

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
INITIAL STUDY OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE

PROJECT NUMBER: 0662-6R4147  
CP# 18-04

PROJECT NAME: Byron Highway/Byer Road Safety Improvements Project

PREPARED BY: Laura Cremin, Environmental Services Division

DATE: October 3, 2018

APPROVED BY: [Signature]

DATE: 10/4/2018

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- Categorical Exemption: 15301 [Class 1(c)]
- Environmental Impact Report Required
- Negative Declaration
- Conditional Negative Declaration

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The recommendation is based on the following: The project consists of minor alterations of existing public and private structures or facilities, involving negligible expansion of use, pursuant to section 15301 Class 1(c) of the CEQA guidelines.

What changes to the project would mitigate the identified impacts: N/A

USGS Quad Sheet: <u>Brentwood, Byron Hot Springs</u>	Base Map Sheet #: <u>Q27, P27</u>	Parcel #: <u>N/A</u>
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**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. **Location:** The project is located on Byron Highway between Byer Road and Hoffman Lane in the unincorporated community of Byron [Figures 1-2].
2. **Project Description:** The purpose of this Project is to install traffic safety improvements along approximately 2,000 feet of Byron Highway starting from 350 feet south of the Byer Road intersection to Hoffman Lane.

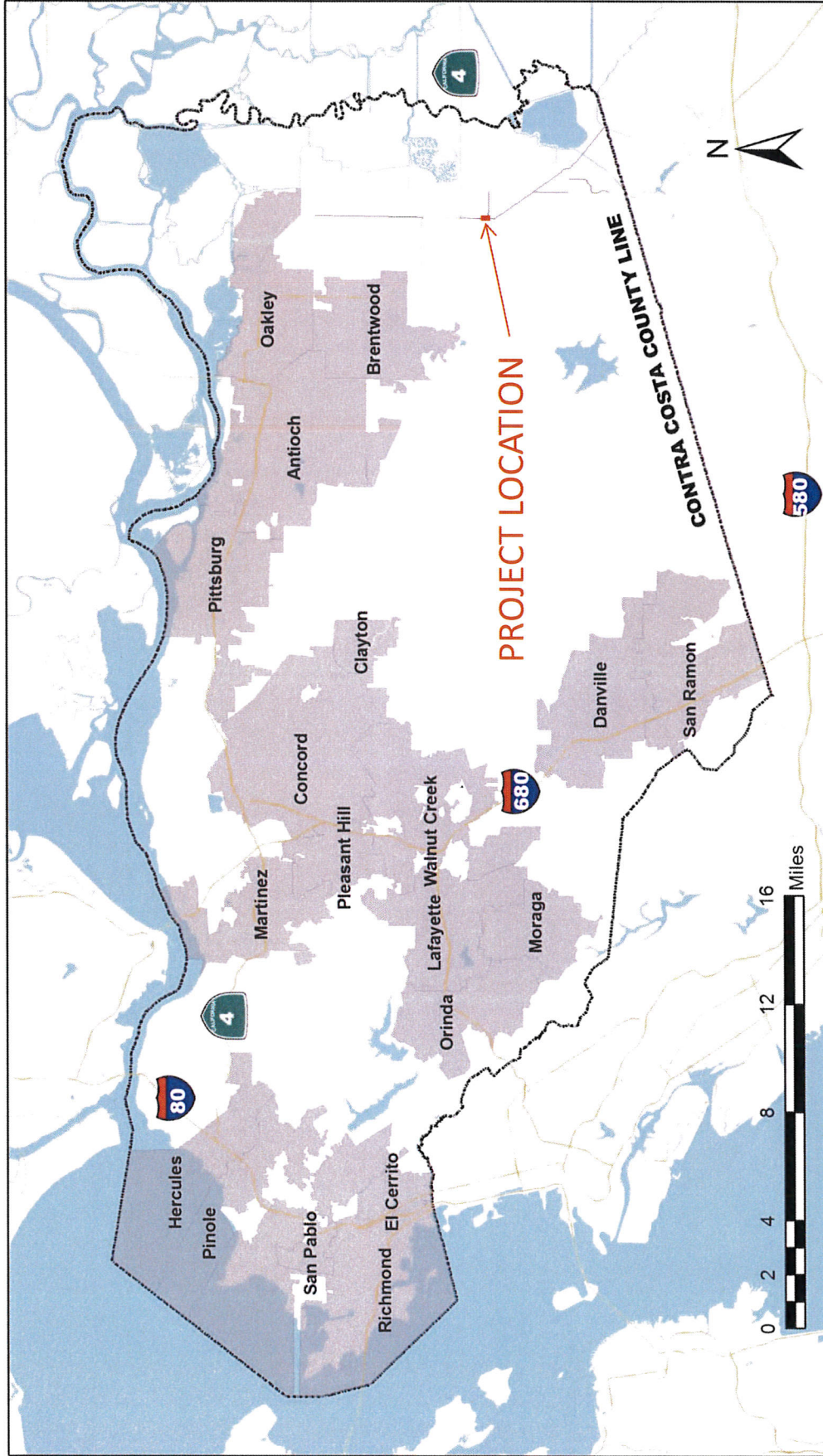
The Project consists of installing a left turn lane on southbound Byron Highway onto Byer Road to improve the traffic circulation at the intersection (Figure 3). A two-way left turn lane along Byron Highway will be installed to aid drivers leaving the school to merge with southbound Byron Highway traffic. The west side of Byron Highway will be widened approximately 12 feet to allow for the left turn pocket and two-way left turn lane. The existing pavement striping will be shifted for 6-foot wide paved shoulders on both sides, two 12-foot wide travel lanes, and one 12-foot wide two-way left turn lane/left turn pocket.

For roadway widening, property acquisition along the west side of Byron Highway will be required. Driveway conforms will be constructed as needed. Utility adjustments or relocation will be necessary in support of the Project. Project excavations are likely three feet in depth for new roadway section. Depths for fence posts and utility pole foundations will need to be determined during design, however a ten-foot depth is assumed for new utility pole relocations. Other construction items include the relocation of the existing pedestrian flashers and bollards at the intersection of Byron Highway and Byer Road. The button hook (exterior turning lane) on the west side of Byron Highway across from the Excelsior Middle School will be closed off to traffic with K-rails or the existing pavement will be demolished.

Tree removal on the west side of Byron Highway will be necessary to accommodate road widening and utility pole relocation. Approximately 16 non-native trees will be removed, although as many trees will be retained as possible. For road widening, approximately six non-native ornamental pines will be removed because they are located at and along the road right-of-way and edge of the new road pavement will intersect the trunks. For utility pole relocation, approximately 10 non-native elm trees located between the road right-of-way and a walnut orchard will be removed due to significant branch growth around utility wires. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to avoid impacts to existing tree root zones.

This Project is located in the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) service area; therefore the Project will comply with the HCP/NCCP. Drainage improvements may be necessary; stormwater treatment facilities may be needed for the new impervious pavement. Appropriate BMPs will be implemented for water pollution control. One lane will be open for traffic in both directions during construction activities. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times. Real property transactions, including right-of-way acquisitions and temporary construction easements from adjacent properties, will be necessary in support of this Project. Tree and shrubbery trimming will be necessary throughout the Project area. In order to minimize damage to trees, any roots exposed during construction activities will be clean cut. Access to properties will be provided at all times and advance notification of the Project construction schedule will be provided to property owners.

3. Does it appear that any feature of the project will generate significant public concern?  
 Yes  No  maybe (Nature of concern):
4. Will the project require approval or permits by other than a County agency?  
 Yes  No East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
5. Is the project within the Sphere of Influence of any city? No




 <p>Contra Costa County <b>Public Works</b> Department</p> <p>255 GLACIER DRIVE MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA 94553 PH: (925) 313-2000 FAX: (925) 313-2333</p>		<p>VICINITY MAP</p> <p><b>BYRON HIGHWAY/BYER ROAD</b></p> <p><b>SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS</b></p>	
<p>FEDERAL ID NO:</p>		<p>DB: LL CB:</p>	<p>DATE: JULY 2015</p>
		<p>Page 1 of 1</p>	

Figure 1

# Vicinity Map for Byron Hwy/Byer Road Safety Improvements

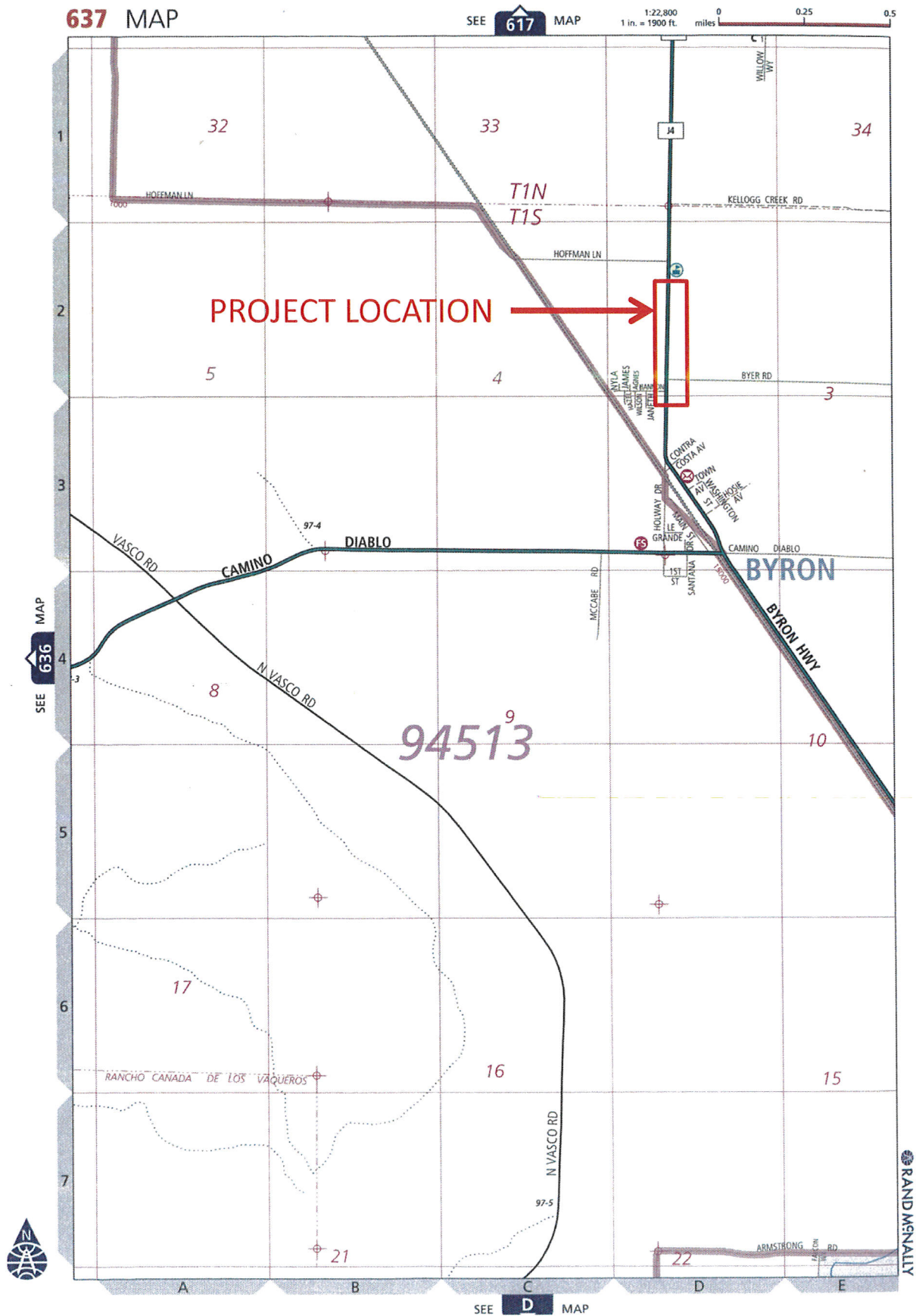
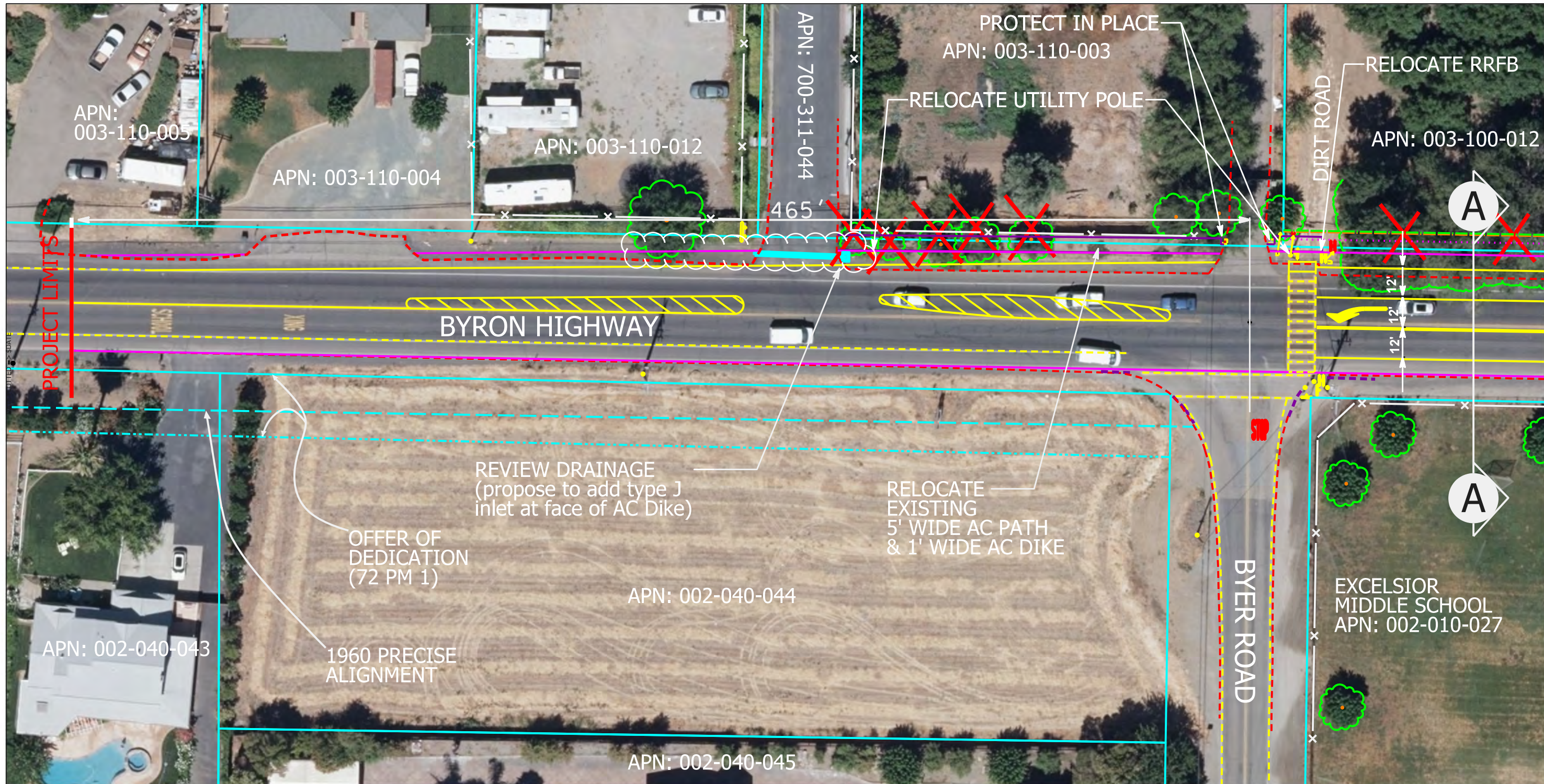


Figure 2



NOTE: Approached Taper =  $W \cdot V = (12')(50\text{MPH}) = 600$  ft long taper, but maximum length of 500 ft per note 1 from HDM Figure 402.3 with tee intersection. 465' is drawn to allow for vehicles to cross the hashed tapered area.

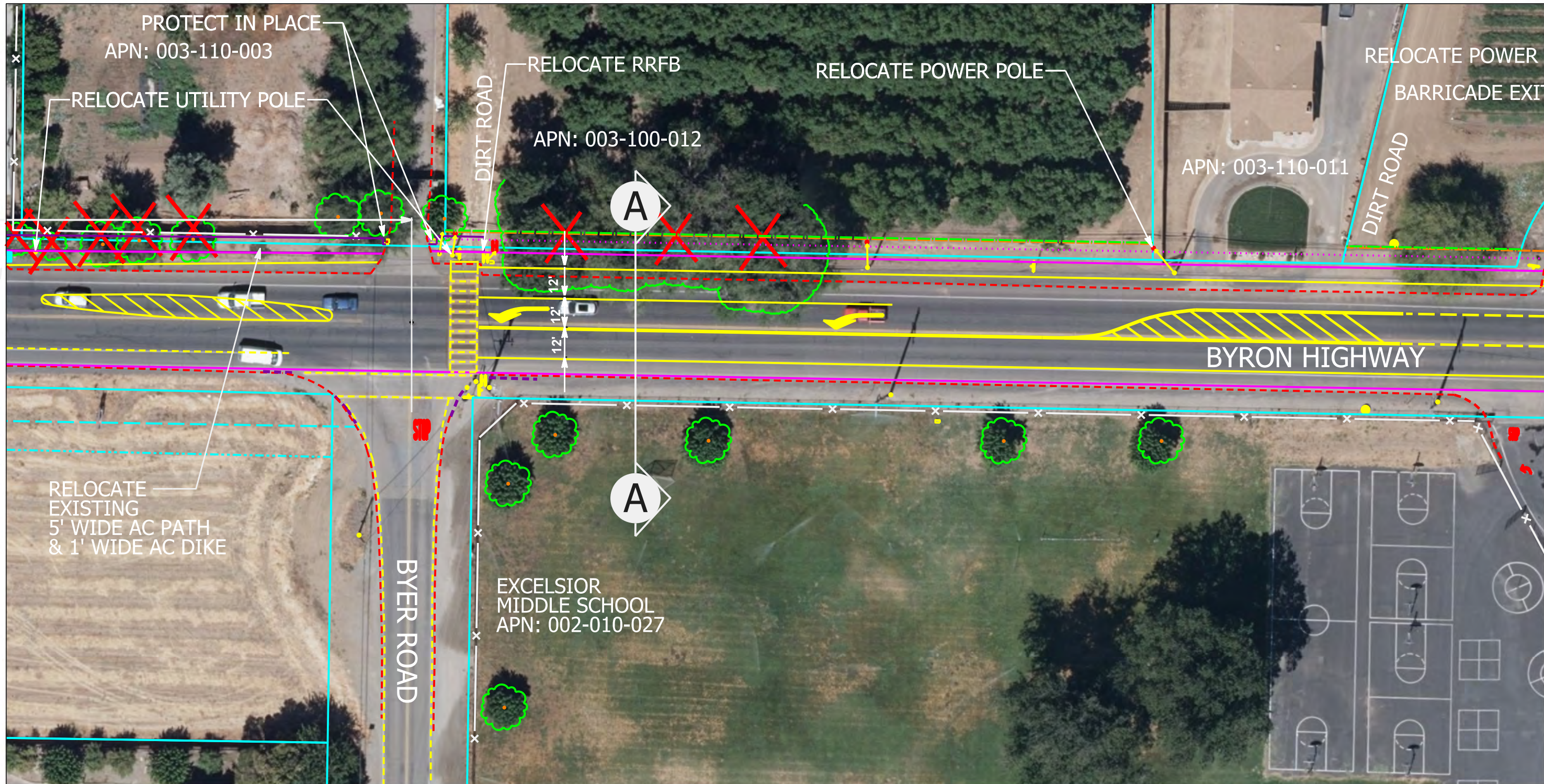
EXISTING	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED
	Right of Way	
	Striping	
	Edge of Pavement (EP)	
	Sidewalk	
	Fence	
	Toe of 4:1 Slope	
	5' Clear from EP	
	Driveway Culvert	

SCALE:  
1:40 on 11x17



<b>PROPOSED PROJECT LAYOUT</b>			
<b>BYRON HIGHWAY / BYER ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
FEDERAL ID NO.:	DB: LL	CB: MC	DATE: JULY 2017
			SHEET 1 OF 5

Figure 3



### LEGEND

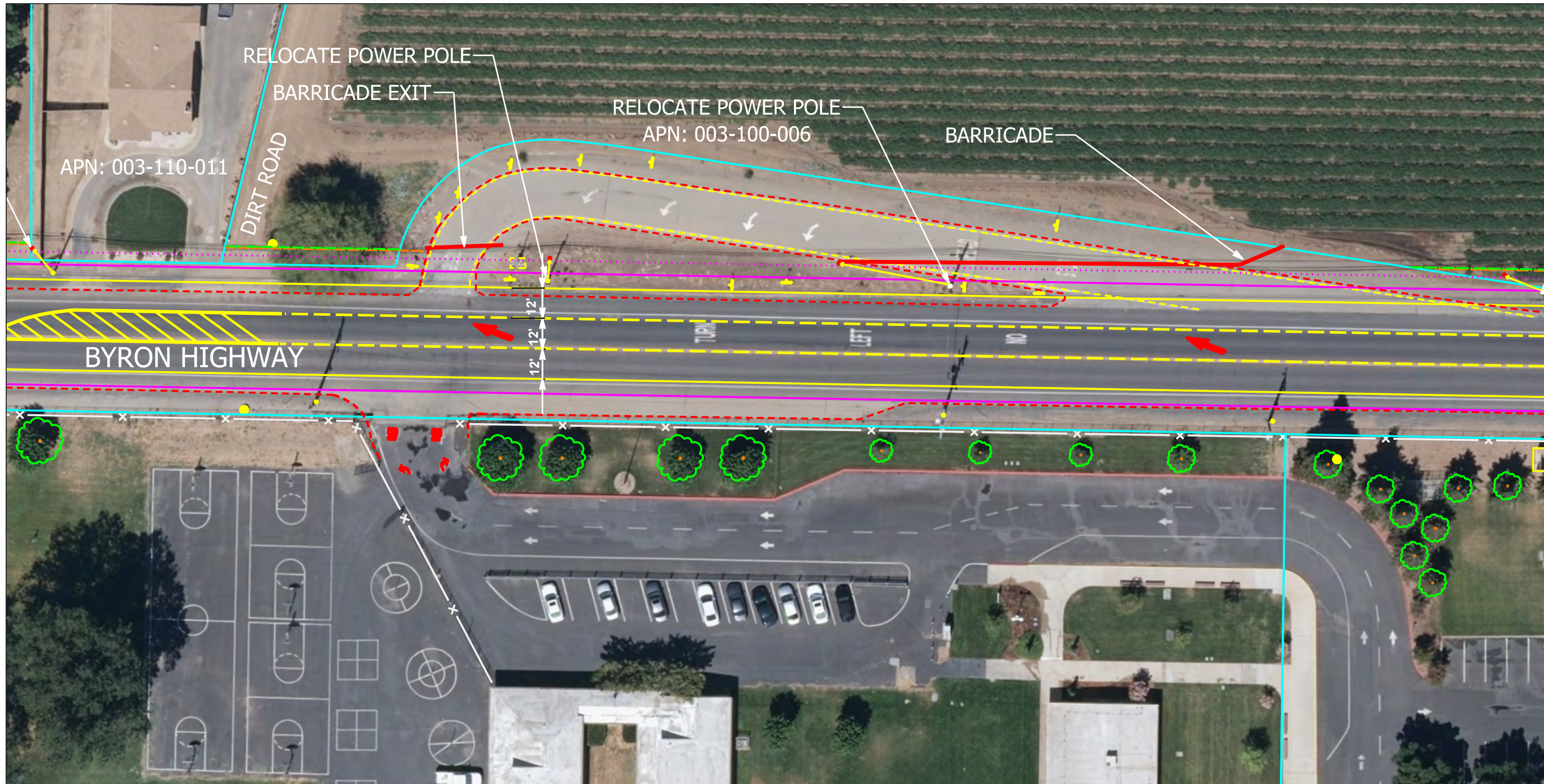
EXISTING	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED
	Right of Way	
	Striping	
	Edge of Pavement (EP)	
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	Fence	
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	5' Clear from EP	
	Driveway Culvert	

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<b>BYRON HIGHWAY / BYER ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
FEDERAL ID NO.:	DB: LL	CB: MC	DATE: JULY 2017
			SHEET 2 OF 5

Figure 3



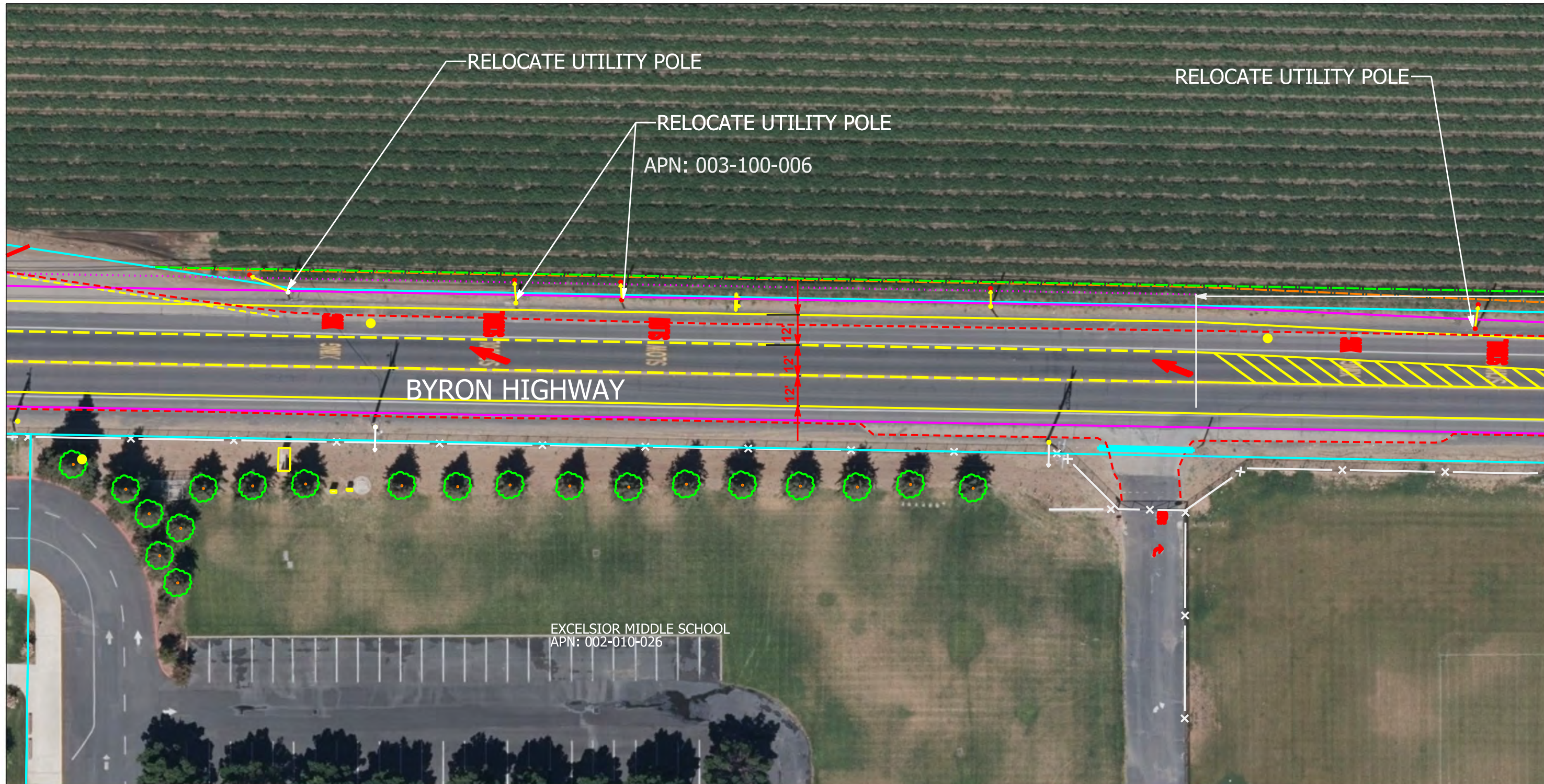
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<b>BYRON HIGHWAY / BYER ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
FEDERAL ID NO.:	DB: LL	CB: MC	DATE: JULY 2017
			SHEET 3 OF 5

Figure 3



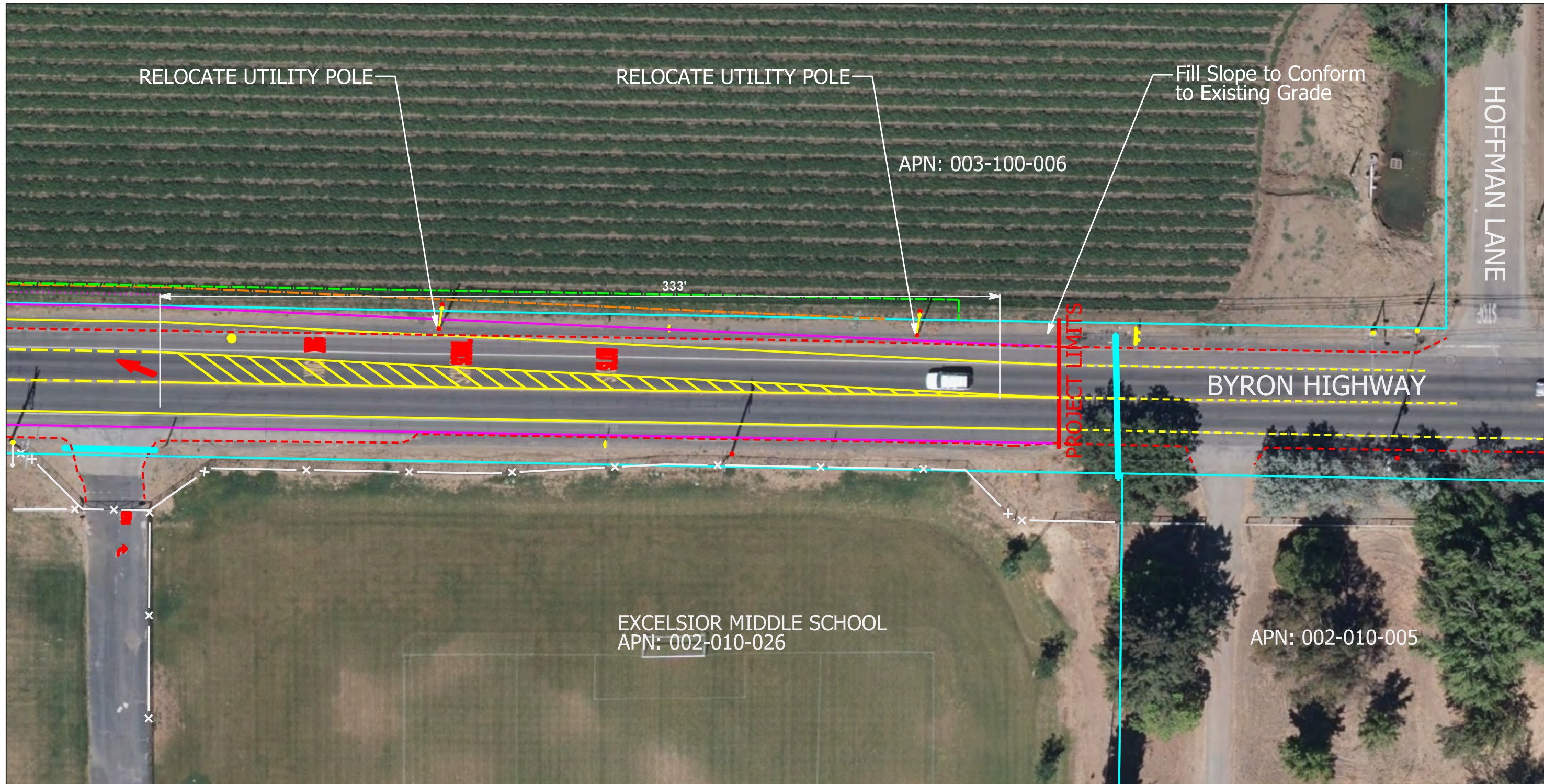
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<b>PROPOSED PROJECT LAYOUT</b>			
<b>BYRON HIGHWAY / BYER ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS</b>			
FEDERAL ID NO.:	DB: LL	CB: MC	DATE: JULY 2017
			SHEET 4 OF 5

Figure 3



RELOCATE UTILITY POLE

RELOCATE UTILITY POLE

APN: 003-100-006

Fill Slope to Conform to Existing Grade

HOFFMAN LANE

333'

BYRON HIGHWAY

PROJECT LIMITS

EXCELSIOR MIDDLE SCHOOL  
APN: 002-010-026

APN: 002-010-005

**LEGEND**

EXISTING	DESCRIPTION	PROPOSED
	Right of Way	
	Striping	
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	Fence	
	Toe of 4:1 Slope	
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	Driveway Culvert	

NOTE: Approached Taper =  $\frac{2}{3} * W * V = \frac{2}{3} (12') (50\text{MPH}) = 333 \text{ ft}$  long taper per HDM Figure 402.3 with left turn pocket

SCALE:  
1:40 on 11x17



<b>PROPOSED PROJECT LAYOUT</b>			
BYRON HIGHWAY / BYER ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS			
FEDERAL ID NO.:	DB: LL	CB: MC	DATE: JULY 2017
			SHEET 5 OF 5

Figure 3



**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
Notice of Exemption**

To:  Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Contra Costa County  
Dept. of Conservation & Development  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

County Clerk  
County of: Contra Costa

Project Title: Byron Highway/Byer Road Safety Improvements Project  
Proj. No. 0662-6R4147 CP#18-04

**COPY**

Project Applicant: **Contra Costa County Public Works Department**

Project Location – **Specific:** Frontage of Excelsior Middle School on Byron Highway

Project Location: Byron, CA

Project Location – County: East Contra Costa

**Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:** The purpose of this Project is to install traffic safety improvements along approximately 2,000 feet of Byron Highway starting from 350 feet south of the Byer Road intersection to Hoffman Lane.

The Project consists of installing a left turn lane on southbound Byron Highway onto Byer Road to improve the traffic circulation at the intersection. A two-way left turn lane along Byron Highway will be installed to aid drivers leaving the school to merge with southbound Byron Highway traffic. The west side of Byron Highway will be widened approximately 12 feet to allow for the left turn pocket and two-way left turn lane. The existing pavement striping will be shifted for 6-foot wide paved shoulders on both sides, two 12-foot wide travel lanes, and one 12-foot wide two-way left turn lane/left turn pocket.

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Name of Public Agency Approving Project: **Contra Costa County**

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: **Contra Costa County Public Works Department**

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial Project (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);  Categorical Exemption: 15301 Class 1(c)  
 Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));  Other Statutory Exemption, Code No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));  General Rule of Applicability [Article 5, Section 15061 (b)(3)]

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The project consists of minor alteration of existing public and private structures or facilities, involving negligible expansion of use, pursuant to Section 15301 Class 1(c) of the CEQA guidelines. The project will not result in the removal of any scenic resource.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Laura Cremin - Public Works Dept. Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (925) 313-2015

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: Laura B. Morena Date: 10/4/2018 Title: Principal Planner

Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

**AFFIDAVIT OF FILING AND POSTING**

I declare that on \_\_\_\_\_ I received and posted this notice as required by California Public Resources Code Section 21152(c). Said notice will remain posted for 30 days from the filing date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**Applicant:**  
Public Works Department  
255 Glacier Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553

Attn: Laura Cremin  
Environmental Services Division

**Department of Fish and Game Fees Due**

- EIR - \$3,168.00  
 Neg. Dec. - \$2,280.75  
 DeMinimis Findings - \$0  
 County Clerk - \$50  
 Conservation & Development - \$25

Total Due: \$75.00  
Total Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_