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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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AGENDA: OCTOBER 3, 2000

September 20, 2000

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PLAN LINE REVISION FOR SOQUEL DRIVE BETWEEN
DAUBENBISS AVENUE AND MAIN STREET

Members of the Board:

This letter describes and recommends approval of revisions to an existing plan line for Soquel Drive from Daubenbiss Avenue to Main Street in the Soquel planning area. Improvement plan sheets indicating the proposed plan line have been forwarded to the Clerk of the Board for your review. Attachment 1 is the location map indicating the roadway segment being considered for plan line recommendations. Attachment 2 shows the proposed street cross-sections for the plan line.

BACKGROUND

On May 4, 1993, your Board approved a plan line for this portion of Soquel Drive as part of the design of signalization improvements, which were subsequently installed.

Soquel Drive is designated as an arterial street in the County's General Plan. This portion of Soquel Drive currently has a varying width right-of-way, and is striped for four travel lanes. Sidewalks exist on most of this segment, except on the north side between Porter Street and Soquel Creek. Onstreet parking exists along the south side of the street from Daubenbiss Avenue to Soquel Creek. Soquel Drive is signal controlled at Daubenbiss Avenue, Porter Street, and Main Street.

The plan line revisions presented for your approval have been initiated by staff to enable design to proceed on this portion of Soquel Drive, which is scheduled for construction of sidewalk and streetscape improvements in spring of 2001, along with the reconstruction of the Bargetto Bridge over Soquel Creek.

Several community meetings have been held to solicit input about the plan line proposal and the related issues which are described below, and the potential impacts on both traffic and local businesses and residents. The proposed plan line is consistent with comments received at the meetings, as described below.

PROPOSED SOQUEL DRIVE PLAN LINE

The proposed plan line for the segment of Soquel Drive between Daubenbiss Avenue and Main Street includes a typical cross section of four 11-foot travel lanes, a five-foot bicycle lane on the north side, a 12-foot bicycle and parking shoulder on the south side, and curb, gutter, and sidewalk on both sides. An additional right turn lane is provided from westbound Soquel Drive to northbound Porter Street. Total curb-to-curb width will be 61 feet for most of the segment. Additional right-of-way and sidewalk easements are necessary along the north side of the street to construct these improvements. A continuous level pedestrian pathway will be provided at driveways to meet the accessibility requirements of the Design Criteria, and access ramps are provided at all intersections and crosswalks.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Soquel Drive is a transit route, and two bus stops exist in this segment, one eastbound and one westbound. A turnout is proposed to be constructed at the eastbound stop, at the Transit District's request, but there is not enough room to install a shelter at this location. At the existing location of the westbound stop, there is not room to provide either a turnout or shelter. The plan line provides for the westbound stop to be relocated from the west side of Main Street to the east side, where there is room to provide a turnout and shelter, as part of a future project that is not currently scheduled. The stop will remain in its current location at this time, with no shelter.

The originally approved plan line called for the removal of the onstreet parking on the south side of Soquel Drive in order to provide bike lanes and wider sidewalks. At the recent meetings with community members, business owners were particularly concerned about the removal of the parking. Staff responded by developing an alternative that reduced the width of the proposed sidewalks from ten feet to six feet on the south side (which allows the existing sidewalks to remain in place) and to eight feet on the north side. The reduction in sidewalk widths allows room for the onstreet parking to remain on the south side.

The new eight foot wide sidewalk on the north side will allow trees to be planted in tree wells, as has previously been done on Porter Street and Daubenbiss Avenue. However, the six foot wide sidewalk on the south side, which will remain in place, is not wide enough to include tree wells. In order to provide landscaping on the south side, the plan line includes tree planting in islands within the parking shoulder.

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The reduced sidewalk widths were the unanimous favorite of the business and property owners, as they allow the onstreet parking to remain, bike lanes to be provided, and trees to be planted on both sides of the street.

The proposed plan line does not include any changes to the travel lanes shown on the previously approved plan line. However, Public Works staff is in the process of analyzing the functionality of the Soquel Drive/Porter Street intersection to determine if different signal timing or striping would improve the level of service. None of the alternatives being considered would change the number of travel lanes or the curb alignment. If the analysis indicates that any revisions to the intersection are appropriate, Public Works will return to the Board with a report on the proposed changes.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors take the following action:

1. Approve the proposed revised plan line for Soquel Drive between Daubenbiss Avenue and Main Street.
2. Direct Public Works staff to include the plan line for this segment of Soquel Drive in the Master Plan Line tile.

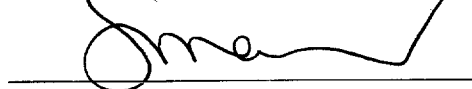
Yours truly,



THOMAS L. BOLICH
Director of Public Works

CDR:cdr
Attachments

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL:

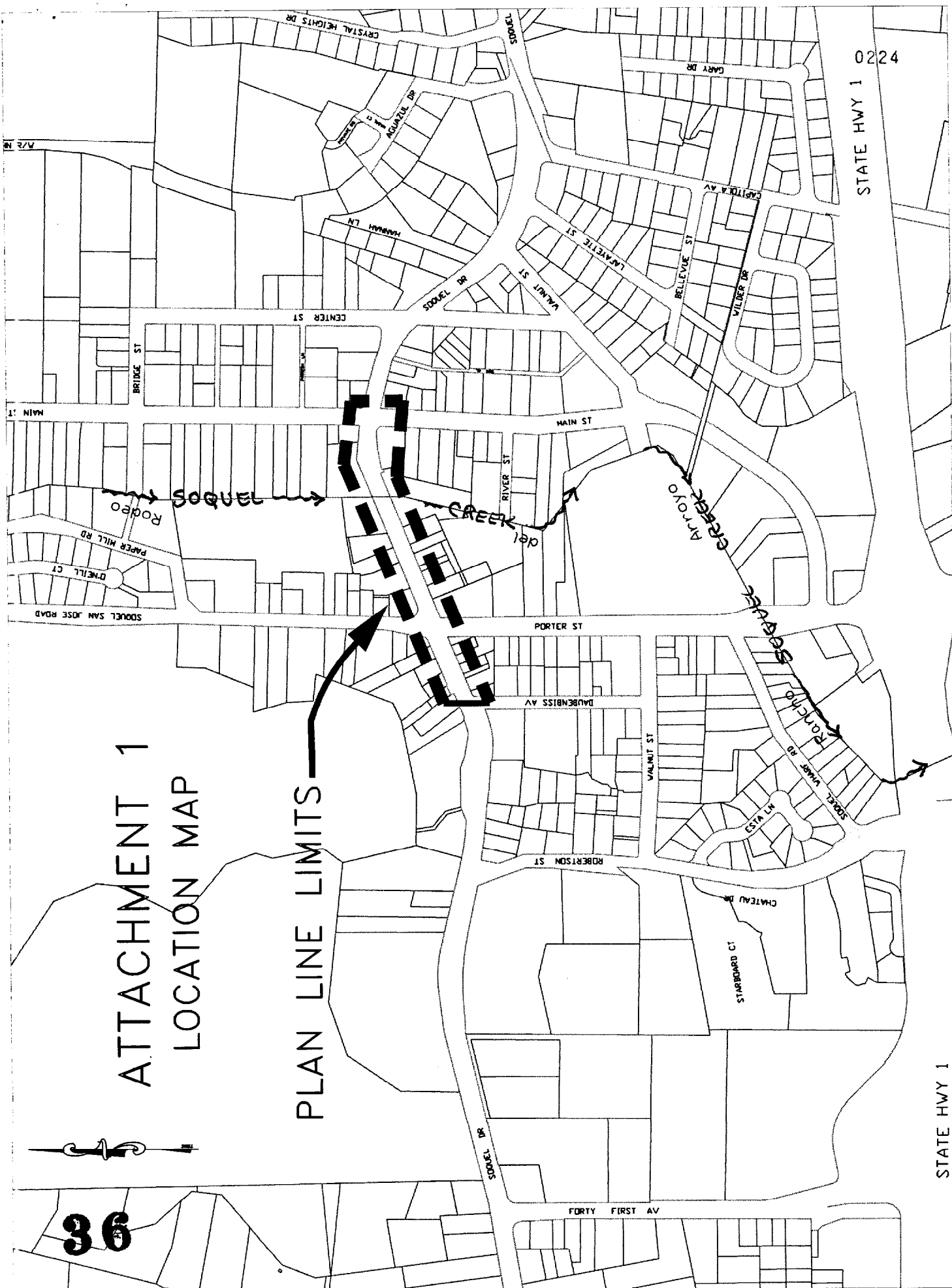


County Administrative Officer

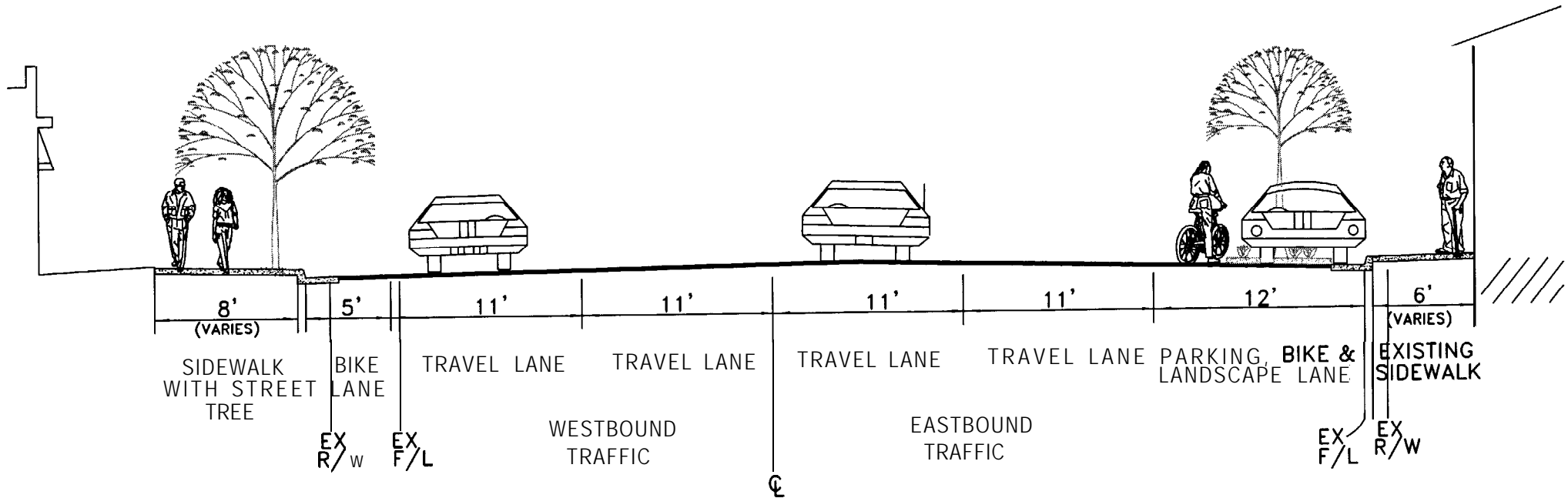
copy to: Public Works Department
 Redevelopment Department
 Planning Department

PLAN LINE LIMITS

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ATTACHMENT 2



TYPICAL SECTION OF SOQUEL DRIVE
PROPOSED STREET ALIGNMENT