

## CITY OF CHICO MEMORANDUM

TO: Map Advisory Committee (Mtg. 01/12/2023) DATE: December 14, 2022

FROM: Mike Sawley, Principal Planner (879-6811) FILES: EXT 22-05, PM 15-02

AR 15-16, UP 15-10, UP 15-12

SUBJECT: Chico Walmart Expansion Project - Extension of Time Request

2044 Forest Avenue; AP Nos. 002-370-057, 002-370-055, and 002-170-004

#### **REQUEST**

The applicant submitted a request on 08/29/2022 for an extension of time in which to file final maps for the Chico Walmart Expansion Project (PM 15-02), and related design review and use permit entitlements (AR 15-16, UP 15-10 and UP 15-12). Located at 2044 Forest Avenue in Chico, the site is designated Regional Commercial and zoned CR (Regional Commercial).

#### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

The subject site is approximately 27 acres located on the west side of Forest Avenue, between Baney Lane and Wittmeier Drive in Southeast Chico (see Location Map, **Attachment A**, and Parcel Map, **Attachment B**). The parcel map and related applications for design review and two use permits were approved by the City Council on 11/15/2016. On 12/15/2016, one month into the initial 36-month approval period, a lawsuit challenging the City's approval of the entitlements was filed, resulting in a stay of time during the litigation. The stay remained in effect until 12/30/2019, when the Third District Court of Appeal ended the litigation. Counting the initial month that ran against the entitlement expiration period in 2016, the end of litigation resulted in an expiration date of 11/30/2022.

On 03/25/2020, the City Council declared a local emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and authorized the City Manager to act as the City's Director of Emergency Services. The City's Director of Emergency Services then issued City Executive Order 2020-001, which extended all planning entitlements by 180 days if the entitlement would have expired during the emergency or within 180 days thereafter. The City Council declared an end to the COVID-19 local emergency, effective 12/01/2022. Since the previous expiration date occurred during the COVID-19 emergency the subject parcel map and related approvals were extended by City EO 2020-001 and are now set to expire on 05/30/2023.

The applicant has requested approval of an additional three years of the time to file final maps pursuant to Subdivision Map Act (SMA) Section 66452.6(e), which would allow one or more extensions not to exceed a total of six years. The letter specifically cites challenges associated with relocating the high-voltage overhead power lines as contributing to project delays. Staff typically recommends discretionary extensions for tentative maps in three-year increments, however, due to the need to relocate overhead power lines and other existing utilities staff recommends approving a six-year extension.

The Chico Walmart Expansion Project was previously analyzed under an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which was certified by the Chico City Council on 11/15/2016 (State Clearinghouse #2015102017). No changes to the project are proposed as part of this extension request, and no further environmental review is required pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162 (Subsequent EIRs and Negative Declarations).

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Committee: (1) determine that the project was previously analyzed in the Chico Walmart Expansion Project EIR and that no further environmental review is required pursuant to Section

Chico Walmart Expansion Project - Extension of Time Request

15162 of the CEQA Guidelines; and (2) approve an extension of time to file final maps of six years (until 05/30/2029).

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Location Map
- B. Parcel Map 15-02
- C. Letter Requesting Extension from Tiffany Wilson

## **DISTRIBUTION**

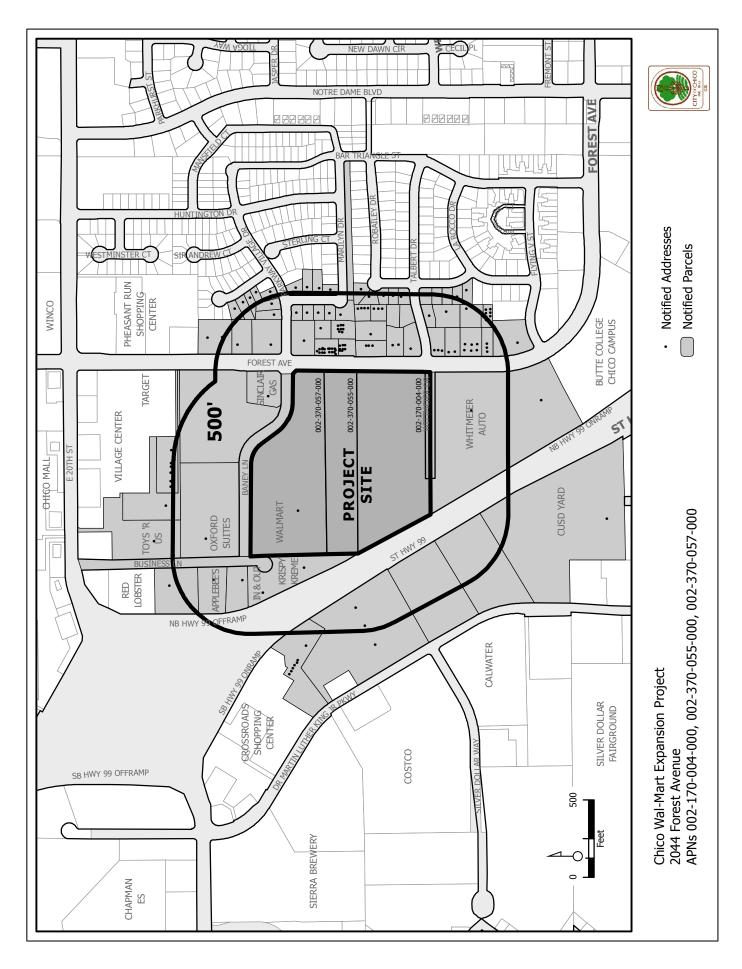
cc: Tiffany Wilson: T.Wilson@rsc-engr.com

Jai Singh: J.Singh@rsc-engr.com

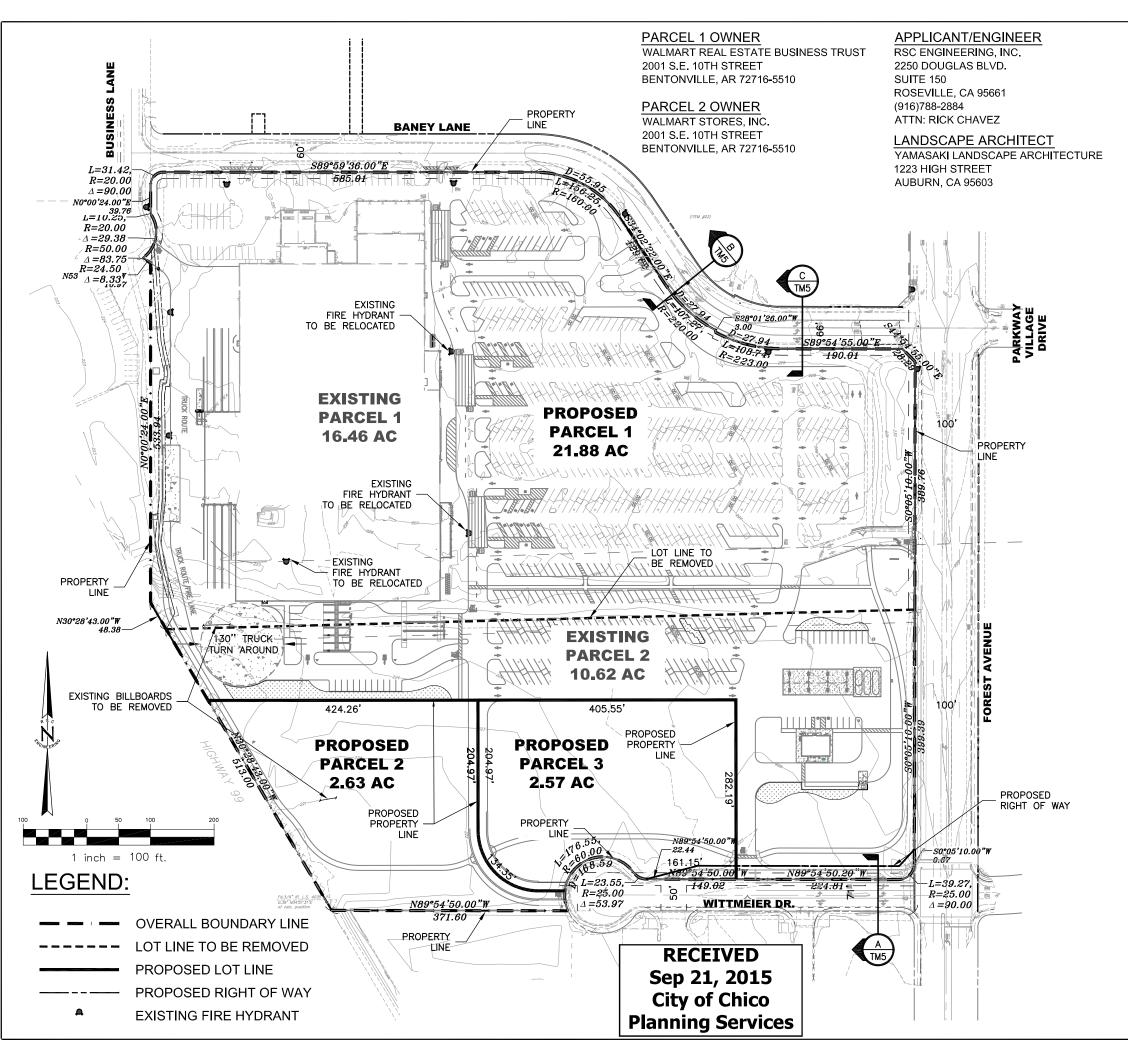
Matthew Nelson: <a href="mailto:MNelson@fennemorelaw.com">MNelson@fennemorelaw.com</a> Scott Greear: <a href="mailto:Scott.Greear@walmart.com">Scott.Greear@walmart.com</a>

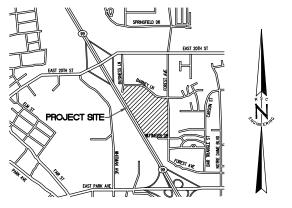
Scott Saifi: scott.saifi@walmart.com

Project File: S 15-02, AR 15-16, UP 15-10, UP 15-12



**Attachment A** 





## VICINITY MAP

## PROJECT INFORMATION:

## **APNS**

002-370-055 & 057; 002-170-004

## **EXISTING ACREAGE**

PARCEL 1 16.46 AC PARCEL 2 10.62 AC TOTAL 27.08 AC

#### PROPOSED ACREAGE

PARCEL 1 21.88 AC PARCEL 2 2.63 AC PARCEL 3 2.57 AC TOTAL 27.08 AC

AVERAGE SIZE OF PARCELS 2 & 3: 2,60 AC (3 PARCELS TOTAL)

#### GENERAL PLAN/ZONING RC/CR (REGIONAL COMMERCIAL)

## EXISTING USE

WALMART, VACANT LAND

#### PROPOSED USE

WALMART, FUEL STATION, FUTURE RETAIL

## SERVICE PROVIDERS

SEWER CITY OF CHICO
STORM DRAIN CITY OF CHICO
WATER CALIFORNIA WATER
SERVICE COMPANY

POWER PG&E
TELEPHONE AT&T
CABLE TV COMCAST

#### **NOTES**

- PRIVATE CROSS ACCESS AGREEMENT WILL BE PREPARED BETWEEN PARCELS 1, 2 & AND 3.
- NO EXISTING WELLS, ABANDONED WELLS OR SUMPS ARE KNOWN.
- EXISTING STRUCTURE TO REMAIN.
- MAP BASED ON ALTA SURVEY BY CSI ENGINEERING & ASSOCIATES DATED 5-16-2007.
- 5. THE SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS WILL INCLUDE STORM WATER DRAINAGE PLANS, WHICH WILL BE DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF CHICO'S DRAINAGE CRITERIA.
- 6. THE SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS WILL INCLUDE EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLANS, WHICH WILL BE PREPARED IN CONFORMANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY OF CHICO AND CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMIT.
- 7. NO SEPTIC TANKS OR LEACH FIELDS EXIST ON THIS PROPERTY
  - PROPERTY IS NOT LOCATED IN A FLOOD PLAIN.

Walmart:







 PROJECT NO:
 027-046

 DRAWN BY:
 RSC Eng

 CHECKED BY:
 RSC Eng

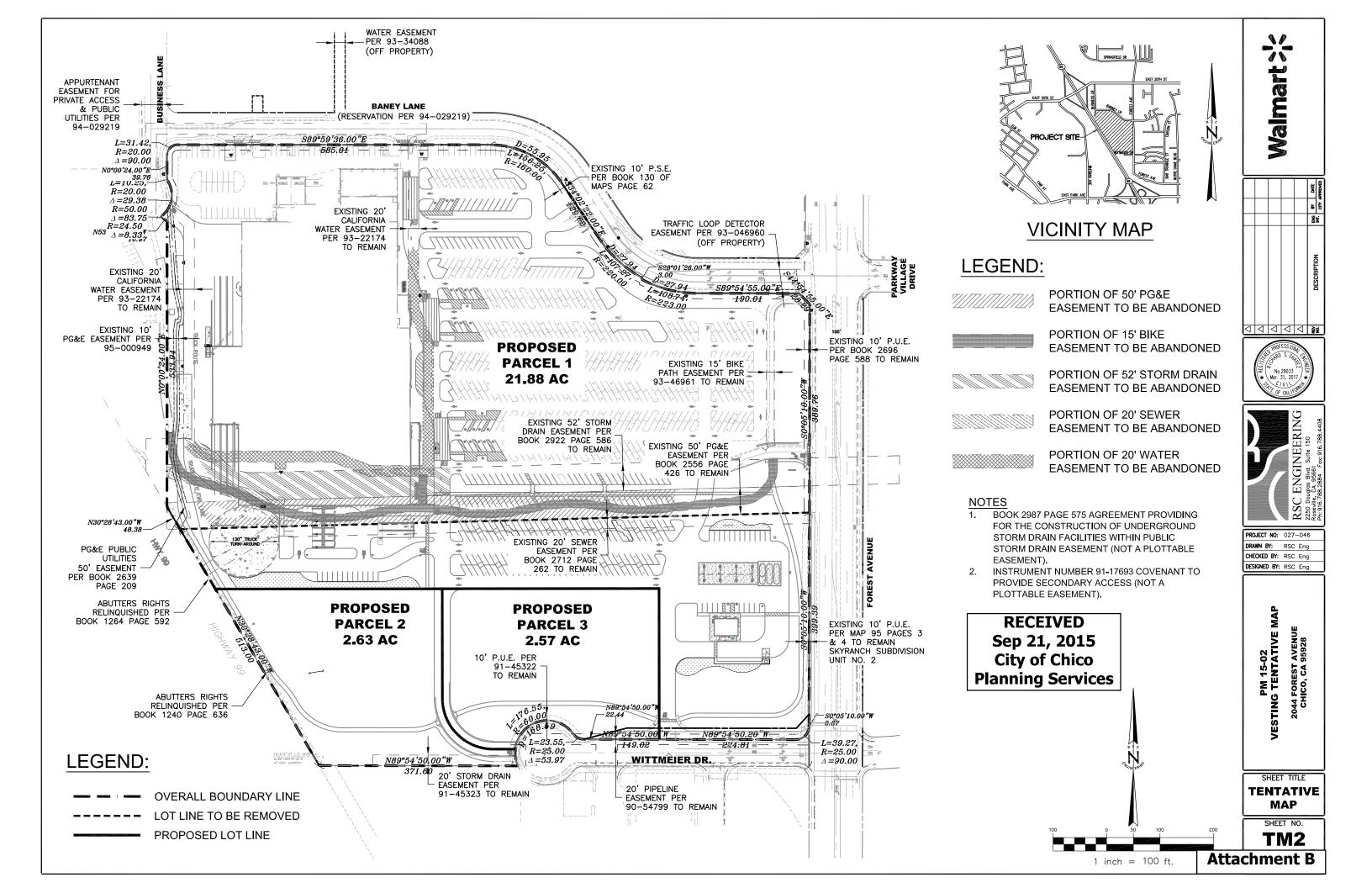
 DESIGNED BY:
 RSC Eng

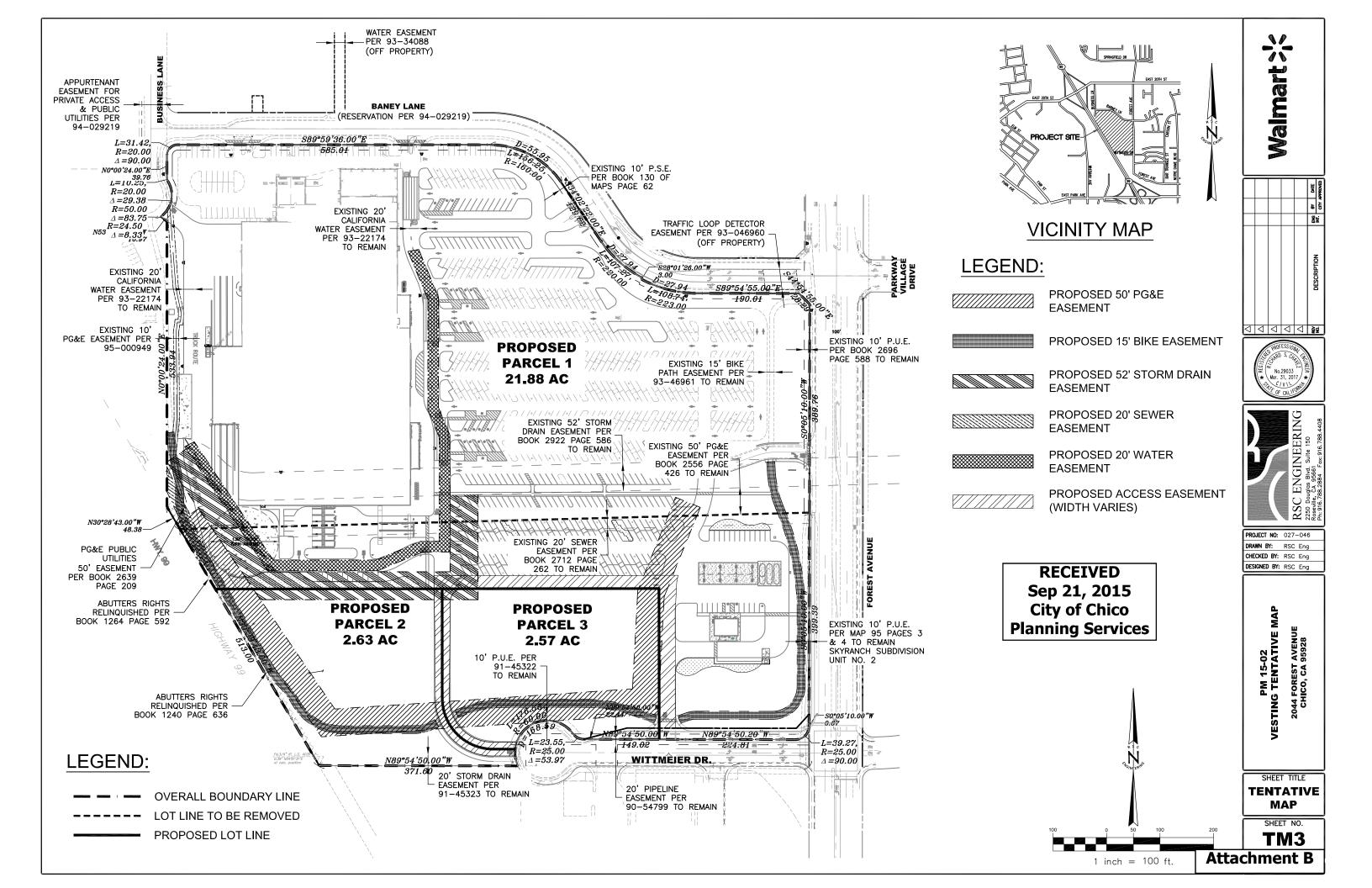
PM 15-02
VESTING TENTATIVE MAP
2044 FOREST AVENUE
CHICO, CA 95928

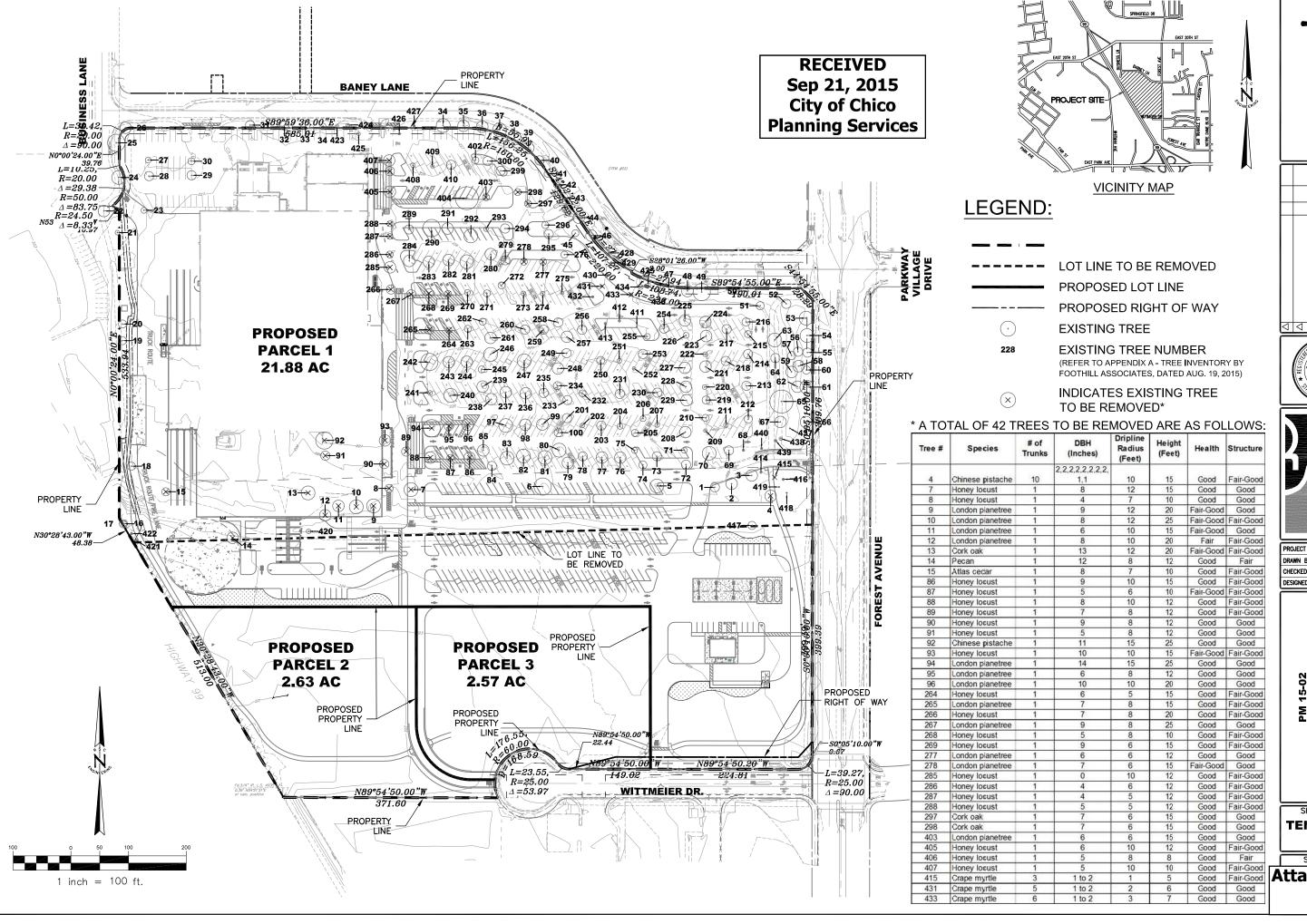
SHEET TITLE
TENTATIVE
MAP

SHEET NO.

Attachment B







Walmart > !

DESCRIPTION BIP ONT



PROJECT NO: 027-046

DRAWN BY: RSC Eng

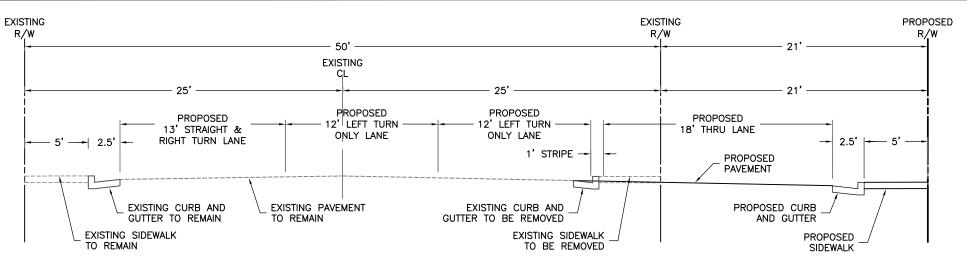
CHECKED BY: RSC Eng

DESIGNED BY: RSC Eng

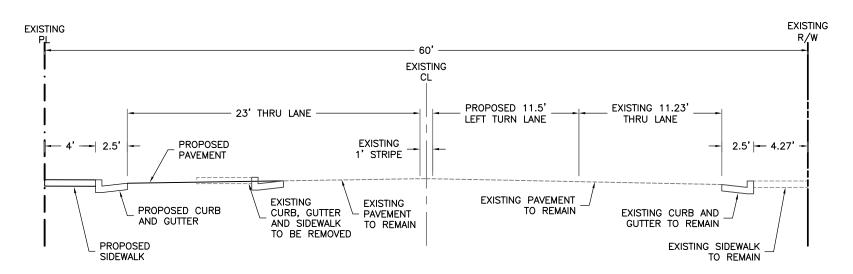
PM 15-02
VESTING TENTATIVE MAP
2044 FOREST AVENUE
CHICO, CA 95928

SHEET TITLE
TENTATIVE
MAP

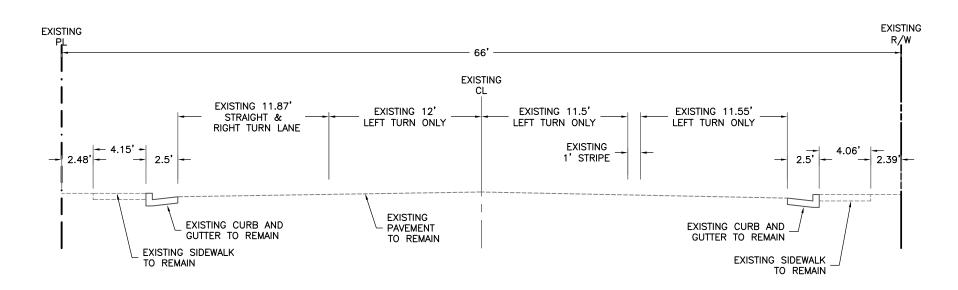
Attachment B



# A WITTMEIER DRIVE



# BANEY LANE



**BANEY LANE** 

NOT TO SCALE

RECEIVED
Sep 21, 2015
City of Chico
Planning Services

Walmart :







 PROJECT NO:
 027-046

 DRAWN BY:
 RSC Eng

 CHECKED BY:
 RSC Eng

 DESIGNED BY:
 RSC Eng

PM 15-02
VESTING TENTATIVE MAP
2044 FOREST AVENUE
CHICO, CA 95928

SHEET TITLE

DETAILS

SHEET NO.

TM5

**Attachment B** 

DATE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2015



## RECEIVED

AUG 29 2022

CITY OF CHICO
PLANNING SERVICES

027-046A

August 25, 2022

Mike Sawley
Associate Planner
City of Chico
P.O. Box 3420
Chico, California 95927
mike.sawley@chicoca.gov

Re: Request for Extension of Time for Chico Walmart Expansion Project (Vesting Tentative Parcel Map PM15-02, Site Design and Architectural Review AR15-16 and Conditional Use Permits UP 15-10 and UP 15-12)

Dear Mike,

Our firm is the engineer of record for Walmart, Inc., owner of the property subject to the above-referenced entitlements. On behalf of Walmart, we are requesting an extension of time of three (3) years for the Vesting Tentative Parcel Map PM15-02, pursuant to Government Code Section 66452.6(e). Based on Chico Municipal Code Section 19.30.050(E), "a project that is associated with the approval of a tentative map shall have the same expiration date as the tentative map." As a result, the extension of the Vesting Tentative Parcel Map would also extend Site Design and Architectural Review AR 15-16 and Conditional Use Permits UP 15-10 and 15-12 for three (3) years. Finally, as part of the request for extension approval process, we request that the three (3) year extension will not begin rumning until the Director of Emergency Services Executive Order No. 2020-001 (extension of planning and building entitlements) has been rescinded.

As of today, Walmart is determined to expand this store to handle the current and anticipated future increase in sales. Over the past two years, Walmart has been proceeding in good faith and exercising due diligence in moving toward expanding the store. Walmart has been evaluating the design, engineering and cost challenges including, but not limited to, the relocation of the PG&E power lines that transverse the expansion site from east to west. Furthermore, as you may know, current construction costs and supply chain issues are uncertain and in a constant state of disruption, impacting Walmart's budgeting and scheduling of this project. At this point in time, however, Walmart is determined to push forward.

RSC Engineering, Inc. Consulting Engineers

1420 Rocky Ridge Dr.
Suite 150
Roseville, CA 95661
916.788.2884
fax 916.788,4408
rsc-engr.com

**Attachment C** 

As noted above, the relocation of the PG&E power lines is the primary physical and time constraint for developing the Project. As a result, Walmart has been in discussions with PG&E to commence this process. Unfortunately, the most recent estimate for completion of this work is at least two years. Even with the extension of time provided by Executive Order No. 2020-001, this is over a year beyond the current project expiration date. As a result, Walmart is making this request for extension of all the above-referenced entitlements to allow for adequate time to complete the PG&E power line relocation process and to work through the other design, engineering and cost challenges.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. We have enclosed a check for the request for extension fee in the amount of \$2,169 for the Vesting Tentative Parcel Map. Should staff need additional information please contact me.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Wilson, AICP

Vice-President