

Design Review Subcommittee (DRSC)

Meeting Date: May 12, 2021

PLANNER: Stephanie Roxas, Senior Planner

<u>SUBJECT:</u> <u>Master Project 21-002, Project Summer, APNs 688-151-03 and 688-151-04</u>, a request to develop a 104,947 square foot e-commerce delivery station with a delivery van queueing area and parking storage for fleet automobiles and vans in the Rancho San Clemente Business Park.

BACKGROUND:

The project site is comprised of two vacant parcels totaling 20.38 acres. The site was previously graded. The parcels are located at the terminus of Calle Cordillera and Calle Sombra in the Rancho San Clemente Business Park. The site is located in the Rancho San Clemente Specific Plan within the Business Park Planning Area and Light Industrial (I2) General Plan Land Use Designation.

As illustrated in Figure 1 below, the properties are surrounded by light industrial, warehouse, office, and limited conditionally permitted uses in the surrounding business park. The Rancho San Clemente public trail runs along a portion of the southern property boundary. The trail is located on private property owned by the Rancho San Clemente Business Association. Residential neighborhoods are located to the south of the project site, above the ridgeline, over 400 feet away. These neighborhoods include single-family residential and multi-family residential homes within Rancho San Clemente.



Figure 1 – Aerial View

Why is DRSC Review Required?

The project requires applications for a Site Plan Permit, Architectural Permit, and Discretionary Sign Permit. The Zoning Ordinance requires DRSC review for all three applications. The project is subject to Planning Commission approval.

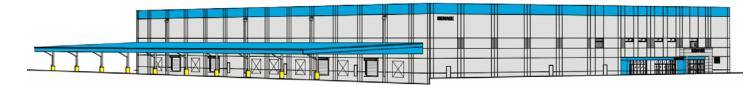
The purpose of this DRSC review is to provide the applicant with preliminary comments early in the application process. The current application is missing materials needed to fully assess the potential aesthetic impacts of the project. The purpose of this initial DRSC review is to allow the Subcommittee to broadly comment on the project and to request any specific exhibits or materials that will be needed to conduct a full architectural review.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The applicant, Derek Meddings of Greenlaw Partners, proposes to construct a 104,947 square foot concrete tilt-up single-story warehouse building with supporting office area and break room. The proposed facility is being designed for a package delivery service. Packages arriving at this facility are prepackaged in cardboard boxes and labeled for shipping within local neighborhoods and areas surrounding the facility. The packages are brought into the facility via tractor trailer trucks, who use designated loading dock positions. Once unloaded into the facility, the packages are sorted into more specific locations, put into bins and onto small mobile carts, from which the packages are loaded into vans for final delivery.

The proposed building, illustrated in Figure 2 below, is 45 feet tall measured to the top of the parapet. The concrete tilt-up building has several accent colors in blue and gray. A painted metal canopy is proposed over the truck loading dock. The site will be surrounded by a wrought iron boundary fence measuring 8'-0" in height.

Figure 2 – 3D Building Elevation



ANALYSIS:

The Rancho San Clemente Specific Plan has Design Guidelines for its business park and industrial park. These guidelines are provided as Attachment 1. The City Design Guidelines provide guidance for industrial development only in the Los Molinos area. However, the City Design Guidelines state: "Industrial development should be carefully sited and designed with concern for views from public streets, public places, and neighboring commercial and residential districts." In general, staff has taken a similar approach in evaluating the project's aesthetics and design. While staff does not have

specific recommendations for the building architecture, particular attention is being given to public views and potential impacts to nearby residential neighborhoods.

With the exception of building height, the proposed project complies with all development standards of the Zoning Ordinance and Rancho San Clemente Specific Plan. The maximum building height for the Business Park zoning district is 35 feet. The roof height slightly exceeds that, and the top of parapet is 45 feet. However, the Specific Plan allows for administrative adjustments. Specifically, it states: "In order to foster design creativity and innovation, the Planning Division may grant administrative adjustments to the standards." The applicant intends to provide additional justification to support their adjustment request. The proposed building and parapet height will be evaluated as part of the discretionary review process, but at this time, there is insufficient information to assess it during this current review.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To fully evaluate the potential impacts of the project, and in order for the Subcommittee to conduct a full architectural review, staff is recommending the applicant submit the following:

- 1. Submit renderings from key public vantage points, including from the Rancho San Clemente public trail. The Subcommittee may request specific perspectives.
- 2. Provide a photometric study and lighting details to demonstrate the project is consistent with the City's Dark Skies policies.
- 3. Provide a separate Master Sign Program with additional detail on all proposed monument and wall signage.

Staff seeks concurrence from the Subcommittee on the recommendations above, and welcomes additional feedback related to the project's architecture, design, landscaping, and potential aesthetic impacts. The applicant will revise the application package pursuant to the recommendations provided by staff and the Subcommittee, and the project will return for a second DRSC review at later date.

Attachments:

- 1. Excerpt of Rancho San Clemente Specific Plan Design Guidelines
- 2. Project Plans

Excerpt of Rancho San Clemente Specific Plan

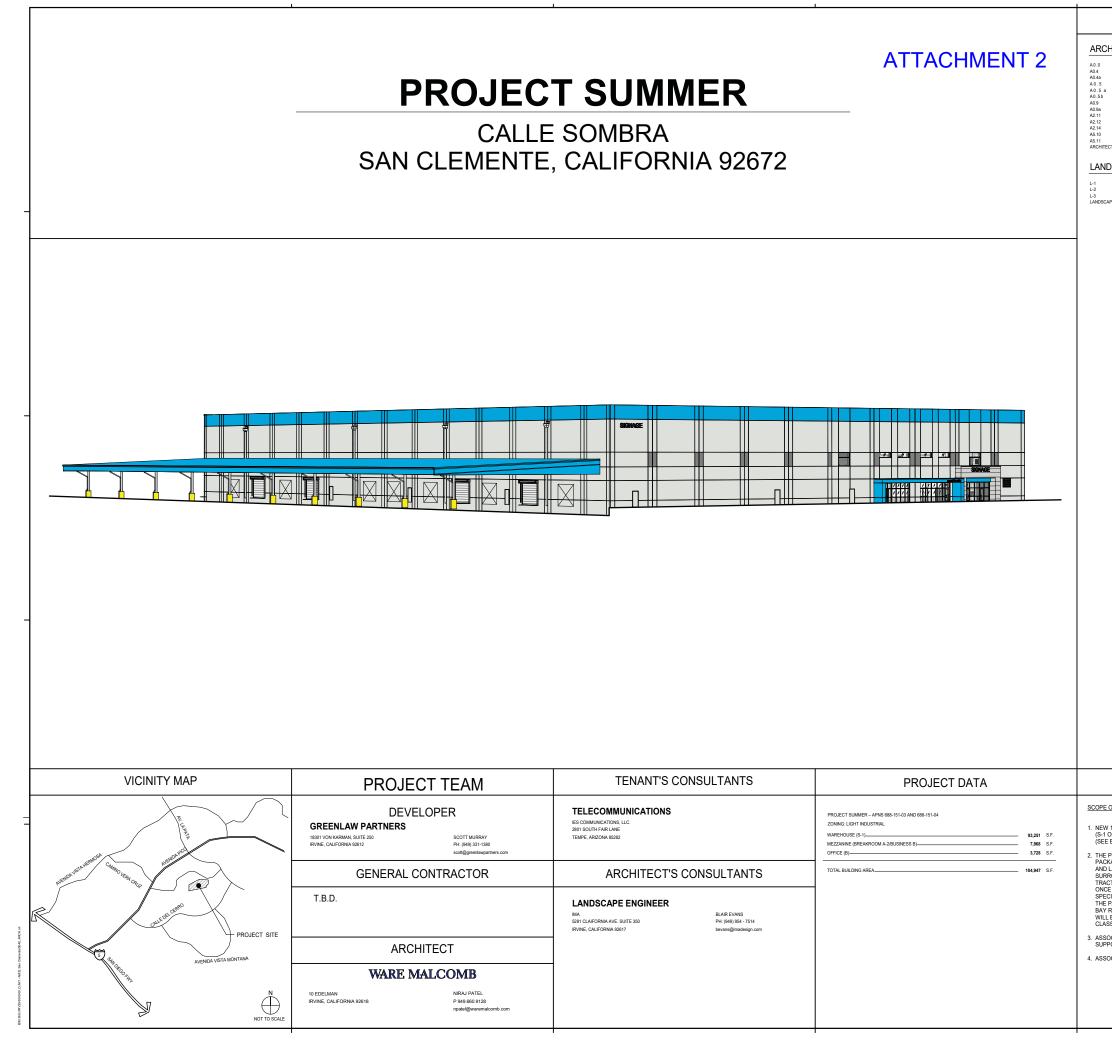
- G. <u>Parking Lot Buffering</u> There should be a buffer area of at least five (5) feet between buildings and parking areas or driveways, in order to avoid placing paved vehicular areas next to building walls. These buffer areas should be landscaped or designed as pedestrian walkways with landscaped planters. Parking areas should be screened from the street by landscaping and berming.
- H. <u>Parking Lot Entries</u> Parking lot entries should be located as far as possible from intersections in order to minimize congestion and conflicts. For projects on major or primary arterials, or where otherwise determined necessary by the City, full curb return street intersection type entries should be used instead of standard driveway approaches. Major entries should be at least thirty (30) feet wide and all entries should be at least two hundred (200) feet apart.
- I. <u>Screening of Service Areas</u> Service and storage areas and trash enclosures should be screened from public view by means of walls and landscaping.

III. BUSINESS PARK/INDUSTRIAL PARK

- A. <u>Pedestrian Orientation</u> The siting of buildings around common pedestrian walkways is encouraged. Pedestrian walkways should be provided connecting individual buildings.
- B. <u>Outdoor Lighting</u> Parking lot and outdoor lighting should be the minimum needed to accommodate safety and security, while minimizing impacts on surrounding residential areas. Decorative fixtures with shields to direct light downward should be used for overhead lighting. Bollard or other low-height lighting should be used whenever possible for pedestrian areas. Light fixture design should be consistent with the character of the project.
- C. <u>Project Identification Signs</u> Projects should be identified by low-level monument signing in order to provide business center identification. Such signs may include logos and should be harmonious in scale, form, materials, and colors with project buildings, walls, and other structures. Signs must comply with the Sign Ordinance.
- D. <u>Variations in Building Footprint</u> Building footprints should be designed with variations composed of insets, entries, corners, and jogs integrated with adjacent outdoor areas in order to create visual interest and give a sense of small scale.
- E. <u>Parking Lot Buffering</u> There should be a buffer area of at least five (5) feet between buildings and parking areas or driveways in order to avoid placing paved vehicular areas next to building walls. Except where there are

walkways, this buffer area should be landscaped. Parking and circulation areas should be screened from the street by landscaping and berming.

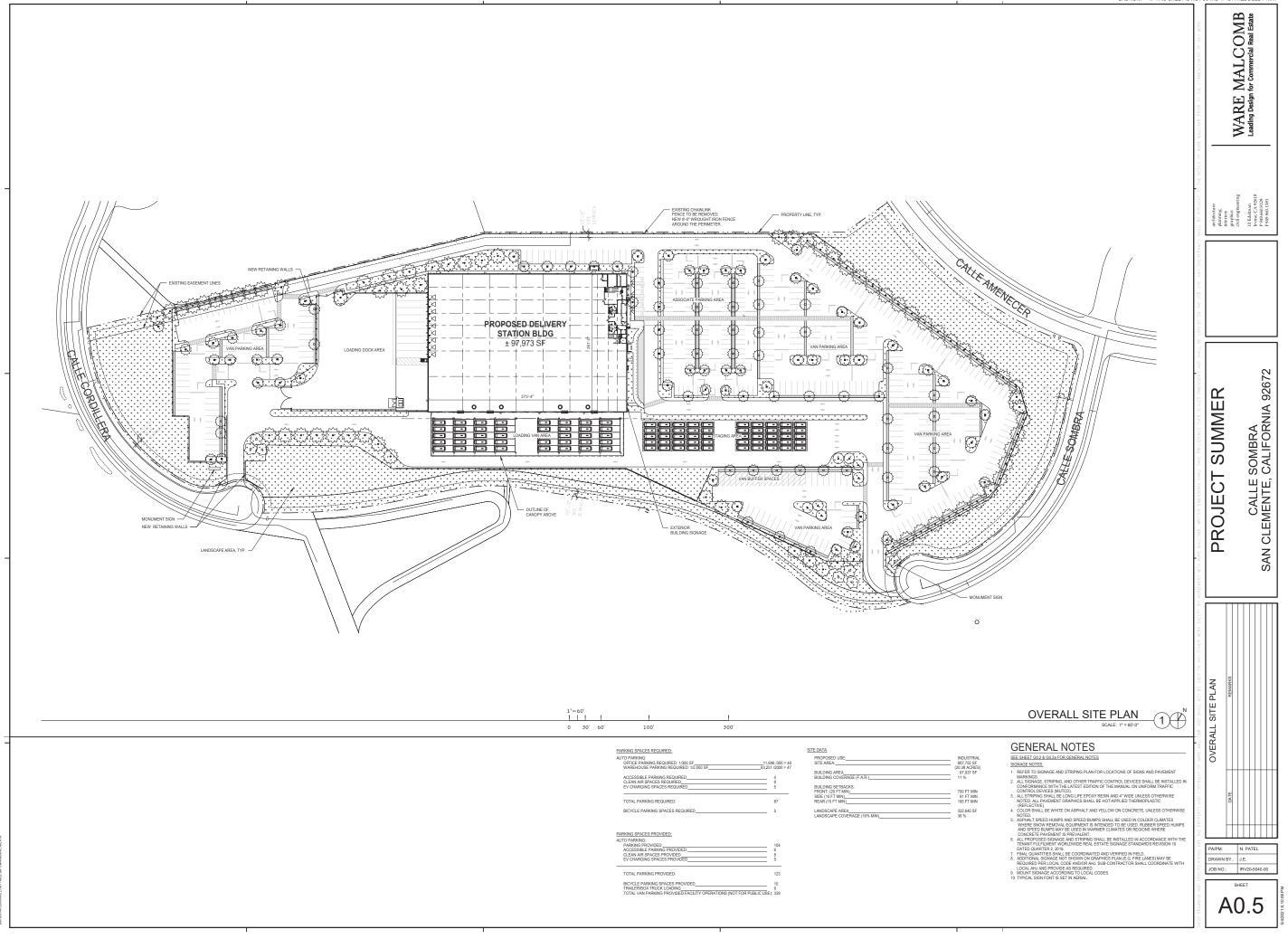
F. <u>Screening of Service Areas</u> - Service and storage areas and trash enclosures should be screened from public view by means of walls and landscaping.

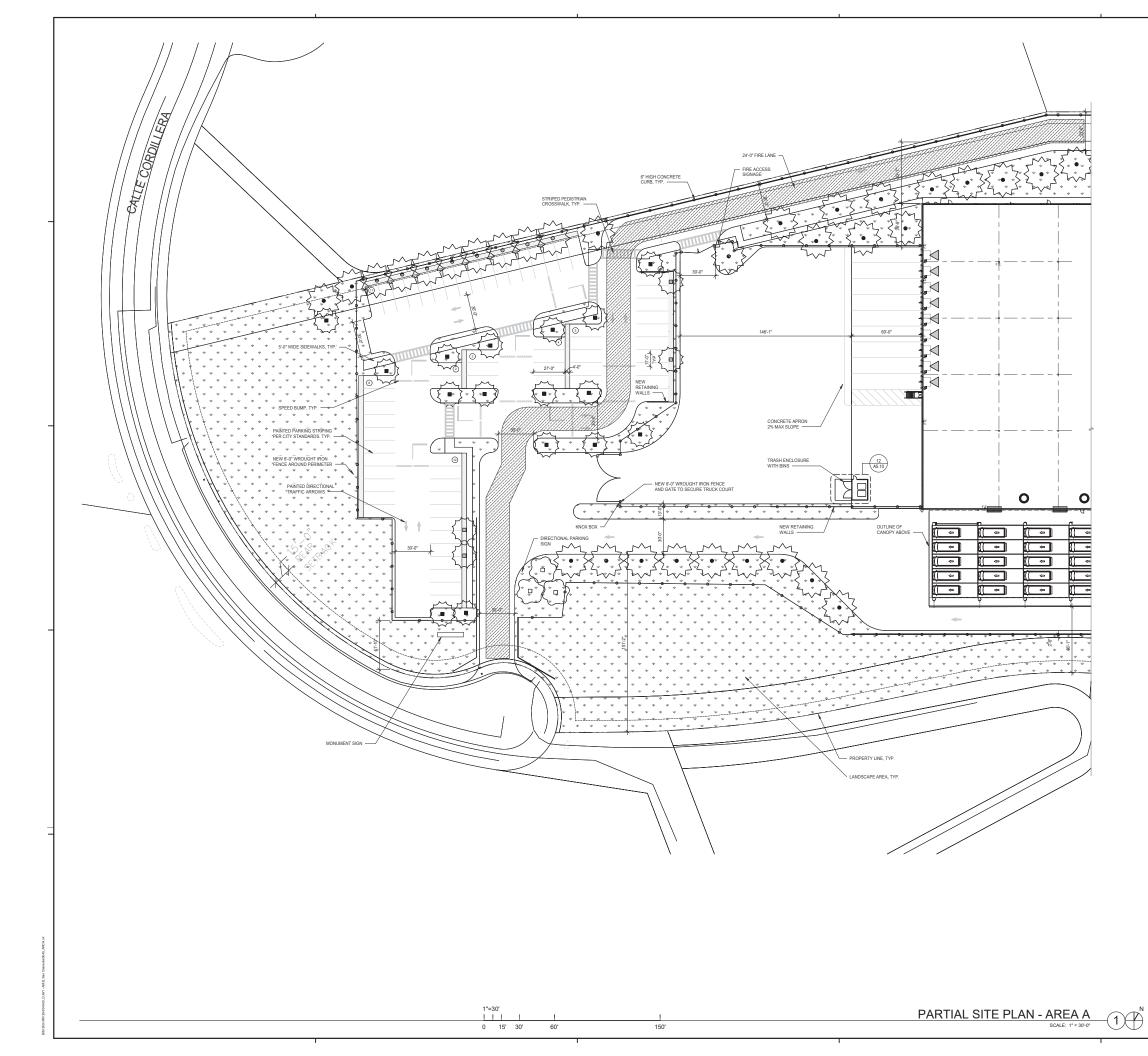


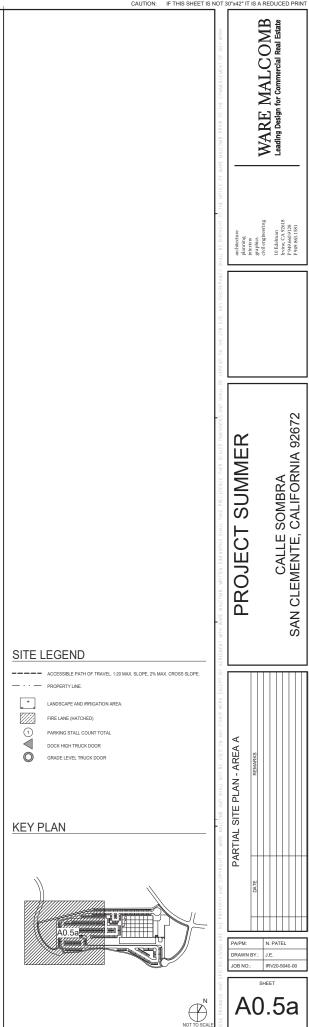
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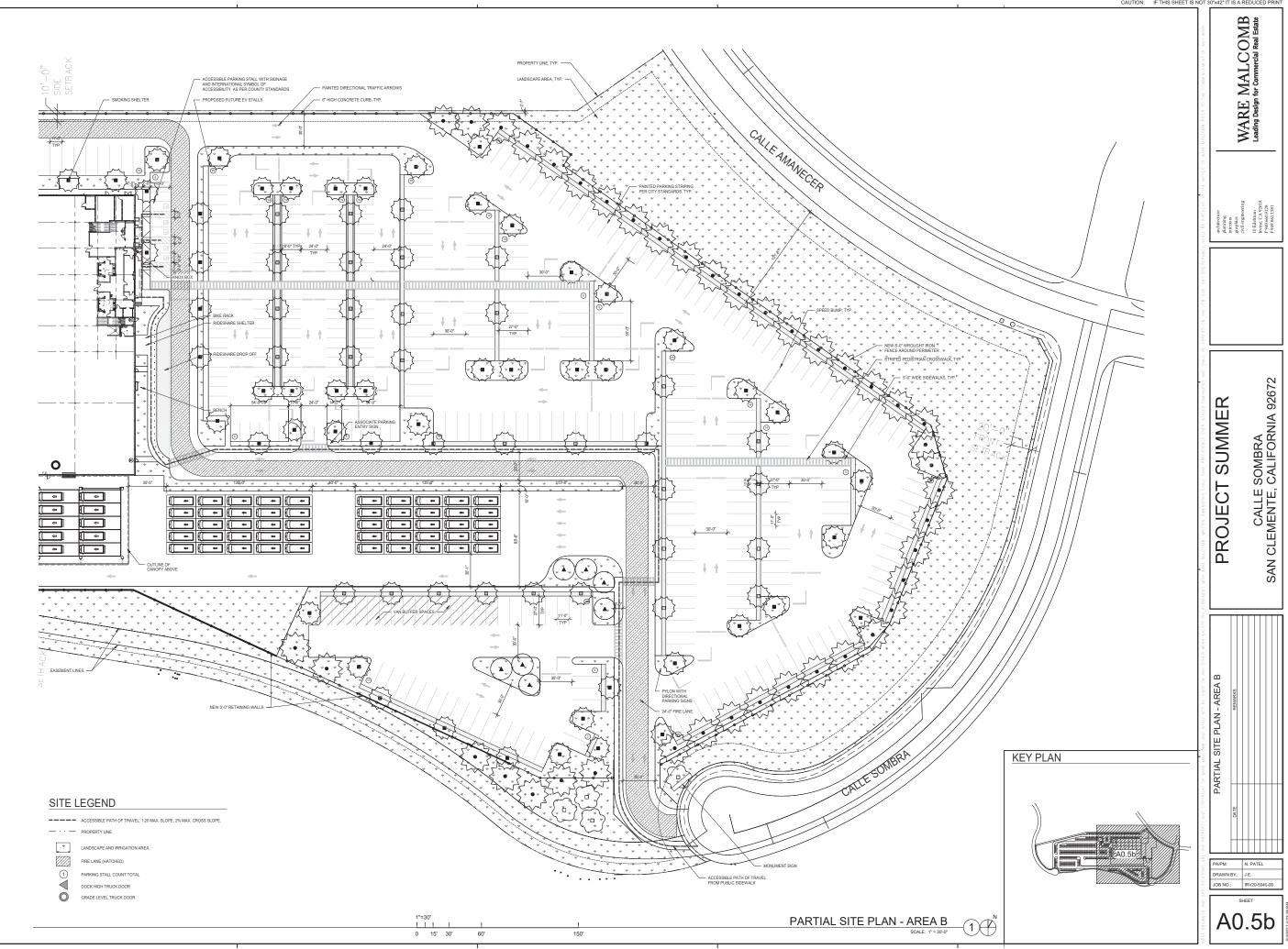


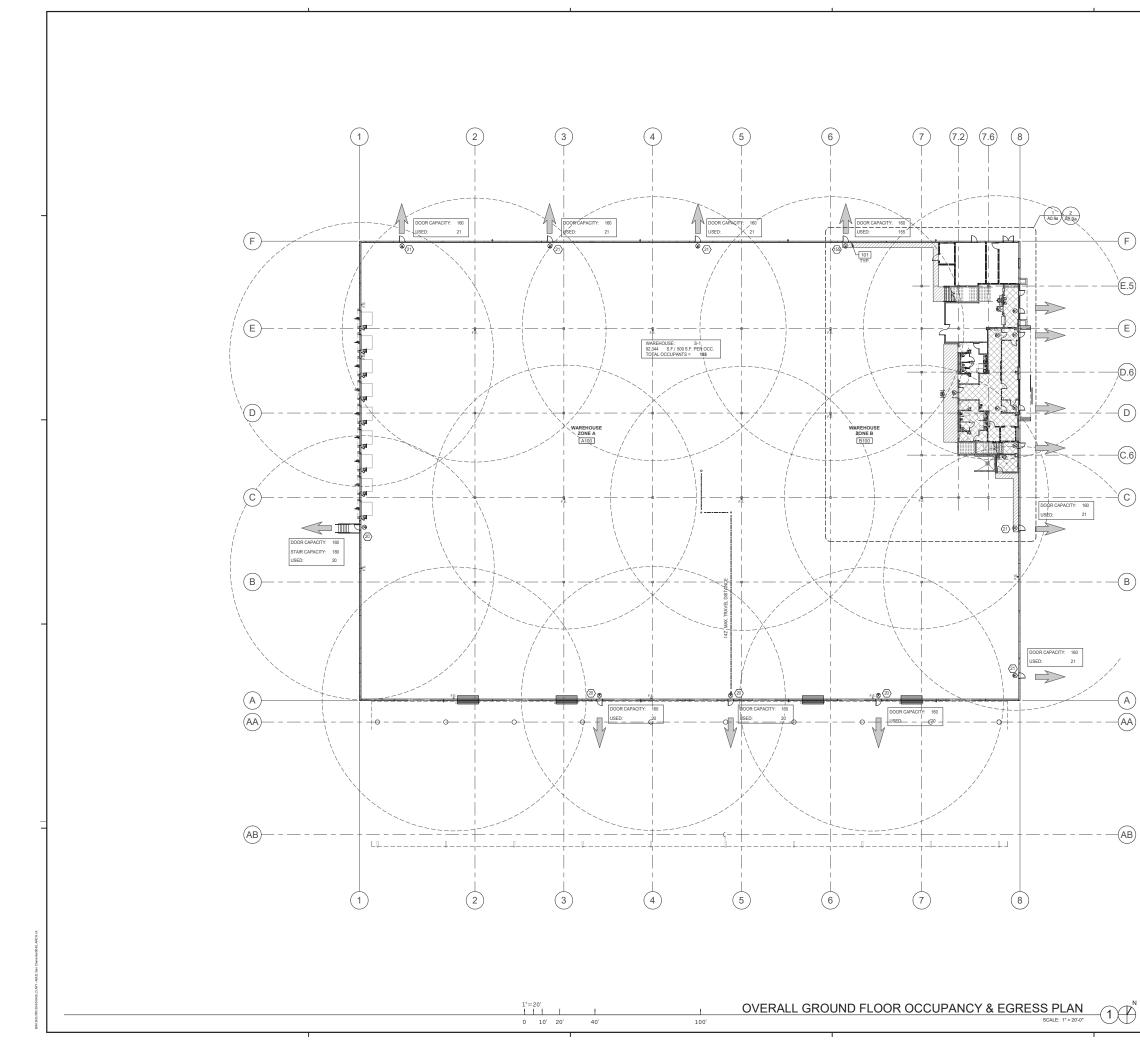


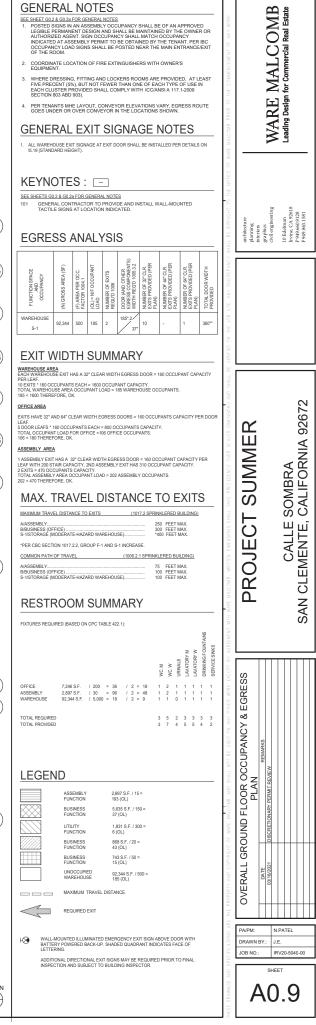




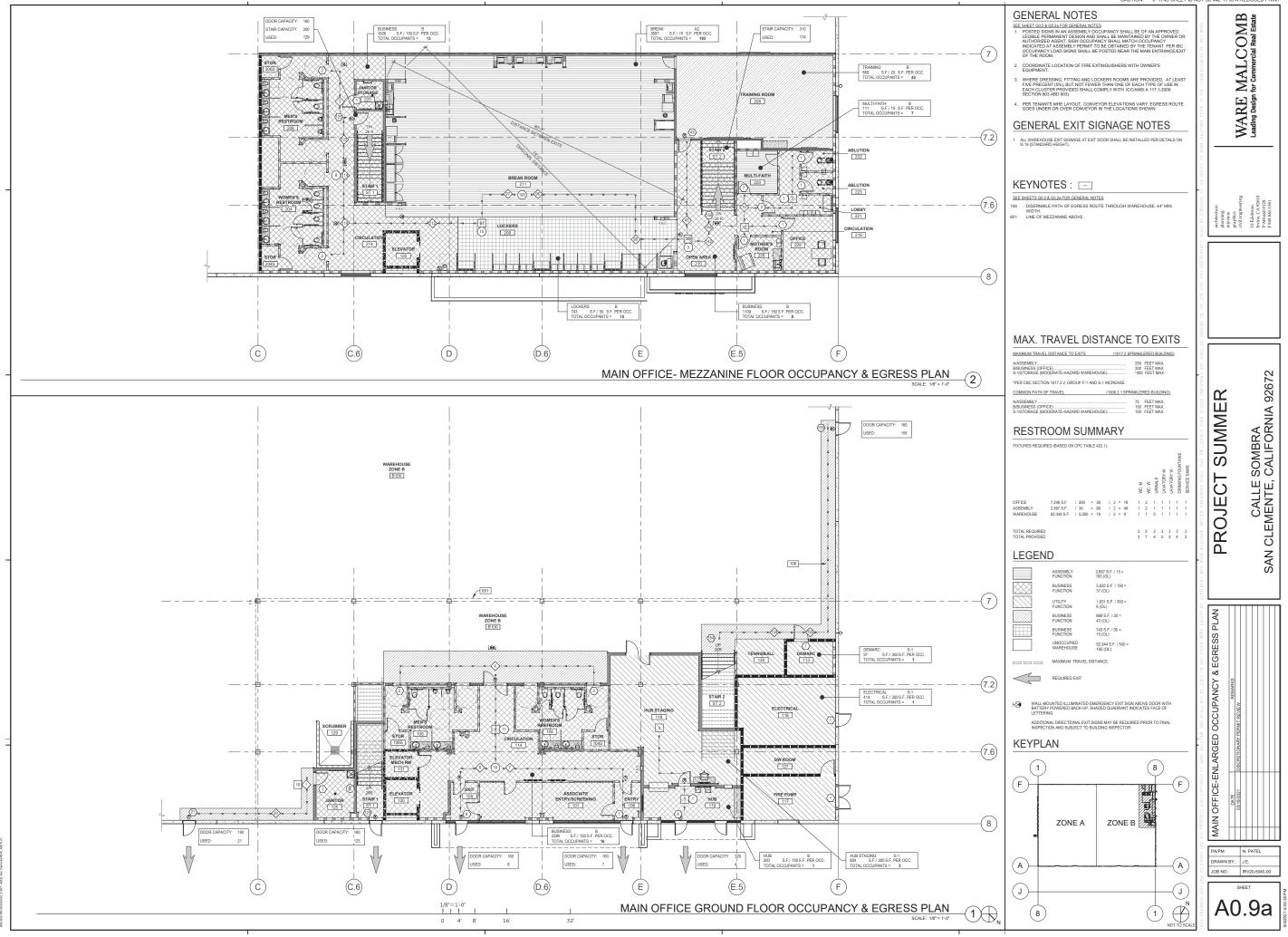






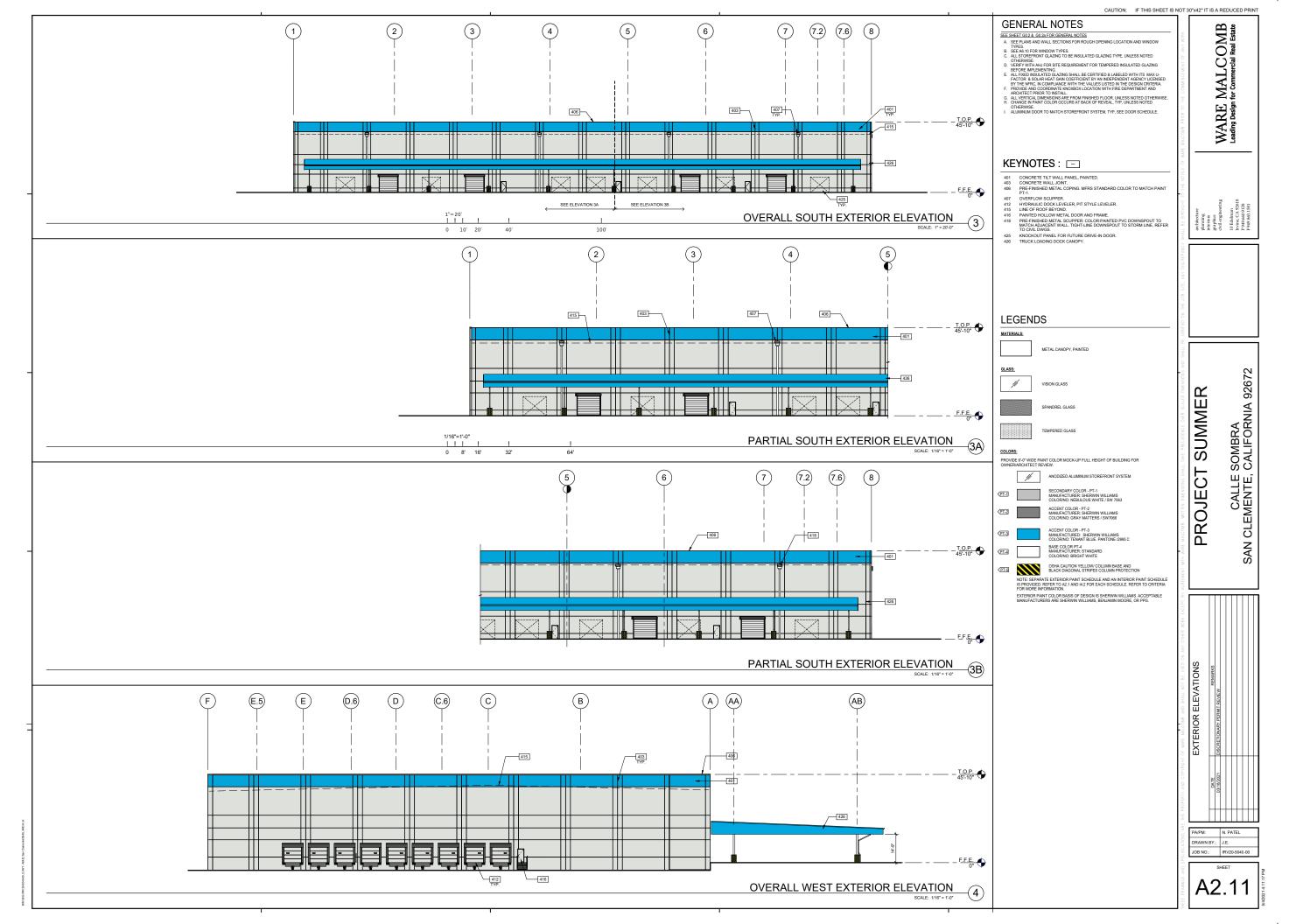


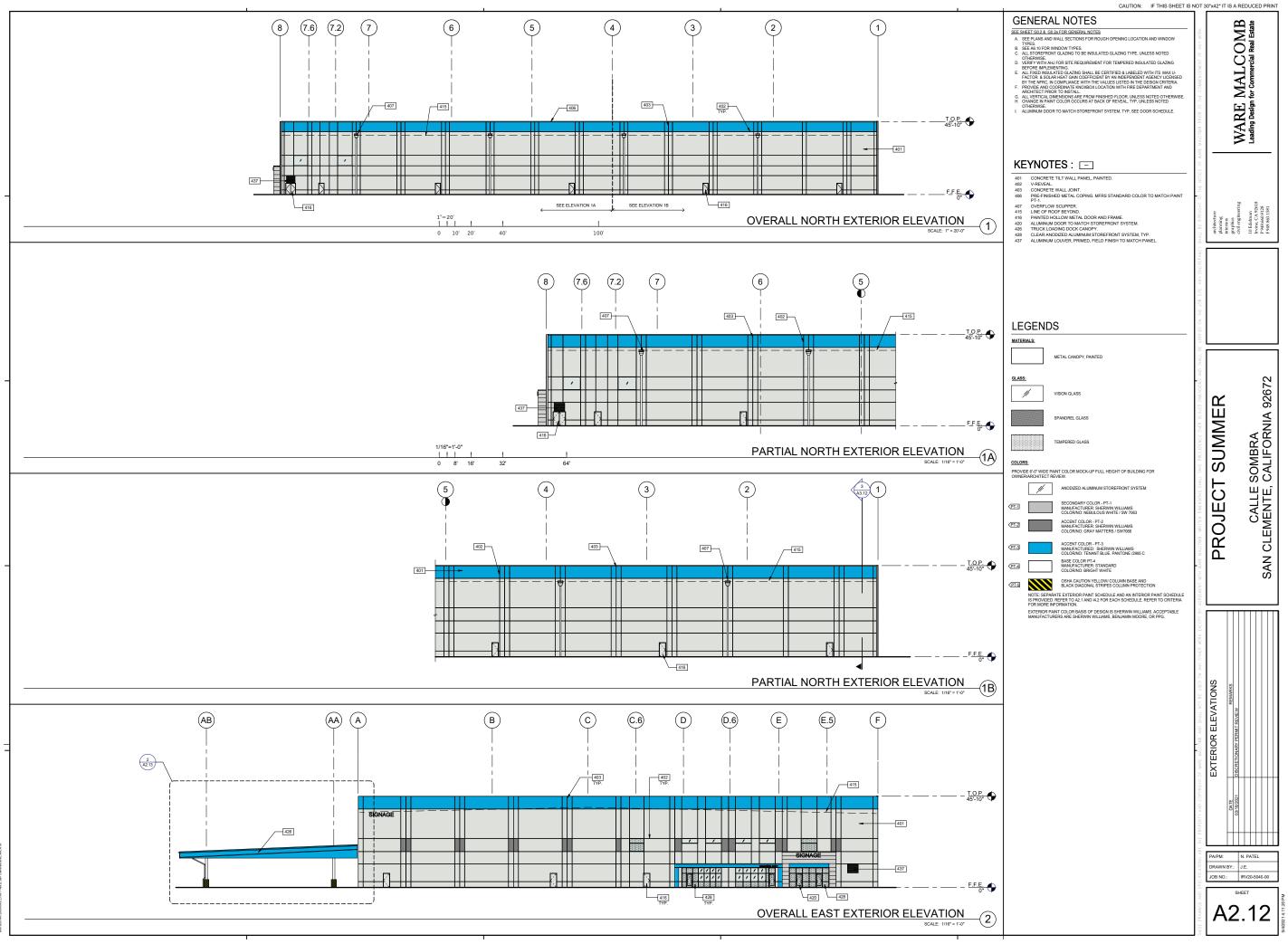
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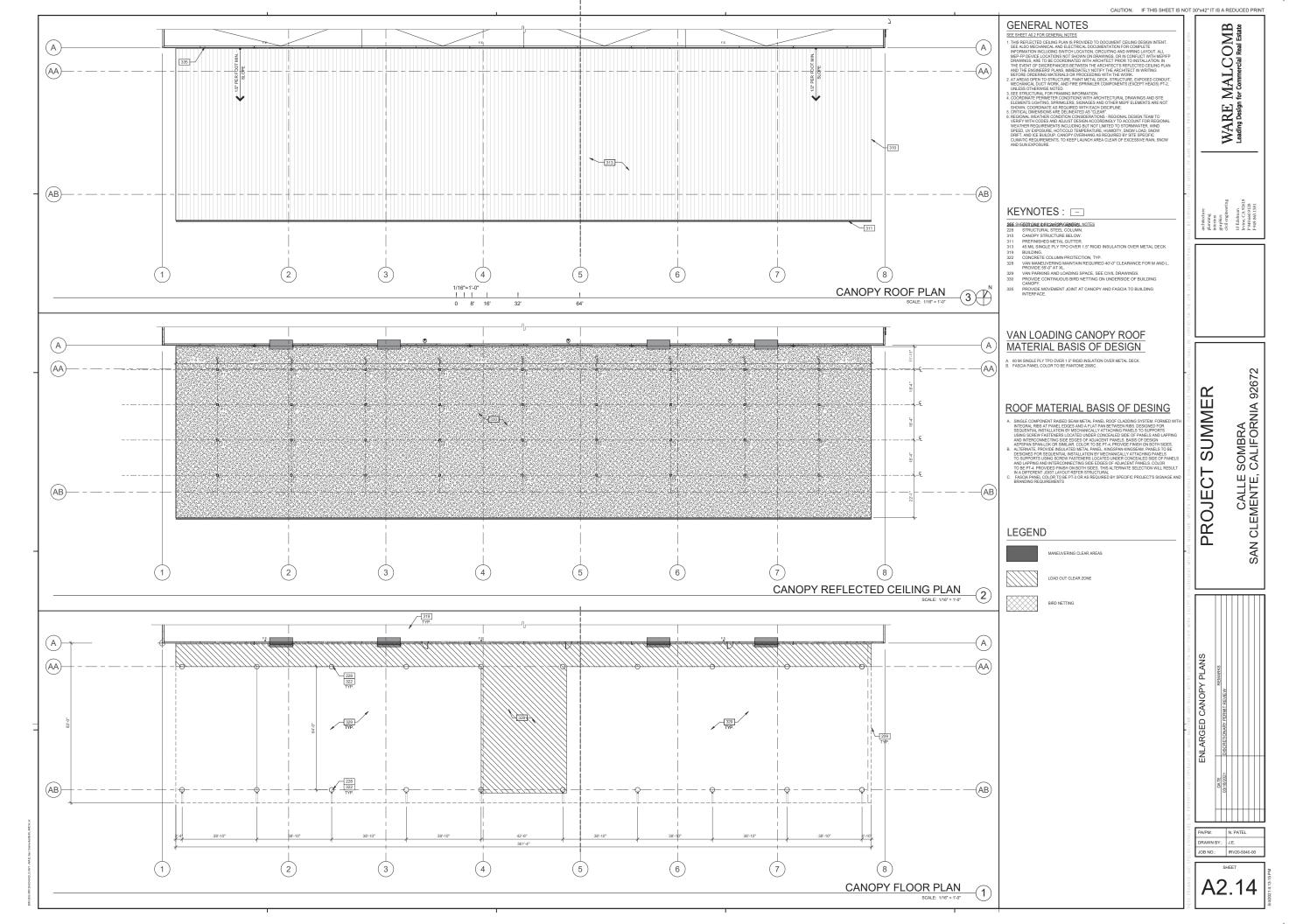


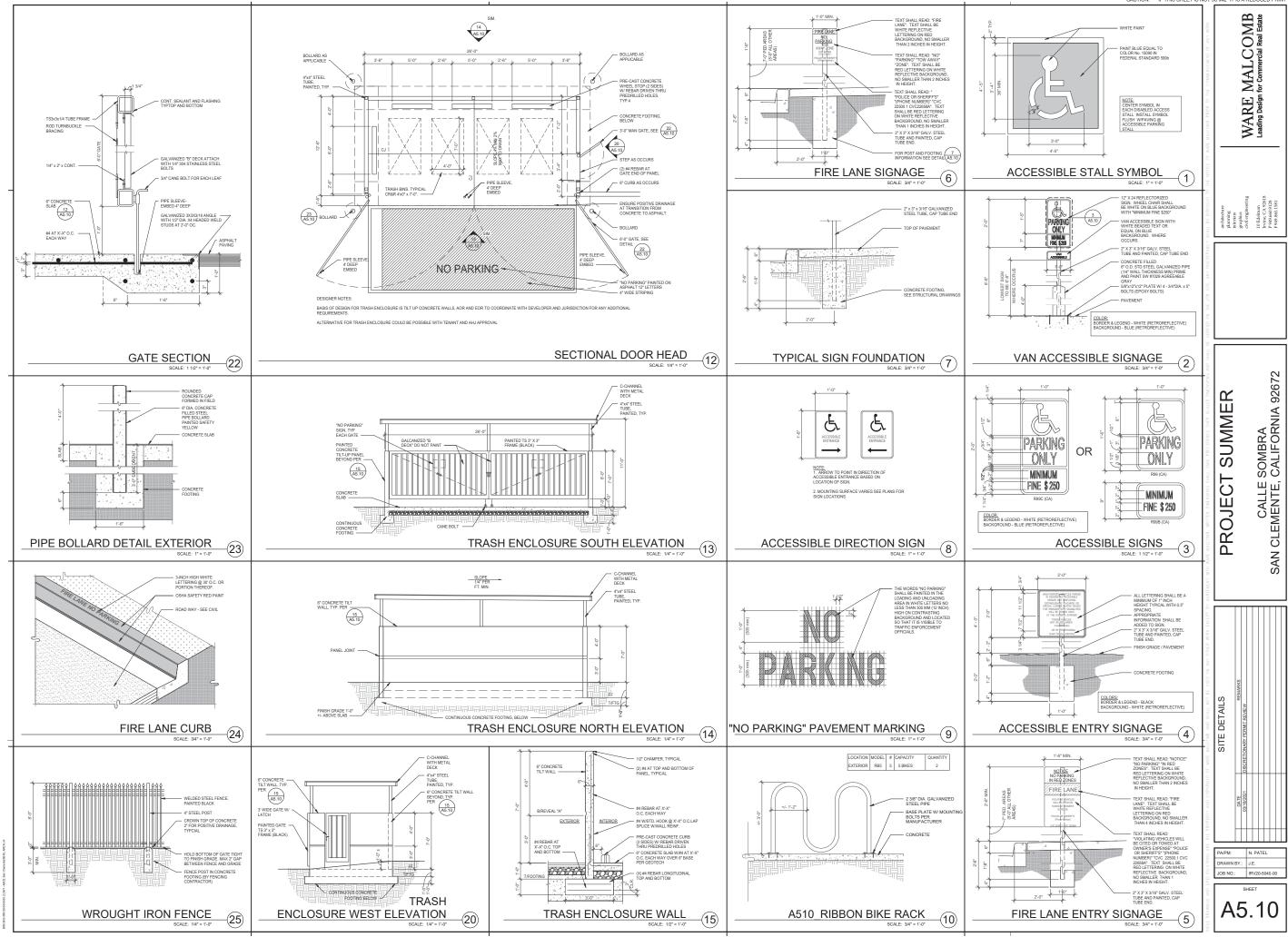
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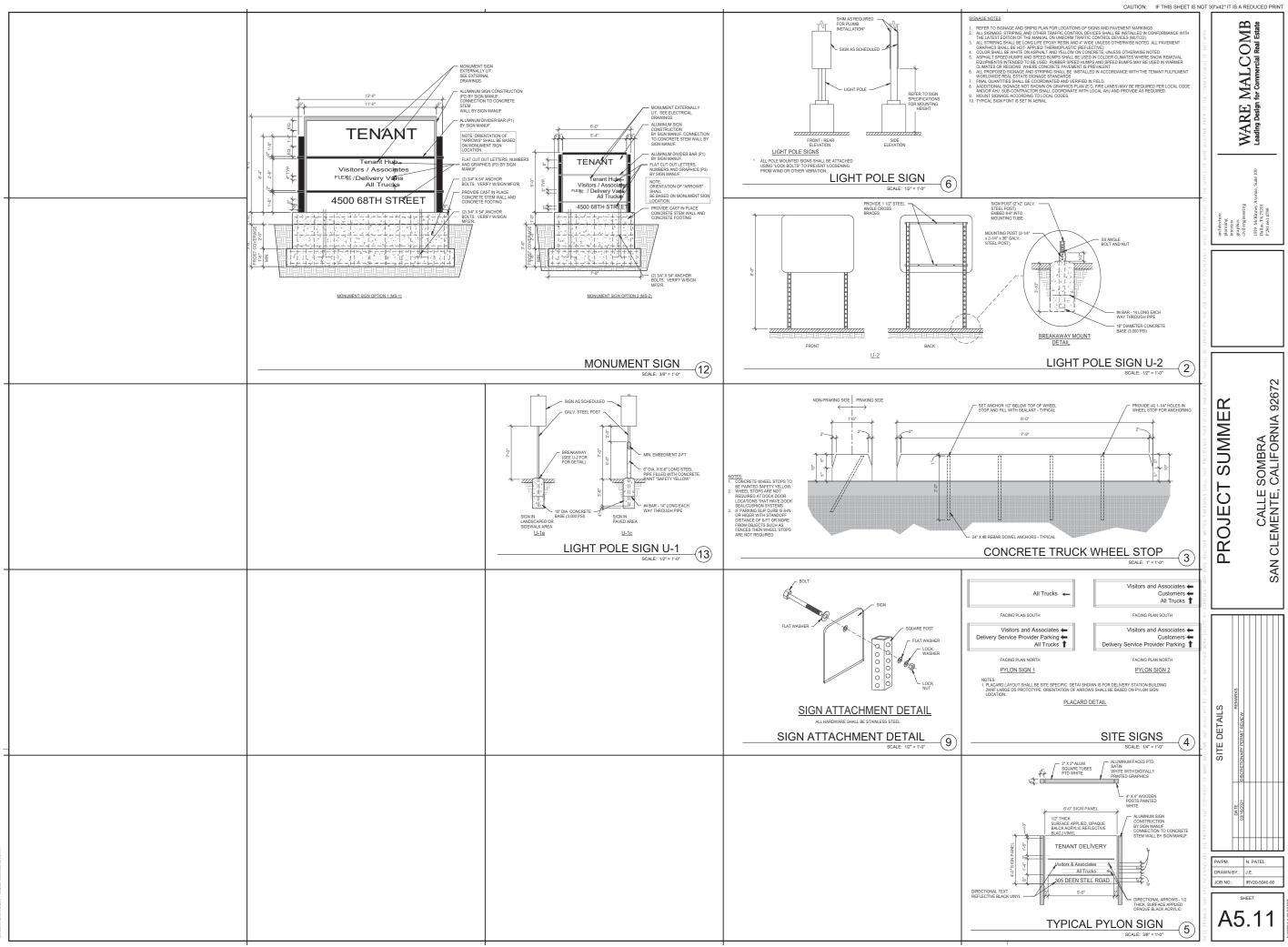












TREE LEGEND - SUNSET ZONE 22 SYMBOLS BOTANIC NAME

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Arbutus x 'Marina'

Pinus halepensis

SYMBOLS BOTANIC NAME

Dietes iridioide

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Callistemon 'Little John

Rhaphiolepis indica 'Clara

Eucalyptus sideroxylon

Podocarpus gracilior

PROJECT TYPE: PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL WATER SOURCE: RECLAIMED

TOTAL LANDSCAPE AREA: 120,308 s.f.

SUMMARY DATA

NOTES: 1. FOR EXISTING TREES ON SITE SEE CIVIL PLANS.

2. CONTRACTOR TO OBTAIN TREE REMOVAL PERMIT PRIOR TO REMOVAL OF ANY TREE.

3. INSTALL ROOT BARRIERS LINEARLY AGAINST THE PAVING EDGE WHERE TREES ARE WITHIN 5'-0" OF PAVEMENT OR BUILDING.

4. PROVIDE 9 CUBIC YARDS OF CERTIFIED ORGANIC AMENDMENT PER 1000 SQ. FT. FOR ALL PLANTING AREAS AT A RATIO OF 14 TO THE DEPTH OF NINE INCHES OF SOIL BEING THOROUGHLY INCORPORATED. ADDITIONAL OR AMENDED SOIL AMENDMENT MIX SHALL BE RECOMMENDED BY A SOIL LABORATORY UPON A SOIL TEST.

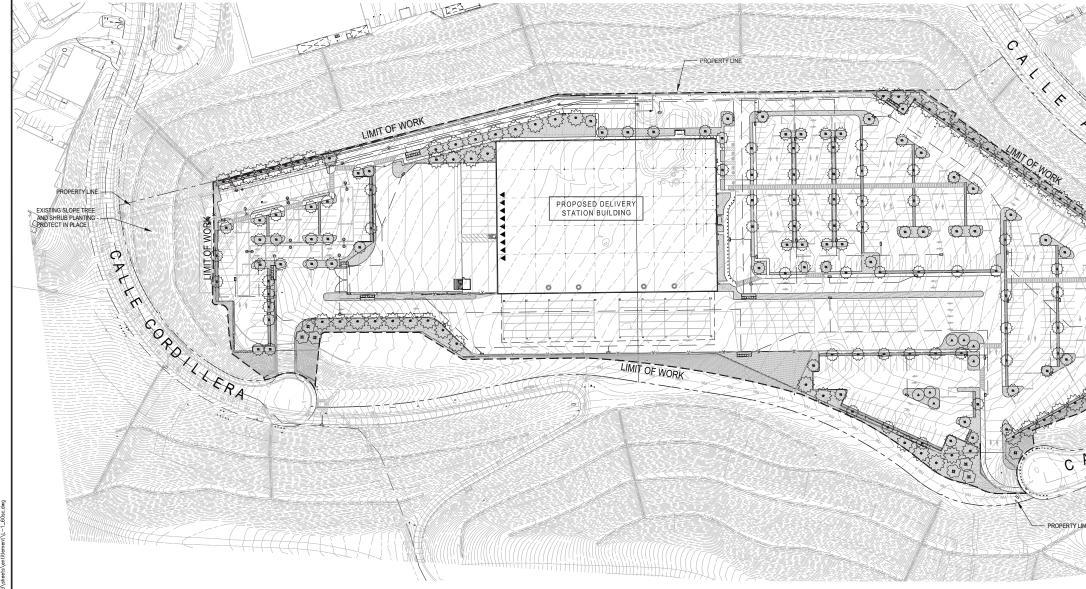
5. MULCH SHALL BE ORGANIC RECYCLED CHIPPED WOOD, DARK BROWN COLOR AT 3 INCH DEPTH.

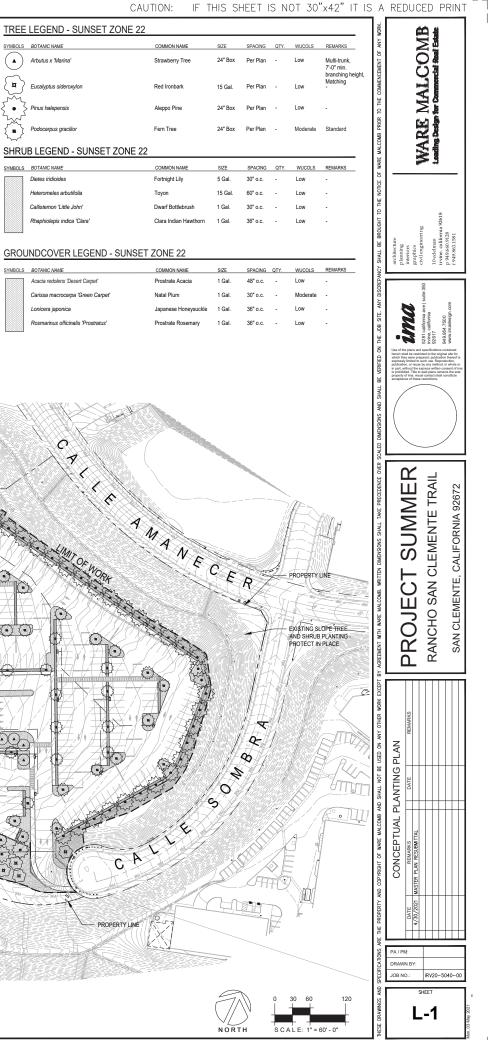
GROUNDCOVER LEGEND - SUNSET ZONE 22

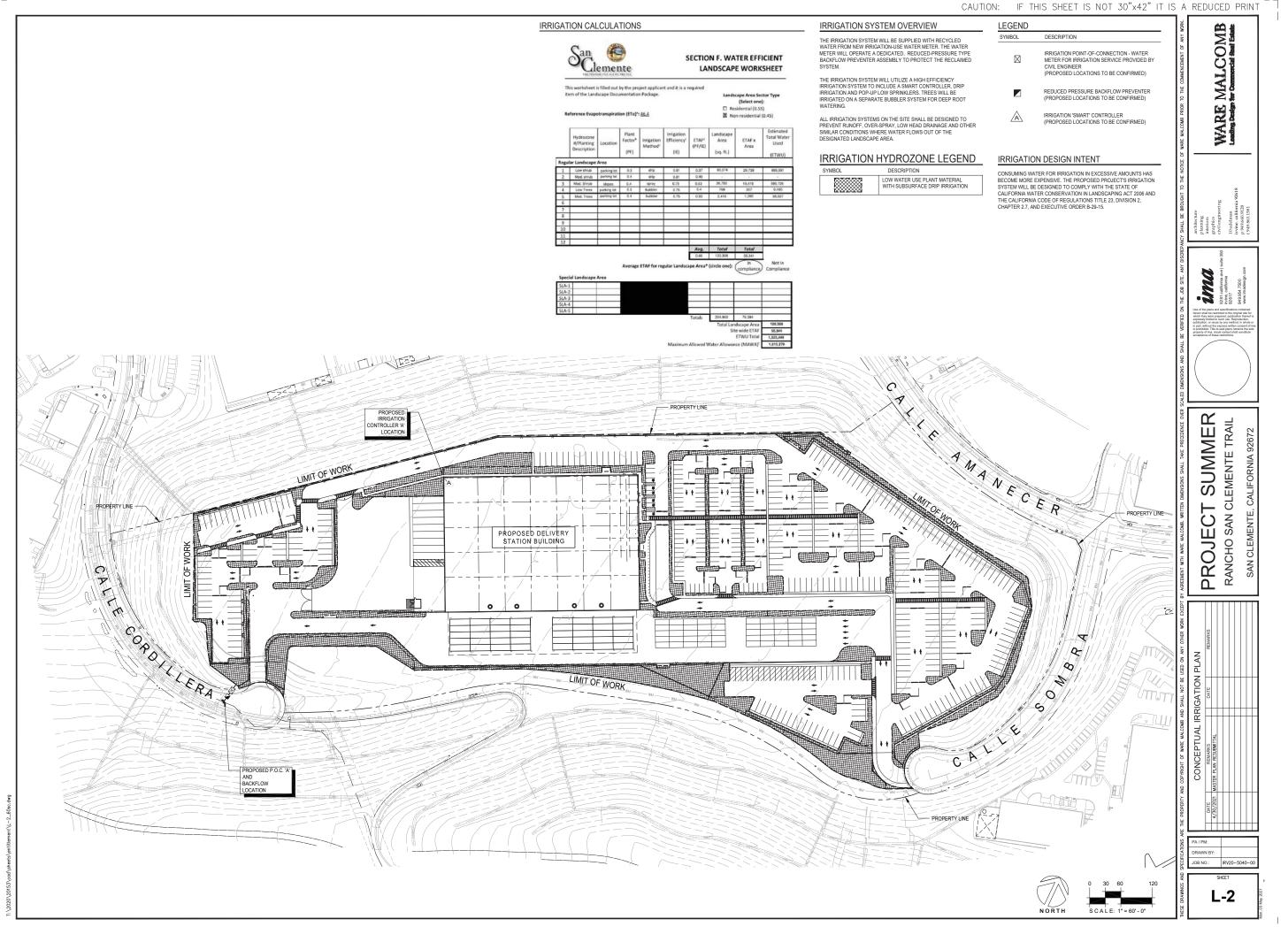
NOTE: I HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE CRITERIA OF MODEL EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE (MWELD) AND HAVE APPLIED THEM FOR THE EFFICIENT USE OF WATER IN THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN PLAN.

SYMBOLS BOTANIC NAME Acacia redolens 'Desert Carpet Carissa macrocarpa 'Green Carp

Lonicera japonica osmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus







TREES





Eucalyptus sideroxylon





Podocarpus gracilior

Arbutus x 'Marina'

SHRUBS AND VINES





Pinus halepensis





Rhaphiolepis indica 'Clara'

Dietes iridioides

Heteromeles arbutifolia

Callistemon 'Little John'





Acacia redolens 'Desert Carpet'



Carissa macrocarpa 'Green Carpet' Lonicera japonica



Rosmarinus officinalis 'Prostratus'

