to be compatible with the historic nature of the area; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that due to substantial public input derived during the course of past development proposals, it is evident that there is a definite community desire to protect and preserve the distinctive historic character of the Knights Ferry "downtown core" and "rural" areas of the community; and

WHEREAS, there is a potential health and safety threat due to the limit on the available public services for new development and a potential for new septic systems to contaminate private/public water sources; and

WHEREAS, the California Government Code (Section 66474.2) allows a local agency to apply any ordinances, policies, or standards initiated or enacted on the date the local agency approves or disapproves a division of land proposal; and

WHEREAS, any such ordinance, policy, or standard must have been initiated by way of ordinance, resolution, or motion by the local agency's legislative body, prior to being applied to a division of land proposal; and

WHEREAS, a modification is needed to clarify the language regarding the permitted number of single-family dwelling(s) allowed within the Historical Site District.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors that it is the intent of Stanislaus County to amend Title 21 of the Ordinance Code and direct the Planning Department to proceed with an amendment to Chapter 21.44 – Historical Site District.

ATTEST: **CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk**  
**Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,**  
**State of California**



File No. ORD-55-R-1



**KNIGHTS FERRY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
*P.O. Box 846, Knights Ferry, CA 95361*

July 29, 2013

Stanislaus County Department of Planning  
And Community Development  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, CA 95354

Subject: CEQA Referral Initial Study and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration  
Ordinance Amendment Application No. 2012-01 – Historical Site District

To whom it may concern:

With regard to the above subject CEQA Notice, dated July 24, 2013, please be advised the Knights Ferry Municipal Advisory Council is in full support of your proposal to adopt the Negative Declaration for this project..

Sincerely,

Carla Doshas, President  
KNIGHTS FERRY MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

CD/dh

La Grange Improvement Association  
PO Box 102  
La Grange, CA 95329

October 10, 2013

Kristin Doud  
Associate Planner  
Stanislaus County Department of Planning & Community Development  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, CA 95354  
doudk@stancounty.com

RE: Historic Zoning Ordinance Amendment

Dear Ms. Doud:

This letter is written as a follow up to your presentation to the La Grange Improvement Association (LGIA) on Tuesday, October 8, 2013. We wish to thank you and Director Angela Freitas for taking the time to present the proposed ordinance and for seeking input from the town of La Grange, through the La Grange Improvement Association.

The town of La Grange appreciates the continuing respect of its autonomy as afforded by Stanislaus County. As the group understands these amendments; the presentation confirmed that there are no changes proposed which would impact the community of La Grange. LGIA appreciates the changes made to the proposed ordinance after the last meeting, to specifically note the changes that would apply to Knights Ferry rather than La Grange.

LGIA has a long standing tradition of promoting the historic interest of La Grange and the well-being of this community. As has been past practice, LGIA requests that any and all requests for development within the community of La Grange be forwarded to LGIA for consideration and input prior to action by Stanislaus County.

Thank you again for requesting input from La Grange.

Sincerely,



Susan Zanker  
President



# Stanislaus County

## Planning and Community Development

1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, California 95354

Phone: (209) 525-6330  
Fax: (209) 525-5911

### CEQA INITIAL STUDY

Adapted from CEQA Guidelines APPENDIX G Environmental Checklist Form, Final Text, December 30, 2009

1. **Project title:** Ordinance Amendment Application No. 2012-01 - Historical Site District
2. **Lead agency name and address:** Stanislaus County  
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, CA 95354
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Kristin Doud, Associate Planner  
(209) 525-6330
4. **Project location:** Countywide (Existing Historical Site Districts Knights Ferry and La Grange)
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, CA 95354
6. **General Plan designation:** Historical
7. **Zoning:** HS (Historical Site)
8. **Description of project:**

This is a request to amend the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 21.44 - Historical Site District (HS), by modifying the division of land standards and clarifying the number of permitted single-family dwelling units per parcel. Over the past decade, the historic communities of Knights Ferry and La Grange have seen limited growth in terms of new development; however, recent development approved within Knights Ferry has raised concerns over the ability to maintain the historic characteristic of the community and potential impacts such as contamination to private/public water sources (including groundwater and the Stanislaus River) from new septic systems. Within Knights Ferry, the community members feel that the community character has been threatened due to the provisions of the HS District allowing for creation of smaller lots in the "rural area" outside the "Downtown Core". The intent of this Ordinance Amendment is to protect and promote public health, safety, and general welfare by preserving the historic characteristics that make historic communities an asset to Stanislaus County and to protect water sources by limiting new development.

Specifically, this request provides clarification, within Section 21.44.020 - Permitted Uses of the Historical Site District, that only one dwelling unit per parcel is permitted. Section 21.44.040(B) has been added to allow additional dwellings if a Historical Site Permit is obtained and is in conformance with the density requirements set forth within the General Plan, which allows for residential densities from one (1) to seven (7) units per net acre with a population density of two (2) to 25 persons per net acre. Any approval shall be subject to a finding that the use will not be detrimental to the unique historical character of the community or to the residents of the community and must include prescribed development standards which conform with all guidelines established by the Knights Ferry or La Grange community plans.

Lastly, Section 21.44.070 - Site Area has been added to establish standards for minimum parcel sizes. This section establishes the boundaries of the Knights Ferry Downtown Core (Downtown Core) where smaller parcel sizes are permitted. Those boundaries are as follows: sites bordered to the south by the Stanislaus River, 250-feet west of Sonora Road (to the west), 250-feet north of Valentine Street (to the north), and 250-feet east of Lynde Street (to the east). Parcels existing within the Downtown Core have a minimum allowable area of 20,000 square feet where public water and septic services are available and one (1) acre for sites served with private septic and well. Sites existing outside of the Downtown Core and inside of the HS Zoning District have a minimum parcel size of five (5) acres. No changes to the minimum allowable area for creation of parcels within the La Grange HS Zoning District are being proposed, which are 20,000 square feet for sites serviced by public water and septic tank facilities and one (1) acre for sites serviced by private well and septic facilities. Additional restrictions to minimum parcel size may apply depending on the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) review of site specific factors, such as the depth of the water table.

On April 30, 2013, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution of Intention to initiate an amendment to the Historical Site District, as allowed under Section 21.108.020 of the Stanislaus County Code. This action ensured that any applications for development within any Stanislaus County HS Zoning District received after April 30, 2013, but before the Ordinance Amendment itself is adopted, would be held to the standards proposed in the revised HS Zoning District (<http://www.stancounty.com/bos/agenda/2013/20130430/D01.pdf>).

Attachments: Negative Declaration  
Project Maps  
Draft Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Chapter 21.44

#### 9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

**Knights Ferry** - The historic Community of Knights Ferry is located in the northern part of the County in the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The Stanislaus River borders the southern edge of the historic community and the Knights Ferry Recreation Area and Historic Covered Bridge are located on the eastern boundary of the historic community. Agricultural lands, mostly dryland pasture, and ranchettes surround the historic community on its northern and western boundaries. The City of Oakdale is located approximately nine (9) miles to the southwest and the County of Tuolumne is located just northeast of the community.

**La Grange** - The historic community of La Grange is located on the Eastern border of Stanislaus County along the Tuolumne River. The community is located northeast of the Turlock Dam and Modesto Reservoir and south of the Don Pedro Reservoir. Dawson Lake is located just south of La Grange and the La Grange Dam and La Grange Regional Park run north of the community. Surrounding land use consists of dryland pasture, scattered ranchettes, and a few gravel mining operations. The city of Waterford is located approximately 15 miles west of La Grange. The borders of Tuolumne, Mariposa, and Merced counties exist approximately 1.5 miles east of the historic downtown.

#### 10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):

Department of Environmental Resources  
Department of Public Works

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture & Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology /Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use / Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population / Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

**DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
- I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Kristin Doud, Associate Planner  
Prepared By

July 11, 2013  
Date

**EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, “Earlier Analyses,” may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration.

Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

- a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
  - 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
  - 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
  - 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
    - a) the significant criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
    - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

**ISSUES**

I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			X	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?			X	
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?			X	
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	
<p><b>Discussion:</b> This project proposes to clarify the number of residential units permitted per parcel and to modify the standards for dividing land within the HS Zoning District. For the historic community of Knights Ferry, the revised ordinance concentrates parcel splits of one (1) acre or less (depending on services) within the existing Downtown Core. Parcels outside of the Downtown Core must be five (5) acres or more in size. Additionally, in both Knights Ferry and La Grange, each parcel is limited to one dwelling per parcel. Additional dwellings may be permitted on a parcel provided a historic site permit is obtained. Aesthetic resources existing within the communities of Knights Ferry and La Grange include a unique historic visual character and scenic views of riparian habitat. Potential impacts to aesthetics from additional housing would be evaluated on a site-by-site basis through the historic site permitting process. Approval of this project will not have a negative impact on aesthetic resources existing within the Historical Site Zoning Districts. Restricting the number of residences per parcel and limiting minimum parcel size will assist in maintaining the visual character of the historic communities of Knights Ferry and La Grange.</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None.</p>				
<p><b>References:</b> Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.</p>				
II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			X	

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			X	
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X	

**Discussion:** The majority of land within the Knights Ferry HS Zoning District and all of the land within the La Grange HS Zoning District is designated by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as Urban and Built Up Lands. Outside of the Knights Ferry Downtown Core, along the outer boundaries of the Knights Ferry HS Zone, a few parcels are designated by the California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as Grazing Land and Rural Residential. No Prime Farmland exists within the HS Districts of Knights Ferry or La Grange. A few parcels designated as Prime are located adjacent to the boundaries of the La Grange HS Zoning District. Parcels surrounding the Knights Ferry HS boundaries are primarily utilized for rangeland and homesites. Surrounding parcels range in size between one (1) and 40 acres in size and have a zoning designation of A-2-5 to the west and A-2-40, to the north, east, and south. Four (4) parcels (between four [4] and 11 acres in size) bordering the western edge of the Knights Ferry HS Zoning District are enrolled in the Williamson Act. Parcels surrounding the La Grange HS boundaries are zoned A-2-40 and range in size between .25 acres and 230 acres with dryland pasture and residential uses. No negative impacts to existing agricultural land or lands enrolled in the Williamson Act are anticipated. Approval of this Zoning Ordinance Amendment will maintain larger parcel sizes on parcels in the Knights Ferry HS Zoning District adjacent to existing agricultural operations. Any construction of new dwellings exceeding the one (1) per parcel threshold must go through environmental review in the form of a Historical Site Permit. Each of these permits will evaluate potential impacts to agriculture on a site-by-site basis.

This project was referred to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner’s office through an Early Consultation and no comments were received.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** 2006 California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Data and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?			X	

<p>c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?</p>			<p>X</p>	

**Discussion:** The project site is within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which has been classified as "severe non-attainment" for ozone and respirable particulate matter (PM-10) as defined by the Federal Clean Air Act. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) has been established by the State in an effort to control and minimize air pollution. As such, the District maintains permit authority over stationary sources of pollutants.

The primary source of air pollutants generated by this project would be classified as being generated from "mobile" sources. Mobile sources would generally include dust from roads, farming, and automobile exhausts. Mobile sources are generally regulated by the Air Resources Board of the California EPA which sets emissions for vehicles and acts on issues regarding cleaner burning fuels and alternative fuel technologies. As such, the District has addressed most criteria air pollutants through basin wide programs and policies to prevent cumulative deterioration of air quality within the Basin. This project has been referred to the district, but no comments have been received.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District - Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust/PM-10 Synopsis and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<p>a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?</p>			<p>X</p>	

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?			X	

**Discussion:** It does not appear this project will result in impacts to endangered species or habitats, locally designated species, or wildlife dispersal or mitigation corridors. The California Natural Diversity Database includes sightings of listed species such as the California Tiger Salamander, Merced Kangaroo Rat, Tri-Colored Black Bird, and Hoover’s Calycadenia in La Grange, and the Western Pond Turtle in Knights Ferry; however, the lands within the HS Zoning District are generally developed with residential, historic, and commercial uses. Approval of this Zoning Ordinance Amendment will maintain larger parcel sizes on parcels in the Knights Ferry HS Zoning District adjacent to existing rangeland and riparian habitat. Any construction of new dwellings exceeding the one (1) per parcel threshold must go through environmental review in the form of a Historical Site Permit. Each of these permits will evaluate potential impacts to biological resources on a site-by-site basis.

The project was referred to the State of California Department of Fish & Wildlife through an Early Consultation and no response has been received to date.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup> and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife California Natural Diversity Database.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?			X	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			X	
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X	
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X	

**Discussion:** The communities of Knights Ferry and La Grange are recognized as historic resources by Stanislaus County, by the State of California, and federally. Knights Ferry is registered as a historic community with the State of California as California State Historical Landmark No. 347 and is registered as a historic community in the National Register of Historic Places. The Knights Ferry HS Zoning Designation extends to the north opening of the Knights Ferry Covered Bridge which is included within the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). La Grange is registered as a historic community with the State of California as California State Historical Landmark No. 414. The HS Zoning Designation includes the downtown corridor of the community of La Grange and a few other historic sites scattered throughout the La Grange area including: the French Bar Cemetery; the Basso Ferry Bridge; a Gold Dredger; and a Gold Dredging Town. Although La Grange is not registered federally as a historic community, multiple sites throughout the community are in the National Register of Historic Places including: the Gold Dredge site; the Kingen Hotel; Louie’s Place; the Odd Fellows Hall; the Old Adobe Barn; the Old La Grange Schoolhouse; the Shell Gas Station; St. Louis Catholic Church; and the Stage Shop. These historic resources are well recognized, are registered with multiple agencies overseeing historic resources, and are subject to the rules and regulations of Chapter 21.44 - Historical

Site District (HS) of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance. The intent of Chapter 21.44 is to support and enhance the character of historical areas within the County which are recognized as finite resources which are a product of another time and worthy of special consideration. Specifically, the intent of this Ordinance Amendment request is to maintain the character of Stanislaus County’s existing historic resources by limiting parcel splits outside of the Downtown Core of Historic Knights Ferry and by requiring a discretionary process be conducted to fully evaluate the potential for impacts when residential development beyond the density of one (1) unit per parcel occurs. Because this project is limiting rather than encouraging development of Historical Site Districts, negative impacts to existing historic, archaeological, or cultural resources are not anticipated.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Chapter 21.44 - Historical Site District (HS) of the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance; California State Parks Office of Historic Preservation California Register; U.S. Department of the Interior National Parks Service National Register of Historic Places; and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
<b>a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:</b>			X	
<b>i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</b>			X	
<b>ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?</b>			X	
<b>iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</b>			X	
<b>iv) Landslides?</b>			X	
<b>b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?</b>			X	
<b>c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?</b>			X	
<b>d) Be located on expansive soil creating substantial risks to life or property?</b>			X	
<b>e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?</b>			X	

**Discussion:** As contained in Chapter 5 of the General Plan Support Documentation, the areas of the County subject to significant geologic hazard are located in the Diablo Range, west of Interstate 5; however, as per the California Building Code, all of Stanislaus County is located within a geologic hazard zone (Seismic Design Category D, E, or F) and a soils test may be required at building permit application. Results from the soils test will determine if unstable or expansive soils are present. If such soils are present, special engineering of the structure will be required to compensate for the soil deficiency. Any future development occurring within the HS district must be designed and built according to building standards appropriate to withstand shaking for the area in which it is constructed. Any earth moving is subject to Public

Works Standards and Specifications which considers the potential for erosion and run-off prior to permit approval. Any addition of a septic tank or alternative waste water disposal system would require the approval of the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) through the building permit process and, if applicable, through the historic site permit process, which requires environmental review. When reviewing requests for new septic or alternative waste water disposal systems, DER takes soil type into consideration within the specific design requirements.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** California Building Code and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation - Safety Element<sup>1</sup>.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X	

**Discussion:** The principal Greenhouse Gasses (GHGs) are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and water vapor (H<sub>2</sub>O). CO<sub>2</sub> is the reference gas for climate change because it is the predominant greenhouse gas emitted. To account for the varying warming potential of different GHGs, GHG emissions are often quantified and reported as CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents (CO<sub>2</sub>e). In 2006, California passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill [AB] No. 32), which requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to design and implement emission limits, regulations, and other measures, such that feasible and cost-effective statewide GHG emissions are reduced to 1990 levels by 2020. As a requirement of AB 32, the ARB was assigned the task of developing a Climate Change Scoping Plan that outlines the state’s strategy to achieve the 2020 GHG emissions limits. This Scoping Plan includes a comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall GHG emissions in California, improve the environment, reduce the state’s dependence on oil, diversify the state’s energy sources, save energy, create new jobs, and enhance public health. The Climate Change Scoping Plan was approved by the ARB on December 22, 2008. According to the September 23, 2010, AB 32 Climate Change Scoping Plan Progress Report, 40 percent of the reductions identified in the Scoping Plan have been secured through ARB actions and California is on track to its 2020 goal.

Although not originally intended to reduce GHGs, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, Part 6: California’s Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings, was first adopted in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California’s energy consumption. Since then, Title 24 has been amended with recognition that energy-efficient buildings require less electricity and reduce fuel consumption, which in turn decreased GHG emissions. The current Title 24 standards were adopted to respond to the requirements of AB 32. Specifically, new development projects within California after January 1, 2011, are subject to the mandatory planning and design, energy efficiency, water efficiency and conservation, material conservation and resources efficiency, and environmental quality measures of the California Green Building Standards (CALGreen) Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11).

This project proposes minor amendments to Stanislaus County’s Historical Site (HS) Zoning Ordinance. The project does not propose any development and would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. In addition, all future development occurring within the HS Zoning District will be required to conform with the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 24, Part 6: California’s Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings. Because this project is limiting rather than encouraging development of Historical Site Districts, considerations regarding the generation of greenhouse gas emissions are considered to be less than significant. With the exception of one dwelling unit per parcel, any future development within the HS Zoning District must also go through environmental review in the form of a historic site permit, at which point potential greenhouse gas impacts would be evaluated on a site specific basis.

The project was referred to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District through an Early Consultation and no response has been received to date.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			X	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?			X	

**Discussion:** Approval of this project would not have any impact on existing or future hazardous materials sites. No known hazardous materials are on site. Pesticide exposure is a risk in agricultural areas. Sources of exposure include contaminated groundwater which is consumed and drift from spray applications. Application of sprays is strictly controlled by the Agricultural Commissioner and can only be accomplished after first obtaining permits. DER is responsible for overseeing hazardous materials in this area. Potential impacts from hazardous materials from any future development within the HS Zoning District will be evaluated through the building permit process and, if applicable, through environmental review in the form of a historic site permit.

The project was referred to DER's Hazardous Materials Division through an Early Consultation and no response has been received to date.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			X	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X	
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?			X	
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			X	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?			X	
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X	
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?			X	

**Discussion:** Both the Knights Ferry and La Grange HS Districts utilize septic systems as their means for waste water treatment. Recent development approved within Knights Ferry raised community concerns over potential impacts (including contamination) to private/public water sources (including groundwater and the Stanislaus River) from new septic systems. Part of the intent of this Ordinance Amendment is to protect water sources by limiting new development. DER will evaluate any development which requires installation of new or expanded septic systems in terms of meeting state and County standards through the building permit process or, if applicable, the historic site permit review process. Any future development will also be evaluated by the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works to ensure grading and drainage for the development meet County and State standards through the building permit or historic site permit processes.

Both historic communities run parallel to rivers. The southern border of the Knights Ferry HS Zoning District, which parallels the Stanislaus River, is located within a flood zone classified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as AE - High Risk base floodplain. A small portion of the northern border of the La Grange HS Zoning District, which parallels the Tuolumne River, is located within a flood zone classified by FEMA as A - High Risk for flooding with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Property owners located within these FEMA zones are required to purchase flood insurance if their county participates in the National Flood Insurance Program.

This project was referred to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and a standard response was received which provided a general list of the agency’s water permits. No project specific comments were provided in their response letter.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board dated July 6, 2012; Federal Emergency Management Agency website; and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

<b>X. LAND USE AND PLANNING -- Would the project:</b>	<b>Potentially Significant Impact</b>	<b>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included</b>	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>	<b>No Impact</b>
<b>a) Physically divide an established community?</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?</b>				<b>X</b>
<b>c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?</b>				<b>X</b>

**Discussion:** Any land use decisions impacting the historic community of Knights Ferry are brought to the Knights Ferry Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) for discussion and input. Any land use decisions impacting the historic community of La Grange are brought to the La Grange Improvement Association for discussion and input. Over the past decade, the historic communities of Knights Ferry and La Grange have seen limited growth in terms of new development; however, recent development approved within Knights Ferry has raised concerns over the ability to maintain the historic characteristics of the community and potential impacts (including contamination) to private/public water sources (including groundwater and the Stanislaus River) from new septic systems. Within Knights Ferry, the community members feel that the community character has been threatened due to the provisions of the HS District allowing for creation of smaller lots in the “rural area” outside the “Downtown Core”. The intent of the Ordinance Amendment is to protect and promote public health, safety, and general welfare by preserving the historic characteristics that make historic communities an asset to Stanislaus County and to protect water sources by limiting new development.

This project will not result in the physical division of an established community. The proposed project is consistent with the site’s general plan designation and zoning classification. The project does not conflict with any conservation plans.

This project was referred to both Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties through an Early Consultation and no responses have been received to date.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			X	
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?			X	
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The location of all commercially viable mineral resources in Stanislaus County has been mapped by the State Division of Mines and Geology in Special Report 173. The segment of the Stanislaus River running along the southern border of the Knights Ferry HS Zoning District and the segment of the Tuolumne River running along the northern border of the La Grange HS Zoning District are both designated within the Stanislaus County General Plan as having significant sand and gravel resources. No active or reclaimed mines exist in the vicinity of the Knights Ferry HS Zoning District. Both active and reclaimed aggregate mines exist surrounding the historic community of La Grange. A historical gold dredging site, including gold dredging equipment and remnants of the gold dredging town, are part of the HS Zoning District of La Grange. With the exception of two Stanislaus County parks, lands existing within both HS Zoning Districts are already developed and do not include any mine sites. No loss of available mineral resources is anticipated to occur as a result of this project. Potential impacts to mineral resources from any future development within the HS Zoning District, other than one residential unit on any parcel, would be evaluated through environmental review in the form of a historic site permit.</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None.</p>				
<p><b>References:</b> Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.</p>				
XII. NOISE -- Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			X	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
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**Discussion:** The proposed project will not result in any significant noise impacts. The existing uses of the HS Zoning District will remain the same. Potential noise impacts from any future development within the HS Zoning District must meet the standards set forth within Chapter 10.46 - Noise Control of the Stanislaus County Code and, if applicable, would be evaluated through environmental review in the form of a historic site permit.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County Code and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

**XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?			X	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X	
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?			X	

**Discussion:** Within Knights Ferry, this Ordinance Amendment will restrict parcels outside of the Downtown Core from splitting into parcels less than five (5) acres in size. Within both Knights Ferry and La Grange HS Zoning Districts, this Ordinance Amendment will permit one residential unit per parcel, with an additional density of up to seven (7) units per parcel, on a site-by-site basis when a historic site permit is obtained which requires environmental review. Knights Ferry utilizes septic tanks and has public water available within the boundaries of the HS Zoning District. La Grange utilizes both septic and well. Any future residential development must meet minimum sizing requirements, enforced by DER, which is based on available services and the depth of the water table. No property within the HS Zoning District was included within the County's Housing Element.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

**XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES**

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:			X	
Fire protection?			X	

Police protection?			X	
Schools?			X	
Parks?			X	
Other public facilities?			X	

**Discussion:** The County has adopted Public Facilities Fees, as well as Fire Facility Fees on behalf of the appropriate fire district, to address impacts to public services. Such fees are required to be paid at the time of building permit issuance. On-site water storage for fire protection will be further evaluated as part of any future building permit process. No negative impacts to public service providers is anticipated to occur as a result of this project.

“No Comment” referral responses were received from the Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee (ERC) and the Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation. The project was also referred to the: Knights Ferry, La Grange, Oakdale, and Hughson School Districts; Oakdale and Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Districts; Modesto Regional Fire Authority; and the Sheriff’s Department. No comments have been received to date from any of these agencies/departments.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee dated July 17, 2012; referral response from the Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation dated July 17, 2012; and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

XV. RECREATION --	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?			X	
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			X	

**Discussion:** The Knights Ferry HS Zoning District contains an existing County park and borders the Knights Ferry Recreation Area which is owned and operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers. The Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation owns a number of parcels existing within and surrounding both the Knights Ferry and La Grange HS Zoning Districts. A Stanislaus County park, which has access to the Tuolumne River, borders the La Grange HS Zoning District to the north. No increase in the use of these existing recreational facilities is anticipated to occur as a result of this project.

A “No Comment” referral response was received from the Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation.

**Mitigation:** None.

**References:** Referral response from the Stanislaus County Department of Parks and Recreation dated July 17, 2012, and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			X	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?			X	
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?			X	
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?			X	
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?			X	
<p><b>Discussion:</b> The intent of this Ordinance Amendment is to limit, not promote, development within the HS Zoning Districts; therefore, no adverse impacts to traffic are anticipated to occur as a result of this project.</p> <p>This project was referred to CalTrans and the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works and no comments have been received to date.</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None.</p>				
<p><b>References:</b> Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.</p>				
XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?			X	
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			X	

<p>c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p><b>Discussion:</b> Knights Ferry utilizes septic tanks and has public water, through the Knights Ferry Community Services District (CSD), available within the boundaries of the HS Zoning District. La Grange utilizes both septic and well. Any future residential development must meet minimum sizing requirements, enforced by DER, which is based on available services and the depth of the water table. Any additional needs for public water within Knights Ferry must be approved by the Knights Ferry CSD. No additional public services will be required as a result of this project. The intent of this Ordinance Amendment is to limit, not promote, development within the HS Zoning District.</p> <p>This project was referred to both the Oakdale (OID) and Turlock (TID) Irrigation Districts for comment through an Early Consultation and both agencies responded with "no comments". The project was also referred to the Knights Ferry Community Services District and PG&amp;E and no responses were received.</p>				
<p><b>Mitigation:</b> None.</p>				
<p><b>References:</b> Referral response from Turlock Irrigation District dated July 11, 2012; referral response from Oakdale Irrigation District dated July 12, 2012; and the Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation<sup>1</sup>.</p>				
<p><b>XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE --</b></p>	<p>Potentially Significant Impact</p>	<p>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Included</p>	<p>Less Than Significant Impact</p>	<p>No Impact</p>
<p>a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?</p>			<p>X</p>	
<p>b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?</p>			<p>X</p>	

<p><b>c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?</b></p>			<p><b>X</b></p>	
<p><b>Discussion:</b> Review of this project has not indicated any features which might significantly impact the environmental quality of the sites and/or the surrounding areas.</p>				

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<sup>1</sup>Stanislaus County General Plan and Support Documentation adopted in October 1994, as amended. Optional and updated elements of the General Plan and Support Documentation: **Agricultural Element** adopted on December 18, 2007; **Housing Element** adopted on August 28, 2012; **Circulation Element** and **Noise Element** adopted on April 18, 2006.

## NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**NAME OF PROJECT:** Ordinance Amendment Application No. 2012-01 - Historical Site District

**LOCATION OF PROJECT:** Countywide (Existing Historical Site Districts Knights Ferry and La Grange)

**PROJECT DEVELOPERS:** Stanislaus County Department of Planning and Community Development  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, CA 95354

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:** Request to amend the Stanislaus County Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 21.44 - Historical Site District (HS), by modifying the division of land standards and clarifying the number of permitted single-family dwelling units per parcel. Specific amendments to the HS Zoning District are proposed within sections 21.44.020, 21.44.040, and 21.44.070.

Based upon the Initial Study, dated **July 11, 2013**, the Environmental Coordinator finds as follows:

1. This project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, nor to curtail the diversity of the environment.
2. This project will not have a detrimental effect upon either short-term or long-term environmental goals.
3. This project will not have impacts which are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
4. This project will not have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects upon human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The Initial Study and other environmental documents are available for public review at the Department of Planning and Community Development, 1010 10th Street, Suite 3400, Modesto, California.

Initial Study prepared by: Kristin Doud, Associate Planner

Submit comments to: Stanislaus County  
Planning and Community Development Department  
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400  
Modesto, California 95354

**SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REFERRALS**

**PROJECT: ORDINANCE AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. 2012-01 - HISTORICAL SITE DISTRICT**

REFERRED TO:				RESPONDED		RESPONSE			MITIGATION MEASURES		CONDITIONS	
	2 WK	30 DAY	PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE	YES	NO	WILL NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO COMMENT NON CEQA	YES	NO	YES	NO
CA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE	X	X	X		X					X		X
CA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION DIST 10	X	X	X		X					X		X
CA NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMM				X				X				
CA OPR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
CA RWQCB CENTRAL VALLEY REGION		X	X	X				X		X		X
CA STATE LANDS COMMISSION		X	X		X					X		X
CENTRAL VALLEY FLOOD PROTECTION		X	X		X					X		X
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIST: KNIGHT'S FERRY	X	X	X		X					X		X
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	X	X			X					X		X
COUNTY OF: CALAVERAS, TUOLUMNE (2 wk & 30-day), MERCED, MARIPOSA (30-day)	X	X	X		X					X		X
FIRE PROTECTION DIST: OAKDALE/STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED	X	X	X		X					X		X
IRRIGATION DISTRICT: OAKDALE/TURLOCK	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
LA GRANGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
MODESTO REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY	X	X			X					X		X
MOSQUITO DISTRICT: EASTSIDE/TURLOCK	X	X	X		X					X		X
MT VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL	X	X	X		X					X		X
MUNICIPAL ADVISORY COUNCIL: KNIGHT'S FERRY	X	X	X	X				X		X		X
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC	X	X	X		X					X		X
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY APCD	X	X	X		X					X		X
SCHOOL DISTRICT 1: LA GRANGE/KNIGHT'S FERRY	X	X	X		X					X		X
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2: OAKDALE/HUGHSON	X	X	X		X					X		X
STAN CO AG COMMISSIONER	X	X			X					X		X
STAN CO BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION	X	X		X				X		X		X
STAN CO CEO	X	X			X					X		X
STAN CO DER	X	X		X				X		X		X
STAN CO ERC	X	X		X				X		X		X
STAN CO FARM BUREAU	X	X	X		X					X		X
STAN CO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	X	X			X					X		X
STAN CO PARKS & RECREATION	X	X		X				X		X		X
STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS	X	X			X					X		X
STAN CO SHERIFF	X	X			X					X		X
STAN CO SUPERVISOR DIST: ALL	X	X			X					X		X
STAN COUNTY COUNSEL	X	X			X					X		X
StanCOG	X	X			X					X		X
STANISLAUS LAFCO	X	X	X		X					X		X
SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS			X									
TUOLUMNE RIVER TRUST		X	X		X					X		X
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS		X	X		X					X		X
US FISH & WILDLIFE		X	X		X					X		X
US MILITARY AGENCIES (SB 1462) (5 agencies)	X	X	X		X					X		X