



## ALAMEDA RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSION MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING

**DATE:** Thursday, October 11, 2012  
**TIME:** 7:02 p.m. Called to Order  
**PLACE:** City Hall Council Chambers

### 1. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Vice Chair Delaney, Commissioners Lola Brown and Ann Cooke

**Absent:** Chair Restagno and Commissioner Sonneman

**Staff:** Amy Wooldridge, Recreation & Parks Director

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the Minutes of September 13, 2012 Recreation & Park Commission Regular Meeting

M/S/C Brown, Cooke (unanimously approved)

### 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, AGENDA

Speaker – Robert “Bob” Ploss, of the Aquatic Task Force, an Ad Hoc Volunteer group, addressed the Commission as an individual by stating he would like to see an aquatic center as part of the Beltline project. He would like to be involved in the process.

Speaker – Dorothy Freeman, of the Jean Sweeney Open Space Committee (JSOSC), is very interested in being involved with this project and being part of the process. She provided a brief on how dedicated Ms. Sweeney was to acquiring the land and keeping it open space.

Speaker – Helena Lengel, Biology Department of the College of Alameda, stated she also worked with the JSOSC on the ballot measure to acquire the property. She would like to stay involved with the development of the land. She would like to see the students of the College be involved from a scientific study standpoint and learning environment, such as sample testing and measurements.

Speaker – Jim Sweeney, husband of Jean Sweeney, delighted this project coming to fruition. Jean never gave up on this, which started in 1998 at a meeting at Mastick Senior Center. The result was that everyone wanted open space for walking, and bike paths and she was able to get 1,000 signatures and the initiative passed. Jean was lucky enough to find the original contact for the buy-back and she was there every step of the way.

### 4. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

### 5. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Beltline Property** – Staff Wooldridge provided a map handout of the Beltline project [Attachment A] and the land to be developed, which has become part of the City of Alameda, although Union Pacific still owns a section along the southern portion. She explained the details of the Rail Banking Agreement and its restrictions, specifically a 30-40' path that must remain dedicated to a rail line for future use.

This is the very start of the community input process for the project, and the Commission's task is to determine what the input process will entail. Commission will lead the process with Wooldridge. Staff suggested the following potential process:

- Initial community meetings in January or February with outreach including mailing to residents, press releases, posting on web and email, flyers onsite and contacting potentially interested user groups. This initial community brainstorm process would help determine the uses at the Beltline.
- The second step Council approval of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a conceptual landscape design, paid by the City's available dedicated Open Space Funds.
- The next step would be additional community meetings to review the conceptual design.

Once the conceptual design and cost estimate are complete, then Staff can apply for State Funds such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Prop 84. The LWCF applications are due by Nov. 1, 2013 so that goal is to complete the process prior to that. Both of these funding sources are geared toward open space, which could include active elements such as community gardens, bike and walking trails, playgrounds, etc. It does not include funding for athletic facilities such as a swim center or fields. These are harder to fund and would require other funding sources.

Vice Chair Delaney – Are there limitations to lean one way or the other?

Director Wooldridge – The only limitation is the Rail Banking Agreement which requires that the 30'-40' area along the length of the Beltline remain available, but there is nothing specific as to where that path is to be. Funding sources are also a factor.

Member Brown – Due to the amount of time Ms. Jean Sweeney dedicated to this project we should be conscious about taking our time with the process and getting it right. By looking at the map it looks like a smaller amount of property than the full Beltline.

Member Cooke – When will the project be accepting proposals and will those proposals be for mixed-use, a combo of uses?

Wooldridge – The community can provide input at the meetings. As we move forward with input, we will have a better idea on timelines. This group should think about mixed-use, an active recreation, parking issues (i.e., open space requires less parking), and funding.

Director Wooldridge – Asked for feedback on community meeting.

Member Brown – January is a good idea, after the holiday, and location should be discussed, along with whether to have meeting on a Saturday or week day.

Vice Chair Delaney – Evening meetings are good, weekends could work for some people who travel for work. It would be best to have community leaders, membership groups to provide outreach.

Member Cooke – Many in the community have little knowledge of this Beltline area.

Director Wooldridge – Recreation Commission is to drive the process, and to be present at the community meetings. Asked if the Commission wanted a sub-committee for the process. There should be at least two community meetings, more discussion on outreach. Review and report on next steps.

Member Brown – If land is dedicated to open space can that be changed in the future?  
Director Wooldridge – If the City applies for and receives the LWCF State Grant, then one of the requirements is that the land is then held as open space in perpetuity. We can section out the project and do smaller elements at a time and apply for LWCF for each piece. Then only those sections would have the perpetuity requirement.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. Commission Involvement & Effectiveness Based on Manual (*Discussion*)**

Director Wooldridge understands the manual can be a little overwhelming and wanted the Commissioners to understand that they were not required to take on every aspect outlined by the manual. These are suggestions and each Commissioner will bring their expertise to the group. It was recommended that each Commissioner decide what are their top 2-3 priorities and focus on that due to time commitments. Wooldridge requested that Commissioners think about their specific skills, areas of expertise, connections in the community, etc. and email her that information so she better utilize those skills. She reminded Commissioners that they are the community representatives and voice to City Council. She also offered to do a tour of all of the recreation parks and facilities for the Commissioners so that they are better educated. Some members expressed interest in-lieu of a meeting. Wooldridge also recommended that Commissioners become educated on ARPD activities by attending community events and activities whenever possible.

## **7. REPORTS FROM RECREATION COMMISSION AND RECREATION & PARK DIRECTOR**

### **A. Recreation Commission Reports**

Vice Chair Delaney stated new members to the Friends of the Parks Foundation are Gina Jaber and Tony Corica, and there will be more new members forthcoming.

### **B. Recreation and Parks Director Report**

- Elks Hoop Shoot event won an Elks National Award. Local youth groups and at our after school sites, will send kids who shot the most free throws out of 25 throws. These finalists will then compete in the finals in January 2013.
- Teens are working hard on their Haunted House at South Shore.
- Mastick Open House had 17 vendors and approx. 265 participants. Everyone enjoyed themselves and were encouraged to visit the vendors through a bingo game. Staff plans to increase the number of vendors next year. Good revenue and helpful information for the seniors.
- Receiving good feedback on the tennis courts resurfacing. Leydecker, Longfellow and Franklin have been done, with Washington underway. This is a Measure WW funded project.
- Ritler Park lawn is almost fully restored. Became brown due to an adjacent pump station project that cut the water and electrical lines for irrigation.
- Krusi Park is out to bid, information is available online.

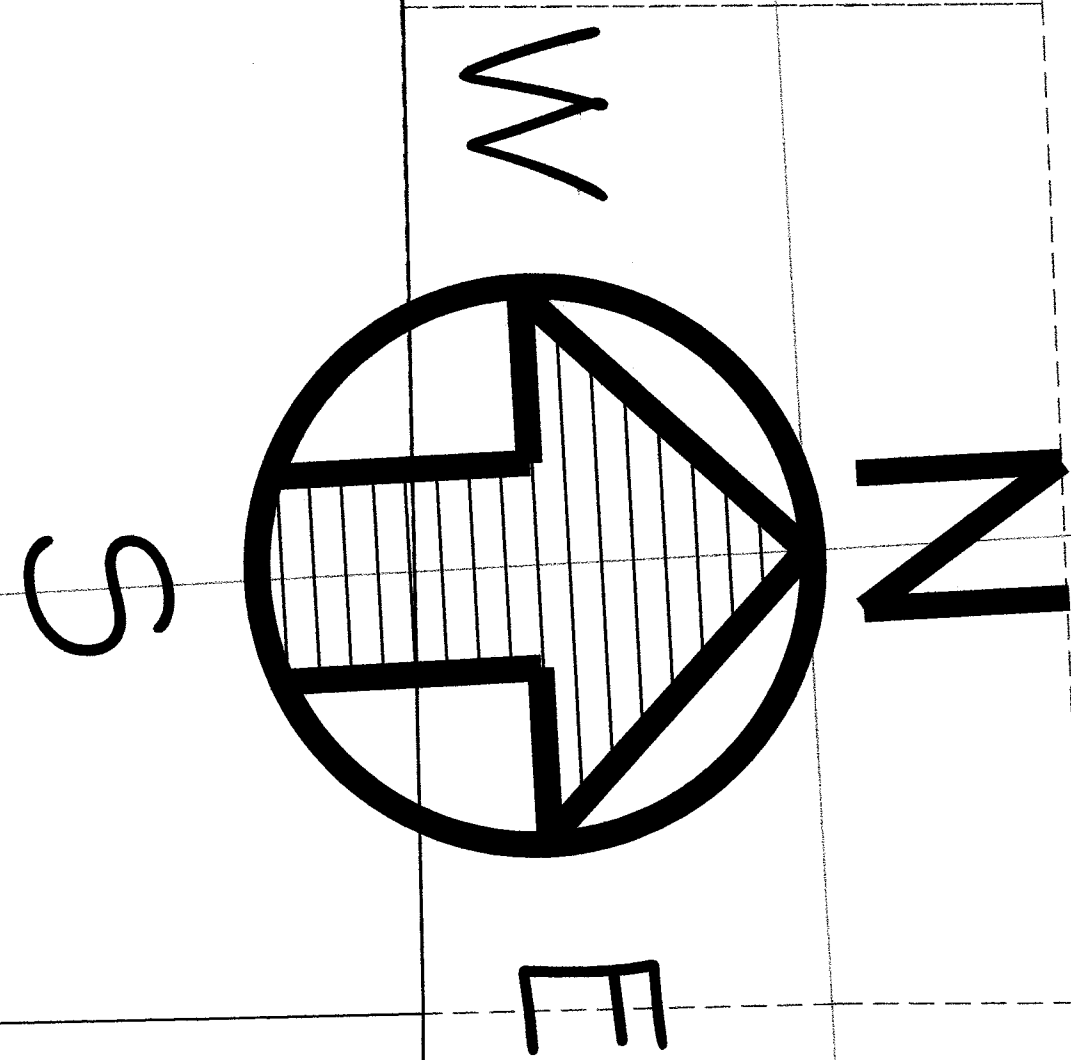
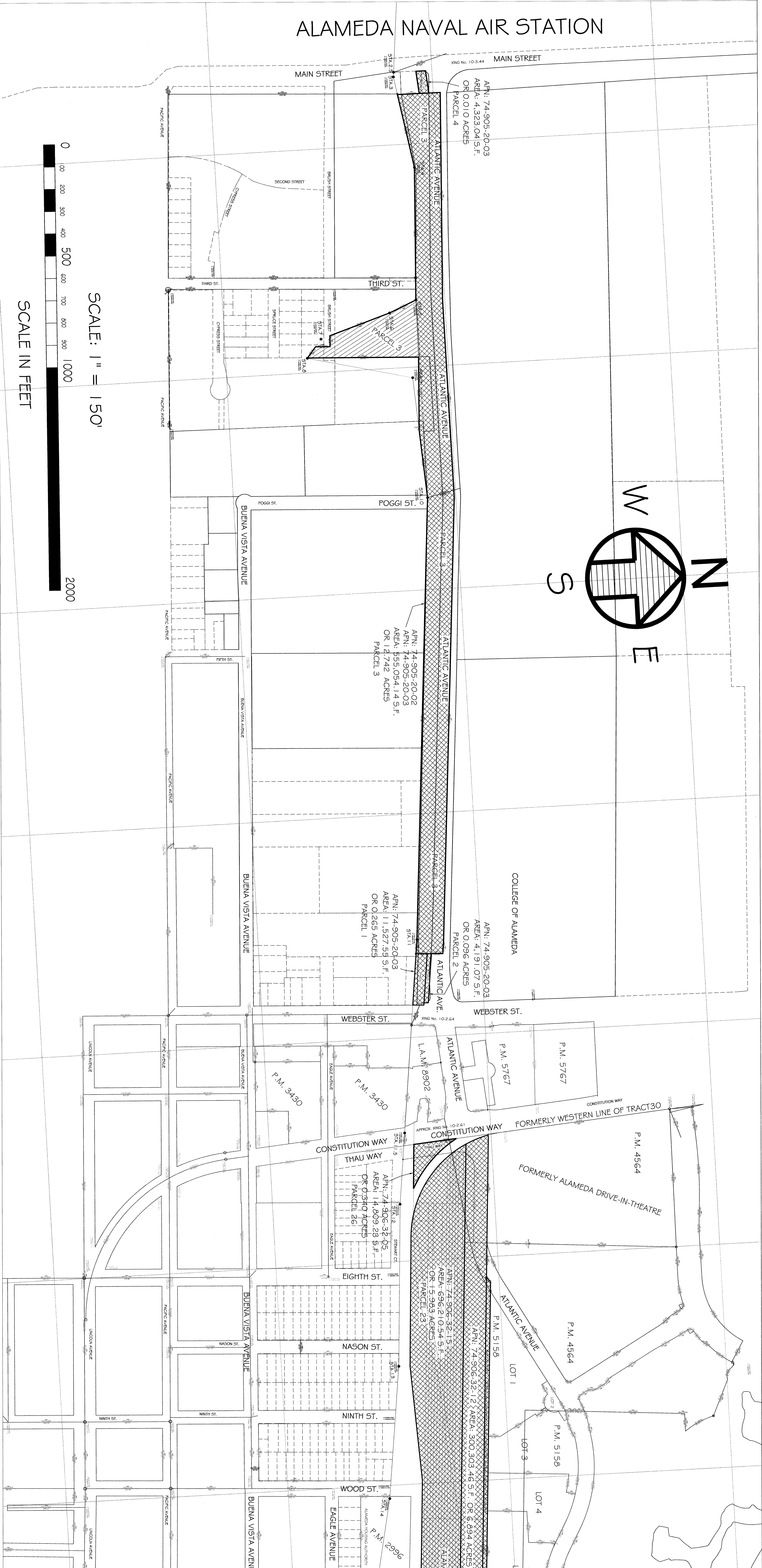
- Encinal Boat Ramp – Wooldridge met with the California Dept. of Boat and Waterways for potential funding of a full renovation. If chosen, they will provide engineers to create a conceptual design and cost estimates which are then used to apply for funding in April 2013. Typically the boat ramp is non-operational in winter but these improvements would make it available year-round and potential add another dock for non-motorized craft. Also was approached by the O'kalani Canoe Club who is interested in coming back to Alameda and making their home at the Encinal Boat Ramp.
- City Council November 20 – Lease Agreement with Alameda Soccer Club will be discussed. These are the fields currently leased to Piedmont Soccer.
- Miracle League of the East Bay – Previous agreement with ARRA needs to be revisited. Waiting to hear back from Miracle League to see if they are interested.
- Meyers House – looking at transferring the House to the Alameda Museum. On the Historical Advisory Board agenda on 11/1/12 then going to City Council for discussion in January or February. Museum has a 5-year capital improvement plan for the house.
- Currently negotiating with the Ala Costa Centers to provide space for an afterschool program for developmentally disabled children.
- Woodstock Park baseball field renovation was funded by a 2004 State Grant and is moving forward with a community meeting scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor's Tree Lighting is December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- City website is being revamped
- Alameda won American's Promise Alliance 100 Best Cities for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row.
- The second round of Recreation Specialist interviews have been completed and staff are confirmed: Dennis McDaniels, Christina Bailey and Mariel Thomas.
- ARPD will host an Open House for staff, Commission and Council on Halloween, 10am-Noon. Please join us if you are available.

**C. Other Reports and Announcements – None**

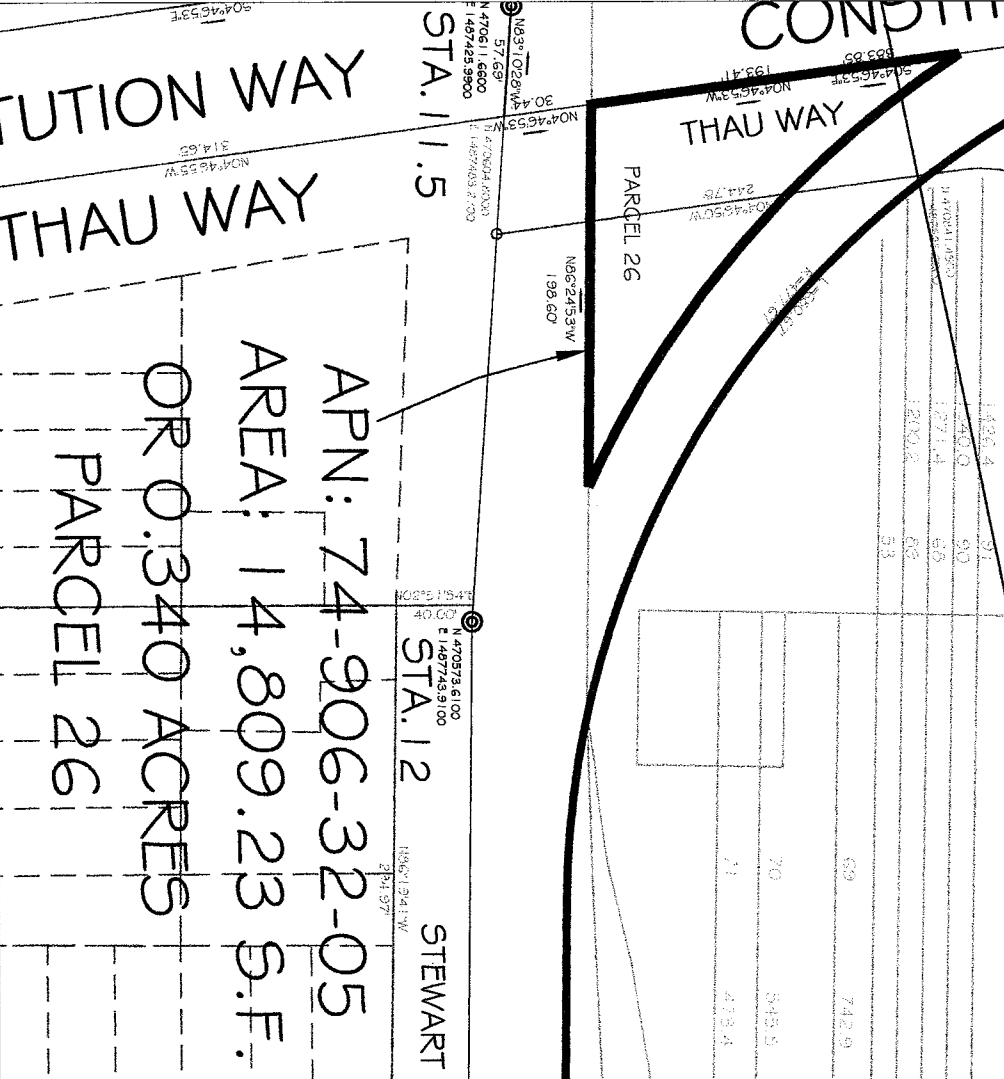
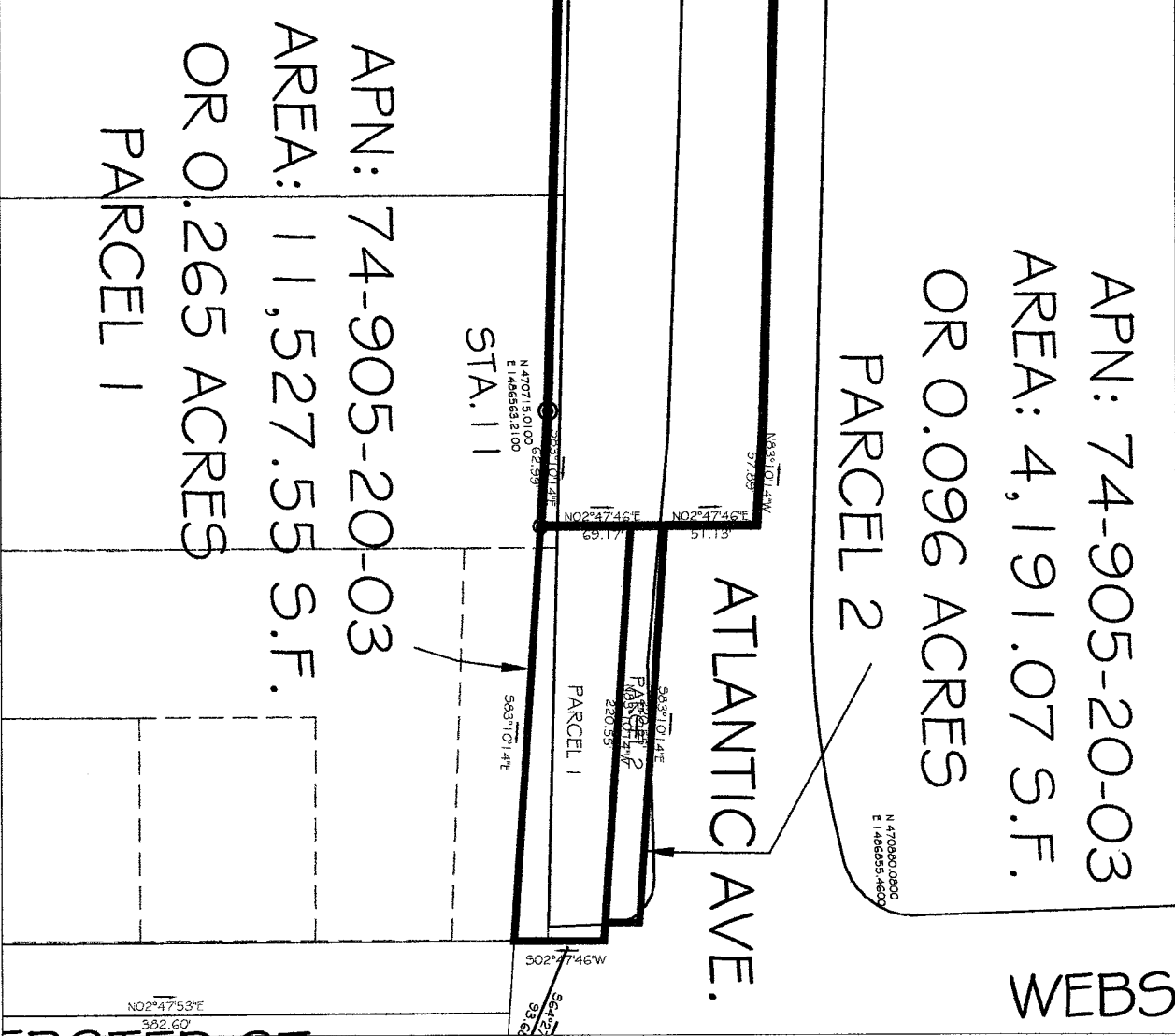
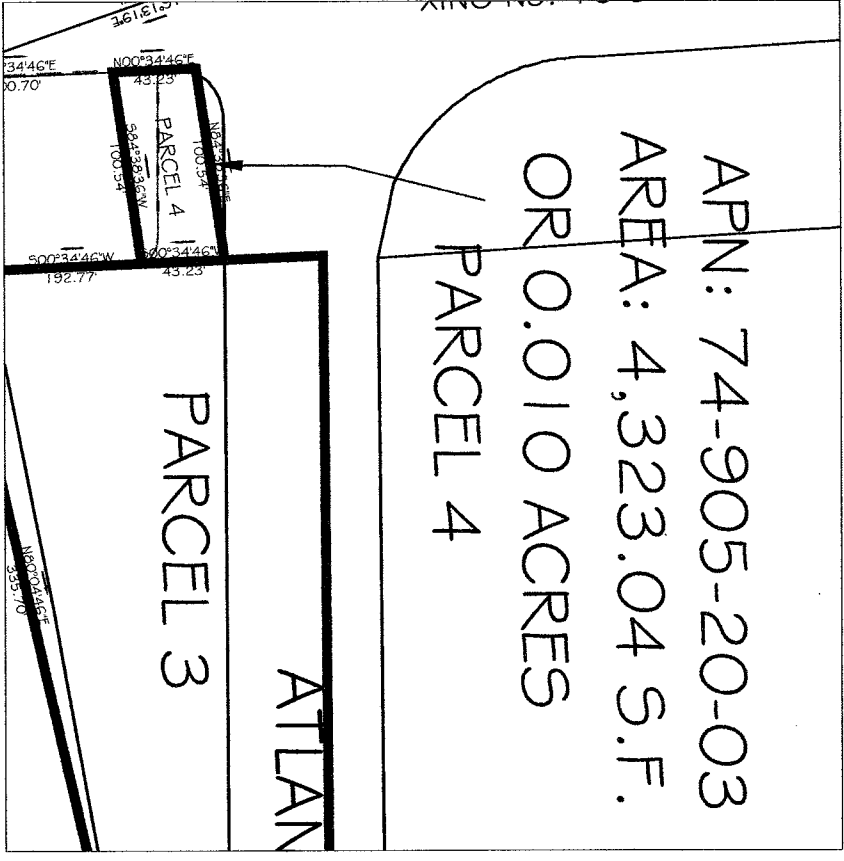
8. **STATUS REPORT ON ONGOING PROJECTS – None**
9. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, GENERAL - None**
10. **ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**  
Update on Beltline next steps
11. **SET NEXT MEETING DATE:** Thursday, November 8, 2012.
12. **ADJOURNMENT**  
M/S/C Cooke, Brown and unanimous

AW:sb

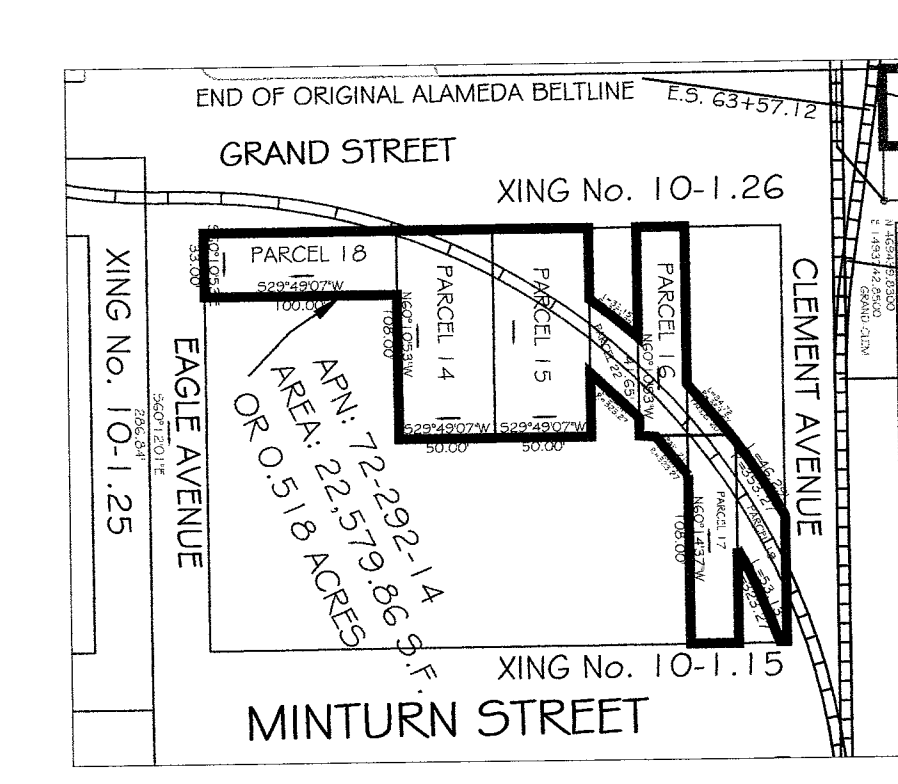
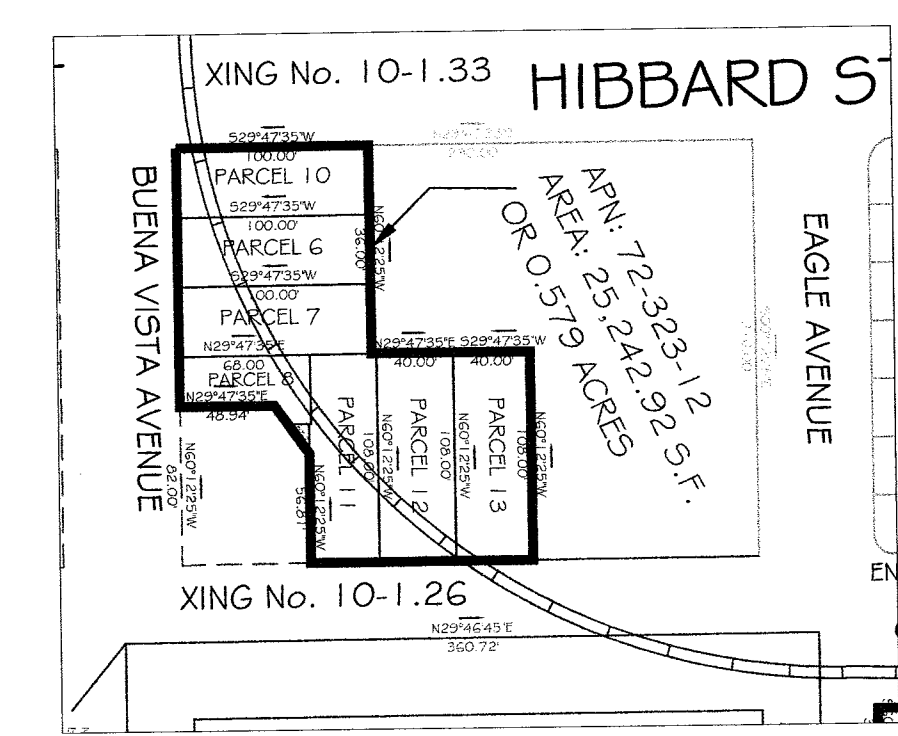
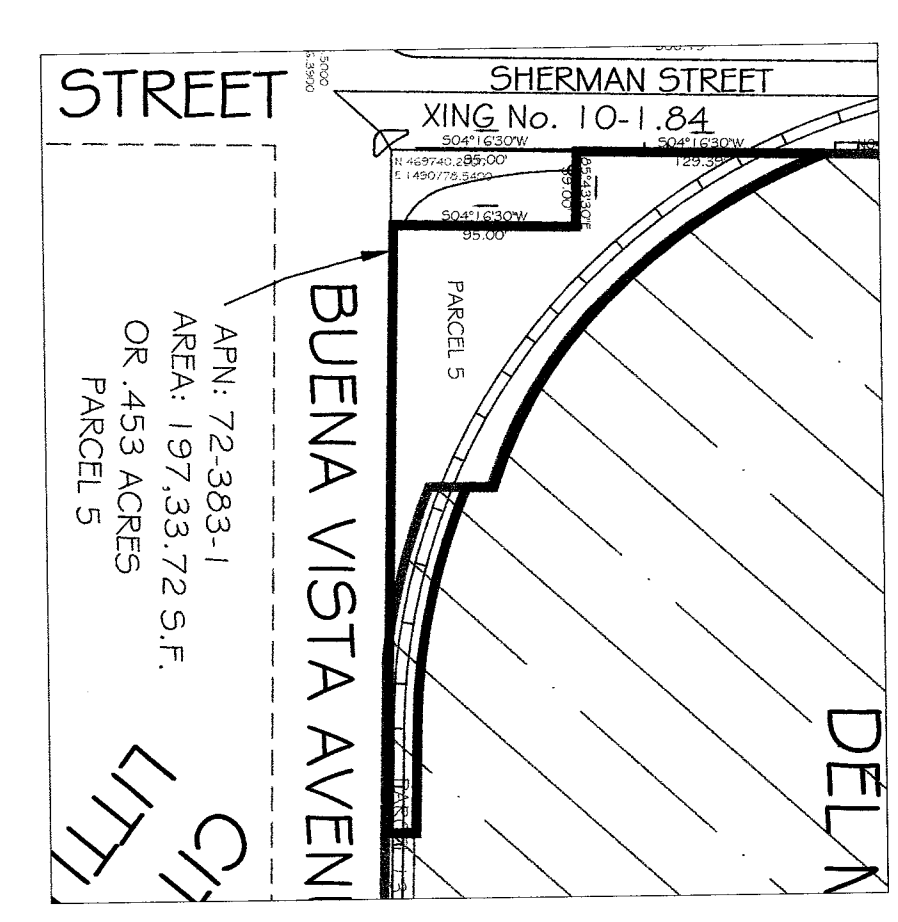
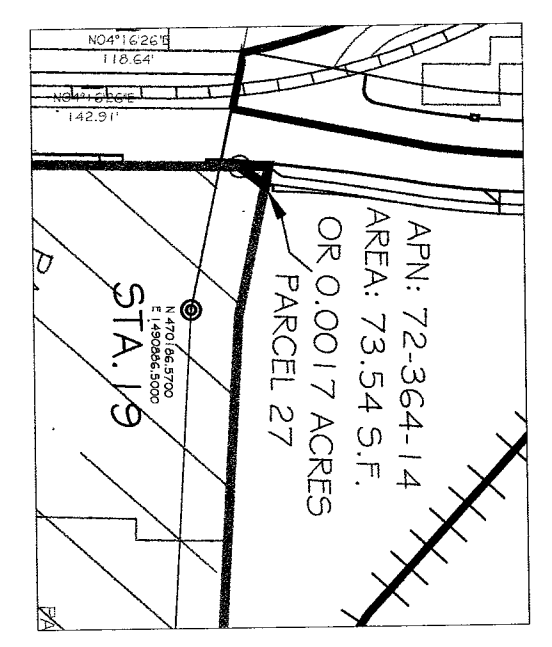
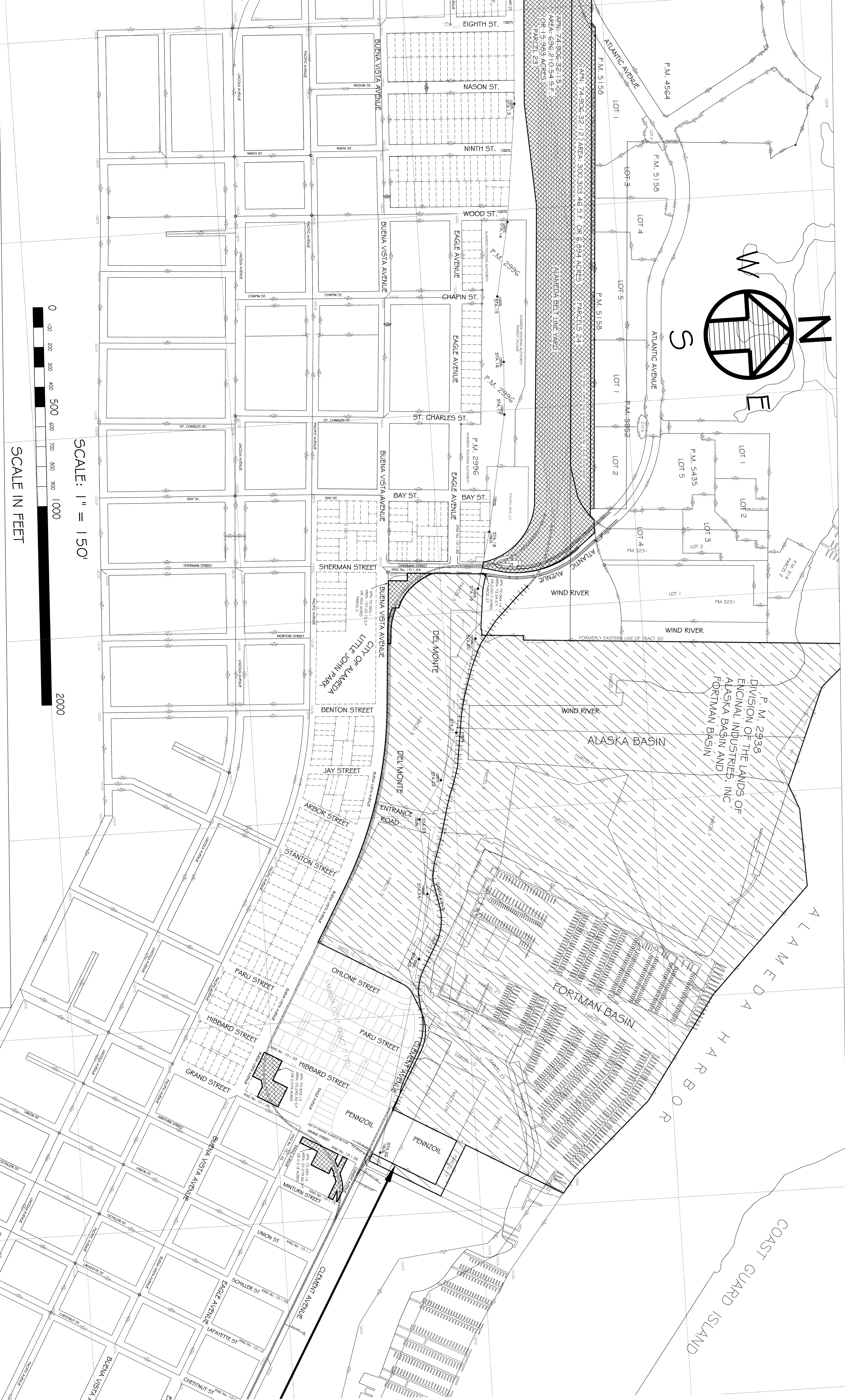
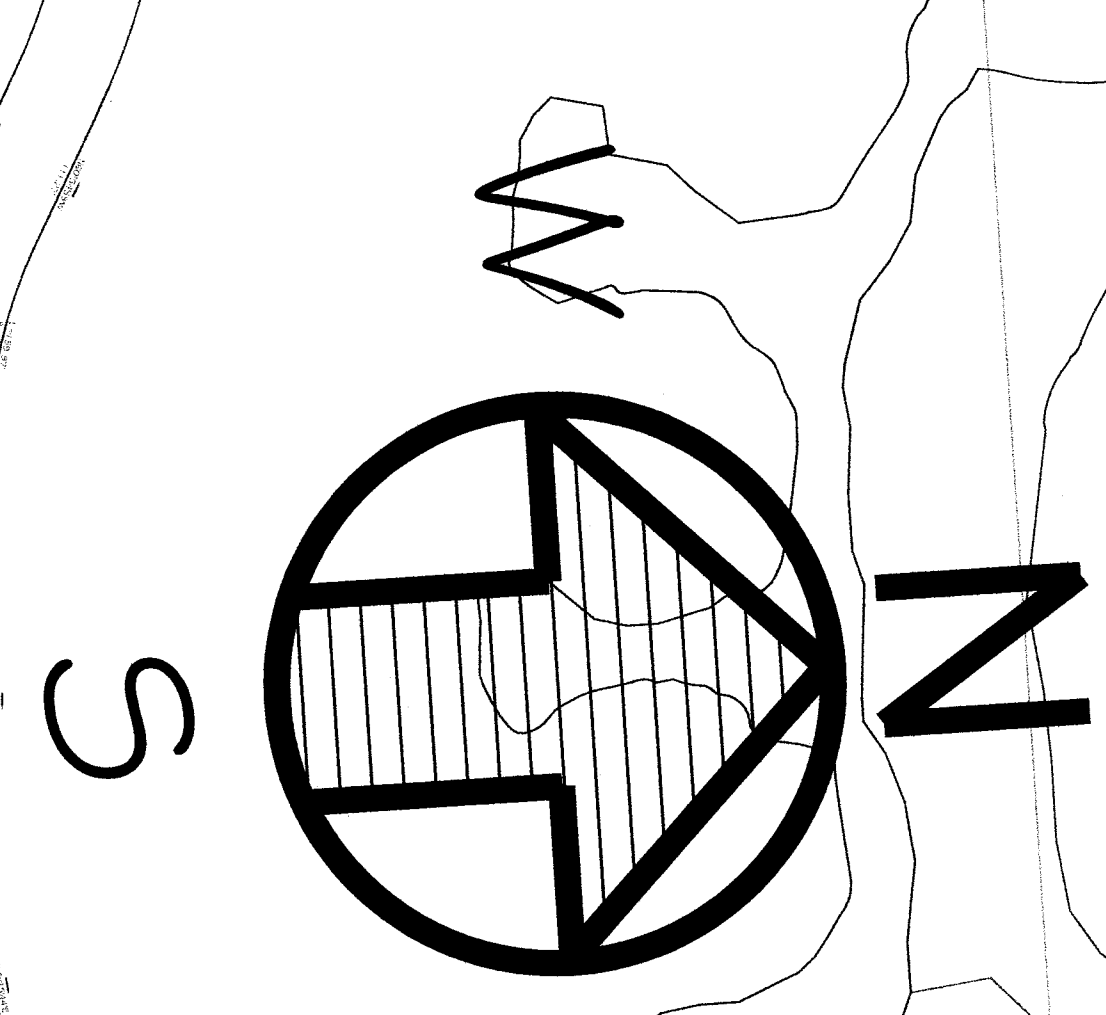




- ABL PARCELS
- ABL TRACK
- A. U. SCHOOL DISTRICT
- ALASKA PACKERS







SHEET 2 OF 3



