# VARIANCES AND TREE PERMIT FOR 2754 LIMERICK ROAD NEW SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENCE AND JUNIOR ACCESSORY DWELLING UNIT, DRIVEWAY PLATFORM, & CARPORT

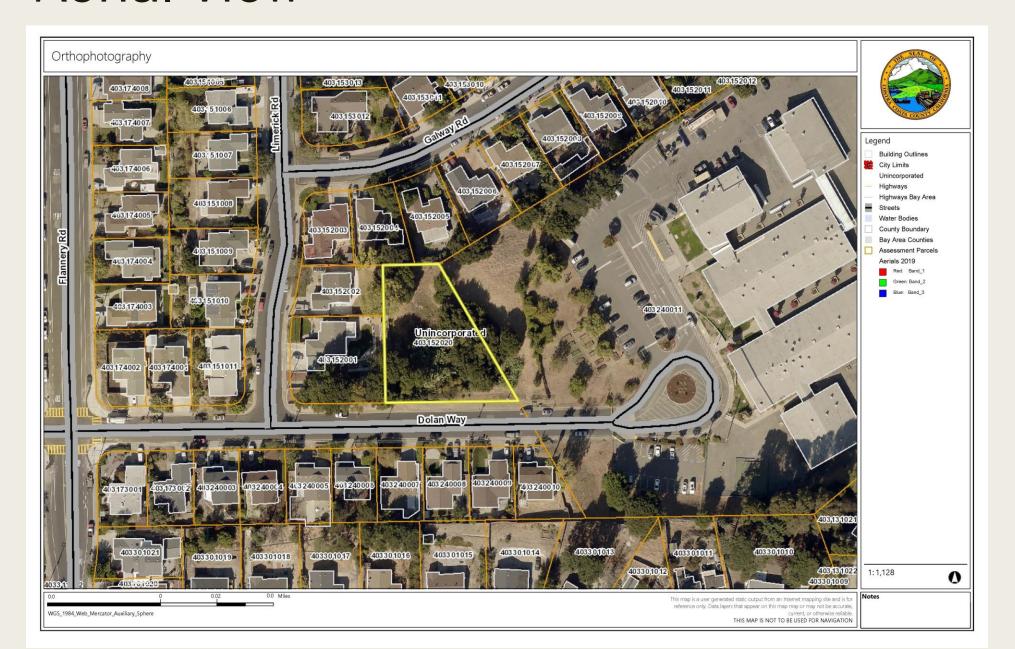
COUNTY FILE #CDVR23-01026

County Planning Commission December 11, 2024

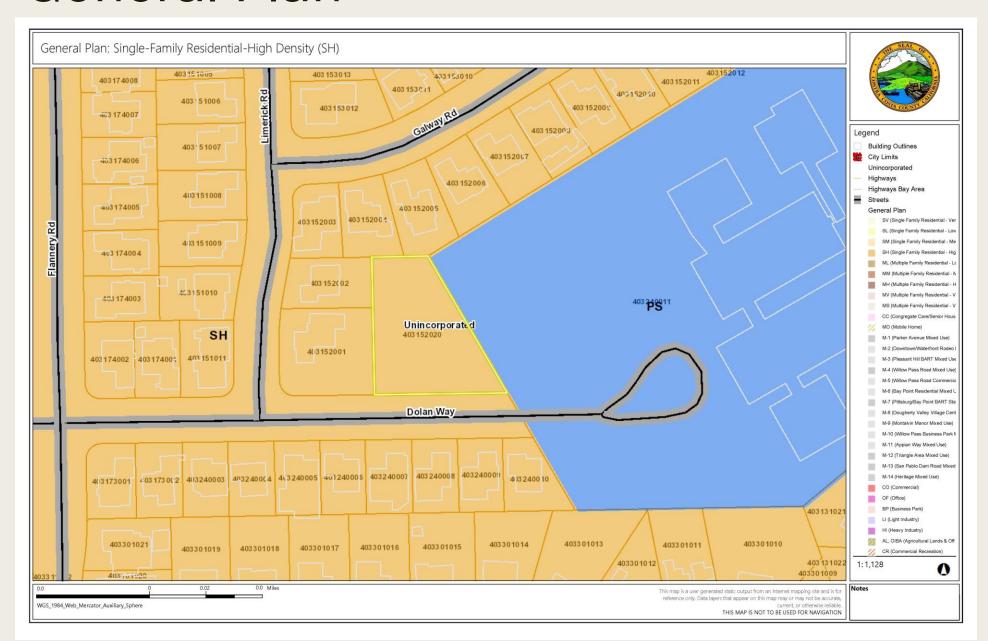
### **Project Description**

- New 5,104 square-foot single-family residence with a junior accessory dwelling unit on a vacant lot in the San Pablo area of unincorporated Contra Costa County
- Reduced minimum front setback for an elevated driveway platform from Dolan Way
- Reduced minimum front setback for a carport structure for off-street parking
- Tree Permit to remove four (4) code-protected trees on the property:
  - Two (2) code-protected coast live oak trees for the construction of the driveway platform and carport structure.
  - One (1) code-protected red willow tree outside of the construction area due to poor structure (severe lean) and form.
  - One (1) code-protected coast live oak tree outside of the construction area due to poor health, with poor structure and form.

#### **Aerial View**



#### General Plan



# Zoning



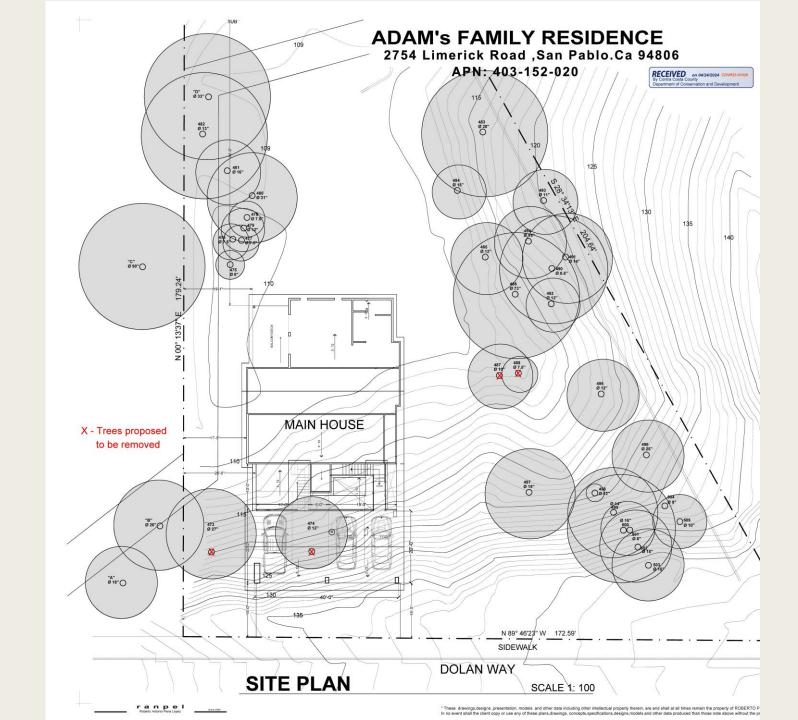
# Background

- A Variance application (County File #CDVR23-01026) was submitted on April 24, 2023.
- The matter was heard by the County Zoning Administrator on May 6, 2024. The County Zoning Administrator read the Housing Sites Inventory Findings into the record and approved the variances and tree permit as recommended by staff.
- On May 15, 2024, staff received one letter from Ronald Collins, appealing the Zoning Administrator's decision.

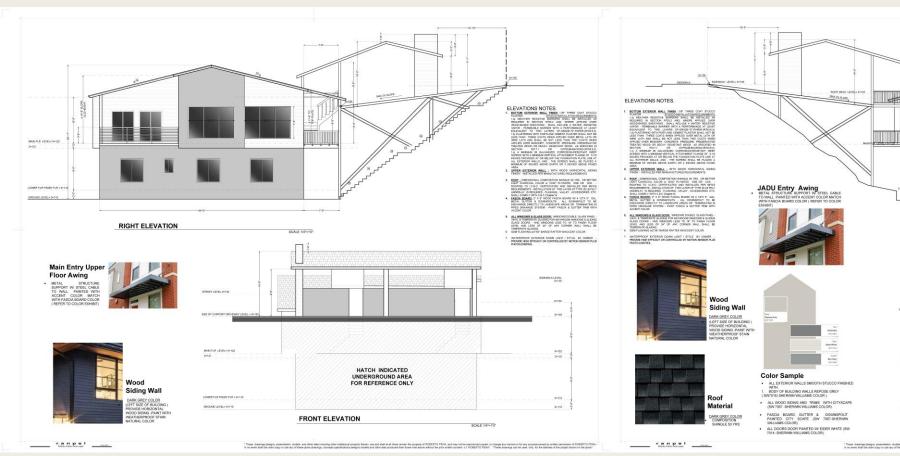
# Dolan Way Frontage



#### Site Plan

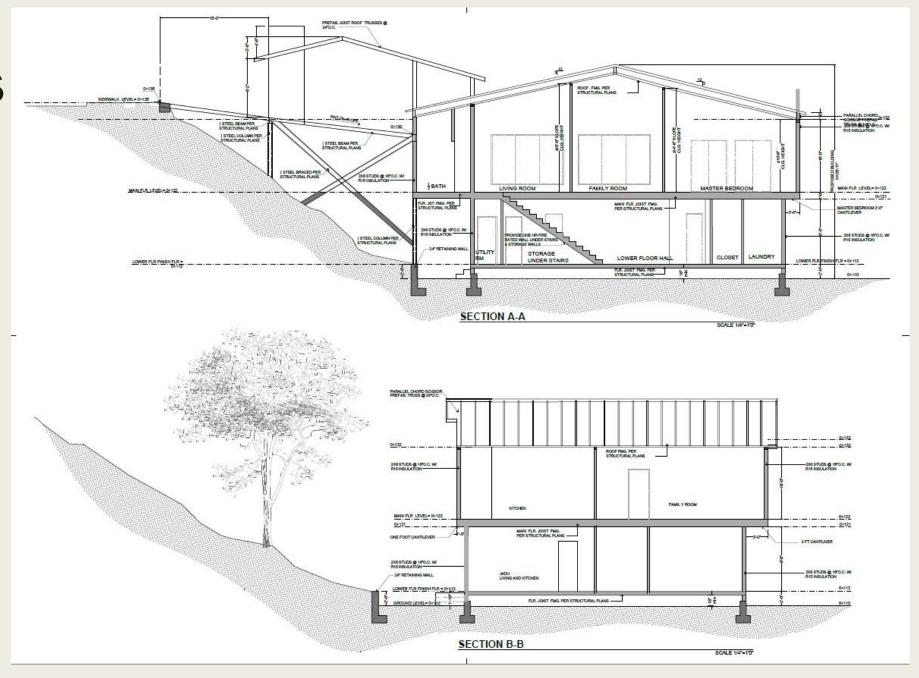


#### Elevations





# Sections



#### Summary of Appeal Points

- <u>Soil stability and Drainage</u>: Appellant is concerned about the removal of the two trees on the slope east of the proposed residence and the impact on soil stability and drainage.
- Wildlife Habitat/Animal Sanctuary: Appellant states that wildlife seek shelter in the trees, that their habitat is being destroyed, and that the vacant property has become an animal sanctuary.
- Change of Hill Runoff: Appellant states that a change of hill runoff into appellant's property due to the proposed development could cause possible flooding of existing improvements.
- <u>Privacy Concerns</u>: Appellant is concerned that the occupants of the new residence could look directly into their backyard and bedroom window and that the removal of the two trees on the Dolan side of the subject property would compromise their privacy.
- Location of Residence Blocking Sunlight: Appellant is concerned that the proposed residence will be located too close to the shared property line and that the new residence will block sunlight to their yard in the morning.

# Summary of Appeal Points (continued)

- No Valid Reason for Tree Removal: Appellant states that there is no valid reason for the four trees to be removed.
- <u>Structure and Size</u>: Appellant is concerned about the structure and size of the proposed residence and asserts that it is a 3-story house.
- Not Suitable for Development/Water Ponding: Appellant states that the site is not suitable to build a home as water collects from the hills above and ponds within the flatter areas of the property; the applicant hired a construction crew to remove the pond and install stormwater piping to a storm drain and aqueduct below the subject property.
- <u>Illegal Dumping</u>: Appellant indicated that there has been illegal dumping of dirt onto the property in the past.

#### Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommends that the County Planning Commission:
  - OPEN the public hearing on the variance and tree permit requests for the construction of a driveway platform and carport structure and a new singlefamily residence, RECEIVE testimony, and CLOSE the public hearing.
  - DENY the appeal by Ronald Collins and UPHOLD the Zoning Administrator's decision to approve County File #CDVR23-01026.
  - ADOPT the attached findings and conditions of approval.
  - FIND that the project is categorically exempt from CEQA under Section 15303(a) of the CEQA Guidelines.
  - DIRECT the Department of Conservation and Development to file a Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk.

# QUESTIONS?