

County of Santa Clara

Department of Planning and Development

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT Z-BEST COMPOSTING FACILITY MODIFICATIONS

The County of Santa Clara is the Lead Agency that has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the project described below:

The project proponent, Zanker Recycling, has applied to the County of Santa Clara for a modification of its Use Permit for the Z-Best Composting facility at 980 State Route 25 (SR 25) in the unincorporated area approximately 5 miles southeast of Gilroy (Figure 1 - Project Site Location). The proposed modification would allow an upgrade of the existing municipal solid waste composting process from the current windrow method to an aerated static pile process, as well as other changes in operations and site design. The proposed new process would occur within the already developed area of the existing composting facility (Figure 2 - Project Site Aerial). The proposed modification would result in a throughput increase from the current maximum of 1,500 tons to 2,750 tons per day and from 2,500 TPD on 15 days per year to 3,500 TPD on 20 days each year to accommodate seasonal spikes in green waste intake. Z-Best also proposes other site changes. Its existing detention pond #1 would be modified to ensure it complies with water quality protection requirements embedded in state regulations regarding operations of composting facilities (Figure 3 - Proposed Site Plan). Z-Best's existing flood water storage facility would also be enlarged to increase flood storage capacity. The entire Z-Best property is within a 100-year floodplain. This flood storage capacity expansion will compensate for the impacts associated with Z-Best's elevation of the existing pad on which the new composting technology would be placed. In addition, SR 25 along the site frontage would be widened to allow installation of acceleration and deceleration lanes into and out of the facility entrance, which would be relocated to become a new fourth leg of the existing SR 25/Bolsa Road intersection (Figure 4). The existing facility driveway would be closed.

The project (SCH# 2018102041, County File PLN17-6498) would result in significant and unavoidable Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Transportation impacts. This notice is required to disclose whether the project site is listed as a hazardous waste site. The project site is not a listed hazardous waste site.

Your comments regarding the significant environmental effects of this project and the adequacy of the Draft EIR are welcome. The 45-day public review period begins on January 15, 2021 and ends on March 1, 2021. The Draft EIR and referenced documents are available for review on the Department of Planning Development's web site: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Development/Current/Pages/Current.aspx> (Gilroy>File PLN17-6498)

A meeting to receive comments on the Draft EIR has been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 1:30 pm before the Santa Clara County Planning Commission. Written comments on the Draft EIR should be addressed to Adam Petersen at the following e-mail address: apetersen@m-group.us.

DocuSigned by:

Bharat Singh

Bharat Singh, Principal Planner

1/15/21

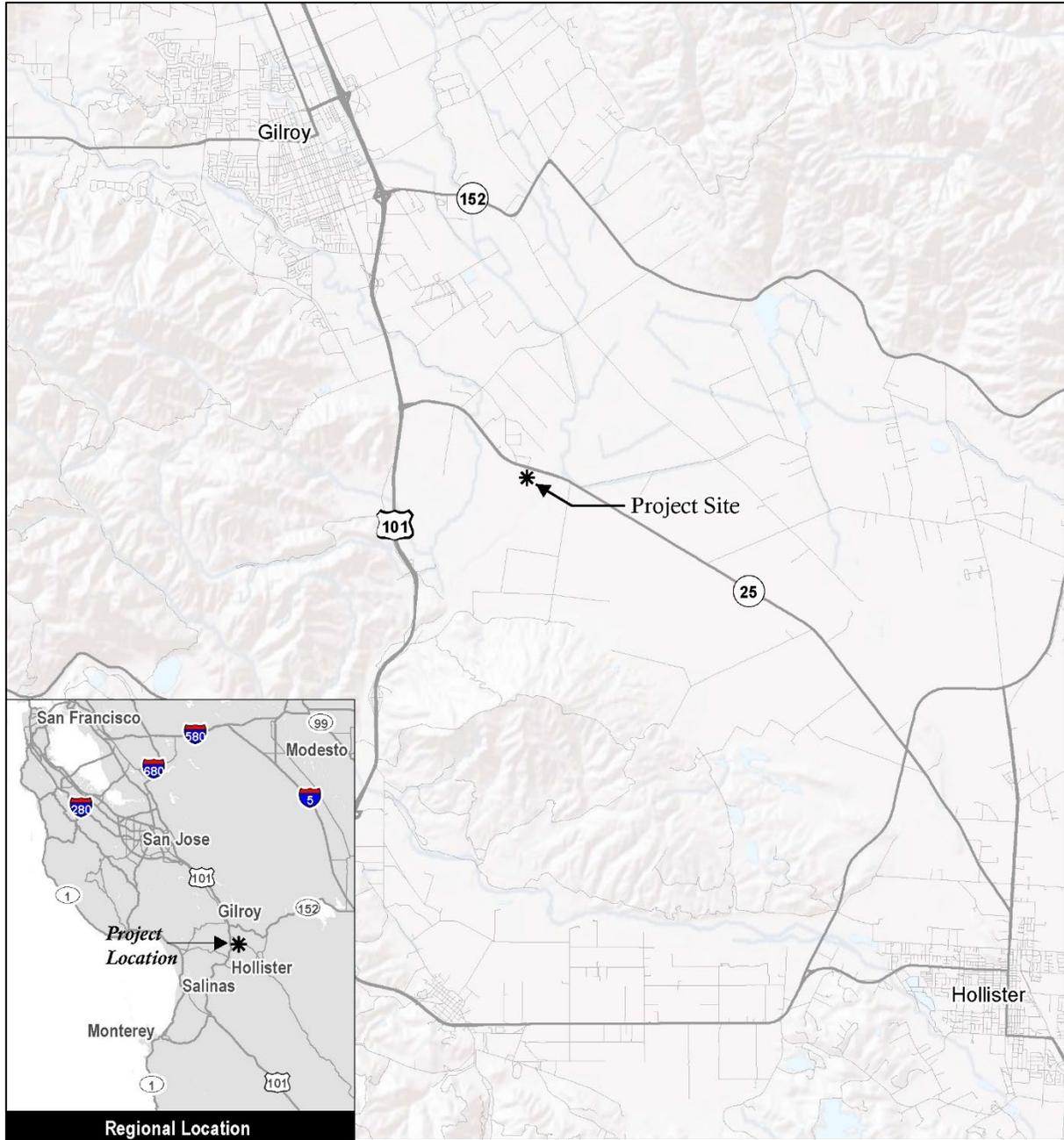


Figure 1 - Project Site Location



Figure 2 - Project Site Aerial

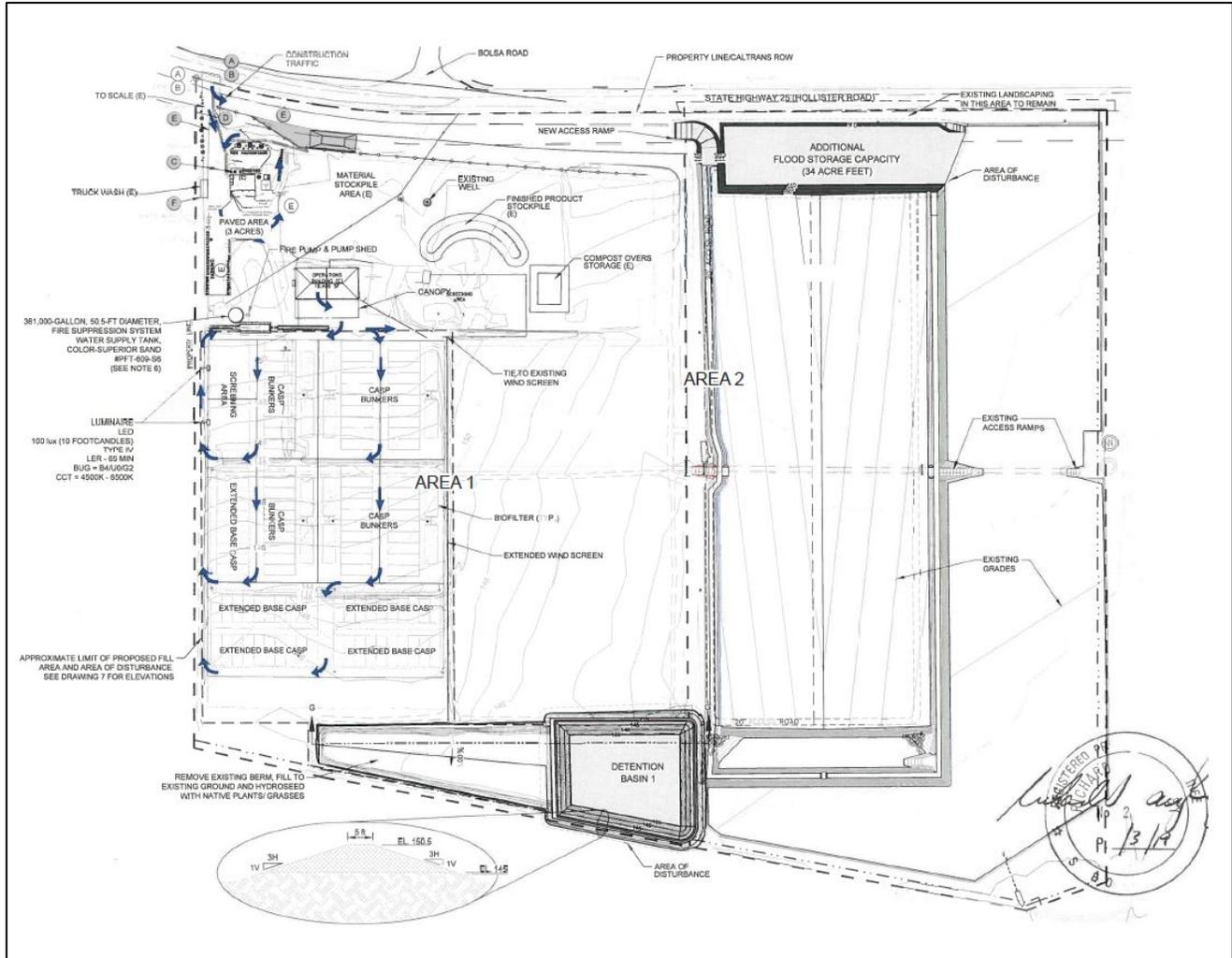


Figure 3 - Proposed Site Plan

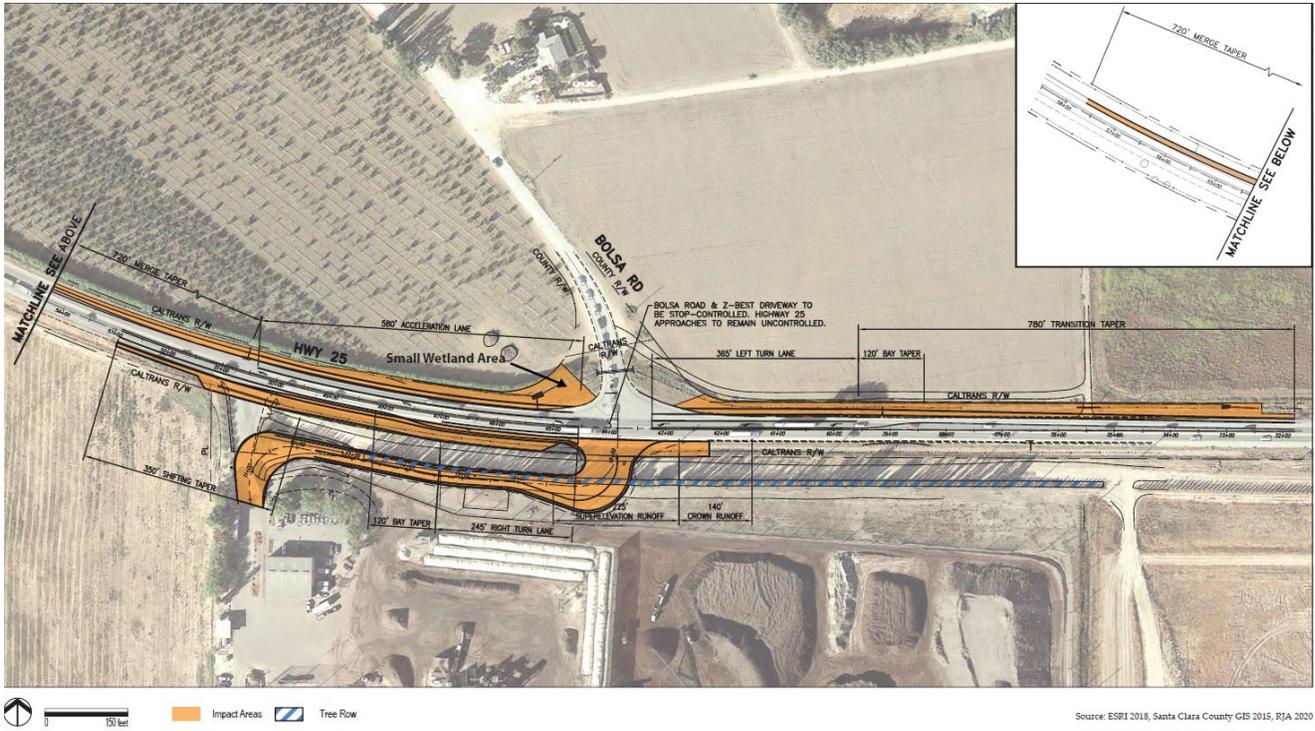


Figure 4 - Proposed Project Entrance/Driveway and SR 25 Improvements