

STANISLAUS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

May 19, 2022

STAFF REPORT

USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2022-0011 AMERICAN CHEVROLET

REQUEST: REQUEST TO CONSTRUCT A 1,200 SQUARE-FOOT STORAGE BUILDING ACCESSORY TO AN EXISTING CAR DEALERSHIP ON AN 8.51± ACRE PARCEL. THE DEALERSHIP IS LOCATED WITHIN THE PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (P-D) (213), P-D (244), AND P-D (280) ZONING DISTRICTS.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applicant:	David Halvorson, American Chevrolet
Property owner:	David P. and Patricia M. Halvorson Trust
Agent:	Tom Consentino, Huff Metal Buildings Inc.
Location:	4742 McHenry Avenue (State Route 108), between Claribel Road and East Galaxy Way, in the Modesto area.
Section, Township, Range:	4-3-9
Supervisorial District:	Four (Supervisor Grewal)
Assessor's Parcel:	082-006-053 & 082-006-073
Referrals:	See Exhibit E
Area of Parcel(s):	Environmental Review Referrals
Water Supply:	8.51± acres
Sewage Disposal:	City of Modesto
General Plan Designation:	Private septic system
Community Plan Designation:	Planned Development
Existing Zoning:	N/A
Sphere of Influence:	Planned Development (P-D) (213), P-D (244), & P-D (280)
Williamson Act Contract No.:	Modesto
Environmental Review:	N/A
Present Land Use:	CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)
Surrounding Land Use:	Car dealership
	Car dealerships to the north, south, and west across McHenry Avenue; an orchard to the east; and the City of Modesto to the south.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning Commission approve this request based on the discussion below and on the whole of the record provided to the County. If the Planning Commission decides to approve the project, Exhibit A provides an overview of all the findings required for project approval.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is a request to construct a 1,200 square-foot storage building accessory to an existing car dealership on an $8.51\pm$ acre parcel. The dealership is located within the Planned Development (P-D) (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280) zoning districts. The proposed storage building will be utilized to store miscellaneous parts for the dealership and will be located on the dealership's existing parking lot.

P-D (213) was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 10, 1994 under Rezone No. 93-09 – Lynn and Carole Stinson, allowing the western $5\pm$ acres of the site to be developed as a car dealership. Subsequently, P-D (244) and P-D (280) were approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 18, 2000 and April 15, 2003 respectively, under General Plan Amendment and Rezone No. 2000-03 – American Chevrolet-GEO and General Plan Amendment No. 2002-05 and Rezone No. 2002-14 – American Chevrolet, to allow the remainder of the site to be utilized as a parking lot for overstock storage associated with the car dealership. The existing operation includes the retail and commercial sales of new and used vehicles, a service, detailing, and parts department, electric vehicle charging area, offices, showroom, and café accessory to the dealership. The hours of operation vary between the different departments, but none operate outside of 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday, with 90 total estimated employees. While P-D (213) allowed the construction of the existing dealership, the permitted uses of P-D (244) and P-D (280) were limited to parking. Accordingly, a Use Permit is required to amend the development plan to allow a structure to be constructed within the P-D (244) and P-D (280) zoning districts.

The proposed metal storage building is $19\pm$ feet in height, with one-man door facing to the north and two roll up doors facing towards the west, and an open floor plan inside the structure. The request will not impact the existing parking, drive aisles, add any additional services, intensify existing uses, or amend the number of employees or hours of operation. A photometric light plan, along with light design and shielding, will be required to prevent light spill and trespass for the lighting affixed to the proposed building in accordance with the development standards for P-D (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280).

SITE DESCRIPTION

The $8.51\pm$ acre project site is located at 4742 McHenry Avenue (State Route 108), between Claribel Road and East Galaxy Way, in the Modesto area. The site is currently improved with an existing car dealership with structures totaling approximately $38,909\pm$ square feet of building space, a paved parking lot with light poles and 483 parking spaces, a monument sign, and landscaping along the road frontage. The site has access to Caltrans-maintained McHenry Avenue (State Route 108) and County-maintained East Galaxy Way and is served by the City of Modesto for water and private septic for sewer. Although the dealership is covered by three different zoning districts, and two Assessor Parcel Numbers (APNs), they make up one legal parcel which functions as one business (see Exhibit B-6 - *Maps, Site Plan, and Elevations*). The building is proposed to be located partially in zoning district P-D (213) and partially in zoning district P-D (244), which crosses APN 082-006-053 and 082-006-073. However, no merger is required as the site is one legal parcel.

Car dealerships are located directly to the north, south, and west across McHenry Avenue. An orchard is located on the adjacent parcel to the east and the city of Modesto is located to the south of the project site. The site is located within the City of Modesto's Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) adopted Sphere of Influence (SOI).

ISSUES

No issues have been identified as a part of this request. Standard conditions of approval have been added to the project (see Exhibit C - *Conditions of Approval*).

GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY

Consistency with the goals, objectives, and policies of the various elements of the Stanislaus County General Plan must be evaluated when processing all discretionary project requests. The project site's General Plan designation of Planned Development is intended for areas appropriate for land which, because of demonstrably unique characteristics, may be suitable for a variety of uses without detrimental effect on surrounding properties. The existing P-D zoning districts are consistent with the General Plan designation of Planned Development.

The Stanislaus County General Plan Sphere of Influence policy states that development, other than agricultural uses and churches, which requires discretionary approval from incorporated cities, shall be referred to the city for preliminary approval. The project shall not be approved by the County unless written communication is received from the city memorializing their approval. If approved by the city, the city should specify what development standards are necessary to ensure that development will comply with city development standards. Approval from a city does not preclude the County's decision-making bodies from exercising discretion, and it may either approve or deny the project. The project site lies within the LAFCO adopted SOI for the City of Modesto. The project was referred to the City of Modesto, who responded with no comments.

To minimize conflicts between agriculture operations and non-agricultural operations, Buffer and Setback Guidelines (Appendix A of the Agricultural Element) have been adopted. The purpose of these guidelines is to protect the long-term health of local agriculture by minimizing conflicts resulting from normal agricultural practices as a consequence of new or expanding uses approved in or adjacent to the General Agriculture (A-2) zoning district.

Appendix A of these guidelines states that all projects shall incorporate a minimum 150 foot-wide buffer setback, or a 300-foot-wide buffer setback for people intensive outdoor activities, such as athletic fields; parking lots are a permitted use within the buffer area. No agricultural buffer is required on the western, northern, and southern property lines as the surrounding parcels are developed with car dealerships and are zoned Planned Development (P-D). The adjacent parcel to the east is zoned A-2 and is developed with an orchard. The proposed project meets the agricultural buffer to the east, as the proposed building is located 300 feet from the eastern property line.

Staff believes that the proposed project is consistent with the General Plan policies discussed above. The project site is already developed with an existing car dealership, which is considered to be consistent with the Planned Development land use designation.

ZONING ORDINANCE CONSISTENCY

The site is currently zoned Planned Development (P-D) (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280). As P-D (244) and P-D (280) did not include a request for any structures, a Use Permit is required to amend the development plan in accordance with Chapter 21.40.080(B) of the Zoning Ordinance to allow for development of the proposed building.

In order to approve a use permit, the Planning Commission shall make a finding that:

- The establishment, maintenance, and operation of the proposed use or building applied for is consistent with the General Plan and will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use and that it will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.

If this request is approved, development standards for P-D (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280) will remain in effect on the current project; however, any proposed development will be subject to compliance with the Conditions of Approval of this Use Permit. If a conflict arises between the Development Standards and the Conditions of Approval, the Conditions of this Use Permit shall prevail.

This project will maintain zoning consistency by adhering to the approved P-D (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280) Development Standards as well as the Conditions of Approval incorporated into this Use Permit. Thus, staff believes the proposed project is consistent with the P-D (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280) zoning districts.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the proposed project was circulated to interested parties and responsible agencies for review and comment and no significant issues were raised (see Exhibit E - *Environmental Review Referrals*). Staff has prepared a Notice of Exemption for the project, which declares that the project is exempt from CEQA on the basis of CEQA Guideline Section 15303 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures (see Exhibit D - *Notice of Exemption*). The CEQA Guidelines provide that where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. The proposed project consists of a small accessory structure to be built on an existing parking lot. Conditions of approval reflecting referral responses have been placed on the project (see Exhibit C - *Conditions of Approval*).

Contact Person: Teresa McDonald, Associate Planner, (209) 525-6330

Attachments:

- Exhibit A - Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval
- Exhibit B - Maps, Site Plan, and Elevations
- Exhibit C - Conditions of Approval
- Exhibit D - Notice of Exemption
- Exhibit E - Environmental Review Referrals

Findings and Actions Required for Project Approval

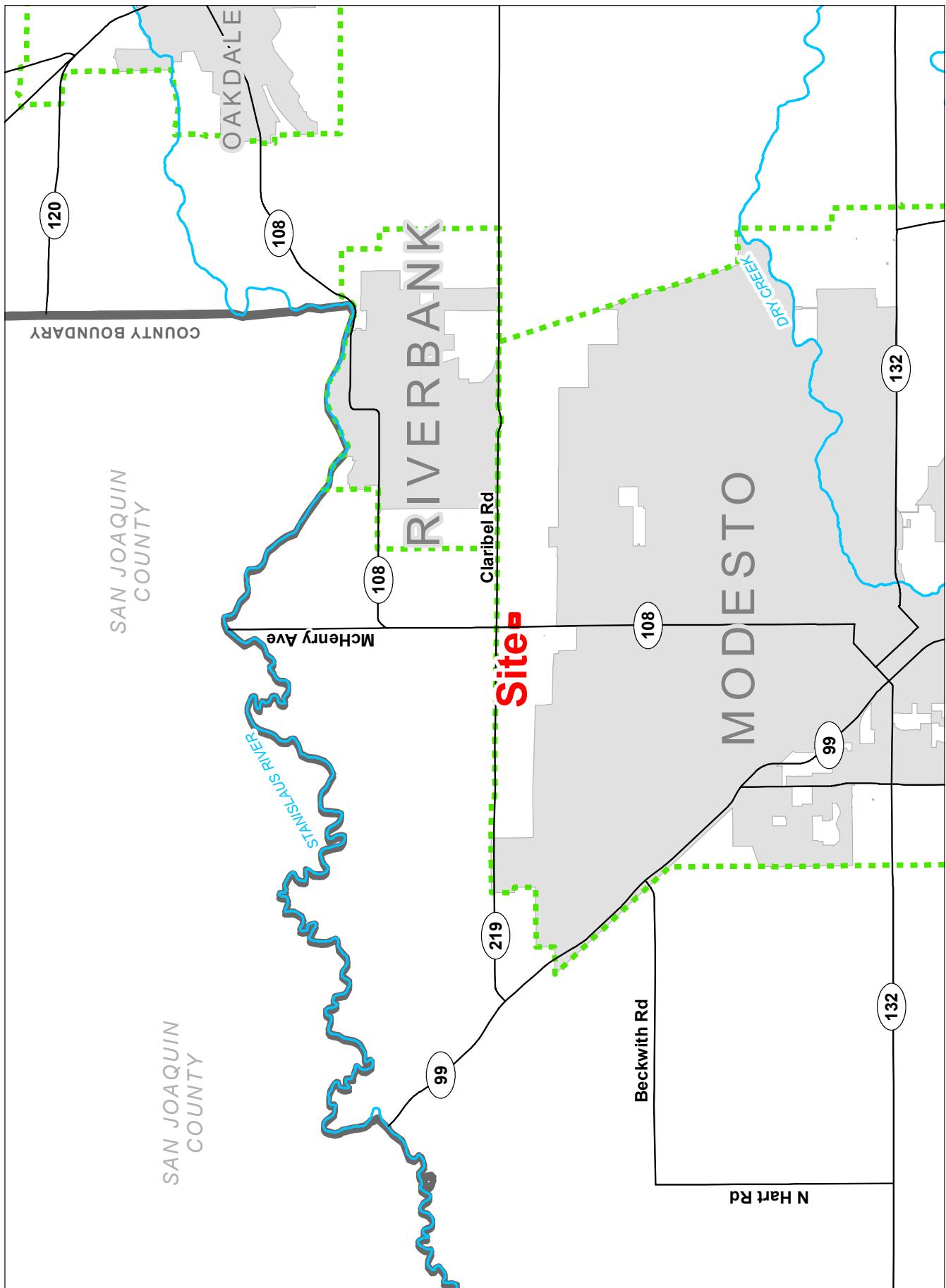
1. Find that the project is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), by finding that on the basis of the whole record, including any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the categorical exemption reflects Stanislaus County's independent judgment and analysis.
2. Order the filing of a Notice of Exemption with the Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder's Office pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15062.
3. Find That:
 - a. The establishment, maintenance, and operation of the proposed use or building applied for is consistent with the General Plan and will not, under the circumstances of the particular case, be detrimental to the health, safety, and general welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood of the use and that it will not be detrimental or injurious to property and improvements in the neighborhood or to the general welfare of the County.
4. Approve Use Permit Application No. PLN2022-0011 – American Chevrolet, subject to the attached Conditions of Approval.

AMERICAN CHEVROLET UP PLN2022-0011

AREA MAP

LEGEND

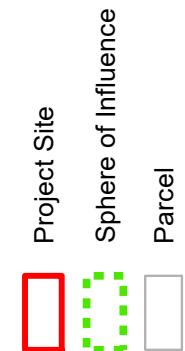
- Project Site
- Sphere of Influence
- City
- Road
- River



**AMERICAN
CHEVROLET
UP**
PLN2022-0011

GENERAL PLAN MAP

LEGEND



General Plan	Agriculture	Urban Transition	Planned Development	Planned Industrial
AG	UT	PD	PI	PI
CLARIBEL RD				
BITRITTO WAY				
KIERNAN AVE				
SPYRES WAY				
STRATOS WAY				
GALAXY WAY				
GLASS LN				
BANGS AVE				
NORTH STAR WAY				
LYELL DR				

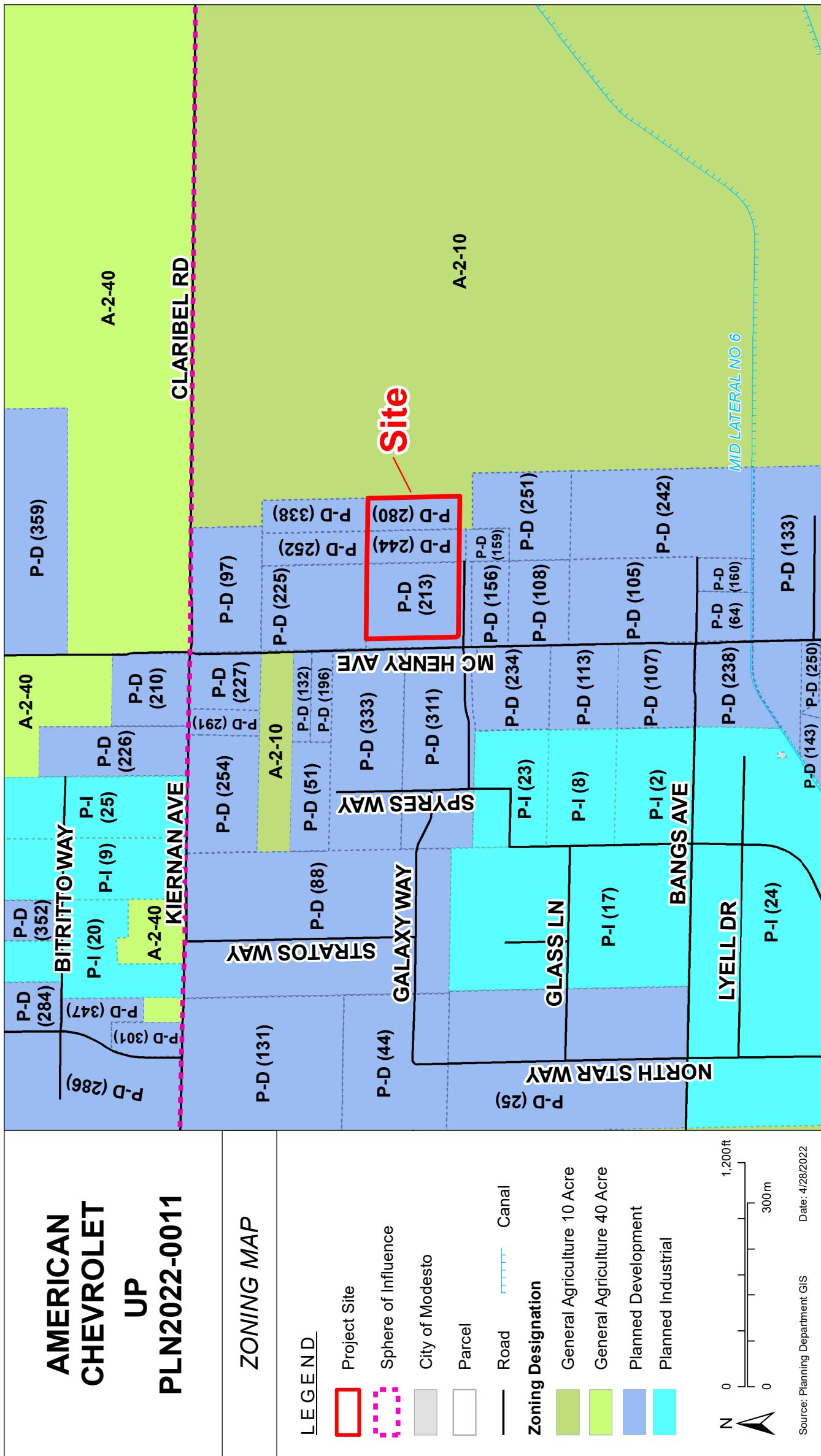
1,200ft
300m

Source: Planning Department GIS Date: 4/28/2022

MID LATERAL NO 6

AMERICAN CHEVROLET UP

PLN2022-0011

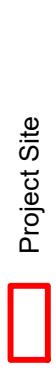




**AMERICAN
CHEVROLET
UP
PLN2022-0011**

2021 AERIAL AREA MAP

LEGEND



Project Site



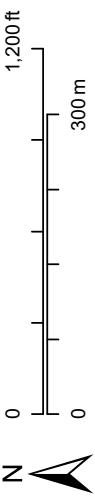
Sphere of Influence



Road



Canal



Source: Planning Department GIS

Date: 4/28/2022



**AMERICAN
CHEVROLET
UP
PLN2022-0011**

2021 AERIAL SITE MAP

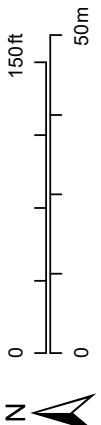
LEGEND



Project Site



Road



Source: Planning Department GIS

Date: 4/28/2022

**AMERICAN
CHEVROLET
UP**
PLN2022-0011

ACREAGE MAP

LEGEND

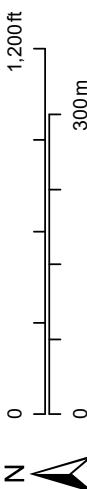
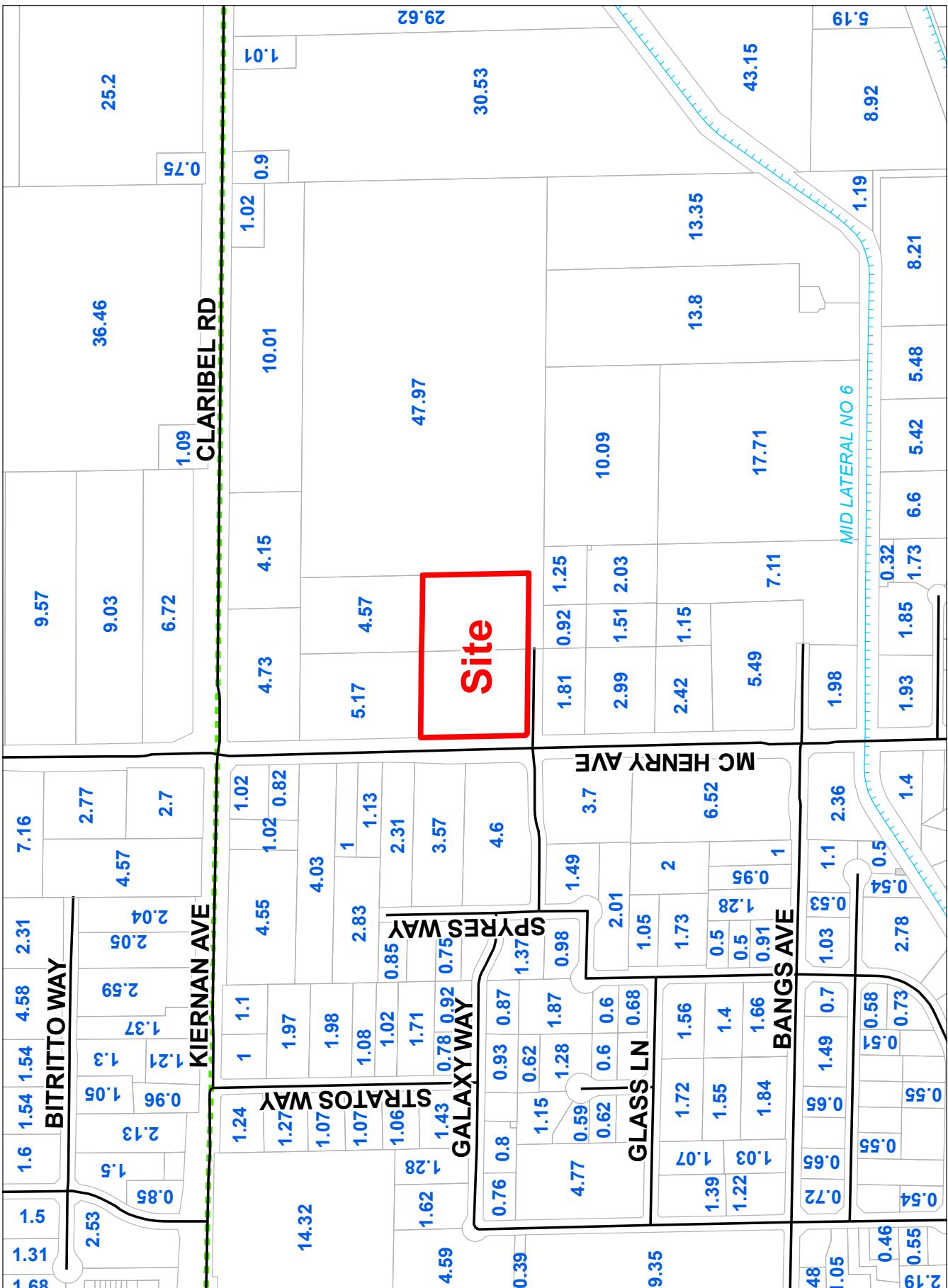


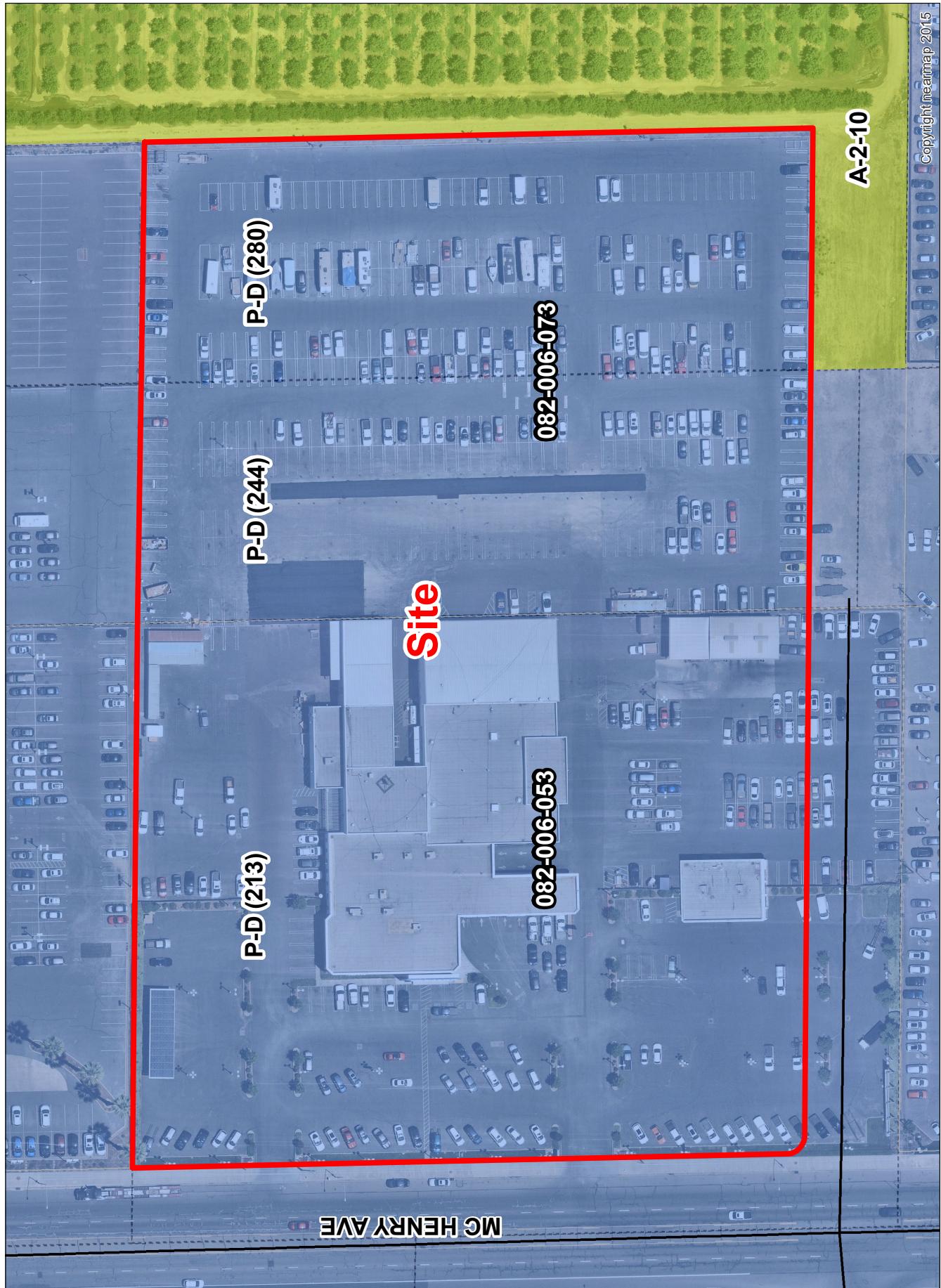
Sphere of Influence

Parcel/Acres

Road

Canal





**AMERICAN
CHEVROLET
UP
PLN2022-0011**

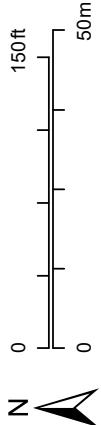
2021 AERIAL SITE MAP

LEGEND

- Project Site (Red Box)
- Parcel (White Box)
- Road (Black Line)

Zoning Designation

- General Agriculture 40 Acre (Green Box)
- Planned Development (Blue Box)



Source: Planning Department GIS
Date: 5/9/2022

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NO.	REVISION	&	DATE

AMERICAN CHEVROLET STORAGE BUILDING ADDITION 4742 MCGHEE AVE.

MODESTO, CA 95356

SITE PLAN



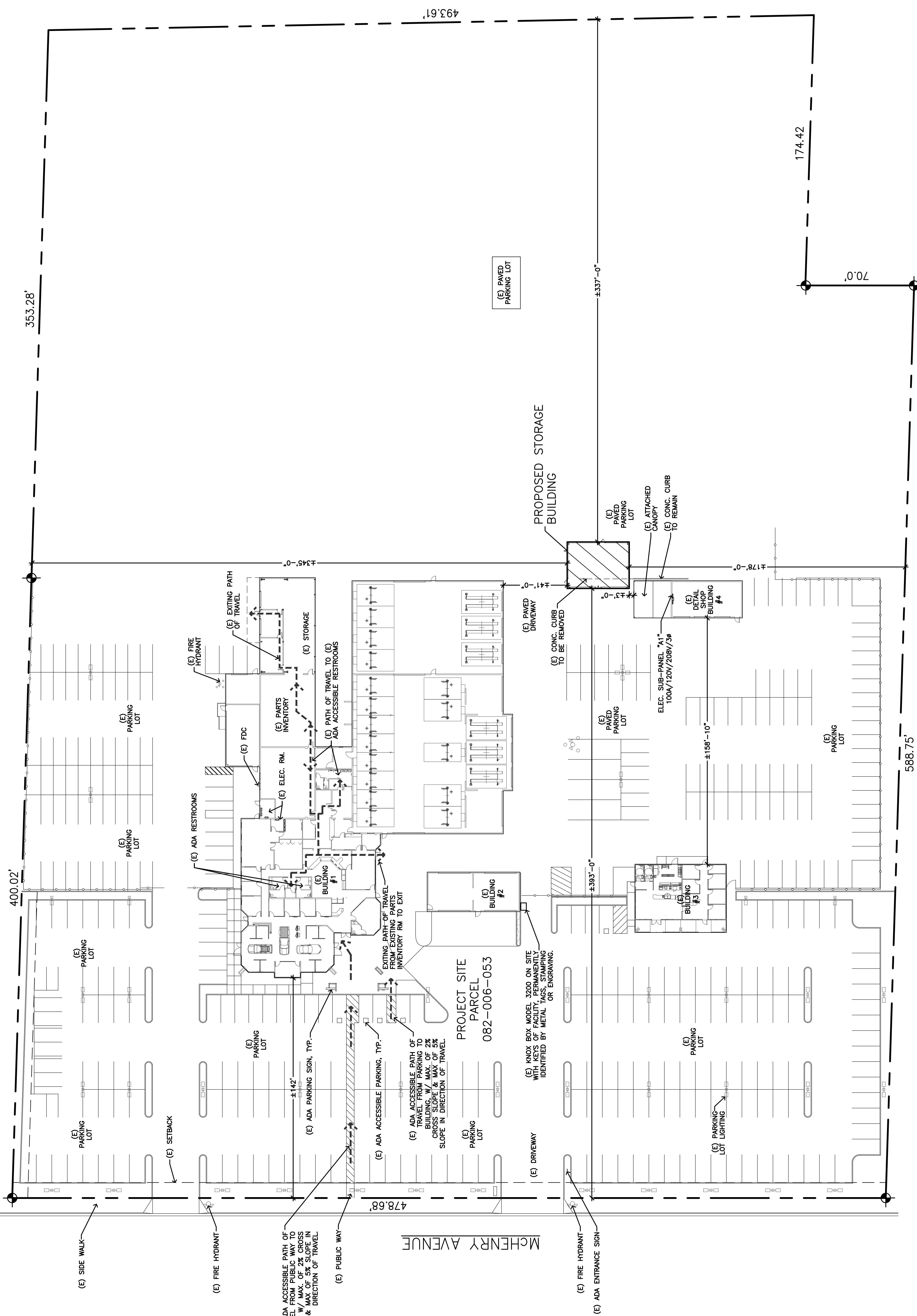
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07-27-21

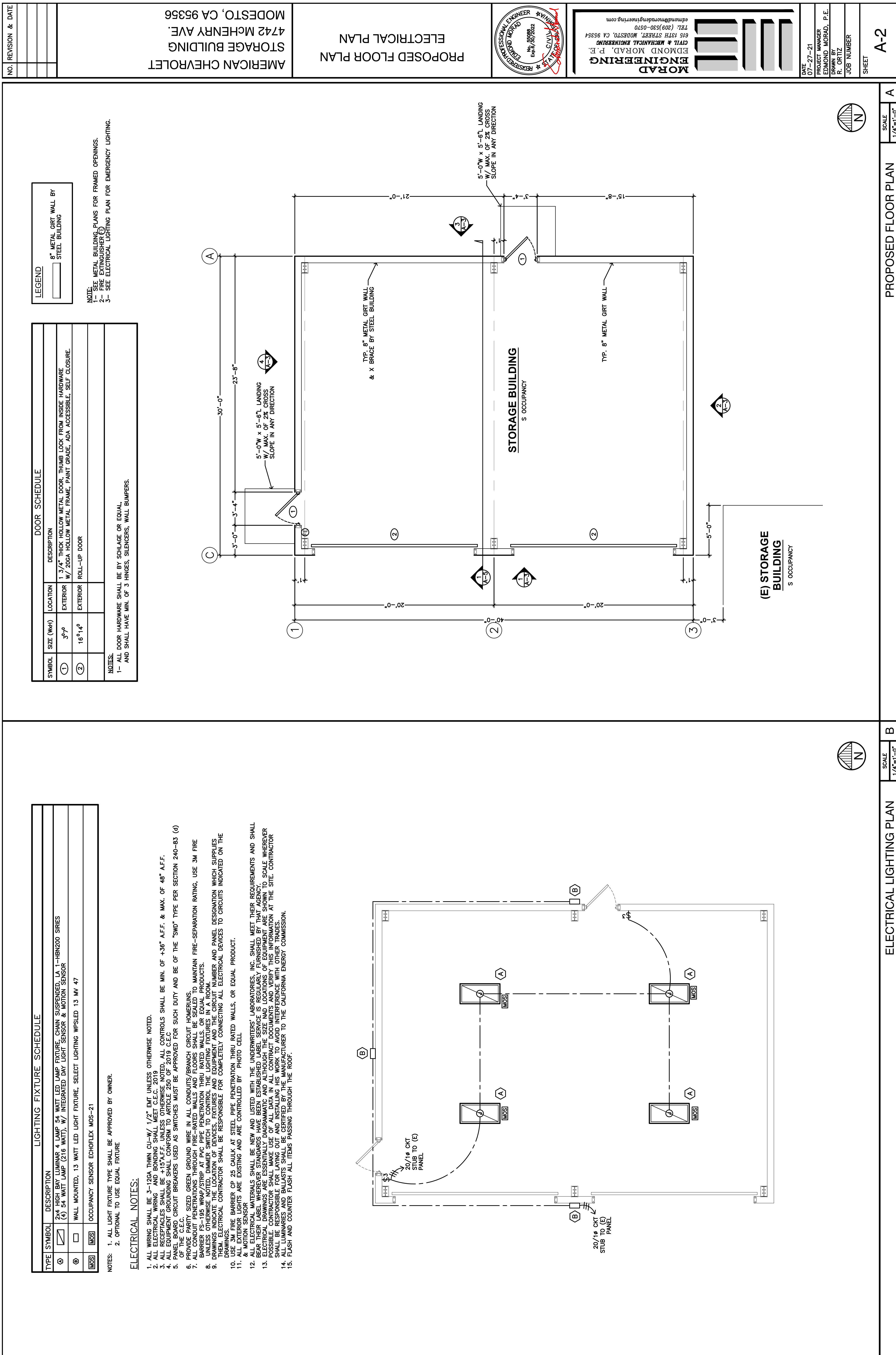
PROJECT MANAGER
EDMOND MORAD, P.E.
DRAWN BY
R. ORTIZ

JOB NUMBER

A-1

SHEET OF SHEETS

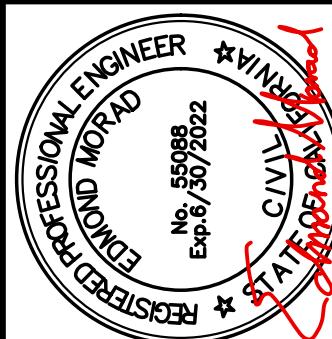




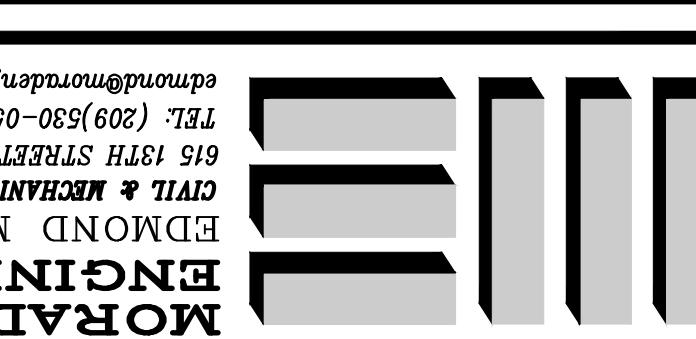
NO.	REVISION & DATE

AMERICAN CHEVROLET
STORAGE BUILDING
4742 MCHENRY AVE.
MOODESTO, CA 95356

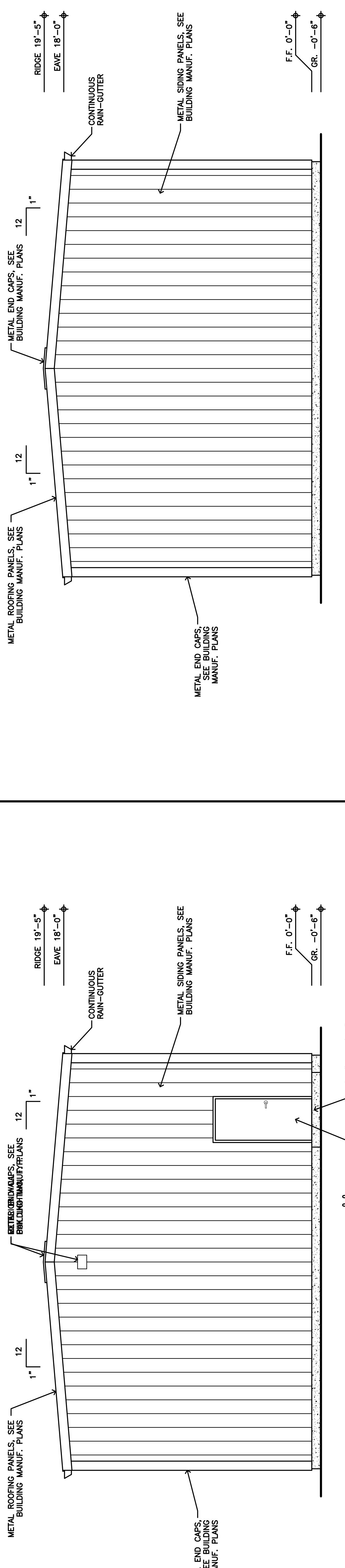
EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS



EDMOND MORAD, P.E.
CIVIL & MECHANICAL ENGINEERS
615 13TH STREET, MOODESTO, CA 95354
TEL: (209) 530-0570



DATE: 07-27-21
PROJECT MANAGER: EDMUND MORAD, P.E.
DRAWN BY: R. ORTIZ
JOB NUMBER:
SHEET: A-3
1



SOUTH / SIDE ELEVATION

SCALE $\frac{1}{4} = 1'-0"$

2

NORTH / SIDE ELEVATION

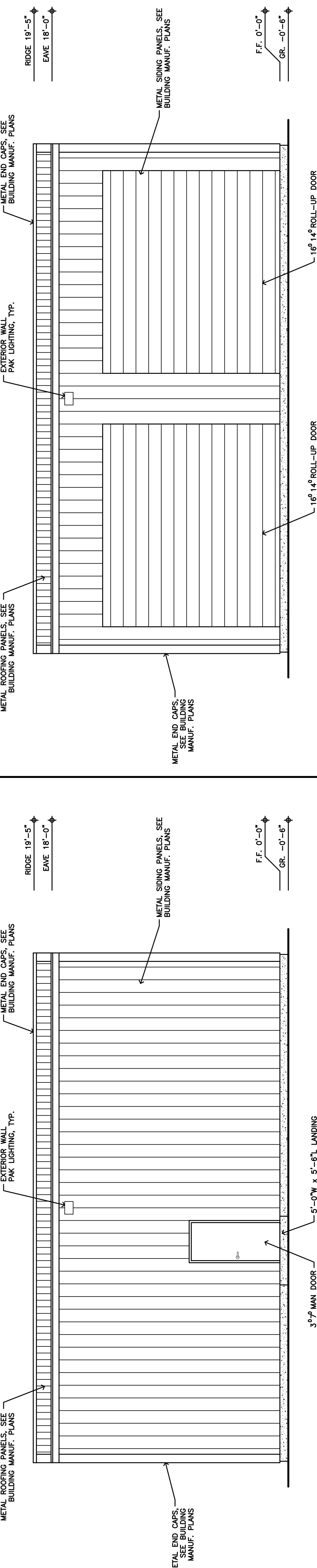
SCALE $\frac{1}{4} = 1'-0"$

4

SOUTH / SIDE ELEVATION

SCALE $\frac{1}{4} = 1'-0"$

2



EAST / REAR ELEVATION

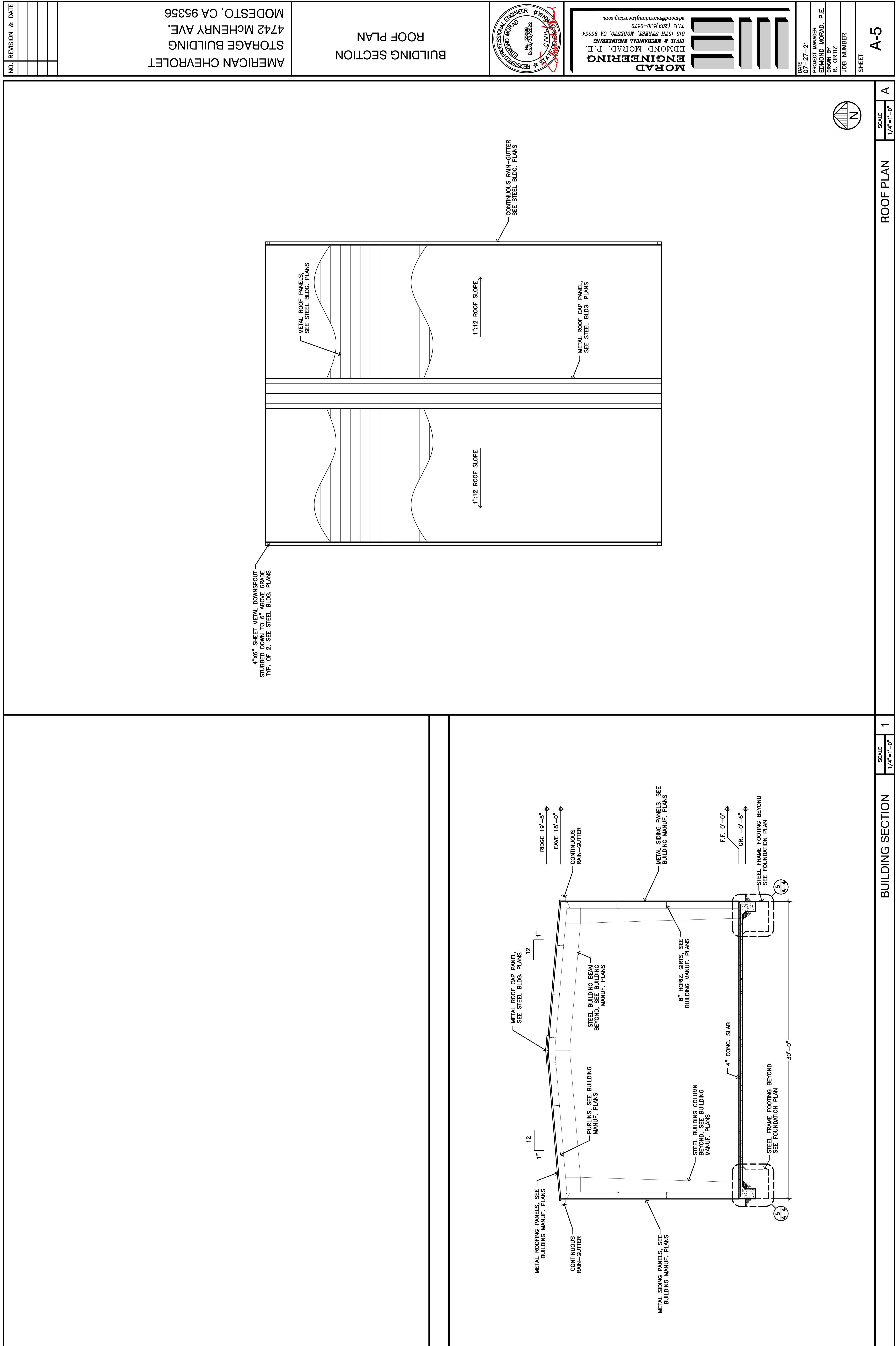
SCALE $\frac{1}{4} = 1'-0"$

3

WEST / FRONT ELEVATION

SCALE $\frac{1}{4} = 1'-0"$

1



DRAFT

NOTE: Approval of this application is valid only if the following conditions are met. This permit shall expire unless activated within 18 months of the date of approval. In order to activate the permit, it must be signed by the applicant and one of the following actions must occur: (a) a valid building permit must be obtained to construct the necessary structures and appurtenances; or, (b) the property must be used for the purpose for which the permit is granted. (Stanislaus County Ordinance 21.104.030)

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2022-0011 AMERICAN CHEVROLET

Department of Planning and Community Development

1. Use(s) shall be conducted as described in the application and supporting information (including the plot plan) as approved by the Planning Commission and/or Board of Supervisors. All development standards adopted for the Planned Development (P-D) (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280) zoning districts shall remain in effect. If a conflict arises between the P-D (213), P-D (244) and P-D (280) Development Standards and these Conditions of Approval, the Conditions of this Use Permit shall prevail.
2. Developer shall pay all Public Facilities Impact Fees and Fire Facilities Fees as adopted by Resolution of the Board of Supervisors. The fees shall be payable at the time of issuance of a building permit for any construction in the development project and shall be based on the rates in effect at the time of building permit issuance.
3. The applicant/owner is required to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the County, its officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceedings against the County to set aside the approval of the project which is brought within the applicable statute of limitations. The County shall promptly notify the applicant of any claim, action, or proceeding to set aside the approval and shall cooperate fully in the defense.
4. Any construction resulting from this project shall comply with standardized dust controls adopted by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and may be subject to additional regulations/permits, as determined by the SJVAPCD.
5. The Department of Planning and Community Development shall record a Notice of Exemption, and a Notice of Administrative Conditions and Restrictions (NOAC&R) with the County Recorder's Office within 30 days of project approval. The NOAC&R includes: Conditions of Approval/Development Standards and Schedule; any adopted Mitigation Measures; and a project area map. Prior to filing, within five days of approval of this project by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, the applicant shall submit to the Department of Planning and Community Development a check for **\$57.00**, made payable to **Stanislaus County**, for the payment of Clerk-Recorder filing fees.

Department of Environmental Resources

6. The applicant should contact the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) regarding appropriate permitting requirements for hazardous materials and/or wastes. Applicant and/or occupants handling hazardous materials or generating hazardous wastes must notify DER relative to the following: (Calif. H&S, Division 20)
 - a. Requirements for registering as a handler of hazardous materials in the County.
 - b. Submittal of hazardous materials business information into the California Electronic Reporting System (CERS) by handlers of materials in excess of 55 gallons, 500 pounds of a hazardous material, or of 200 cubic feet of compressed gas. If Hazardous Materials will be stored in new building, the Hazardous Material inventory site map shall be updated in CERS.
 - c. Generators of hazardous waste must notify the Department relative to the: (1) Quantity of waste generated; and (2) proposed waste disposal practices. Generators of hazardous waste must also use the CERS data base to submit chemical and facility information to the DER.
 - d. Generators of hazardous waste must apply for and maintain an active state or federal EPA ID number from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

Building Permits Division

7. Building permits are required and the project must conform with the California Code of Regulations, Title 24.

Modesto Irrigation District

8. High voltage is present within and adjacent to the project area. This includes 12,000 volts overhead and underground primary, and overhead and underground secondary facilities. Use extreme caution when operating heavy equipment, using a crane, ladders, scaffolding, handheld tools or any other type of equipment near the existing MID electric lines and cables. Assume all underground and overhead electric facilities are energized.
9. The contractor shall verify actual depth and location of all underground utilities prior to start of construction. Notify "Underground Service Alert" (USA) (Toll Free 800-227-2600) before trenching, grading, excavating, drilling, pipe pushing, tree planting, post-hole digging, etc. USA will notify all utilities to mark the location of their underground facilities.
10. MID requires that any trenching maintain a 1:1 horizontal distance from any existing pole, determined by the depth of the trench. If trenching encroaches on this requirement, the Contractor needs to contact the MID Electric Engineering Department to brace any affected poles during the trenching process. The cost of any required pole bracing will be assumed by the requesting party. Estimates for bracing any existing poles will be supplied upon request.
11. In conjunction with related site improvement requirements, existing overhead and underground electric facilities within or adjacent to the proposed project shall be protected, relocated or removed as required by the District's Electric Engineering Department. Any

relocation or installations shall conform to the District's Electric Service Rules. Customer will be responsible for all MID's cost associated with the development.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

12. Prior to issuance of the first building permit, the developer shall be responsible for demonstrating compliance with District Rule 9510 (Indirect Source Review), which is intended to mitigate a project's impact on air quality through project design elements or by payment of applicable off-site fees. The proposed project is subject to District Rule 9510 as it will receive a project-level discretionary approval from a public agency and will equal or exceed 9,000 square feet of space. When subject to the rule, an Air Impact Assessment (AIA) application is required.
13. Prior to the start of construction, the property owner/operator shall contact the District to determine if any Air District permits or if any other District rules or permits are required, including, but not limited to, an Authority to Construct (ATC) for construction or demolition of structures. The project may also be subject to the following District rules: Regulation VIII, (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations), and District Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants).

*Please note: If Conditions of Approval/Development Standards are amended by the Planning Commission or Board of Supervisors, such amendments will be noted in the upper right-hand corner of the Conditions of Approval/Development Standards; new wording is in **bold**, and deleted wording will have a ~~line through it~~.*

STANISLAUS COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
1010 10th Street, Suite 3400
Modesto, California 95354

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Use Permit Application No. PLN2022-0011 – American Chevrolet

Applicant Information: David Halvorson for American Chevrolet, 4742 McHenry Avenue, Modesto, CA 95356. (209) 575-1606.

Project Location: 4742 McHenry Avenue (State Route 108), between Claribel Road and East Galaxy Way, in the Modesto area. Stanislaus County APNS: 082-006-053 & 082-006-073.

Description of Project: Request to construct a 1,200 square-foot storage building accessory to an existing car dealership on an 8.51± acre parcel. The dealership is located within the Planned Development (P-D) (213), P-D (244), and P-D (280) zoning districts.

Name of Agency Approving Project: Stanislaus County Planning Commission

Lead Agency Contact Person: Teresa McDonald, Associate Planner

Telephone: (209) 525-6330

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Section 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Section 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, Section 15303
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____
- Common Sense Exemption. 15061 (b)(3)

Reasons why project is exempt: The project is considered exempt per CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, as the proposed project consists of a small accessory structure to be constructed on top of an existing parking lot.

Dated

Teresa McDonald
Associate Planner

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW REFERRALS

PROJECT: USE PERMIT APPLICATION NO. PLN2022-0010 - AMERICAN CHEVROLET

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							
CA DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION DIST 10	X		X		X							
CA OPR STATE CLEARINGHOUSE	X		X		X							
CA RWQCB CENTRAL VALLEY REGION	X		X		X							
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION	X		X		X							
CITY OF: MODESTO	X		X	X					X		X	X
FIRE PROTECTION DIST: STANISLAUS CONSOLIDATED	X		X		X							
GSA: STRGBA	X		X		X							
IRRIGATION DISTRICT: MODESTO	X		X	X					X		X	X
MOSQUITO DISTRICT: EASTSIDE	X		X		X							
MT VALLEY EMERGENCY MEDICAL	X		X		X							
PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC	X		X		X							
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY APCD	X		X		X							
SCHOOL DISTRICT 1: MODESTO UNION	X		X		X							
SCHOOL DISTRICT 2: SYLVAN UNION	X		X		X							
STAN CO AG COMMISSIONER	X		X		X							
STAN CO BUILDING PERMITS DIVISION	X		X		X							
STAN CO CEO	X		X		X							
STAN CO DER	X		X		X							
STAN CO ERC	X		X	X					X		X	X
STAN CO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	X		X	X					X		X	X
STAN CO PUBLIC WORKS	X		X	X					X		X	X
STAN CO SHERIFF	X		X		X							
STAN CO SUPERVISOR DIST 4: GREWAL	X		X		X							
STAN COUNTY COUNSEL	X		X		X							
STANISLAUS FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU	X		X		X							
STANISLAUS LAFCO	X		X		X							
SURROUNDING LAND OWNERS				X		X						
TELEPHONE COMPANY: AT&T	X		X		X							

I:\Planning\Staff Reports\UP\2022\PLN2022-0011 - American Chevrolet\Planning Commission\May 19, 2022\Staff Report\Exhibit E - Environmental Review Referral