

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Supplemental EIR

Date: December 16, 2021
To: Public Agencies and Interested Parties
Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report
Project Title: South Livermore Sewer Expansion Project

The City of Livermore, as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the South Livermore Sewer Expansion project (the “project”). In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15082, the City has issued this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide responsible agencies, trustee agencies, and other interested parties with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects.

The purpose of this notice is to:

- 1) serve as the Notice of Preparation of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Office of Planning and Research (OPR), Responsible Agencies, public agencies involved in funding or approving the project, and Trustee Agencies responsible for natural resources affected by the project, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082; and
- 2) advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the EIR, environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR, and any other related issues, from interested parties, including interested or affected members of the public.

Project Location

The project alignment is located in the southeast area of the City of Livermore within Alameda County, California. Figure 1 shows the regional context of the project alignment, and Figure 2 shows the project site in its vicinity context. Regional access to the project alignment is available via Interstate 580 (I-580), which is located 2.58 miles north. Direct access to the project alignment is provided by East Avenue, which bisects the project area to the west and South Vasco Road, which bisects the project area to the east.

Project Description

The project proposes to extend existing sanitary sewer lines approximately 5 miles (27,000 linear feet) in unincorporated Alameda County, California. The expanded sewer facilities would allow existing and future wine country uses permitted under the South Livermore Valley Area Plan and South Livermore Valley Specific Plan, south and east of the project to connect to the City’s wastewater system. The expansion would also allow existing residences on Buena Vista Avenue to connect to the City’s wastewater system and remove their on-site septic systems. The sewer expansion would not induce unanticipated growth in the City or within its Sphere of Influence. By allowing existing residences to connect to the wastewater system, the City would reduce groundwater quality issues in the project vicinity. Construction is anticipated to begin in January 2024 and would continue for a duration of approximately 18 months, ending in June 2025. Construction would occur Monday through Friday, with limited weekend construction.

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The project would require City Council approval to place a Council-sponsored initiative on the City’s ballot that would amend language in the City’s voter-approved South Livermore Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) Initiative. The UGB forms a southern border within City, beyond which urban development (including extended sewer and water service) is permitted under limited exceptions. In March 2000, Livermore voters passed Measure K, establishing the South Livermore UGB. The UGB is intended to protect and enhance agriculture and open space by regulating where development is permitted within South Livermore. The initiative is also intended to reduce urban sprawl by preventing uncontrolled urban development that could potentially impact agricultural land and open space areas. The proposed project would amend language in the UGB Initiative to allow the City to extend sanitary sewer services beyond the UGB; however, the boundary itself would not change. Figure 3 and Figure 4 display the UGB in addition to the east and west segments of the project alignment.

The 2017 Sewer Master Plan identifies a Bottleneck Project (BO-CIP-P06) located west of the project site (refer to Figure 3.1). The proposed project may require the Bottleneck Project to be undertaken sooner to better accommodate the sewer system and its expansion. The Bottleneck Project, if required, and its potential impacts would be included in the environmental analysis to describe the “whole of the project” under CEQA.

EIR Scope

The City’s South Livermore Valley Specific Plan (SLVSP), adopted in November 1997, incorporates several goals, development standards, and policies to guide future development and conserve agricultural and natural resources. An EIR was prepared for the SLVSP (SCH #1996052025) that was certified in 1997. The City of Livermore, in its capacity as Lead Agency for the project, has determined that the project has the potential to result in significant environmental effects and that a Supplemental EIR should be prepared. The City is preparing an Initial Study to evaluate the potentially significant impacts of the project, and it will be included as an appendix to the Supplemental EIR. Based on the preliminary results of the Initial Study, the following topics warrant additional consideration in an EIR:

- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Utilities and Service Systems

The Supplemental EIR will assess the effects of the project on the environment, identify potentially significant impacts, identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts, and discuss potentially feasible alternatives to the project that may accomplish basic objectives while lessening or eliminating any potentially significant project-related impacts.

Opportunity for Public Review and Comment

This Notice is available for review on the City’s website at:
<https://www.cityoflivermore.net/government/community-development/planning/environmental-documents>

The City of Livermore would like to receive your input on the scope of the information and analysis to be included in the EIR. Due to time limits, as established by CEQA, your response should be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 31 days after publication of this notice. Please submit your comments by 5:00 p.m. **on January 17, 2022** by mail or e-mail to:

Steve Stewart, AICP, Planning Manager
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1052 S. Livermore Avenue
Livermore, California 94550

Phone: (925) 960-4468
Email: scstewart@cityoflivermore.net

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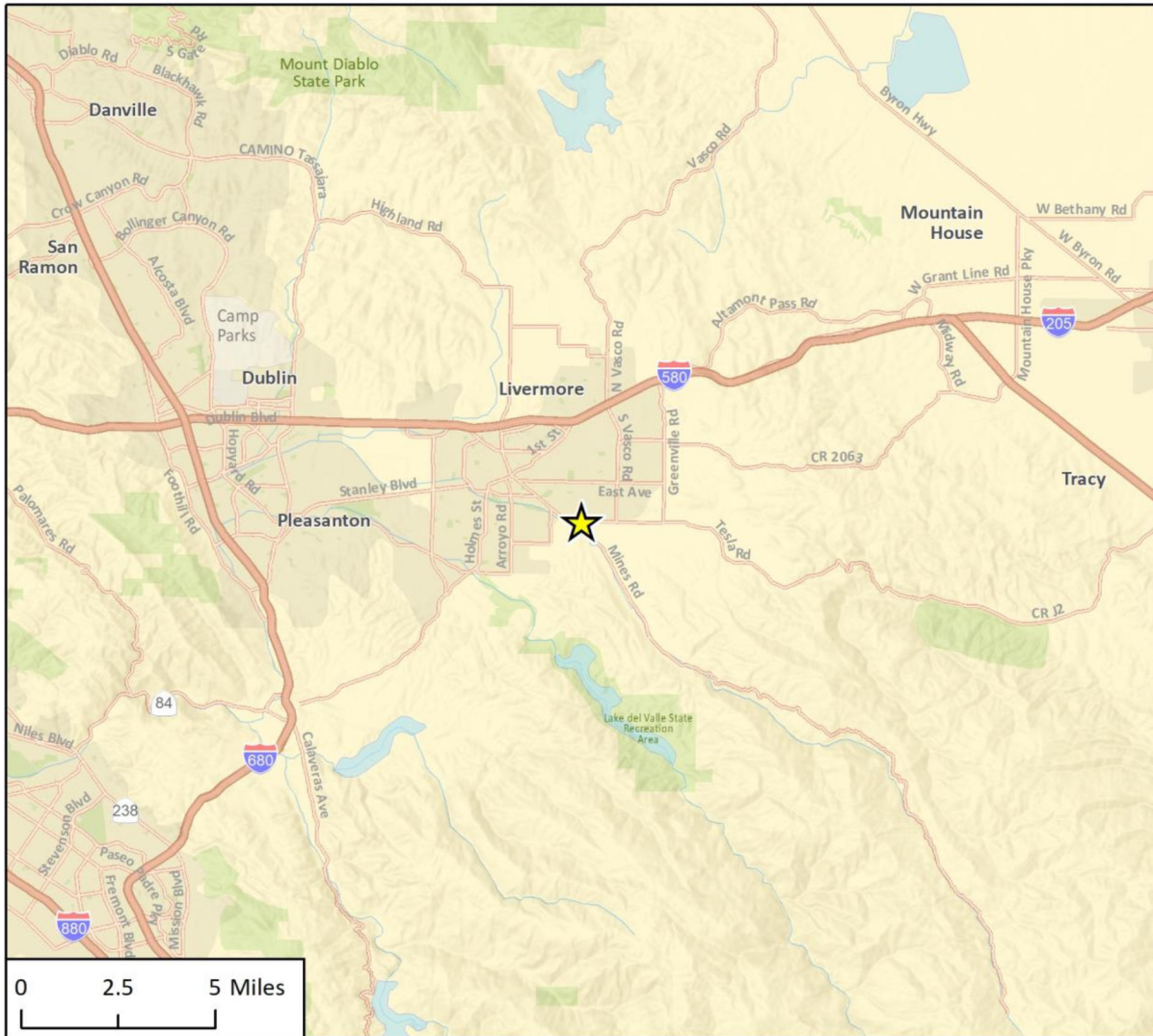
Please include the name, phone number, and address of a contact person in your response.

Attachments

- Figure 1 Regional Location
- Figure 2 Project Location
- Figure 3 Sewer Extension and Urban Growth Boundary - West
- Figure 4 Sewer Extension and Urban Growth Boundary - East

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Figure 1 Regional Location



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★ Project Location

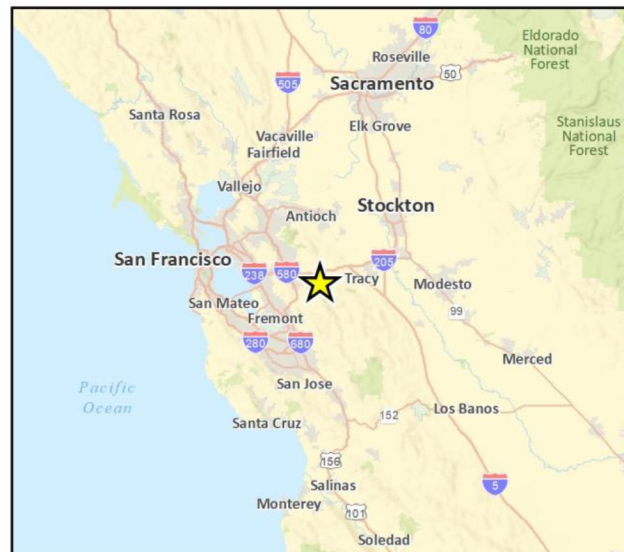
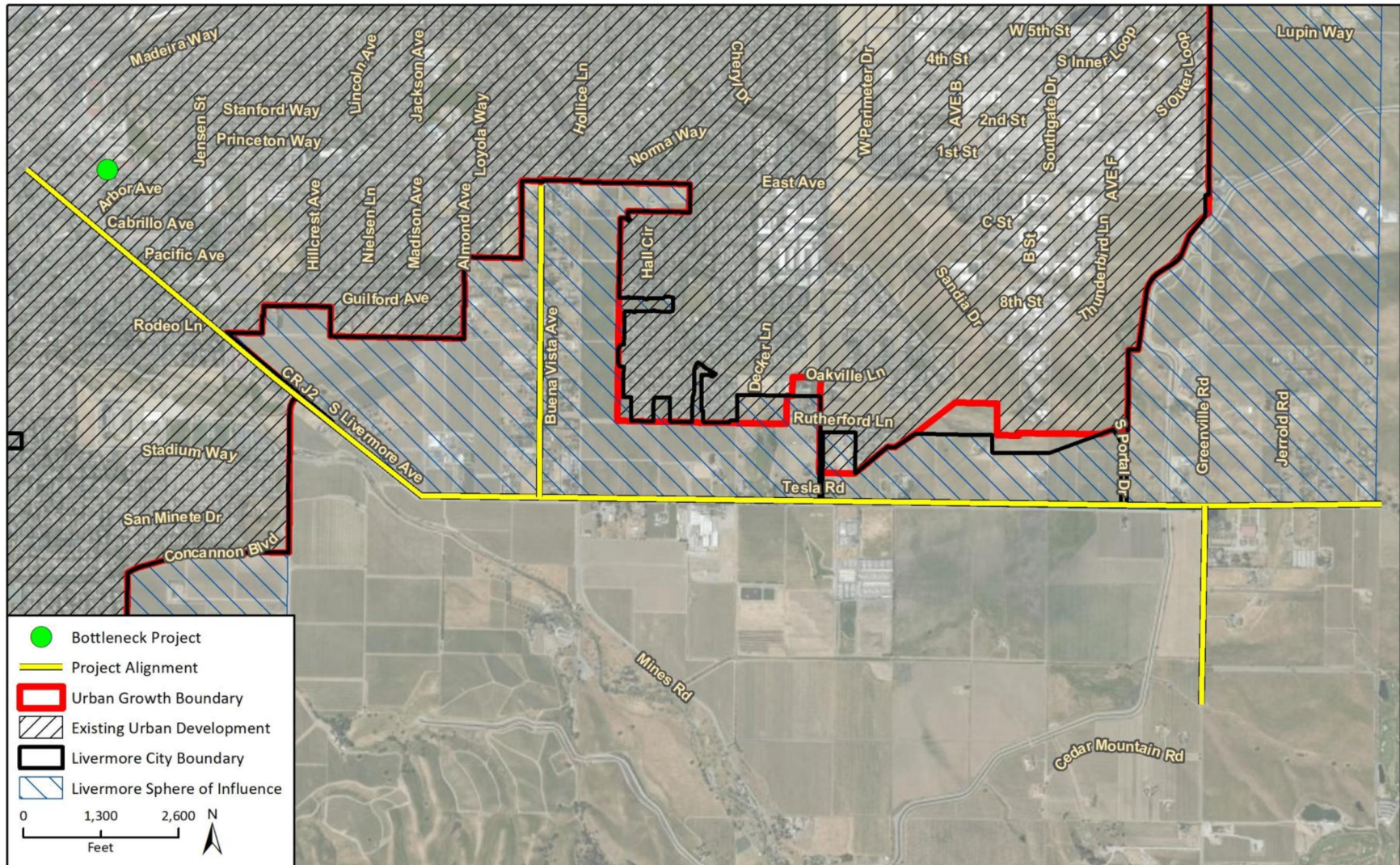


Fig 1 Regional Location

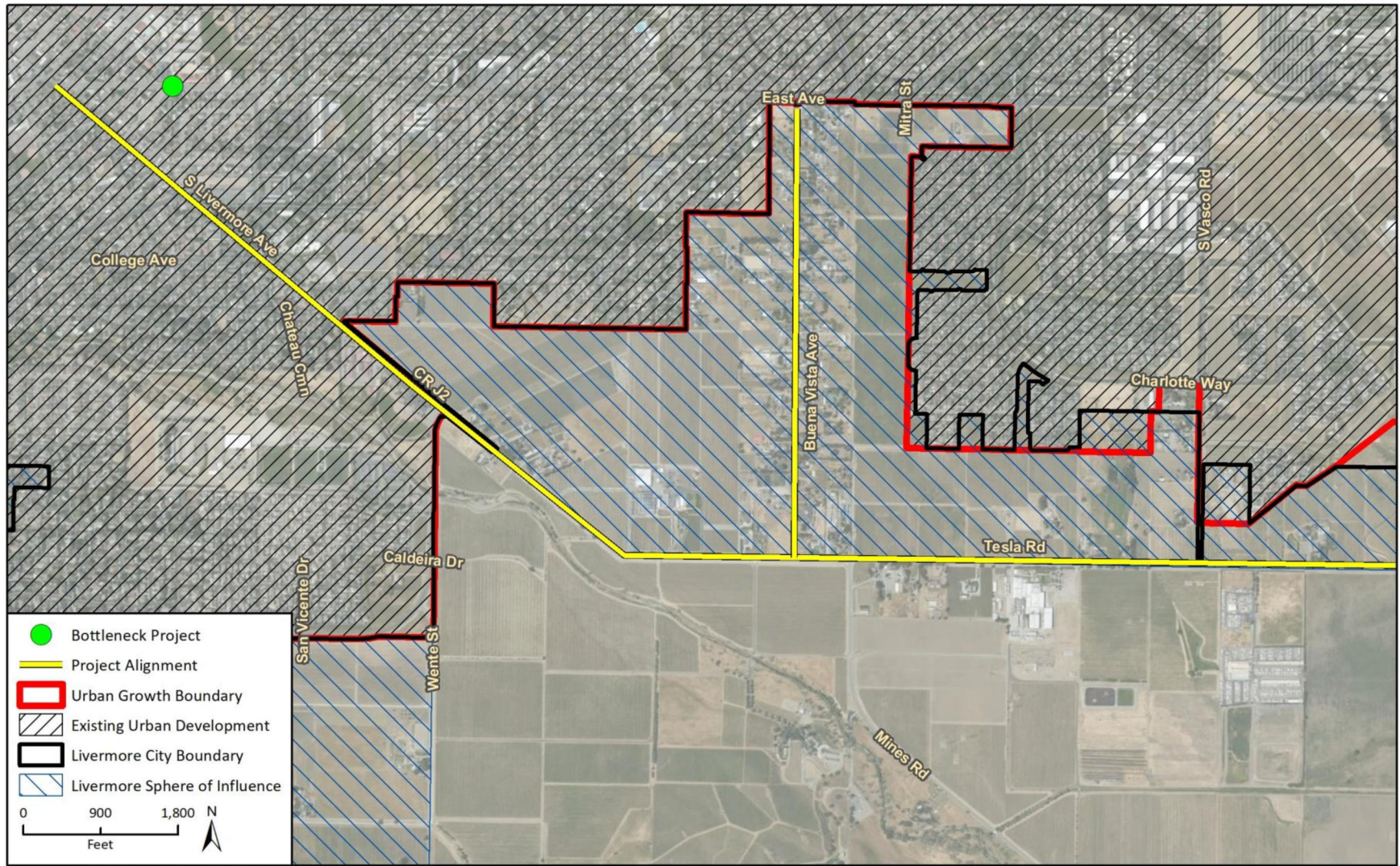
Figure 2 Project Location



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Fig 2 Project Location - Landscape

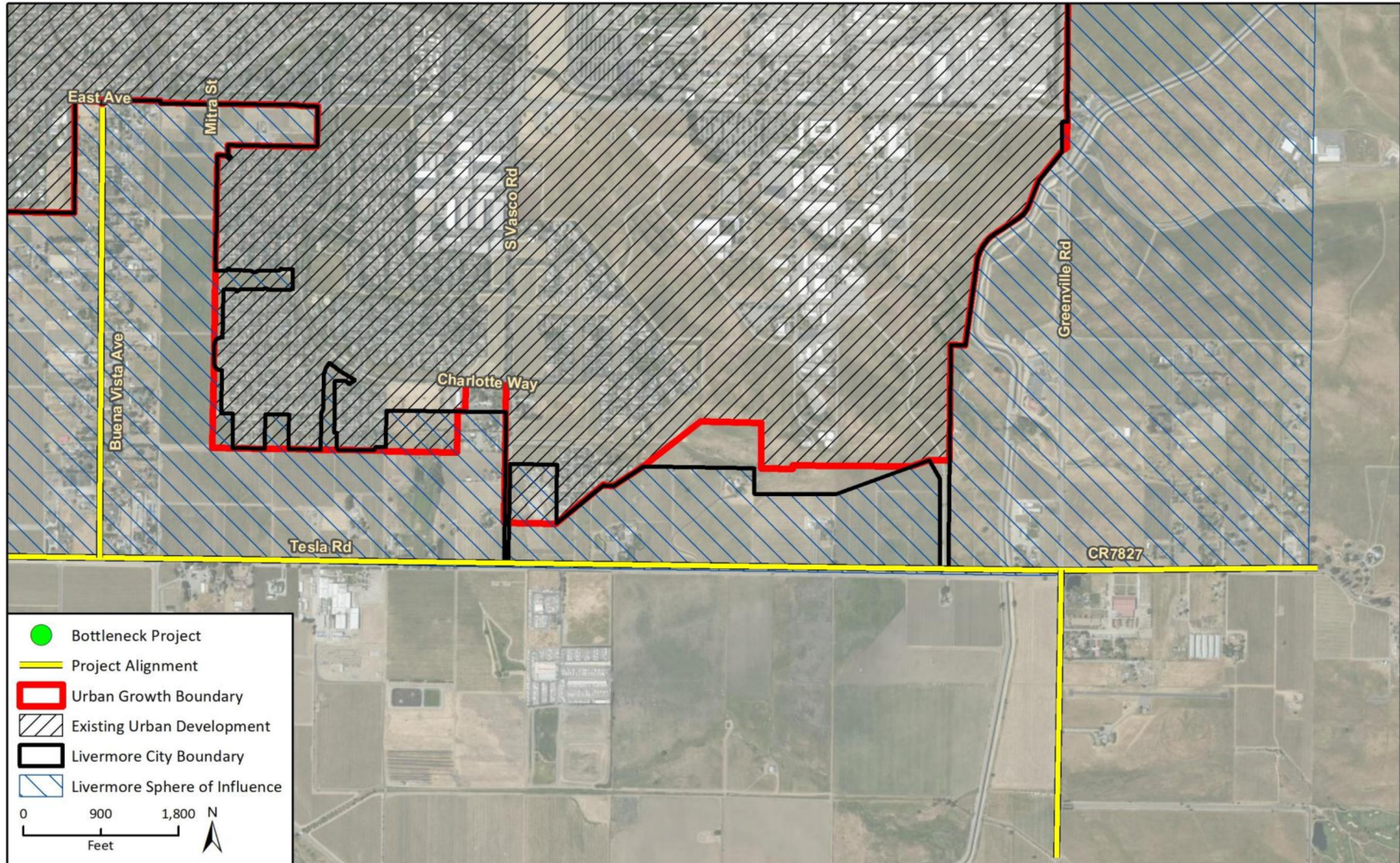
Figure 3 Sewer Extension and Urban Growth Boundary - West



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Fig 3. Conceptual Plans

Figure 4 Sewer Extension and Urban Growth Boundary - East



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Fig 3. Conceptual Plans