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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Environmental Services Agency

DATE: July 11, 2001

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 24, 2001

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Marcia Raines, Director, Environmental Services Agency MR

SUBJECT: Certification of the Negative Declaration for the San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office

Recommendation

Conduct a public hearing, close the hearing and then adopt a resolution certifying the project's Negative Declaration by finding that:

1. The Negative Declaration is complete, correct and adequate and prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and applicable State and County guidelines.

2. The Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of San Mateo County.

3. On the basis of the Initial Study, comments received hereto, and testimony presented and considered at the public hearing, there is no substantial evidence that the project, if subject to the mitigation measures contained in the Negative Declaration, will have a significant effect on the environment.

4. The mitigation measures identified in the Negative Declaration, agreed to by the applicant, placed as conditions on the project, and identified as part of this public hearing, have been incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan in conformance with California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6.

Background

On July 13, 1999, by Resolution No. 62958, your Board approved an agreement with Turner Construction Company for a Needs Assessment/Design Program/Cost Budget/Site Evaluation for replacement of the Sheriff's Forensics Sciences Laboratory and related Emergency Services functions. Turner Construction Company completed this Assessment and Evaluation Study in November 1999 and the Tower Road site was selected for the Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office. Your Board authorized Turner Construction Company to continue design efforts (Resolution No. 63450) and most recently, on May 8, 2001, by Resolution No. 64426, authorized Turner Construction Company to continue with Construction Management, Architectural, and Engineering Services.

Discussion

The project consists of the certification of the environmental document (Mitigated Negative Declaration) for the construction of a new 30,000 sq. ft. single-story building and associated parking area to be used as the San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office at the Tower Road County Government facility. The existing Forensics Lab will be relocated from a nearby structure, which is in disrepair and has serious shortcomings with regard to size, ventilation, and health and safety standards. The Coroner's Office is currently located in leased office space in downtown Redwood City. The two offices will be consolidated into one modern, energy efficient building.

Environmental impacts discussed within the document include geology, vegetation, grading, erosion and surface water controls, noise, hazardous/toxic materials, air quality and aesthetics. Thomas Reid Associates conducted a biological assessment for the site in April 2001. They surveyed for sensitive plants and animal habitats. No sensitive plants or animal species were observed on the project site. The County identified grading, air quality, hazardous/toxic materials, and aesthetics as potential environmental impacts for this project. All significant environmental impacts identified will be mitigated during and after construction as required by the mitigation measures indicated in the Negative Declaration. These include such measures as: erosion and stormwater control plans; drainage plan; landscape plans; compliance with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District requirements; and earth-tone colors.

The Planning Division of Environmental Services posted this Negative Declaration with the County Recorder's Office, for a period of 20-days, in accordance with State and Local CEQA Guidelines. A notice of availability of this document was also advertised in the San Mateo Times. The Negative Declaration had a review period of April 30, 2001 through May 21, 2001. No comments were received.

Fiscal Impact

None. There is no fiscal impact associated with the preparation and certification of this environmental document. The County Planning Division prepared the environmental document for the County Sheriff's Department.

A form of resolution has been approved by County Counsel.

Attachments

cc: Sheriff Donald Horsley
Robert Foucrault, Deputy Coroner
Lee Lazaro, Sheriff's Office
Sara Medina, County Manager's Office
Chris Motley, County Counsel
Frank Battipede, County Manager's Office
Terry Burnes, Planning Administrator
Highlands Homeowner's Association

MR:JE:fc – JKEL2098_WFO.DOC

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

* * * * * *

CERTIFICATION OF THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SAN MATEO COUNTY SHERIFF'S FORENSICS LABORATORY AND CORONER'S OFFICE

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, the County is proposing to construct a new single-story building and associated parking area to be used as the San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office; and

WHEREAS, the project has been designed to minimize the disturbance to the surrounding environment; and

WHEREAS, a Negative Declaration to review possible environmental impacts of the proposed project has been prepared; and

WHEREAS, this Board has taken public testimony on the Negative Declaration and has reviewed and considered said Negative Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the President of this Board of Supervisors be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to certify the Negative Declaration as follows:

1. The Negative Declaration is complete, correct and adequate and prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and applicable State and County guidelines;

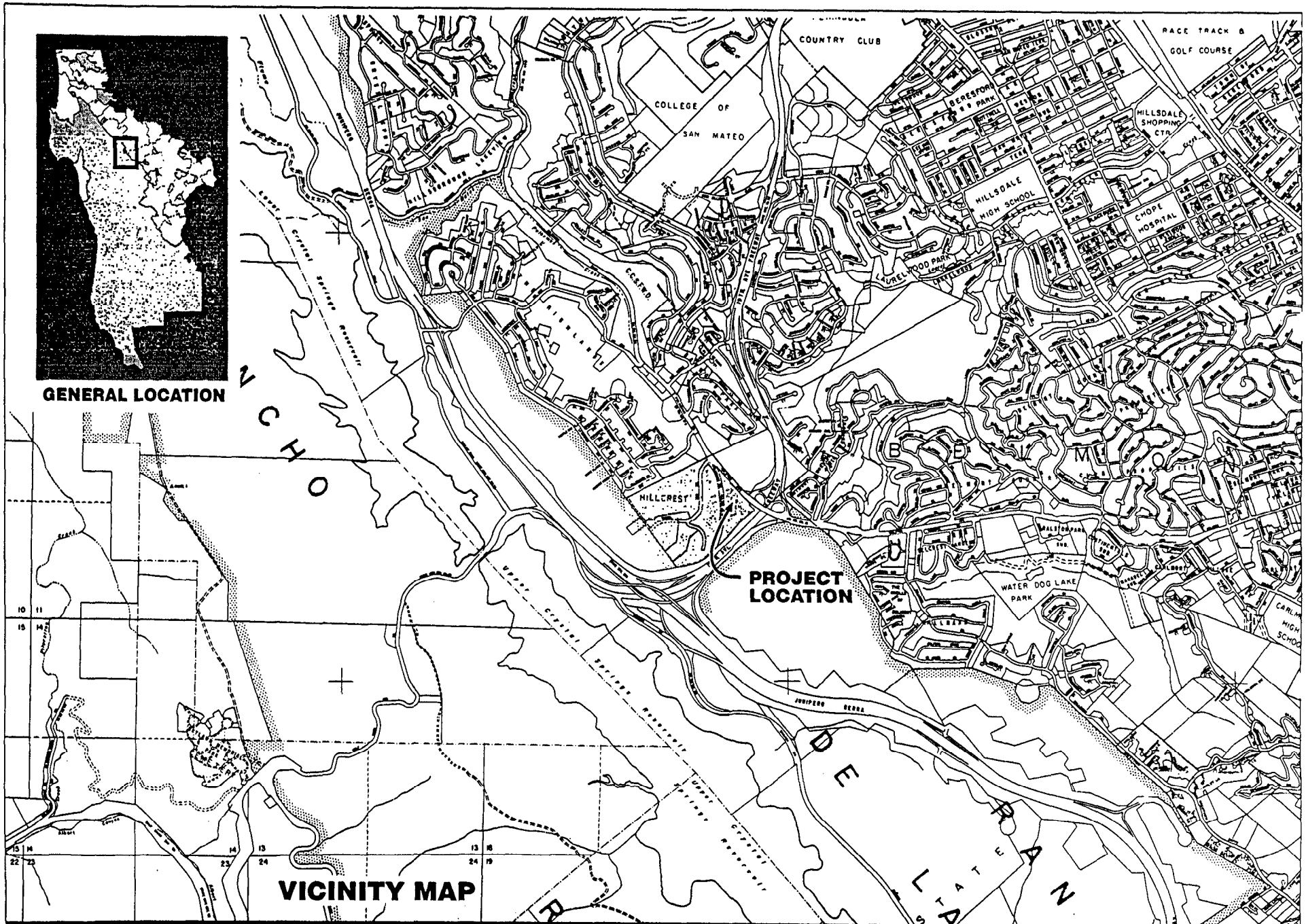
2. The Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of San Mateo County;

3. On the basis of the Initial Study, comments received hereto, and testimony presented and considered at the public hearing, that there is no substantial evidence that the project, if subject to the mitigation measures contained in the Negative Declaration, will have a significant effect on the environment;

4. The mitigation measures identified in the Negative Declaration, agreed to by the applicant, placed as conditions on the project, and identified as part of this public hearing, have been incorporated into the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan in conformance with California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6; and

for and on behalf of the County of San Mateo, and the Clerk of this Board shall attest the President's signature thereto.

JE:fc – JKEL2099_WFS.DOC



San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: A

CDR8\Jim E - env docs 04-27-01 rp

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COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, PLANNING DIVISION

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code 21,000 et seq.), that the following project: San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office, when implemented, will not have a significant impact on the environment.

FILE NO.: PLN 2001-00277

OWNER: San Mateo County

APPLICANT: San Mateo County

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.: 041-322-020

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The project includes the construction of a new 30,000 sq. ft. single-story building and associated 46-space parking lot and access driveway to be used as the San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office. The Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory will be relocated from a nearby structure on site which is in disrepair, inadequate in size, ventilation, health and safety standards, and incapable of ASCLD Accreditation. The Coroner's Office will be relocated from Downtown Redwood City. The consolidation of the two offices into one County-owned building of related and shared functions will save tax payer dollars by eliminating the need for the County to rent expensive office space in Downtown Redwood City.

The new structure incorporates energy saving techniques into its design, materials, and mechanical systems. The building's design has a southern orientation for the proposed photo-voltaic assemblies on the sloped portions of the roof. The north, vertical faces of the sloped roof will have glazed clear stories to provide natural light into the interior. The photo-voltaic cells will power 100% of the building's lighting needs and low energy mechanical systems will employ variable air volume fume hoods and sensitive controls to regulate and monitor all mechanical ventilation and lighting. A landscaped parking area will provide 46 spaces for the 25 employees, service vehicles, and visitors.

FINDINGS AND BASIS FOR A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Planning Division has reviewed the initial study for the above project and, based upon substantial evidence in the record, finds that:

1. The project will not adversely affect water or air quality or increase noise levels substantially.

2. The project will not have adverse impacts on the flora or fauna of the area.

3. The project will not degrade the aesthetic quality of the area.

4. The project will not have adverse impacts on traffic or land use.

5. In addition, the project will not:

   a. Create impacts which have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment.

   b. Create impacts which achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.

   c. Create impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

   d. Create environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The County of San Mateo has, therefore, determined that the environmental impact of the project is less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES included in the project to avoid potentially significant effects:

Mitigation Measure 1: The applicant shall submit an erosion control plan to the County Planning Division for review which shows how erosion and sedimentation will be prevented during the entire construction process. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, (1) installation of silt blankets and fiber rolls below all areas of earth clearing, (2) installation of storm drain inlet protectors, (3) covering of surcharges for protection from rain and wind erosion, and (4) replanting all disturbed areas immediately upon completion of construction with indigenous trees, shrubs, groundcover, or seeding.

Mitigation Measure 2: During project construction, the applicant shall, pursuant to Section 5022 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, minimize the transport and discharge of stormwater runoff from the construction site into storm drain systems and water bodies by:

a. Disposing of removed soil in a County-approved landfill, or by spreading the soil in the immediate vicinity employing the above erosion control techniques at a depth not to exceed 6 inches in height.

b. Stabilizing all denuded areas and maintaining erosion control measures continuously between October 15 and April 15.

c. Removing spoils promptly, and avoiding stockpiling of fill materials, when rain is forecast. If rain threatens, stockpiled soils and other materials shall be covered with a tarp or other waterproof material.

d. Storing, handling, and disposing of construction materials and wastes so as to avoid their entry to the storm drain system or water body.

e. Avoiding cleaning, fueling, or maintaining vehicles on-site, except in an area designated to contain and treat runoff.

Mitigation Measure 3: The applicant shall submit a landscape plan to the County Planning Division for review which shows the location, species, and size of the all trees and vegetation proposed for the site. The landscaped areas shall be designed to reduce excess irrigation runoff and require minimal and appropriate use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. All new vegetation shall be compatible with the surrounding vegetation and suitable for the climate, soil, and ecological characteristics of the site.

Mitigation Measure 4: All proposed improvements shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the latest earthquake resistance standards of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) released by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO).

Mitigation Measure 5: The facility shall be required to obtain and comply with all permit requirements of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District prior to construction and issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Mitigation Measure 6: The facility shall be required to obtain and comply with all permit requirements of the County of San Mateo Environmental Health Division for the safe handling and discharge of all waste generated by the facility.

Mitigation Measure 7: Construction hours shall be Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and no construction will be allowed on Sundays or national holidays. Noise levels produced by the proposed construction activity shall not exceed the 80 dBA level at any one moment.

Mitigation Measure 8: The applicant shall submit a drainage plan for the proposed building and parking lot to the County Planning Division for review to ensure that additional runoff associated with increased impervious surface area is channeled appropriately to County standards.

Mitigation Measure 9: The building shall be painted an earth-toned, non-reflective color. The applicant shall submit a color sample of the proposed wall and trim color to the County Planning Division for review and approval of the colors.

Mitigation Measure 10: The applicant shall submit a material sample of the proposed roof material to the County Planning Division for review and approval of the color and material.

Mitigation Measure 11: All new power and telephone utility lines from the street or nearest utility pole to the building shall be placed underground starting at the nearest existing utility pole.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY CONSULTATION

San Mateo County Environmental Health Division
Bay Area Air Quality Management District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

INITIAL STUDY

The San Mateo County Planning Division has reviewed the Environmental Evaluation of this project and has found that the probable environmental impacts are insignificant. A copy of the initial study is attached.

REVIEW PERIOD: April 30, 2001 to May 21, 2001

All comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of this Negative Declaration must be received by the County Planning Division, 455 County Center, Second Floor, Redwood City, no later than 5:00 p.m., May 21, 2001.

CONTACT PERSON:

Jim Eggemeyer
Development Review Services Manager
Telephone 650/363-1930

Jim Eggemeyer
Development Review Services Manager

JE:SW:fc - JKEL0838_WFH.DOC

County of San Mateo
Planning and Building Division

INITIAL STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST
(To Be Completed By Planning Division)

I. BACKGROUND

Project Title: San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office

County File No.: PLN 2001-00277

Project Location: County Government Center, Tower Road

Assessor's Parcel No.: 041-322-020

Applicant/Owner: San Mateo County

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project includes the construction of a new 30,000 sq. ft. single-story building and associated 46-space parking lot and access driveway to be used as the San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office. The Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory will be relocated from a nearby structure on site which is in disrepair, inadequate in size, ventilation, health and safety standards, and incapable of ASCLD Accreditation. The Coroner's Office will be relocated from Downtown Redwood City. The consolidation of the two offices into one County-owned building of related and shared functions will save tax payer dollars by eliminating the need for the County to rent expensive office space in Downtown Redwood City.

The new structure incorporates energy saving techniques into its design, materials, and mechanical systems. The building's design has a southern orientation for the proposed photo-voltaic assemblies on the sloped portions of the roof. The north, vertical faces of the sloped roof will have glazed clear stories to provide natural light into the interior. The photo-voltaic cells will power 100% of the building's lighting needs and low energy mechanical systems will employ variable air volume fume hoods and sensitive controls to regulate and monitor all mechanical ventilation and lighting. A landscaped parking area will provide 46 spaces for the 25 employees, service vehicles, and visitors.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Any controversial answers or answers needing clarification are explained on an attached sheet. For source, refer to pages 11 and 12.

	IMPACT?					
	NO	YES				
		Not Significant	Significant Unless Mitigated	Significant	Cumulative	SOURCE
1. LAND SUITABILITY AND GEOLOGY						
Will (or could) this project:						
a. Involve a unique landform or biological area, such as beaches, sand dunes, marshes, tidelands, or San Francisco Bay?	X					B,F,O
b. Involve construction on slope of 15% or greater?			X			E,I
c. Be located in area of soil instability (subsidence, landslide or severe erosion)?	X					Bc,D
d. Be located on, or adjacent to a known earthquake fault?			X			Bc,D
e. Involve Class I or Class II Agriculture Soils and Class III Soils rated good or very good for artichokes or Brussels sprouts?	X					M
f. Cause erosion or siltation?			X			M,I
g. Result in damage to soil capability or loss of agricultural land?	X					A,M
h. Be located within a flood hazard area?	X					G
i. Be located in an area where a high water table may adversely affect land use?	X					D
j. Affect a natural drainage channel or streambed, or watercourse?	X					E
2. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE						
Will (or could) this project:						
a. Affect federal or state listed rare or endangered species of plant life in the project area?	X					F

	IMPACT					
	NO	YES				
		Not Significant	Significant Unless Mitigated	Significant	Cumulative	SOURCE
b. Involve cutting of heritage or significant trees as defined in the County Heritage Tree and Significant Tree Ordinance?	X					I,A
c. Be adjacent to or include a habitat food source, water source, nesting place or breeding place for a federal or state listed rare or endangered wildlife species?	X					F
d. Significantly affect fish, wildlife, reptiles, or plant life?	X					I
e. Be located inside or within 200 feet of a marine or wildlife reserve?	X					E,F,O
f. Infringe on any sensitive habitats?	X					F
g. Involve clearing land that is 5,000 sq. ft. or greater (1,000 sq. ft. within a County Scenic Corridor), that has slopes greater than 20% or that is in a sensitive habitat or buffer zone?			X			I,F,Bb
3. **PHYSICAL RESOURCES**						
Will (or could) this project:						
a. Result in the removal of a natural resource for commercial purposes (including rock, sand, gravel, oil, trees, minerals or top soil)?	X					I
b. Involve grading in excess of 150 cubic yards?			X			I
c. Involve lands currently protected under the Williamson Act (agricultural preserve) or an Open Space Easement?	X					I
d. Affect any existing or potential agricultural uses?	X					A,K,M

	IMPACT					
	NO	YES				
		Not Significant	Significant Unless Mitigated	Significant	Cumulative	SOURCE
4. **AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, SONIC**						
Will (or could) this project:						
a. Generate pollutants (hydrocarbon, thermal odor, dust or smoke particulates, radiation, etc.) that will violate existing standards of air quality on site or in the surrounding area?	X					I,N,R
b. Involve the burning of any material, including brush, trees and construction materials?	X					I
c. Be expected to result in the generation of noise levels in excess of those currently existing in the area, after construction?	X					Ba,I
d. Involve the application, use or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, including pesticides, herbicides, other toxic substances, or radioactive material?			X			I
e. Be subject to noise levels in excess of levels determined appropriate according to the County Noise Ordinance or other standard?	X					A,Ba,Bc
f. Generate noise levels in excess of levels determined appropriate according to the County Noise Ordinance standard?			X			I
g. Generate polluted or increased surface water runoff or affect groundwater resources?			X			I
h. Require installation of a septic tank/leachfield sewage disposal system or require hookup to an existing collection system which is at or over capacity?	X					S

	IMPACT					
	NO	YES				
		Not Significant	Significant Unless Mitigated	Significant	Cumulative	SOURCE
5. **TRANSPORTATION**						
Will (or could) this project:						
a. Affect access to commercial establishments, schools, parks, etc.?	X					A,I
b. Cause noticeable increase in pedestrian traffic or a change in pedestrian patterns?	X					A,I
c. Result in noticeable changes in vehicular traffic patterns or volumes (including bicycles)?	X					I
d. Involve the use of off-road vehicles of any kind (such as trail bikes)?	X					I
e. Result in or increase traffic hazards?	X					S
f. Provide for alternative transportation amenities such as bike racks?		X				I
g. Generate traffic which will adversely affect the traffic carrying capacity of any roadway?	X					S
6. **LAND USE AND GENERAL PLANS**						
Will (or could) this project:						
a. Result in the congregating of more than 50 people on a regular basis?	X					I
b. Result in the introduction of activities not currently found within the community?	X					I
c. Employ equipment which could interfere with existing communication and/or defense systems?	X					I

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	IMPACT?					
	NO	YES				
		Not Significant	Significant Unless Mitigated	Significant	Cumulative	SOURCE
d. Result in any changes in land use, either on or off the project site?		X				I
e. Serve to encourage off-site development of presently undeveloped areas or increase development intensity of already developed areas (examples include the introduction of new or expanded public utilities, new industry, commercial facilities or recreation activities)?	X					I,Q,S
f. Adversely affect the capacity of any public facilities (streets, highways, freeways, public transit, schools, parks, police, fire, hospitals), public utilities (electrical, water and gas supply lines, sewage and storm drain discharge lines, sanitary landfills) or public works serving the site?	X					I,S
g. Generate any demands that will cause a public facility or utility to reach or exceed its capacity?	X					I,S
h. Be adjacent to or within 500 feet of an existing or planned public facility?		X				A
i. Create significant amounts of solid waste or litter?	X					I
j. Substantially increase fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, coal, etc.)?	X					I
k. Require an amendment to or exception from adopted general plans, specific plans, or community policies or goals?	X					B
l. Involve a change of zoning?	X					C
m. Require the relocation of people or businesses?	X					I
n. Reduce the supply of low-income housing?	X					I

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	IMPACT					
	NO	YES				
		Not Significant	Significant Unless Mitigated	Significant	Cumulative	SOURCE
o. Result in possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	X					S
p. Result in creation of or exposure to a potential health hazard?	X					S
7. **AESTHETIC, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC**						
Will (or could) this project:						
a. Be adjacent to a designated Scenic Highway or within a State or County Scenic Corridor?			X			A,Bb
b. Obstruct scenic views from existing residential areas, public lands, public water body, or roads?	X					A,I
c. Involve the construction of buildings or structures in excess of three stories or 36 feet in height?	X					I
d. Directly or indirectly affect historical or archaeological resources on or near the site?	X					H
e. Visually intrude into an area having natural scenic qualities?	X					A,I

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III. **RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES.** Check what agency has permit authority or other approval for the project.

AGENCY	YES	NO	TYPE OF APPROVAL
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CE)		X	
State Water Resources Control Board		X	
Regional Water Quality Control Board		X	
State Department of Public Health		X	
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)		X	

AGENCY	YES	NO	TYPE OF APPROVAL
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)		X	
County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC)		X	
CalTrans		X	
Bay Area Air Quality Management District	X		BAAQMD permit required
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service		X	
Coastal Commission		X	
City		X	
Sewer/Water District:		X	
Other: San Mateo County Environmental Health Division	X		Permit to operate required

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IV. MITIGATION MEASURES

	Yes	No
Mitigation measures have been proposed in project application.	X	
Other mitigation measures are needed.	X	

The following measures are included in the project plans or proposals pursuant to Section 15070(b)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines:

Mitigation Measure 1: The applicant shall submit an erosion control plan to the County Planning Division for review which shows how erosion and sedimentation will be prevented during the entire construction process. This plan shall include, but is not limited to, (1) installation of silt blankets and fiber rolls below all areas of earth clearing, (2) installation of storm drain inlet protectors, (3) covering of surcharges for protection from rain and wind erosion, and (4) replanting all disturbed areas immediately upon completion of construction with indigenous trees, shrubs, groundcover, or seeding.

Mitigation Measure 2: During project construction, the applicant shall, pursuant to Section 5022 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, minimize the transport and discharge of stormwater runoff from the construction site into storm drain systems and water bodies by:

a. Disposing of removed soil in a County-approved landfill, or by spreading the soil in the immediate vicinity employing the above erosion control techniques at a depth not to exceed 6 inches in height.

b. Stabilizing all denuded areas and maintaining erosion control measures continuously between October 15 and April 15.

c. Removing spoils promptly, and avoiding stockpiling of fill materials, when rain is forecast. If rain threatens, stockpiled soils and other materials shall be covered with a tarp or other waterproof material.

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Mitigation Measure 4: All proposed improvements shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the latest earthquake resistance standards of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) released by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO).

Mitigation Measure 5: The facility shall be required to obtain and comply with all permit requirements of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District prior to construction and issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

Mitigation Measure 6: The facility shall be required to obtain and comply with all permit requirements of the County of San Mateo Environmental Health Division for the safe handling and discharge of all waste generated by the facility.

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Mitigation Measure 7: Construction hours shall be Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and no construction will be allowed on Sundays or national holidays. Noise levels produced by the proposed construction activity shall not exceed the 80 dBA level at any one moment.

Mitigation Measure 8: The applicant shall submit a drainage plan for the proposed building and parking lot to the County Planning Division for review to ensure that additional runoff associated with increased impervious surface area is channeled appropriately to County standards.

Mitigation Measure 9: The building shall be painted an earth-toned, non-reflective color. The applicant shall submit a color sample of the proposed wall and trim color to the County Planning Division for review and approval of the colors.

Mitigation Measure 10: The applicant shall submit a material sample of the proposed roof material to the County Planning Division for review and approval of the color and material.

Mitigation Measure 11: All new power and telephone utility lines from the street or nearest utility pole to the building shall be placed underground starting at the nearest existing utility pole.

V. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Yes	No
1.	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, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	____	X
2.	Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?	____	X
3.	Does the project have possible environmental effects which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	____	X
4.	Would the project cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	____	X

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

_____ I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared by the Planning Division.

__X__ 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 of the mitigation measures in the discussion have been included as part of the proposed project. A 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.

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4/30/01
Date

(Sign) Jim Eggemeyer

Development Review Services Manager
(Title)

VI. SOURCE LIST

A. Field Inspection

B. County General Plan 1986

a. General Plan Chapters 1-16
b. Local Coastal Program (LCP) (Area Plan)
c. Skyline Area General Plan Amendment
d. Montara-Moss Beach-El Granada Community Plan
e. Emerald Lake Hills Community Plan

C. County Ordinance Code

D. Geotechnical Maps

1. USGS Basic Data Contributions

a. #43 Landslide Susceptibility
b. #44 Active Faults
c. #45 High Water Table

2. Geotechnical Hazards Synthesis Maps

E. USGS Quadrangle Maps, San Mateo County 1970 Series (See F. and H.)

F. San Mateo County Rare and Endangered Species Maps, or Sensitive Habitats Maps

G. Flood Insurance Rate Map - National Flood Insurance Program

H. County Archaeologic Resource Inventory (Prepared by S. Dietz, A.C.R.S.) Procedures for Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties--36 CFR 800 (See R.)

I. Project Plans or EIF

J. Airport Land Use Committee Plans, San Mateo County Airports Plan

K. Aerial Photography or Real Estate Atlas – REDI

1. Aerial Photographs, 1941, 1953, 1956, 1960, 1963, 1970
2. Aerial Photographs, 1981
3. Coast Aerial Photos/Slides, San Francisco County Line to Ano Nuevo Point, 1971
4. Historic Photos, 1928-1937

L. Williamson Act Maps

M. Soil Survey, San Mateo Area, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 1961

N. Air Pollution Isopleth Maps - Bay Area Air Pollution Control District

O. California Natural Areas Coordinating Council Maps (See F. and H.)

P. Forest Resources Study (1971)

Q. Experience with Other Projects of this Size and Nature

R. Environmental Regulations and Standards:

Federal	- Review Procedures for CDBG Programs	24 CFR Part 58
	- NEPA 24 CFR 1500-1508	
	- Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties	36 CFR Part 800
	- National Register of Historic Places	
	- Floodplain Management	Executive Order 11988
	- Protection of Wetlands	Executive Order 11990
	- Endangered and Threatened Species	
	- Noise Abatement and Control	24 CFR Part 51B
	- Explosive and Flammable Operations	24 CFR 51C
	- Toxic Chemicals/Radioactive Materials	HUD 79-33
	- Airport Clear Zones and APZ	24 CFR 51D
State	- Ambient Air Quality Standards	Article 4, Section 1092
	- Noise Insulation Standards	

S. Consultation with Departments and Agencies:

a. County Health Department
b. City Fire Department
c. California Department of Forestry
d. Department of Public Works
e. Disaster Preparedness Office
f. Other

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CPD FORM A-ENV-30
FRM00018.DOC (8/4/1999)
JKEL0837_WFH.DOC

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Environmental Services Agency
Planning and Building Division

Initial Study Pursuant to CEQA
Project Narrative and Answers to Questions for the Negative Declaration
San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project includes the construction of a new 30,000 sq. ft. single-story building and associated 46-space parking lot and access driveway to be used as the San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office. The Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory will be relocated from a nearby structure on site which is in disrepair, inadequate in size, ventilation, health and safety standards, and incapable of ASCLD Accreditation. The Coroner's Office will be relocated from Downtown Redwood City. The consolidation of the two offices into one County-owned building of related and shared functions will save tax payer dollars by eliminating the need for the County to rent expensive office space in Downtown Redwood City.

The new structure incorporates energy saving techniques into its design, materials, and mechanical systems. The building's design has a southern orientation for the proposed photo-voltaic assemblies on the sloped portions of the roof. The north, vertical faces of the sloped roof will have glazed clear stories to provide natural light into the interior. The photo-voltaic cells will power 100% of the building's lighting needs and low energy mechanical systems will employ variable air volume fume hoods and sensitive controls to regulate and monitor all mechanical ventilation and lighting. A landscaped parking area will provide 46 spaces for the 25 employees, service vehicles, and visitors.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

1. LAND SUITABILITY AND GEOLOGY

b. Will (or could) this project involve construction on slope of 15% or greater?

Yes. Significant Unless Mitigated. The project site has a slope of approximately 21%. The long axis of the building is parallel to the sloped portion of the site. The long northern side of the building will be an earthen retaining wall, offering insulation and allowing the building to tuck into the landscape. Approximately 10,000 cubic yards of cut and fill will be required for the construction of the 30,000 sq. ft. building, 46-space parking lot, and access driveway. All earth cut from the sloped portion of the site will be used to fill the shallow areas to create a level building and parking footprint. Grading and construction may result in erosion or siltation.

Mitigation Measure 1: The applicant shall submit an erosion control plan to the County Planning Division for review which shows how erosion and sedimentation will be prevented during the entire construction process. This plan shall include, but

is not limited to, (1) installation of silt blankets and fiber rolls below all areas of earth clearing, (2) installation of storm drain inlet protectors, (3) covering of surcharges for protection from rain and wind erosion, and (4) replanting all disturbed areas immediately upon completion of construction with indigenous trees, shrubs, groundcover, or seeding.

Mitigation Measure 2: During project construction, the applicant shall, pursuant to Section 5022 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code, minimize the transport and discharge of stormwater runoff from the construction site into storm drain systems and water bodies by:

a. Disposing of removed soil in a County-approved landfill, or by spreading the soil in the immediate vicinity employing the above erosion control techniques at a depth not to exceed 6 inches in height.

b. Stabilizing all denuded areas and maintaining erosion control measures continuously between October 15 and April 15.

c. Removing spoils promptly, and avoiding stockpiling of fill materials, when rain is forecast. If rain threatens, stockpiled soils and other materials shall be covered with a tarp or other waterproof material.

d. Storing, handling, and disposing of construction materials and wastes so as to avoid their entry to the storm drain system or water body.

e. Avoiding cleaning, fueling, or maintaining vehicles on-site, except in an area designated to contain and treat runoff.

Mitigation Measure 3: The applicant shall submit a landscape plan to the County Planning Division for review which shows the location, species, and size of the all trees and vegetation proposed for the site. The landscaped areas shall be designed to reduce excess irrigation runoff and require minimal and appropriate use of fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides. All new vegetation shall be compatible with the surrounding vegetation and suitable for the climate, soil, and ecological characteristics of the site.

d. Will (or could) this project be located on, or adjacent to a known earthquake fault?

Yes. Significant Unless Mitigated. The project site is located adjacent to the San Andreas Fault Zone according to the San Mateo County General Plan Hazards Maps.

Mitigation Measure 4: All proposed improvements shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the latest earthquake resistance standards of the Uniform Building Code (UBC) released by the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO).

f. **Will (or could) this project cause erosion or siltation?**

See explanation 1.b above and Mitigation Measures 1, 2, and 3.

2. VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

a. **Will (or could) this project affect federal or state listed rare or endangered species of plant life in the project area?**

c. **Will (or could) this project be adjacent to or include a habitat food source, water source, nesting place or breeding place for a federal or state listed rare or endangered wildlife species?**

d. **Will (or could) this project significantly affect fish, wildlife, reptiles, or plant life?**

No. A biological assessment was conducted by Thomas Reid Associates for the County. No sensitive plant or animal species were observed on the project site and none were expected, based on the habitat types present. There is a small drainage on the west side of the property adjacent to and along Tower Road with arroyo willows (*Salix lasiolepis*). The willows are at the edge of the drainage. The County Planning Division consulted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the drainage and the willows. The Corps responded, indicating no permit would be required from the Corps if there was no fill placed in the channel, culverting the drainage, constructing a road crossing the drainage, or placing riprap in the drainage. The project does not include any improvements in the drainage. The existing willows will be near the proposed parking area and will remain. A copy of the report prepared by Thomas Reid Associates is attached.

g. **Will (or could) this project involve clearing land that is 5,000 sq. ft. or greater (1,000 sq. ft. within a County Scenic Corridor), that has slopes greater than 20% or that is in a sensitive habitat or buffer zone?**

See explanation 1.b above and Mitigation Measures 1, 2, and 3.

3. PHYSICAL RESOURCES

b. **Will (or could) this project involve grading in excess of 150 cubic yards?**

See explanation 1.b above and Mitigation Measures 1, 2, and 3.

4. AIR QUALITY, WATER QUALITY, SONIC

a. **Will (or could) this project generate pollutants (hydrocarbon, thermal odor, dust or smoke particulates, radiation, etc.) that will violate existing standards of air quality on site or in the surrounding area?**

No. However, a Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) permit may be required. All emissions discharged by the laboratory exhaust system will be required to comply with BAAQMD regulations for allowable stack emissions. The exhaust air for the laboratory exhaust system will not be filtered or treated before discharge because all emissions will be very low and will not contain radiation or hydrocarbons. The boiler and emergency generator will generate normal by-product of combustion emissions which may contain hydrocarbons, smoke particulates, NOX, and SOX gasses.

Mitigation Measure 5: The facility shall be required to obtain and comply with all permit requirements of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District prior to construction and issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

d. Will (or could) this project involve the application, use, or disposal of potentially hazardous materials, including pesticides, herbicides, other toxic substances, or radioactive material?

Yes. Significant Unless Mitigated. The project will involve the handling and storage of potentially hazardous materials which will include medical wastes, chemicals emitted from the fingerprint processing lab, and the storage of low-explosive ammunition. Liquid waste from the laboratories may contain pollutants. Lab sink drains will be collected into a separate lab waste system and this system will terminate into a sampling manhole before it is connected to the sanitary sewer. The sampling manhole will allow periodic monitoring and appropriate treatment of the lab waste before discharge into the sewer.

Mitigation Measure 6: The facility shall be required to obtain and comply with all permit requirements of the County of San Mateo Environmental Health Division for the safe handling and discharge of all waste generated by the facility.

f. Will (or could) this project generate noise levels in excess of levels determined appropriate according to the County Noise Ordinance standard?

Yes. Significant Unless Mitigated. During construction, the noise levels may exceed the County noise standard. The noise created by this project will be temporary, minimal, and will only take place during the initial construction of the project.

Mitigation Measure 7: Construction hours shall be Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and no construction will be allowed on Sundays or national holidays. Noise levels produced by the proposed construction activity shall not exceed the 80 dBA level at any one moment.

g. Will (or could) this project generate polluted or increased surface water runoff or affect groundwater resources?

Yes. Significant Unless Mitigated. There will be increased surface water runoff from the construction of the building, parking lot, and access driveway due to increased impervious surfaces.

Mitigation Measure 8: The applicant shall submit a drainage plan for the proposed building and parking lot to the County Planning Division for review to ensure that additional runoff associated with increased impervious surface area is channeled appropriately to County standards.

5. TRANSPORTATION

f. Will (or could) this project provide for alternative transportation amenities such as bike racks?

Yes. Not Significant. The proposed facility includes a bike rack which can accommodate five bikes.

No mitigation required.

6. LAND USE AND GENERAL PLANS

d. Will (or could) this project result in any changes in land use, either on or off the project site?

Yes. Not Significant. The current land use for the site is vacant land which is proposed to be developed with the new San Mateo County Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office.

No mitigation required.

h. Will (or could) this be adjacent to or within 500 feet of an existing or planned public facility?

Yes. Not Significant. The proposed Sheriff's Forensics Laboratory and Coroner's Office is adjacent to existing San Mateo County Government Facilities which include the San Mateo County Elections Division Office, Crystal Springs Rehabilitation Center, El Portal Del Sol School, Hillcrest Juvenile Correction Facility, San Mateo County Library Headquarters, Public Works Crafts and Maintenance Facility, and CDF Fire Station.

No mitigation required.

7. AESTHETIC, CULTURAL, AND HISTORIC

a. Will (or could) this project be adjacent to a designated Scenic Highway or within a State or County Scenic Corridor?

Yes. Significant Unless Mitigated. The project site is located within the Polhemus Road County Scenic Corridor.

Mitigation Measure 9: The building shall be painted an earth-toned, non-reflective color. The applicant shall submit a color sample of the proposed wall and trim color to the County Planning Division for review and approval of the colors.

Mitigation Measure 10: The applicant shall submit a material sample of the proposed roof material to the County Planning Division for review and approval of the color and material.

Mitigation Measure 11: All new power and telephone utility lines from the street or nearest utility pole to the building shall be placed underground starting at the nearest existing utility pole.

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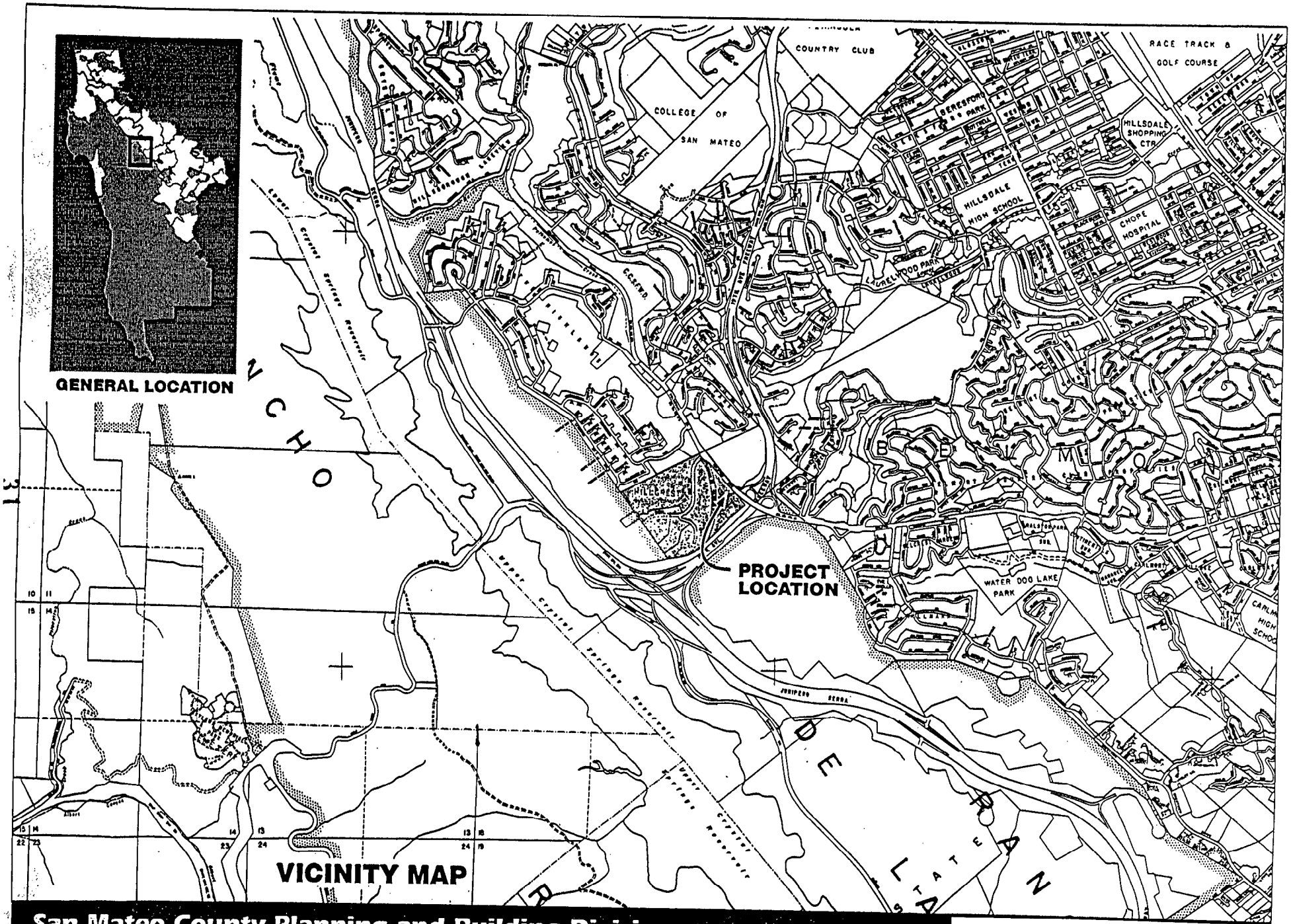
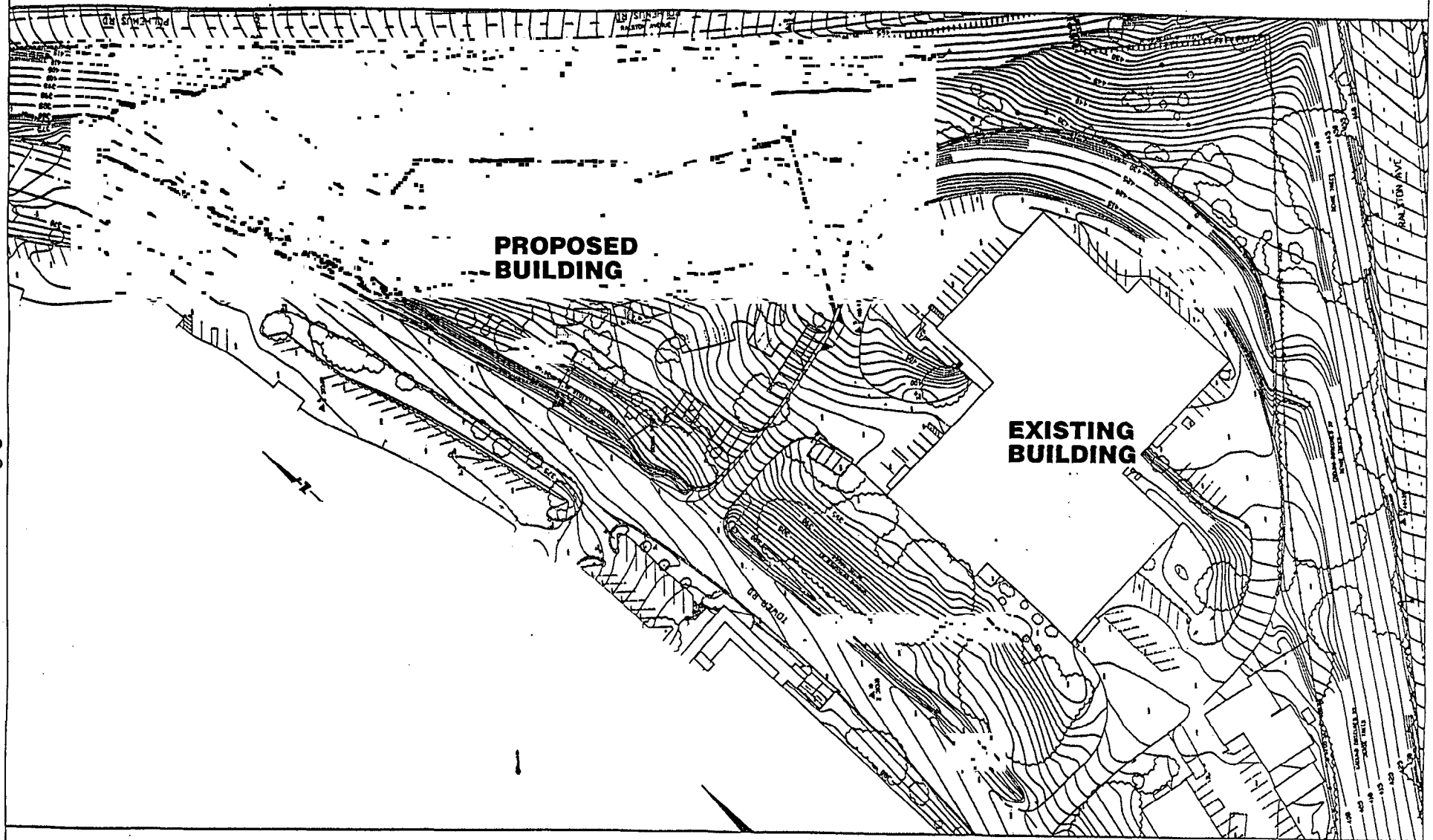


San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: A

CDR8\Jim E - env docs 04-27-01 rp



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(IN FEET)
SCALE 1:60
APRIL 2, 2001

SITE PLAN

SAN MATEO COUNTY
FORENSIC LAB

A-100

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: B

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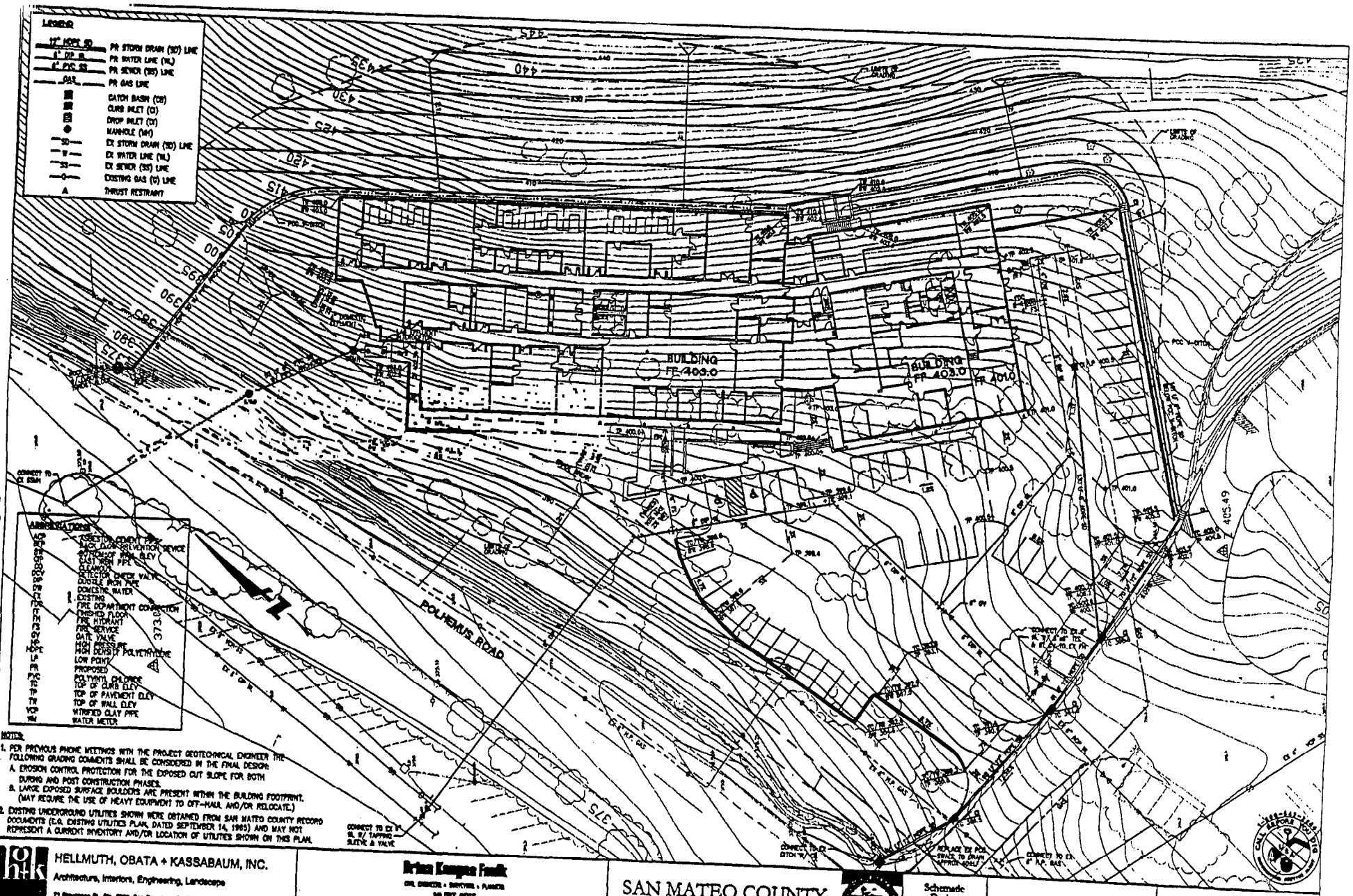

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SAN MATEO COUNTY
Forensic Lab & Coroner's Office

Schematic Design
April 19, 2001

Scale: 1" = 40'

Civil Site Plan
C-002

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: C

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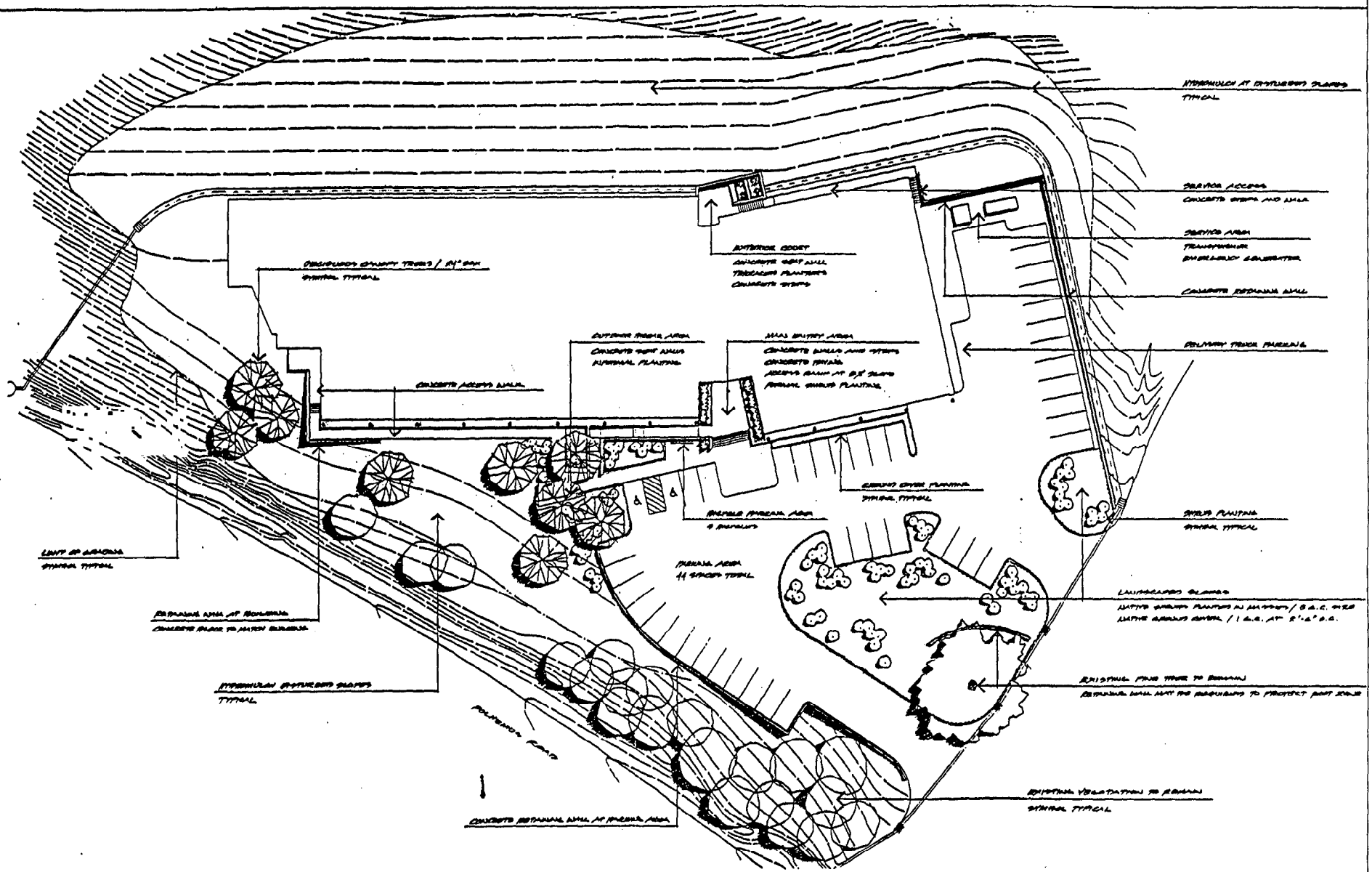

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Forensic Lab & Coroner's Office

Schemade Design
April 19, 2001

Scale: 1" = 40'

Landscape Plan
L-001

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: D

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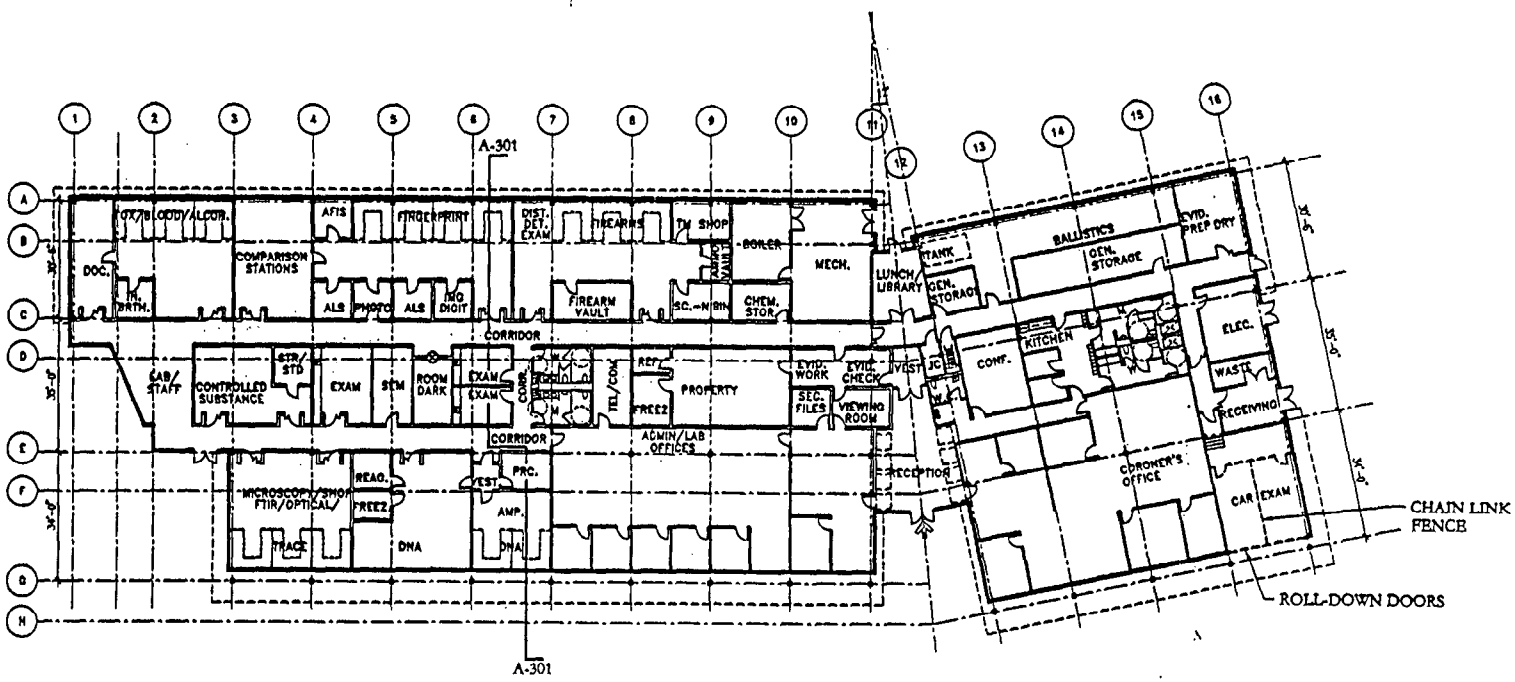

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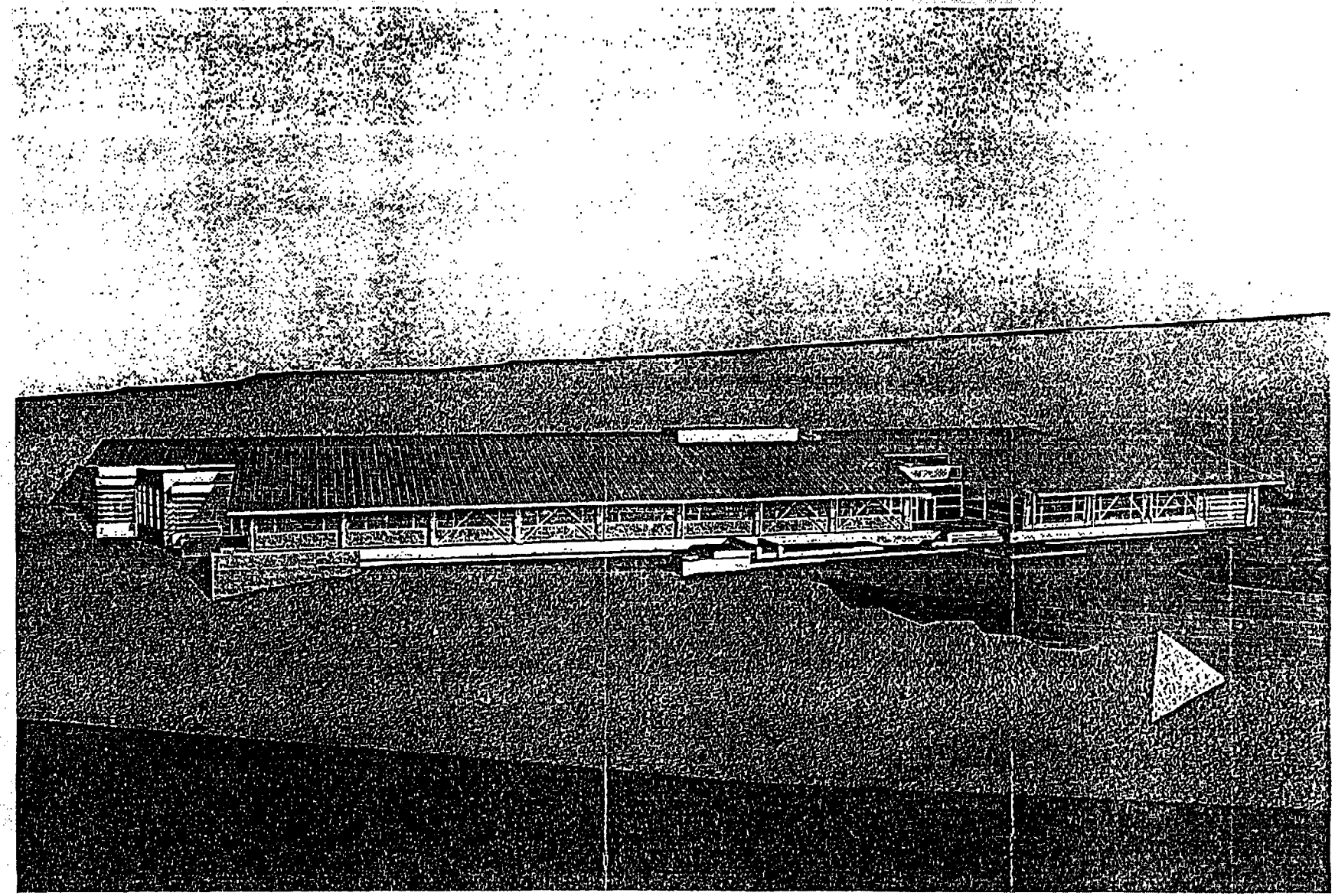
HELLMUTH, OBATA + KASSABAUM, INC. Architecture, Interiors, Engineering, Landscape 71 Stevenson St., Ste. 2200, San Francisco, CA 94105		SAN MATEO COUNTY Forensic Lab & Coroner's Office	Schematic Design April 19, 2001	Scale: 1/32" = 1'-0"	Ground Floor Plan A-101

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: E

CDR8\Jim E - env docs 04-27-01 rp



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SAN MATEO COUNTY
Forensic Lab & Coroner's Office

Schematic Design
April 19, 2001

3D Views

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: F

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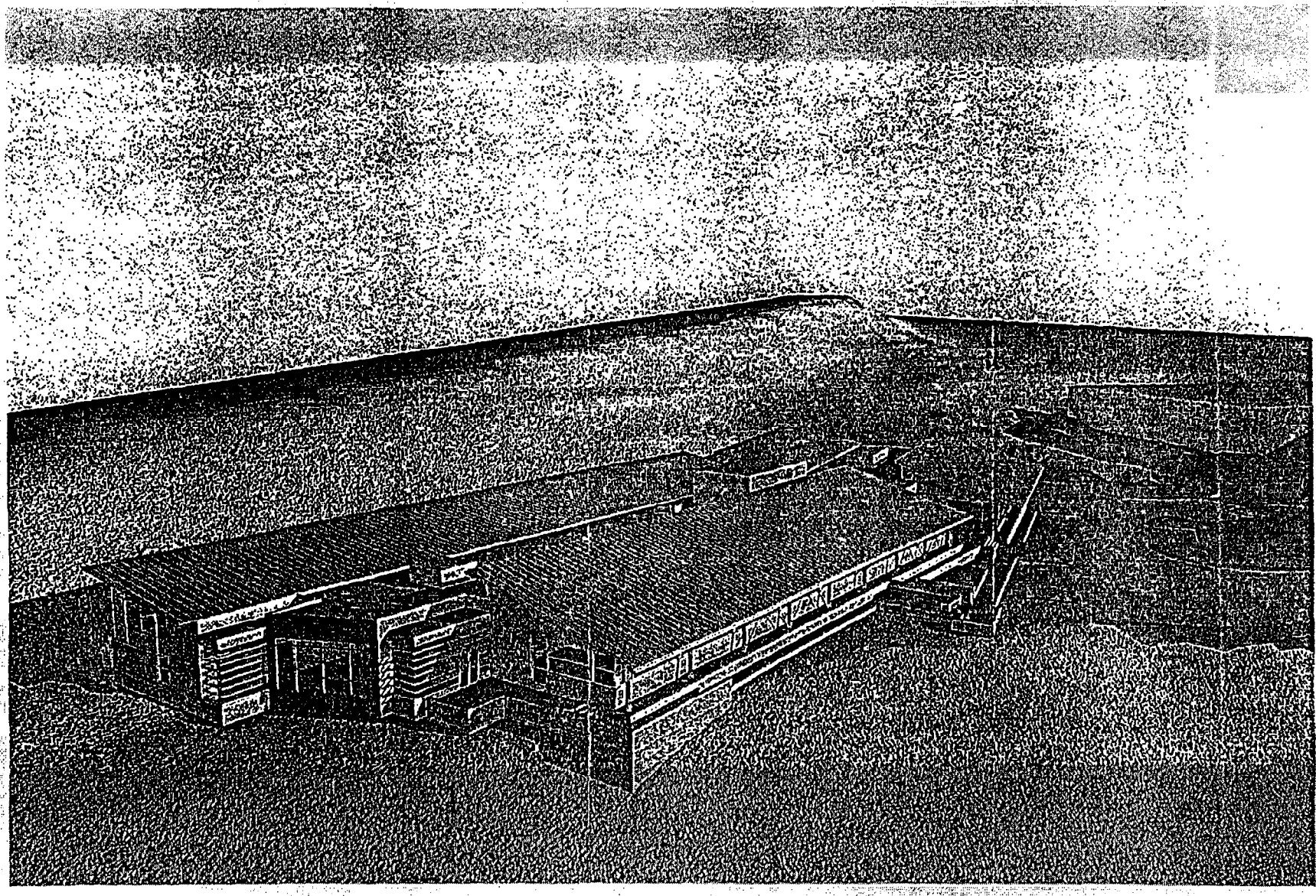

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SAN MATEO COUNTY
Forensic Lab & Coroner's Office

Schematic Design
April 19, 2001

3D Views

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division

Exhibit: G

CDR8\Jim E - env docs 04-27-01 rp

37

Biological Assessment of Proposed Crime Lab Site
Tower Road
San Mateo County, California

Prepared for
County of San Mateo
Building and Planning Division

Prepared by
Thomas Reid Associates

April, 2001

A biological assessment was conducted at the proposed crime lab site on Tower Road in San Mateo County, California. The approximately 2 acre site is bordered by Polhemus Road on the east, Tower Road on the west, and storage and maintenance buildings and Highway 92 on the south (Figure 1). On the immediate southern boundary of the site is a parking lot and the San Mateo County election records building. Highway 280 is less than ½ mile west of the site.

The crime lab site was surveyed for sensitive species and habitats including habitat for the endangered Bay checkerspot butterfly and rare serpentine-endemic plants. The survey was conducted by Thomas Reid Associates biologists Patrick Kobernus and Wendy Knight on March 6 and April 13, 2001. The surveys were done at the appropriate time of year (spring) when the rare serpentine endemic plants and the bay checkerspot butterfly are visible. The site was walked slowly for approximately 2 hours on March 6, and approximately ½ hour on April 13. All species and habitat types encountered were recorded.

No sensitive plant or animal species were observed on the property, and none are expected based on the habitat types present. The site is dominated by weedy vegetation, with some pockets of native plant species. Vegetation on the property consists of primarily ruderal (non-native) grassland, coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), and thickets of Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) and Fuller's teasle *(Dipsacus sativus*), and a small drainage with arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*). Patches of native grasses including California oat grass (*Danthonia californica*) and purple needle-grass *(Nassella pulchra*) were found in a few locations. A list of plants and animals identified on the property is shown in Table 1.

The crime lab site does not contain any serpentine outcrops and/or soils. Serpentine soils are significant due to the relatively high degree of endemism and diversity of plant taxa associated with them (CDFG, 1993). Soils on the site are categorized as Orthents cut and fill- Urban land complex 5 - 75% slopes (SCS, May 1991). These soils have been cut and filled for urban development. The soils on site are likely derived from material displaced by the construction of Polhemus Road and Highway 92.

The site provides habitat for common wildlife species such as black-tailed deer, Botha's pocket gopher, California meadow vole, scrub jay, mourning dove, white-crowned sparrow, golden crowned-sparrow, California towhee, California slender salamander, and red-tailed hawk.

Special status species

At Edgewood County Park, approximately 5 miles south of the property, four special status plants and one special status butterfly are associated with serpentine habitats. These are fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale fontinale*), white-rayed

Pentacheata, *(Pentacheata bellidiflora)*, San Mateo thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha duttonii*), Marin western flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*) and the Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*).

The California Natural Diversity Database was searched for presence of special status species within 5 miles of the site. Eight special status animals, ten special status plants, and one special status plant community have been recorded within 5 miles of the site.

Species	**Status**
Animals	
San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*)	SE, FE
California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)	FT
Burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*)	CSC
Salt marsh common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*)	CSC
Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*)	FT
Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)	None
Edgewood blind harvestman *(Calicina (=Sitalcina) minor*)	None
Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle (*Hydrochara ricksecker*i)	None
Plants	
San Mateo wooly sunflower (*Eriophyllum latilobum*)	CNPS 1B
San Francisco campion (*Silene verecunda verecunda*)	CNPS 1B
San Mateo thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha duttonii*)	FE, CE, CNPS 1B
Marin western flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*)	FT, CT, CNPS 1B
Crystal Springs lessingia (*Lessingia arachnoidea*)	CNPS 1B
San Francisco bay spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata cuspidata*)	CNPS 1B
Fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale fontinale*)	FE, CE, CNPS 1B
White-rayed pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta bellidiflora*)	FE, CE, CNPS 1B
Hillsborough chocolate lilly (*Fritillaria biflora ineziana*)	CNPS 4
Fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliaceae*)	CNPS 1B
Serpentine bunchgrass grassland	

Abbreviations:

SE=State Endangered
FE=Federally Endangered
FPE=Federally Proposed Endangered
FT=Federally Threatened
CSC= California Special Concern species
CNPS 1B= California Native Plant Society listing of plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.
CNPS 4= Plants of limited distribution– A watch list.

Animals

Bay checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha bayensis*)

Bay checkerspot butterflies require the presence of their larval host plants for survival. The larval host plants are *Plantago erecta*, *Castilleja densiflora*, and *Castilleja exserta*. These plants were not observed on the site. The survey was conducted during the flowering period for these plants, indicating that it is highly unlikely the site could support Bay checkerspot butterflies. Remnant habitat exists in surrounding areas, however the last record of Bay checkerspots is from 1977. Housing development and the construction of highway 280 are thought to have extirpated this species from the area (CNDDB, 2001).

Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

The site has one pine tree and is unlikely to provide roosting habitat for Monarch butterflies. Typically Monarchs utilize wind-rows of eucalyptus and other trees within ½ mile of the coast and in lower elevation wind-protected areas along San Francisco Bay. The project site does not provide suitable roosting habitat for this species.

California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)

The California red-legged frog (CRLF) is a large brown to reddish-brown frog that historically occurred over much of California from the Sierras to the Coast. CRLF inhabit ponds, slow moving creeks, and streams with deep pools that are lined with dense emergent marsh or shrubby riparian vegetation. Submerged root masses and undercut banks are important habitat features for this species. The California red-legged frog is known to survive in ephemeral streams, although only if deep pools with vegetative cover persist through the dry season (Stebbins 1985, Jennings and Hayes 1994, US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 1997).

The California red-legged frog is listed by the USFWS as Threatened, and is designated as a Species of Special Concern by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Beginning with excessive exploitation for the restaurant industry prior to the turn of the century, this species has been subject to a variety of pressures that have resulted in its decline and disappearance over the majority of its historic range (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Populations in the Central Valley and in the Sierras have been particularly affected. Other factors that have contributed to the decline of California red-legged frog include destruction of riparian habitat due to development, agriculture, or flood control practices, and the introduction of exotic predators such as bullfrogs, crayfish, and a variety of non-native fishes (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

California red-legged frogs have been shown to disperse up to ½ mile away from breeding habitat locations and to aestivate in rodent burrows within upland habitats during late summer when pools have dried up. The nearest CRLF is at Crystal

Springs Reservoir approximately 1 mile west, and on the other side of Highway 280 (CNDDB 2001). The project site is composed of upland habitats, and a very shallow drainage ditch. There are no ponds or wetland habitats on or adjacent to the site that would provide potential breeding habitat for California red-legged frog. It is highly unlikely California red-legged frogs would be present at the site due to the Highway 280 barrier on the west, the Highway 92 barrier on the south, and the lack of any breeding habitat near the site.

San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*)

The San Francisco garter snake (SFGS) is a subspecies of the common garter snake that is restricted to the San Francisco Peninsula in San Francisco, San Mateo, and northern Santa Cruz County. The San Francisco garter snake occurs primarily in the vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds, slow moving streams, seasonal wetlands such as vernal pools and swales, and in adjacent upland habitats such as meadows and woodlands. However, because San Francisco garter snake requires populations of Pacific tree frog (*Hyla regilla*), California red-legged frog, California newt (*Taricha torosa*), and small fishes on which to feed, this species may occur in any habitat within the range of this taxon that supports these prey species.

Habitats that San Francisco garter snake are typically associated with (i.e., ponds, marshes, and seasonal wetlands) are not present in the project area. The project site is composed of upland habitats and a very shallow drainage ditch. There are no ponds or wetland habitats on or adjacent to the site that would potentially provide breeding habitat for San Francisco garter snake. The nearest population of San Francisco garter snake is at Crystal Springs Reservoir approximately 1 mile west, on the opposite side of Highway 280 (CNDDB 2001). It is highly unlikely San Francisco garter snakes would be present at the site due to the Highway 280 barrier on the west, the Highway 92 barrier on the south, and the lack of any breeding habitat near the site.

Burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*)

This species is listed as a federal special concern species (FSC) and a California special concern species (CSC). Burrowing owls typically use burrows constructed by fossorial rodents such as California ground squirrels (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), but may use man-made structures such as cement culverts; cement, asphalt, or wood debris piles; or openings beneath cement or asphalt pavement (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993).

Ground squirrel burrows or other appropriate habitat for burrowing owls were not observed on the site. The closest location where this animal has been recorded is Palo Alto and Mountain View shoreline areas. Based upon the lack of habitat and the lack of any records of burrowing owls near the project site (CNDDB, 1991), it is highly unlikely burrowing owls would utilize the site.

Salt marsh common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*)

This species is a listed as a California special concern species (CSC), and requires emergent wetland for feeding, nesting and cover. Salt marsh common yellowthroat was neither observed nor heard on site during the survey. The site is unlikely to support this species based on the lack of appropriate wetland habitat.

Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle (*Hydrochara ricksecker*i)

This species is a small aquatic beetle known only from pond habitats scattered around the San Francisco Bay area, including Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties. There is no pond habitat on the site, and it is highly unlikely this species is present at the site.

Edgewood blind harvestman (*Calicina (=Sitalcina) minor*)

This species is found in moist, rocky habitats, such as near springs in serpentine areas. This species has been recorded in Edgewood Park (CNDDB 2001). Habitat for this species does not exist on the project site.

Plants

San Mateo wooly sunflower (*Eriophyllum latilobum*)

This species is found in ultramafic soils in oak woodland and exposed roadcuts (Corelli and Chandik 1995). San Mateo wooly sunflower is known from only one extant occurrence near Crystal Springs reservoir. This species flowers from April to June, and was not observed at the project site. It is highly unlikely this species is present at the site based on the lack of observations and appropriate habitat.

San Francisco campion (*Silene verecunda verecunda*)

San Francisco campion is found on rocky, thin soils in coastal scrub and coastal prairie habitats. This species flowers from March to August. San Francisco campion was not observed and habitat for this species is not present at the project site.

San Mateo thorn-mint (*Acanthomintha duttonii*)

This species is found in ultramafic / serpentine grasslands and flowers from April to July. San Mateo thorn-mint is known from only two extant populations (Corelli and Chandik 1995). This species was recorded near the project site in 1972, but is thought to have been extirpated by the construction of Highway 280 (CNDDB 1991). San Mateo thorn-mint was not observed during the surveys and based on the lack of serpentine soils on site, this species is unlikely to occur on site.

Marin western flax (*Hesperolinon congestum*)

Marin western flax is found in ultramafic/ serpentine grasslands and on chaparral (Corelli and Chandik 1995). This species flowers from May to July. Colonies of this species exist approximately ½ mile west of the project site, on both sides of Highway 280. The site does not have the appropriate serpentine/ ultramafic soils to support this species.

Crystal Springs lessingia (*Lessingia arachnoidea*)

This species is found in ultramafic barrens, grasslands, coastal scrub, and roadsides (Corelli and Chandik 1995). Crystal Springs lessingia is known from only one occurrence near Crystal Springs reservoir . This species flowers from July to October, and it is highly unlikely this species would be present based on the lack of serpentine/ ultramafic soils on the project site.

San Francisco bay spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata cuspidata*)

This species is found on sandy soils in coastal bluff, scrub, dunes, and strand (Corelli and Chandik 1995), and flowers from April to July. San Francisco bay spineflower is unlikely to be on the project site based on the lack of sandy soils .

Fountain thistle (*Cirsium fontinale fontinale*)

This species is found in ultramafic seeps and ravines in serpentine grassland and chaparral (Corelli and Chandik 1995). It flowers from June to October. Colonies of this species exist approximately ½ mile west of the project site, on both sides of Highway 280. This species was not observed during the surveys, and it is highly unlikely this species occurs on site.

White-rayed pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta bellidiflora*)

This species is found in ultramafic grasslands and is known from only one occurrence. White-rayed pentachaeta was observed to be in bloom at the time of survey on San Francisco Water Department land near Highway 280. This species was not observed on site and is not expected to occur there based on the lack of serpentine / ultramafic grasslands on site.

Hillsborough chocolate lilly (*Fritillaria biflora ineziana*)

This species requires ultramafic grasslands (Corelli and Chandik 1995). Hillsborough chocolate lilly has been recorded in grasslands in the Hillsborough area and Crystal Springs. This species flowers from April to May, and is not expected on the property based on the lack of serpentine / ultramafic grasslands.

Fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliaceae*)

This species is found in moist, ultramafic grasslands (Corelli and Chandik 1995) and flowers from February to April. This species is located 1000 feet west of the site and in a few locations in the surrounding hills. This species was observed to be in bloom on other parcels at the time of survey but was not observed on site. Due to the lack of ultramafic grasslands on site, this species is not expected to occur on site.

Special Status/ Significant habitats

Serpentine Bunchgrass Grassland

Serpentine bunchgrass grassland is composed of native species adapted to ultramafic (high Magnesium and Iron) soil conditions. Many rare plant species in California are serpentine endemics. This community commonly includes purple needlegrass *(Nassella pulchra)*, foothill needlegrass *(Nassella lepida)*, goldfields (*Lasthenia chrysostoma*), California poppy (*Eschscholtzia californica*), dwarf plantain *(Plantago erecta)*, cream cups (*Platystemon californicum*), and others. This community was not observed on site, although a few individual purple needle-grass plants and other natives grassland species were observed.

Wetland habitats

The project site has primarily disturbed grassland and coastal scrub vegetation. The only wetland habitat on the site is a drainage ditch located along Tower road on the west side of the site. This ditch is unvegetated on the roadside (west) bank, and has arroyo willow trees, poison oak and English ivy along the east bank. At the time of survey this ditch had a small amount of water (2-4 inches deep). A wetland delineation is recommended for this area. No other wetland habitats exist on the property.

Significant/ Heritage Trees

Trees on site consist of one large pine tree (approximately 2.5 feet DBH), approximately 15 shrubby coast live oak trees (all less than 12" DBH), and a few shrubby arroyo willow trees which are adjacent to the drainage on the west side of the property. The pine tree is the only tree that meets the criteria for a Significant Tree (over 12 inches DBH). There are no Heritage Trees on the property (San Mateo County Building and Planning Division).

Summary and Recommendations

The site was inspected for special status species and habitats on March 6, and April 13, 2001. No sensitive plant or animal species were observed on the property, and none are expected based on the habitat types present on site.

The drainage on the west side of the property, adjacent to Tower Road is a potential wetland area and I recommend that the US Army Corps of Engineers be consulted with prior to any disturbance of this area. In regards to the coast live oak trees on the property, I recommend that any of the coast live oak trees removed by the project should be replaced at a minimum of 3:1 ratio. California Department of Fish and Game generally recommends a 3:1 replacement ratio of oak trees removed during development (CDFG, 1992).

References

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Zeiner, D.C. et al. 1990. California's Wildlife. Volumes I, II, & III. California Department of Fish and Game. The Resources Agency, Sacramento, CA.

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division. Section 11000, San Mateo County Ordinance: Regulation of the Removal of Heritage Trees. Document Number: 23040-00

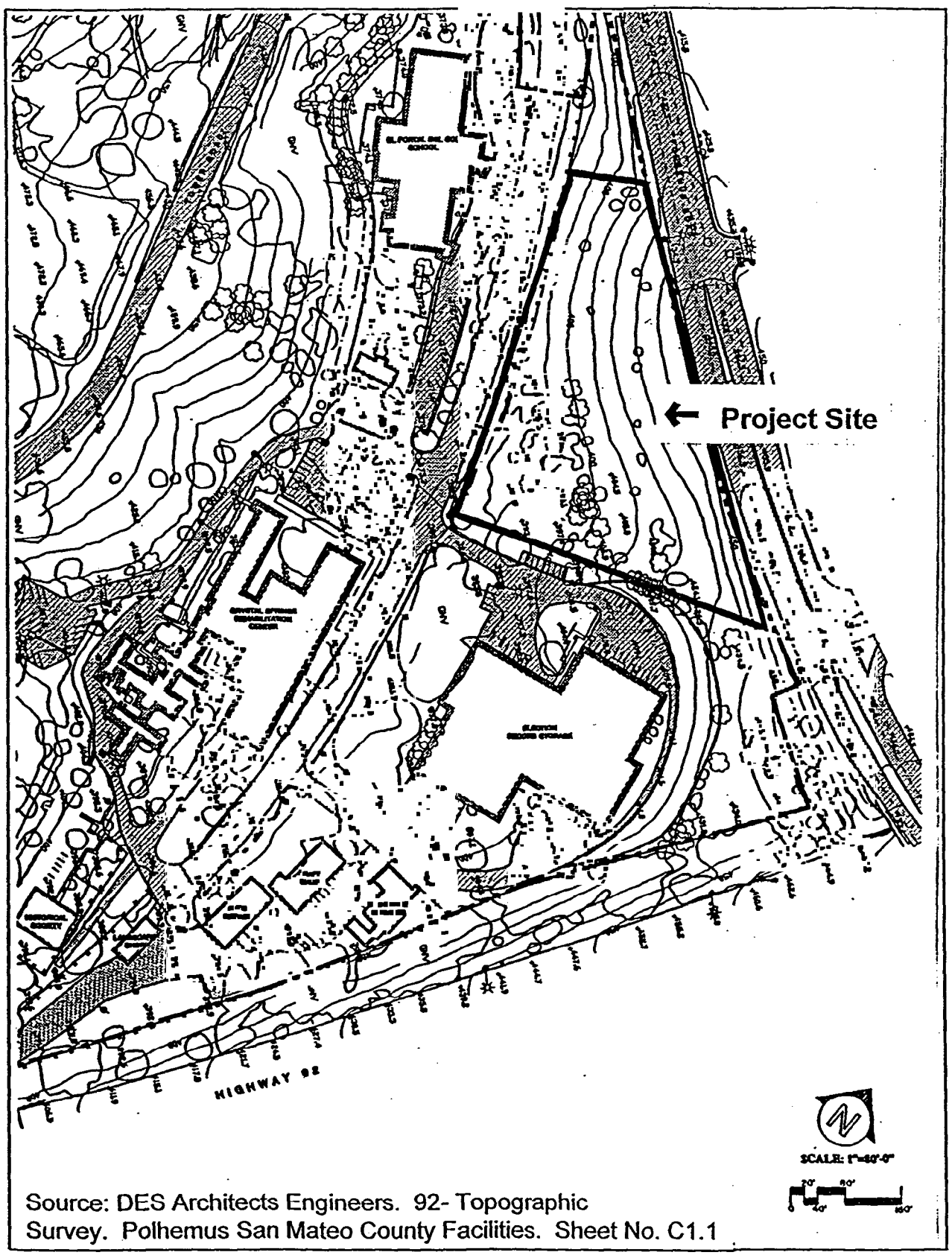
San Mateo County Planning and Building Division. Section 12000, San Mateo County Ordinance: Regulation of Removal of Significant Trees. Document No. 23041

Table 1. Plants and animals observed on the proposed crime lab site, March 6 and April 13, 2001.

	Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Plants	California oat grass	*Danthonia californica*
	English plantain	*Plantago lanceolata*
	Fuller's teasle	*Dipsacus sativus*
	coyote brush	*Baccharis pilularis*
	California aster	*Aster chiloensis*
	mugwort	*Artemisia californica*
	mule ears	*Wyethia*
	cut-leaved geranium	*Geranium dissectum*
	vetch	*Vicea sativa*
	milk thistle	*Silybum marianum*
	velvet grass	*Holcus lanatus*
	pyrocantha	*Pyrocantha sp.*
	sun cups	*Camissonia ovatum*
	poison oak	*Toxicodendron diversilobum*
	wild cucumber	*Marah fabaceae*
	coast live oak	*Quercus agrifolia*
	fennel	*Foeniculum vulgare*
	mustard	*Brassica sp.*
	toyon	*Heteromeles arbutifolia*
	blue wild rye	*Elymus glauca*
	bristly ox tongue	*Picris echioides*
	juniper	*Juniperus sp.*
	plum	*Prunus sp.*
	filaree	*Erodium sp.*

	Common Name	**Scientific Name**
Plants (contd.)	wild radish	*Raphanus sativus*
	Italian thistle	*Carduus pycnocephalus*
	sedge	*Cyperus sp.*
	Vulpia	*Vulpia*
	soap plant	*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*
	English ivy	*Hedera helix*
	Arroyo willow	*Salix lasiolepis*
Animals	California meadow vole	
	Botha's pocket gopher	
	black-tailed mule deer	
	white-crowned sparrow	
	golden-crowned sparrow	
	Anna's hummingbird	
	scrub jay	
	American robin	
	California towhee	
	western fence lizard	
	California slender salamander	

Figure 1. Map of proposed crime lab site, San Mateo County, California.



Source: DES Architects Engineers. 92- Topographic Survey. Polhemus San Mateo County Facilities. Sheet No. C1.1

Appendix A

Wendy Knight – Associate

Wendy Knight is a biologist with over five years of research experience, most recently at Stanford University's Center for Conservation Biology (CCB). At the CCB, Ms. Knight's research spanned a variety of subjects, ranging from the pollination efficiency of native bees in Yolo and Solano counties to the impact of habitat fragmentation on insectivorous bats in Mexico. In the Bay Area, Ms. Knight has conducted surveys and research on serpentine butterflies and their host plants, California tiger salamanders, and California red-legged frogs. Her work has included population sampling, impact analysis, and report preparation.

Ms. Knight is experienced in the identification of plant and animal species, in mapping plant communities, and in amphibian mark/release/recapture work. She is familiar with special habitats such as vernal pools, serpentine grassland, and riparian zones. She is practiced in the use of biological data sources such as the California Natural Diversity Database, and numerous field guides and plant keys.

Currently, Ms. Knight is conducting biological surveys to determine the potential impacts of housing developments on sensitive species. In the spring, she will be conducting species monitoring for the endangered Mission blue, Callippe silverspot, and San Bruno elfin butterflies. She will also map endangered plants on San Bruno Mountain and participate in habitat maintenance and grassland restoration program.

Ms. Knight is also experienced in using ArcView GIS for mapping and data analysis. While at CCB she used ArcView to edit world-wide mammal family distribution maps. As a field researcher at the H.J Andrews Experimental Forest in Blue River, Oregon, she used ArcView to map old growth and young stand stream sites and to analyze spatial relationships among animals, especially tailed frogs and Pacific giant salamanders. She has made many research presentations at professional meetings, including one for the Society for Conservation Biology, published as "California Tiger Salamander: Adaptive management in an urban landscape."

Educational Background
B.A. Biology, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO.

Patrick Kobernus - Associate

Mr. Kobernus has a Master's degree in Ecology from California State University, Hayward, and has been an Associate with Thomas Reid Associates (TRA) since 1995. He is familiar with the status and range of many state and federally protected wildlife species, and with biological data sources such as the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB).

Mr. Kobernus has conducted biological assessment and surveys for the Mission blue butterfly, Callippe silverspot butterfly, San Bruno elfin butterfly, Smith's blue butterfly, monarch butterfly, steelhead, California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, burrowing owl, and serpentine grassland species.

As a staff biologist for TRA, Mr. Kobernus has conducted endangered species surveys and biological impact assessments for several clients in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has conducted biological surveys in San Mateo, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Santa Clara Counties. He has particular expertise conducting biological assessments for projects located on the San Mateo County coast within the County's Local Coastal Program area. He has worked on projects for San Mateo County Parks and Recreation, Santa Clara Valley Water District, Kaufman and Broad, Cal-Trans, Canada Woods East project in Carmel, Stone Valley Oaks project in Alamo, as well as several others. Mr. Kobernus often works closely with developers, public utilities, government agencies, and individual homeowners in modifying projects to avoid or minimize biological impacts to sensitive species and the environment.

As a project manager for TRA, Mr. Kobernus manages the implementation of the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan. He supervises field crews on the mountain conducting endangered species monitoring for the endangered Mission blue, Callippe silverspot, and San Bruno elfin butterflies. He also oversees the habitat management and grassland restoration program and has assisted in developing volunteer stewardship with the Friends of San Bruno Mountain.

Mr. Kobernus has a diverse biological background with a focus in stream ecology. As a graduate student at California State University, Hayward, he conducted his Master's degree research on assessing steelhead trout presence and habitat in San Lorenzo Creek. He also assisted with a study on heavy metal accumulation within urban creeks, (Vegetated Channels Study, 1992), and performed a study testing the toxicity of stormwater on macroinvertebrates and fish (DUST Marsh toxicity study, 1993) for Alameda County Water Resources Department. As a wildlife biologist for Gualala Redwoods in 1996 (Gualala, CA), he conducted surveys for northern spotted owls and conducted independent research on carnivores which use riparian habitat. Mr. Kobernus developed and directed a program that provided hands-on experience to children and teens in stream ecology from 1996-1997 (San Lorenzo Creek Wildlife Hikes). Mr. Kobernus currently leads hikes for volunteer and school groups on San Bruno Mountain.

Educational Background
M.S. Ecology, California State University, Hayward, CA
B.A. English, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA,