



AMADOR COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION  
AMADOR COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

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### SCHOOL CLOSURE/CONSOLIDATION PROGRAM PROJECT

**Lead Agency:** Amador County Unified School District

**Project Applicant:** Amador County Unified School District

**Notice of Preparation Review Period:** Wednesday, June 21, 2023 to Thursday, July 20, 2023

**Notice is hereby given** that the Amador County Unified School District (ACUSD), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the School Closure/Consolidation Program (proposed project) pursuant to the California Public Resources Code, Division 13, Section 21000 et seq. (CEQA Statute), and the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et seq. (CEQA Guidelines).

The purpose of this Notice of Preparation (NOP) is to (1) serve as a public notice pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15082 that an EIR will be prepared and (2) advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the scope and content of the EIR to be prepared. ACUSD is seeking your input regarding the scope and content of the EIR, including input on potentially significant environmental effects, mitigation measures, or project alternatives that should be explored in the EIR. If you represent a public agency, ACUSD seeks input as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

Due to time limits mandated by State law, public agencies, members of the public, or any other interested parties are requested to respond to this NOP in writing no later than 30 days from the date of this NOP. ACUSD will accept written comments regarding this NOP through the close of business on **Thursday, July 20, 2023**. Please send all written comments, including emailed comments, to Jared Critchfield at the address below.

**Project Location:** The proposed project is in Amador County Unified School District and would affect eight of the ACUSD's school campuses, listed below. Campuses not on the list would not be affected by the proposed project.

- Amador High School (330 Spanish Street, Sutter Creek, California 95685)
- Argonaut High School (501 Argonaut Lane, Jackson, California 95642)
- Lone Junior High School (450 S. Mill Street, Lone, California 95640)
- Jackson Junior High School (747 Sutter Street, Jackson, California 95642)
- Lone Elementary School (415 S. Lone Street, Lone, California 95640)
- Jackson Elementary School (220 Church Street, Jackson, California 95642)
- Sutter Creek Elementary School (340 Spanish Street, Sutter Creek, California 95685, and 110 Broad Street, Sutter Creek, California 95685)

The proposed project would add a new County Preschool Center. No other schools or campuses within the ACUSD would be affected. See Figure 1, *Location Map and Existing Conditions*.

**Project Description:** ACUSD provides preschool through 12th grade and adult education services to Amador County. ACUSD is considering a program to consolidate eight schools onto six campuses. Tables 1 through 6 summarize the changes proposed in grade levels, student enrollment, and student capacities at the six remaining campuses. Proposed building and site improvements are also identified. Sutter Creek Primary School (at 110 Board Street in the city of Sutter Creek) and Lone Elementary School will be closed for later disposition. See Figure 2, *Proposed School Closure/Consolidation Program*.

**Table 1. Argonaut High School**

**Proposed Action: Amador and Argonaut High Schools Combine at Argonaut High School**

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	536 students Grades 9–12	1,263 students Grades 9–12
<b>Capacity</b>	925 students Grades 9–12	1,325 students Grades 9–12
<b>Teaching Stations</b>	37	53
<b>Building Improvements</b>		New 10-classroom, 2-story building (with 4 science labs and 6 standard classrooms), Addition of 5 portable classrooms relocated from Jackson Jr. High School and Lone Elementary. Convert 2 preschool classrooms to regular classrooms. Convert classroom for counseling office. Kitchen renovation and expansion. Renovate and expand gymnasium locker rooms.
<b>Site Improvements</b>		New parent drop-off. New access road connecting to Stony Creek Road. Accessibility compliance throughout campus. (See Figure 3, <i>Argonaut High School Site Improvements</i> )

**Table 2. Amador High School**

**Proposed Action: Lone and Jackson Jr. High Schools Combine at Amador High School**

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	702 students Grades 9–12	603 students Grades 7–8
<b>Capacity</b>	875 students Grades 9–12	875 students Grades 7–8
<b>Teaching Stations</b>	35	35

**Table 3. Lone Junior High School  
Proposed Action: Lone Elementary School Moves to Lone Jr. High School, Accommodates  
Preschool and Transitional Kindergarten to Sixth-Grade Students**

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	393 students Grades 6–8	649 students Preschool, grades TK–6
<b>Capacity</b>	775 students Grades 6–8	801 students Preschool, grades TK–6
<b>Teaching Stations</b>	31	31
<b>Site Improvements</b>		New 2-classroom building and playground for preschool, TK, and Extended Learning. Expanded parent drop-off/pick-up areas. Expanded kindergarten drop-off/pick-up areas. Convert science labs into K classrooms. Convert restrooms to K restrooms. New play structure and hardcourt areas. Kitchen expansion. (See Figure 4, <i>Lone Elementary School at Lone Junior High School Site Improvements</i> )

**Table 4. Jackson Junior High School  
Proposed Action: Jackson Jr. High Becomes County Preschool Center**

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	346 students Grades 6–8	41 students Preschool
<b>Capacity</b>	475 students Grades 6–8	195 students Preschool, TK grades
<b>Teaching Stations</b>	19	15
<b>Site Improvements</b>		Convert restrooms and fountains to age-appropriate fixtures.

**Table 5. Jackson Elementary School  
Proposed Action: Jackson Elementary School Adds Back Sixth-Grade Students**

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	500 students Grades TK–5	528 students Grades TK–6
<b>Capacity</b>	575 students Grades TK–5	575 students Grades TK–6
<b>Teaching Stations</b>	23	23

**Table 6. Sutter Creek Elementary School  
Proposed Action: Sutter Creek Elementary School Expands to Create Transitional  
Kindergarten to Sixth-Grade Campus**

	<b>Existing</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
<b>Enrollment</b>	204 students Grades TK–2	388 students Grades TK–6
<b>Capacity</b>	325 students Grades TK–2	625 students Grades TK–6
<b>Teaching Stations</b>	13	25
<b>Site Improvements</b>		New 12-classroom building, including a lunch shelter. (See Figure 5, <i>Sutter Creek Elementary School Site Improvements</i> )

**Potential Environmental Effects:** ACUSD will prepare an EIR that evaluates all potentially significant environmental impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed project. The EIR will explain the potentially significant effects of the proposed project as well as the reasons that other effects are not potentially significant. An initial study is not required to determine that an EIR will be prepared, and an initial study was not prepared for the proposed project.

In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, ACUSD has prepared this NOP to provide agencies, organizations, and interested parties with information describing the proposed project and its potential environmental effects. Consistent with Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, the 20 environmental topics that may be analyzed in an EIR are:

- |                                  |                               |                             |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aesthetics                       | Greenhouse Gas Emissions      | Public Services             |
| Agriculture & Forestry Resources | Hazards & Hazardous Materials | Recreation                  |
| Air Quality                      | Hydrology & Water Quality     | Transportation              |
| Biological Resources             | Land Use & Planning           | Tribal Cultural Resources   |
| Cultural Resources               | Mineral Resources             | Utilities & Service Systems |
| Energy                           | Noise                         | Wildfire                    |
| Geology & Soils                  | Population & Housing          |                             |

ACUSD has determined that the proposed project could potentially affect 18 of the 20 environmental topic areas identified in Appendix G. These 18 topical areas are aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. These impacts will be analyzed in detail in the EIR. The EIR will also address mandatory findings of significance. The EIR will address the short- and long-term effects of the proposed project on the environment. Feasible mitigation measures will be proposed for impacts that are determined to be potentially significant, and reasonable alternatives will be considered. A mitigation monitoring program will also be developed for any mitigation measures required by ACUSD. The proposed project is expected to have no impact on agriculture and forestry resources and mineral resources, and therefore the EIR will not present a detailed analysis of the project’s impact on these topic areas.

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**


School Closure/Consolidation Program Project, Amador County Unified School District  
June 21, 2023

**Document Availability:** The 30-day public review period for the NOP is from **Wednesday, June 21, 2023**, to **Thursday, July 20, 2023**. In accordance with the time limits mandated by State law, if there are any concerns about the scope and content of the information to be addressed in the EIR, written comments may be submitted via email or by mail to the addresses below. All written comments should be submitted at the earliest possible date but must be submitted no later than close of business **Thursday, July 20, 2023**. Public agencies should identify the contact person for the agency in the written comments.

**Public Comments:** Please submit your comments to:

- **Mailing Address:**  
ACUSD Office  
Attn: Jared Critchfield  
217 Rex Avenue  
Jackson, CA 95642
- **Email Address:** CEQAcomments@acUSD.org

**More Information:** Questions concerning the matter should be directed to Jared Critchfield, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services, at 209-257-5345 or CEQAcomments@acUSD.org.



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Jared Critchfield, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services

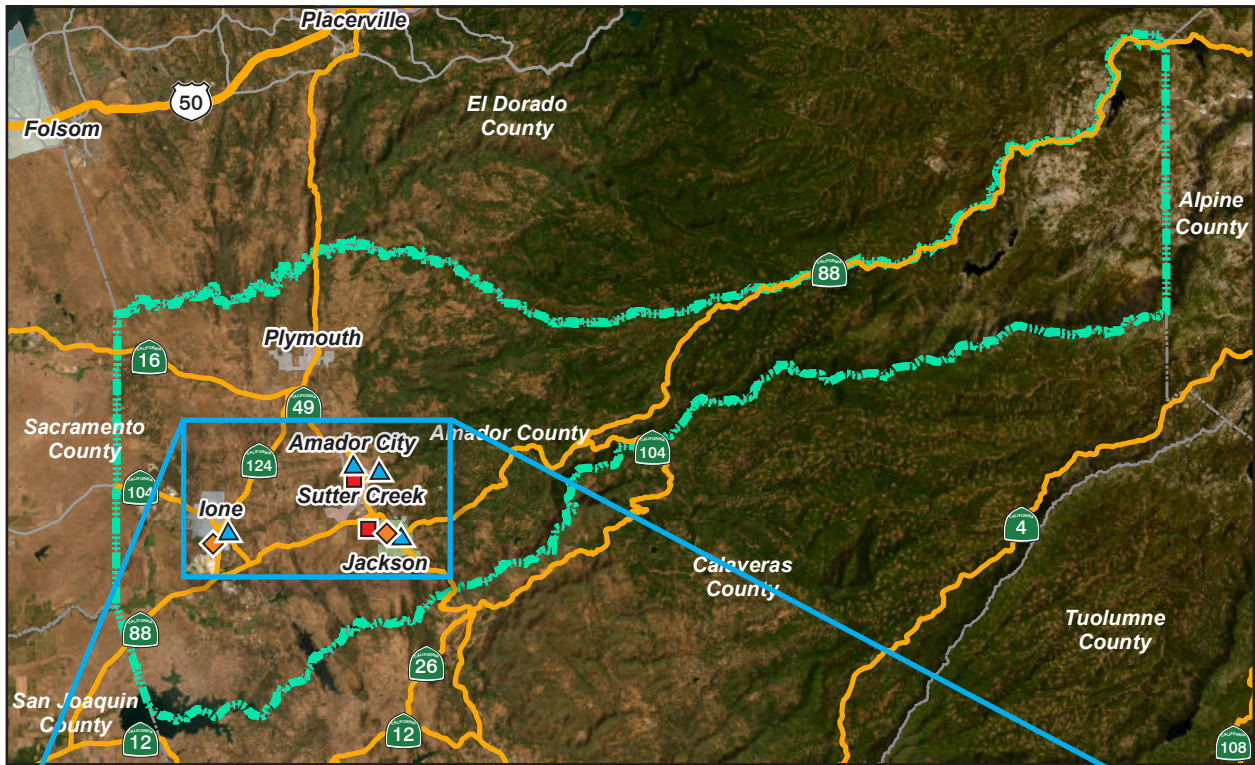
6/21/23

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Date



Figure 1 - Location Map and Existing Conditions



- - - - Amador County Unified School District  
 County Boundary

■ High School  
◆ Junior High School  
▲ Elementary School

0 3  
 Scale (Miles)

Note: District schools not included on the maps will have no change.

Source: Generated using ArcMap 2023.

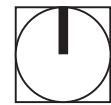
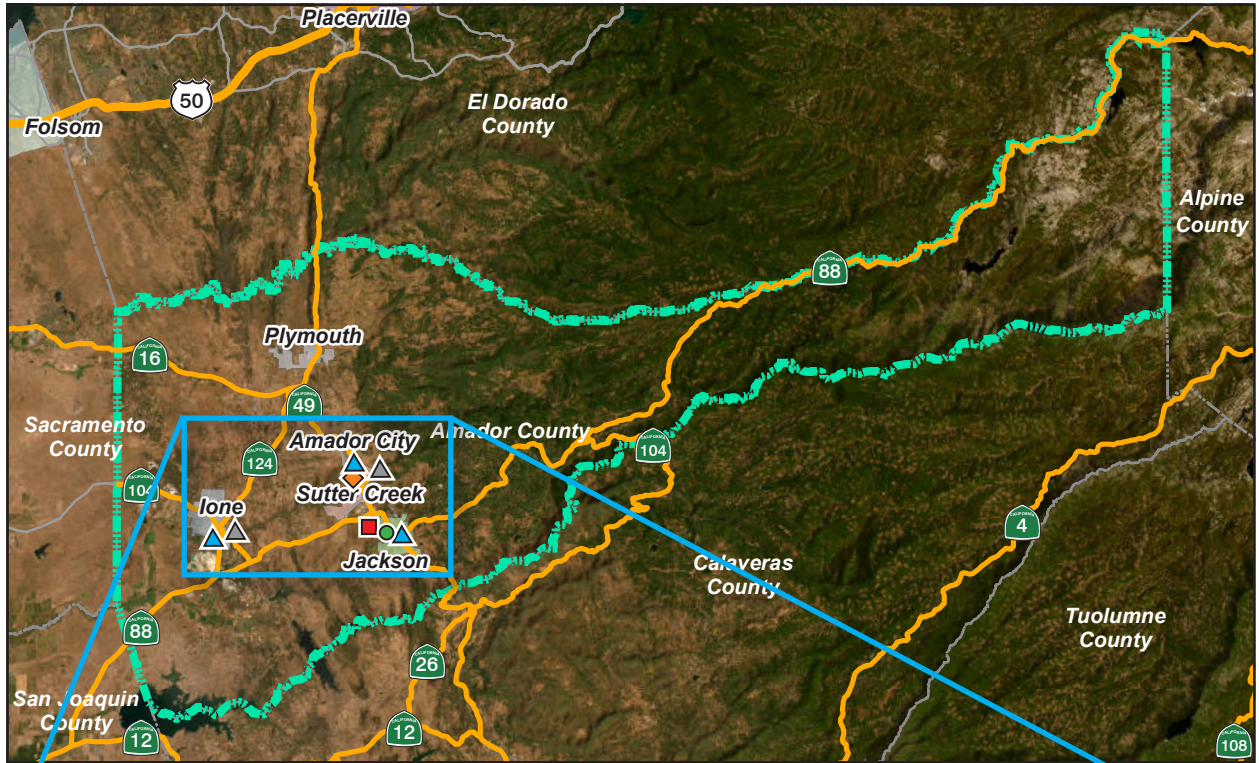




Figure 2 - Proposed School Closure/Consolidation Program



0 10  
 Scale (Miles)



Amador County Unified School District  
 County Boundary

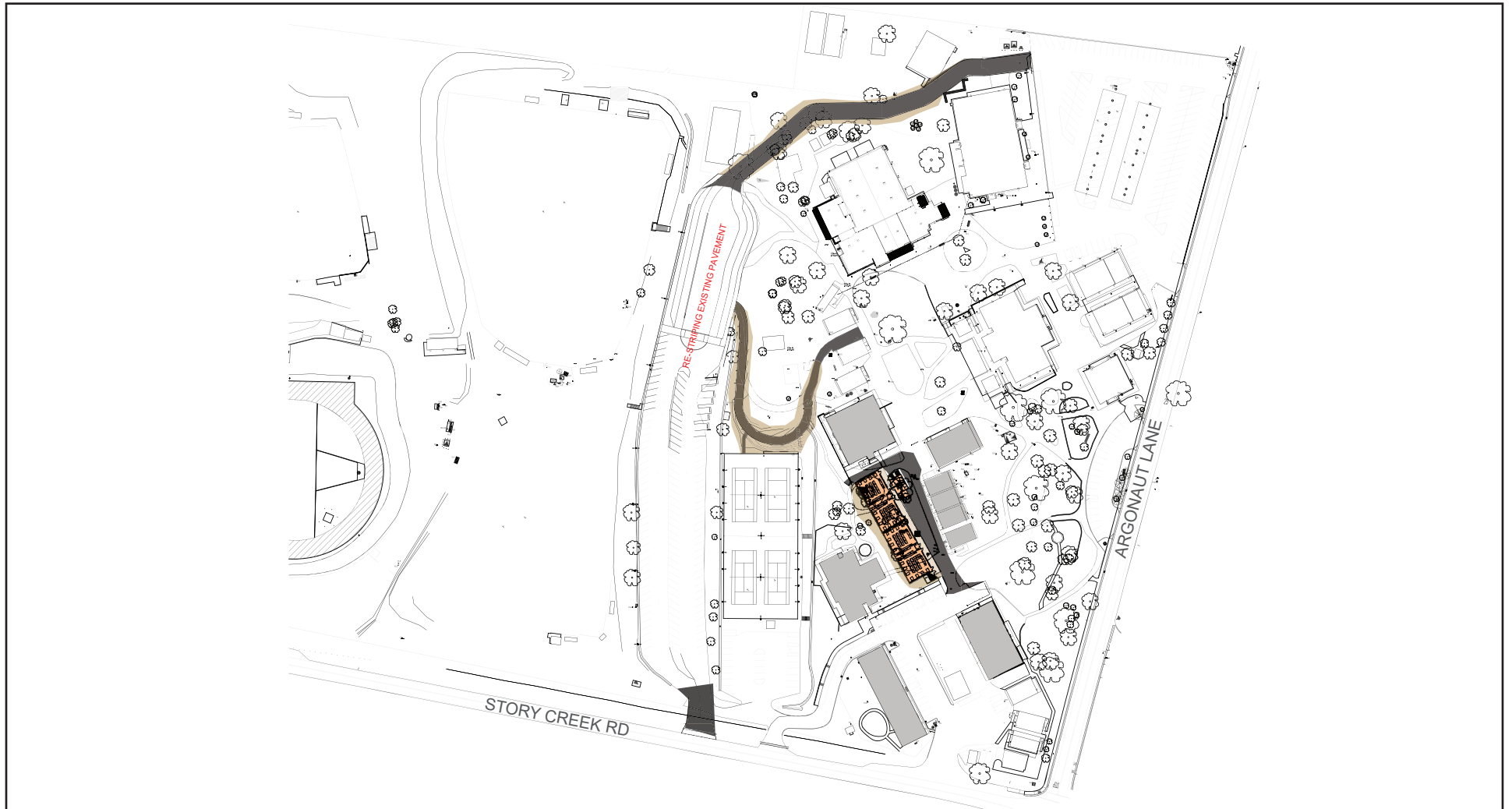
High School  
 Junior High School  
 Elementary School  
 Preschool  
 Closed Campus

0 3  
 Scale (Miles)



Note: District schools not included on the maps will have no change.  
 Source: Generated using ArcMap 2023.

Figure 3 - Argonaut High School Site Improvements



- New Asphalt Pavement
- New Grading
- New Building

0 130  
Scale (Feet)



Source: California Design West Architects 2023.



Figure 4 - Lone Junior High School Site Improvements

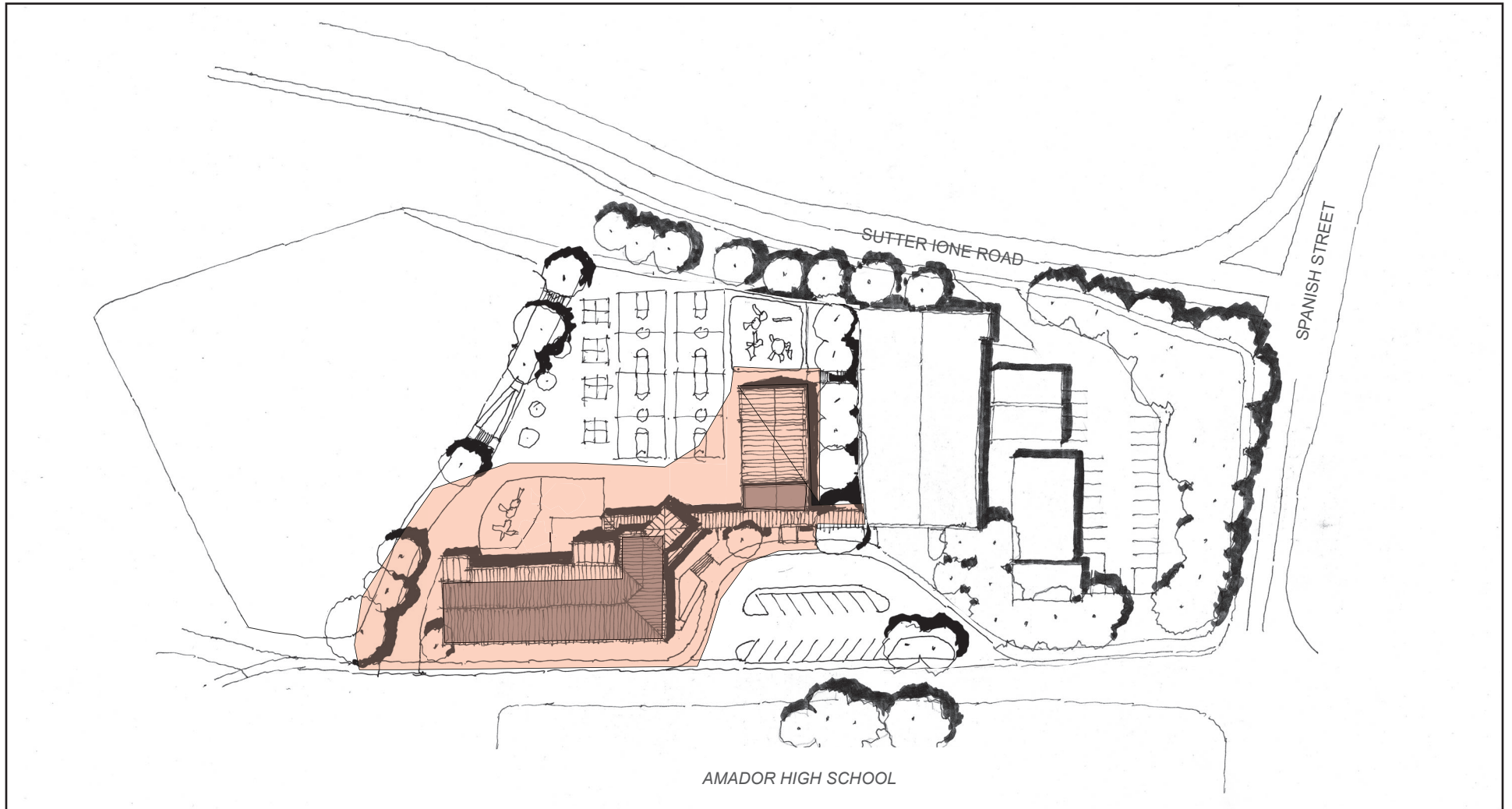


Scope of New Site Work

0 140  
Scale (Feet)



Figure 5 - Sutter Creek Elementary School Site Improvements



Scope of New Site Work

0 110  
Scale (Feet)



Source: California Design West Architects 2022.