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County Road & Street Standards Exception Application



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#4115029.0 December 23, 2021

David Morrison County of Napa Planning, Building, and Environmental Services 1195 Third Street, Suite 210 Napa, CA 94559

RE: Vineyard 29 Winery Use Permit Modification (P20-00062)

Driveway Exception

Dear David:

Vineyard 29 is proposing the installation of a joint left turn lane, to be shared by Vineyard 29 and Revana Vineyards, directly across Highway 29. To facilitate the construction of this left turn lane, the applicant has submitted an easement grant to the County for the construction of the Napa Valley Vine Trail on Vineyard 29 property. Construction of the left turn lane will help facilitate the replacement and relocation of a dangerous gas line currently running under the highway.

As part of the Use Permit Modification application, we are requesting an exception to the commercial driveway requirements in the Road and Street Standards for portions of the winery's access road. Revisions to the Vineyard 29 driveway are proposed to align this driveway with the Revana Vineyards Driveway, which allows for the construction of the left turn lane to serve both parcels. The driveway is approximately 900 feet long from the intersection with Highway 29 to the Winery building complex. This exception request is for a section of the driveway of approximately 550 feet that runs parallel to an unnamed creek. An exception is also requested for the slope of the fire truck turnaround at STA 11+00. The exception request is based upon constraints from existing geographical features and stream setbacks. The remainder of the driveway either already meets, or is proposed to meet, the current standards.

The exception is sought pursuant to Sections 3(d)(i) of the Napa County Road and Street Standards. This section provides that:

- (d) An exception to these Standards may be allowed as provided if one or more of the following findings can be made and the findings in subsection (e) can also be made:
- (i) The exception will preserve unique features of the natural environment which includes, but is not limited to, natural water courses, steep slopes, geological features, heritage oak trees, or

other trees of least six inches in diameter at breast height and found by the decision-maker to be of significant importance, but does not include human altered environmental features such as vineyards and ornamental or decorative landscaping, or artificial features such as, rock walls, fences or the like;

Further, an exception is "only allowed 'where the exceptions provide the same overall practical effect as 'the SRA Fire Safe Regulations' towards providing defensible space'" as noted in RSS 3(e). To approve the exception, the approving body must find "that grant of the exception, as conditioned ... provides the same overall practical effect as these Standards towards providing defensible space, and consideration towards life, safety and public welfare."

We believe the exception sought here, which preserves the existing approximately 16 feet wide driveway for +/-550 feet, meets the requirements for an exception under section d(i). The existing stretch of driveway meets the same overall practical effect as the current SRA Fire Safe Regulations as well.

RSS 3(d)(i): As shown on revised Sheet UP2.1, the majority of the existing driveway is constrained by the creek setback. The entire width of the driveway is within the setback. Any work on that segment of the driveway thus necessarily would be within the stream setback of the adjacent creek and as such have the potential to impact water quality.

RSS 3(e): The existing section of driveway allows for safe travel to and from the winery for visitors and emergency vehicles. The accompanying Sheet UP2.1 shows the path of a Type I Fire Engine through the requested exception area with no restrictions. The existing road is at minimum 16 feet, paved within the area of the exemption request. There will be two (2) options for vehicles to pass at the intersection of the proposed driveway, connection at STA 3+00, as well as an intersection to enter the winery complex at STA 8+50. As such, the exception area provides the same overall practical effect as the SRA Fire Safe Regulations reflected by the current road and street standards.

The proposed portion of the driveway to connect to the new entry location on Highway 29, is proposed to meet Napa County Road and Street Standards.

We consider that the Same Practical Effect is met for the following criteria:

a) Access for emergency wildland fire equipment

As previously explained, the existing approximately 16 feet wide section of driveway that was built to the applicable standards at the time of construction, but does not meet the most recent Napa County Road and Street Standards allows for passage of a Type I Fire Engine with no restrictions as shown on Sheet UP2.1.

b) Safe Civilian Evacuation

The driveway at the lower end of the 16 feet wide section will be constructed to 20 feet or already meets the 20 feet width required by Napa County Road and Street Standards and allows for passing of passenger and emergency vehicles.

c) Signing that avoids delays in emergency equipment response

"Yield to Emergency Vehicle" signs will be installed as shown on Sheet UP 2.1 to avoid delays in emergency vehicle response.

d) Available and accessible water to effectively attack wildfire or defend a structure from wildfire

The exception request will not impact water availability or accessibility. The existing winery has approximately 41,600 gallons of water dedicated to fire suppression stored in tanks above the winery. This water is connected by fire water lines to 3 existing hydrants located around the winery.

e) Fuel modification sufficient for civilian and fire fighter safety

The exception request will not impact fuel modification and is not located near any structures. The area of the winery will have 100 feet of defensible space maintained in all directions. Similarly, the driveway will have 10 feet of defensible space maintained on both sides.

The following summarizes the requested exception and findings:

Relevant section: STA: 3+50 to 8+50

Request: An exception to the minimum commercial driveway width of 20 ft paved plus

2 ft total shoulders as defined in Section 15 of the Napa County Road and

Street Standards in the referenced portion of driveway.

Exception: No expansion will take place within the stream setbacks defined by the Napa

County Conservation Regulations.

Findings: Additional widening is constrained by environmental site limitations, including

stream setbacks to an adjacent stream per Napa County Conservation Regulations section 18.108, which prohibits grading within the stream setbacks as well as existing steep slopes to the south of the existing driveway. The exception will preserve those existing natural features, including the ephemeral stream course. As detailed in a) to e) above, the existing road

provides the same overall practical effect as the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.

Relevant section: STA: 11+00 to 12+00

Request: An exception to the maximum longitudinal slope of eight (8) percent, and

maximum cross-slope perpendicular to the longitudinal slope of five (5) percent, as defined in Section 15 of the Napa County Road and Street

Standards in the referenced portion of driveway.

Exception: Existing longitudinal slope of 17 percent, and cross-slope perpendicular to the

longitudinal slope of 8.7 percent.

Findings: Additional grading is constrained by steep slopes to the North East of the Fire

Truck turnaround. The exception will preserve those features as well as an oak tree to the north east. There is considerable open area to the south of the firetruck turnaround, and onto the crush pad, which is available for turning movements. The winery is able to maneuver large bottling trucks in this area. There is also a conforming fire truck turnaround roughly 115 feet down the driveway. As detailed in a) to e) above, the existing road provides the same

overall practical effect as the SRA Fire Safe Regulations.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding the above.

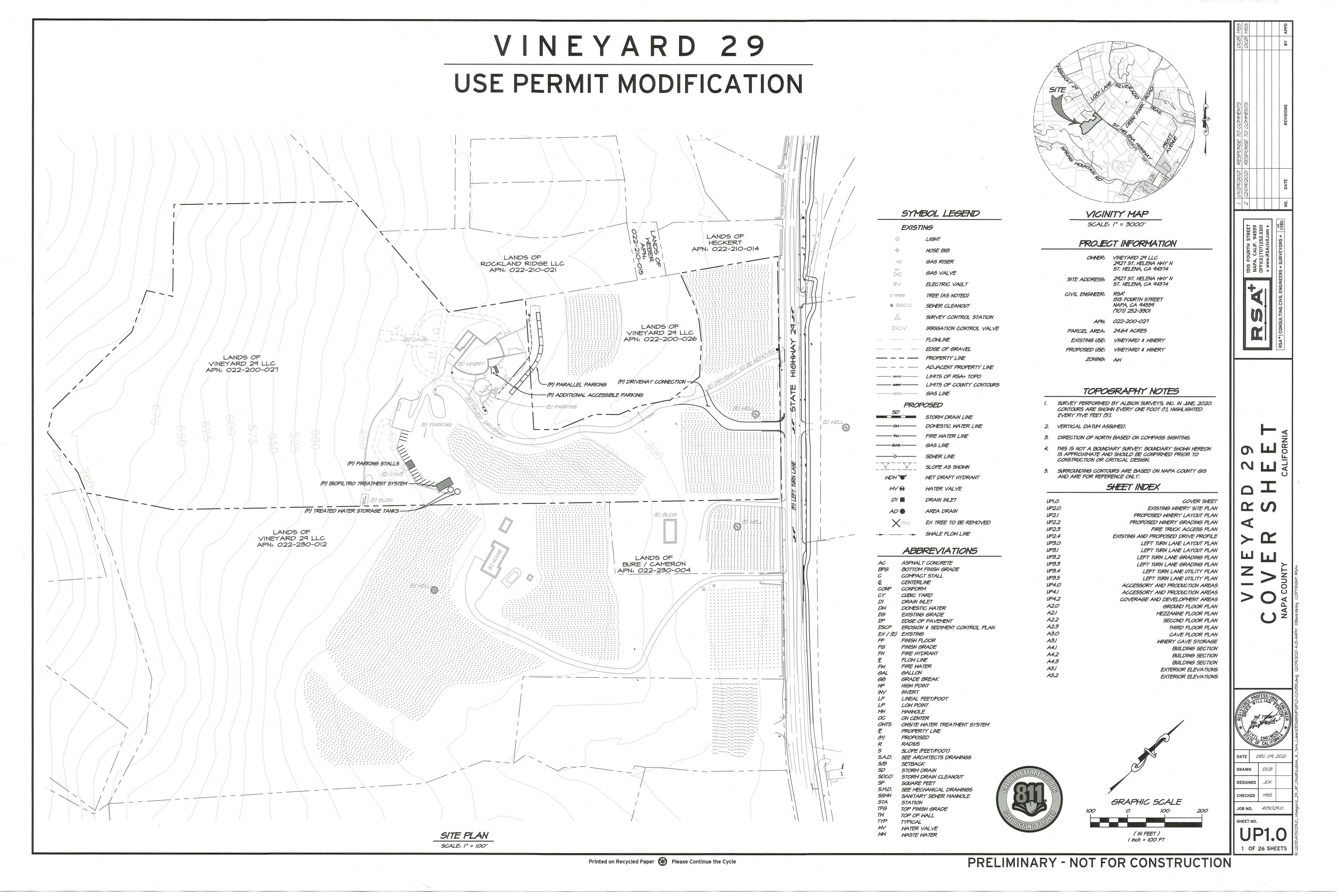
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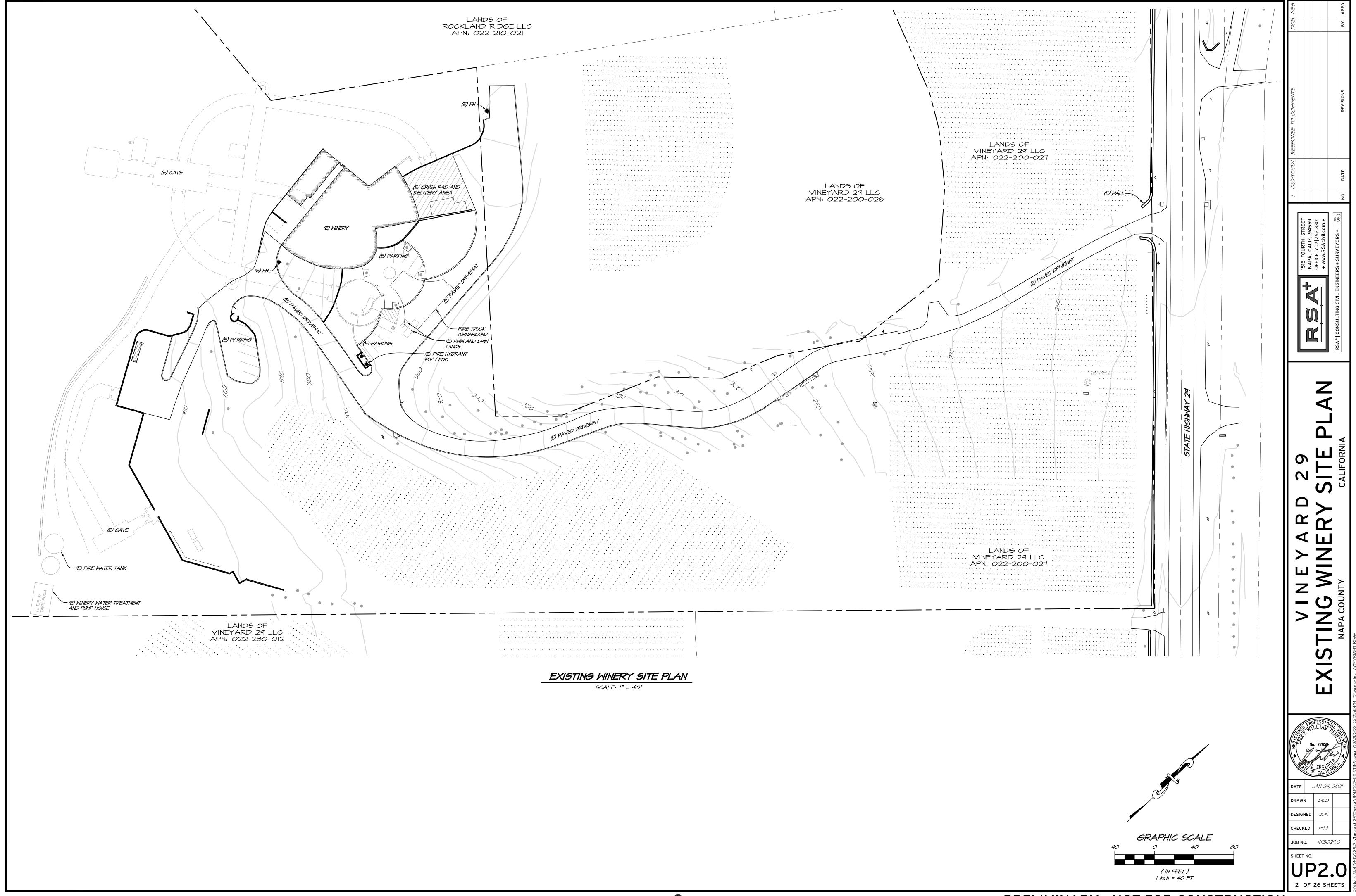
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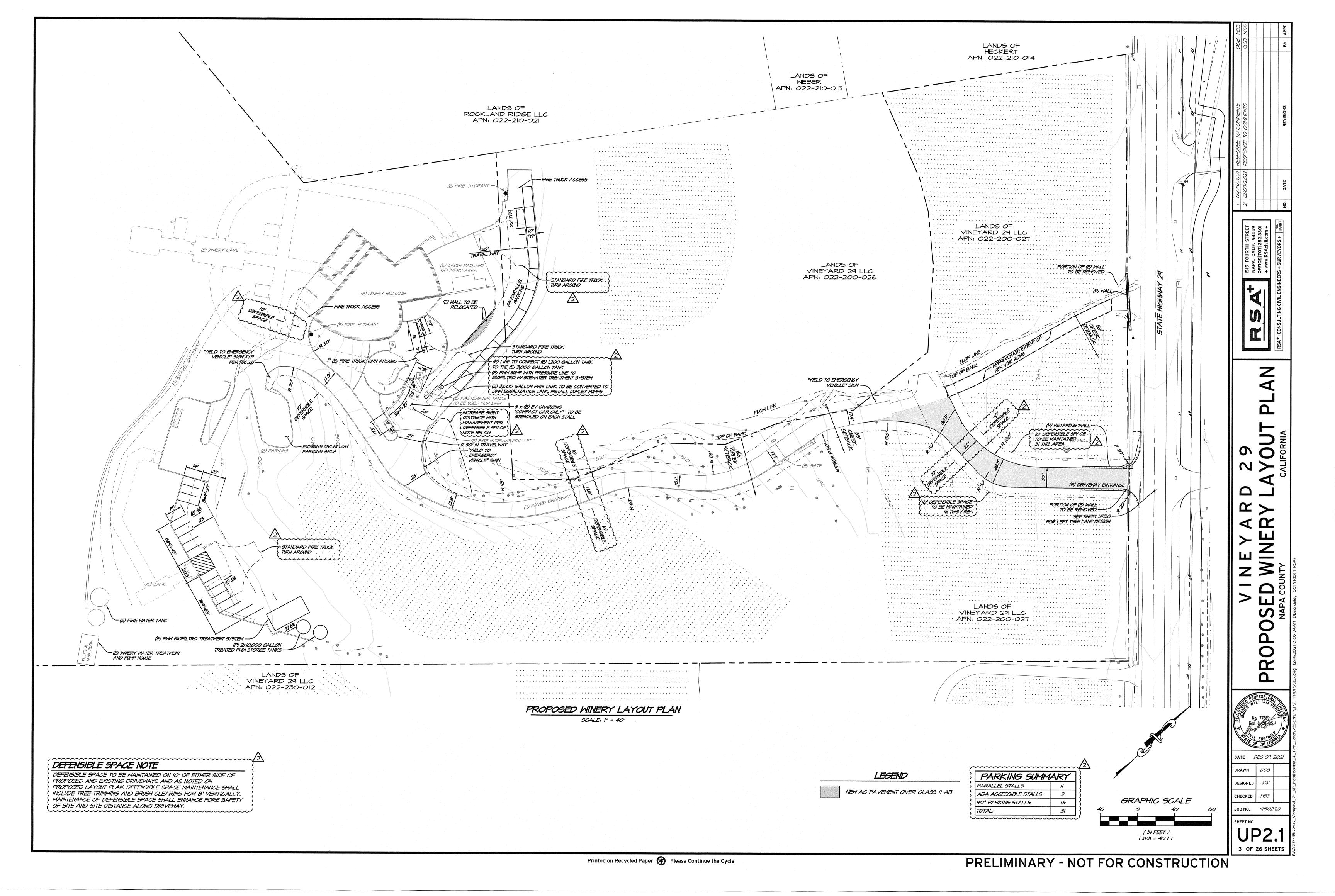
Bruce Fenton, P.E. Project Manager

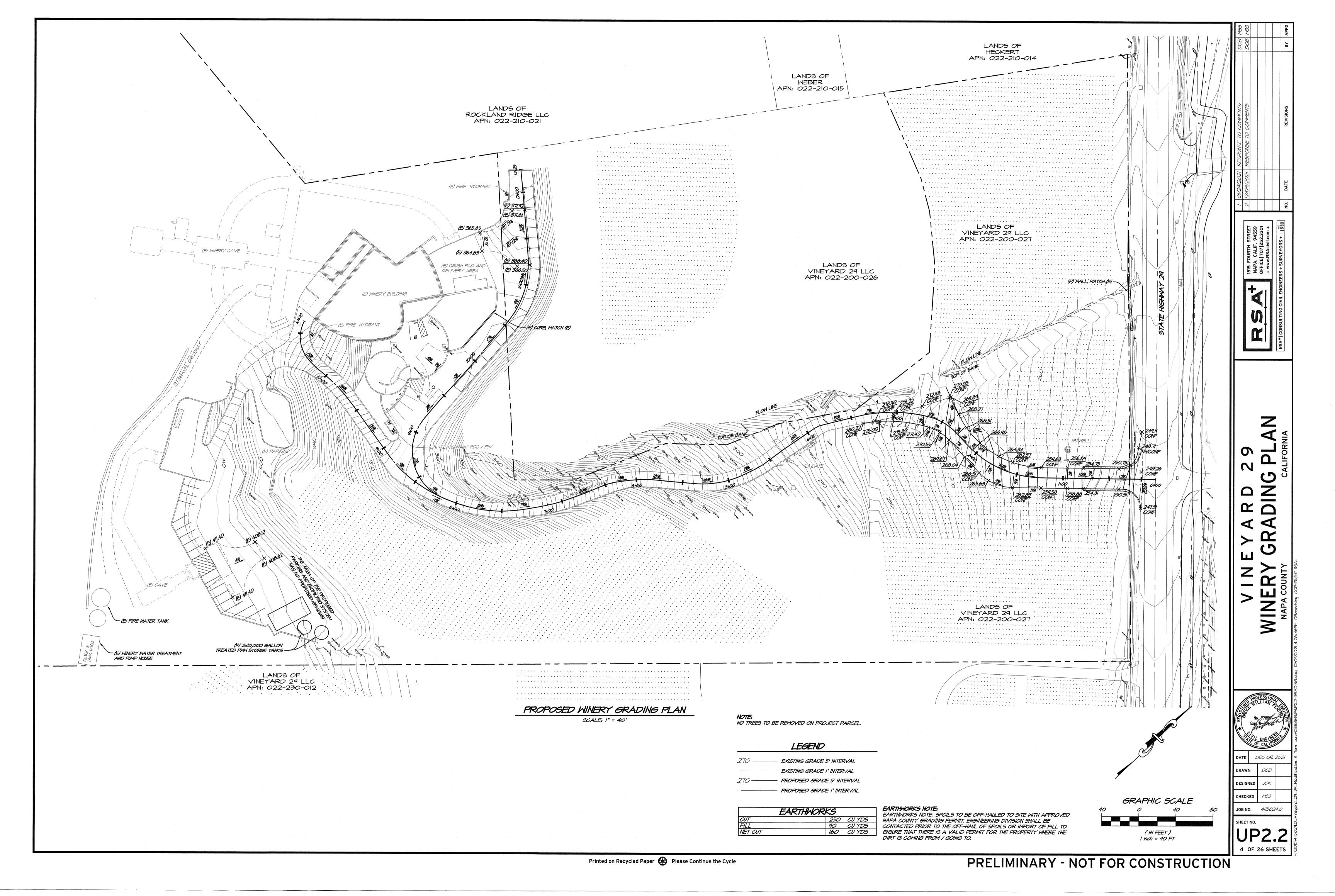
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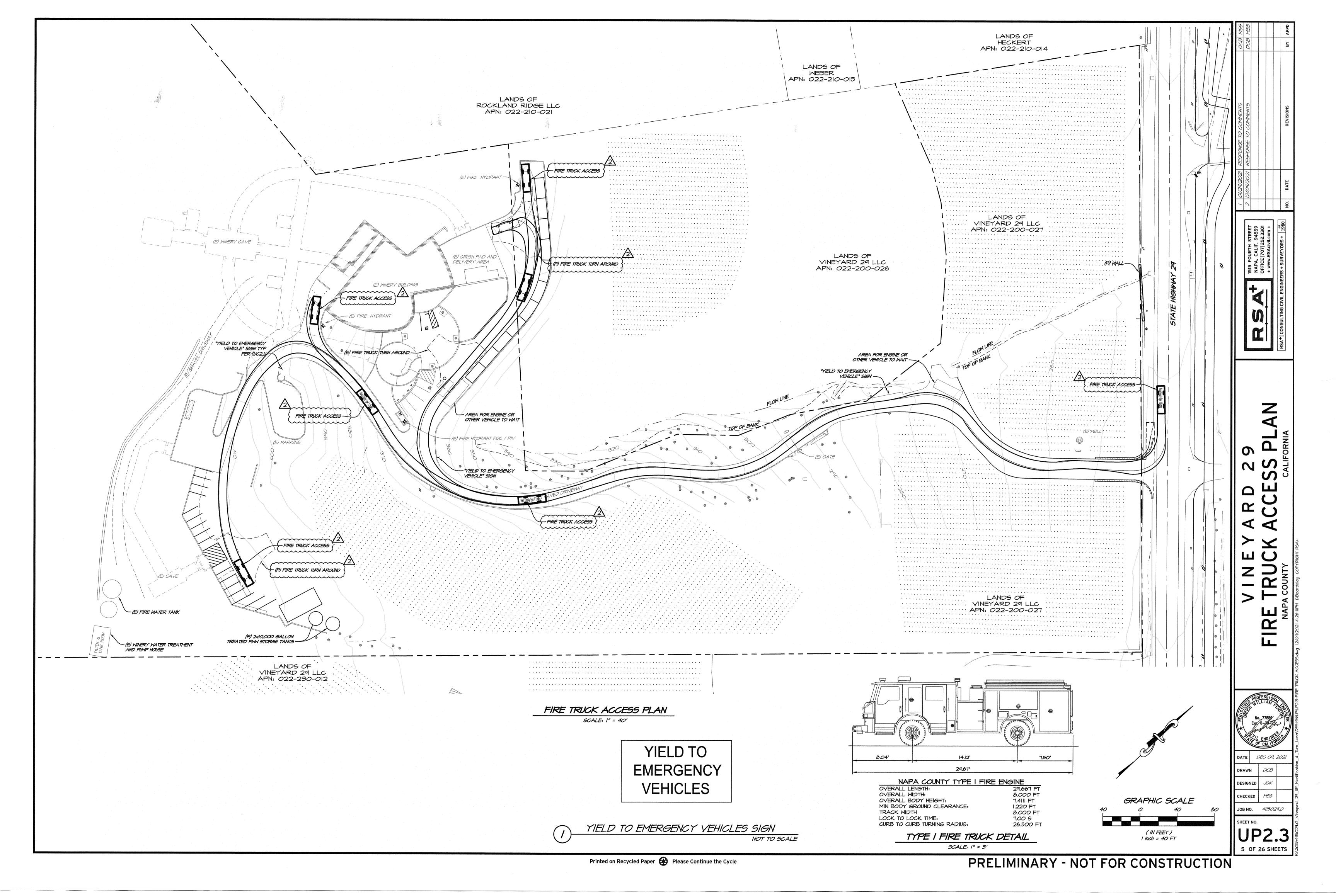


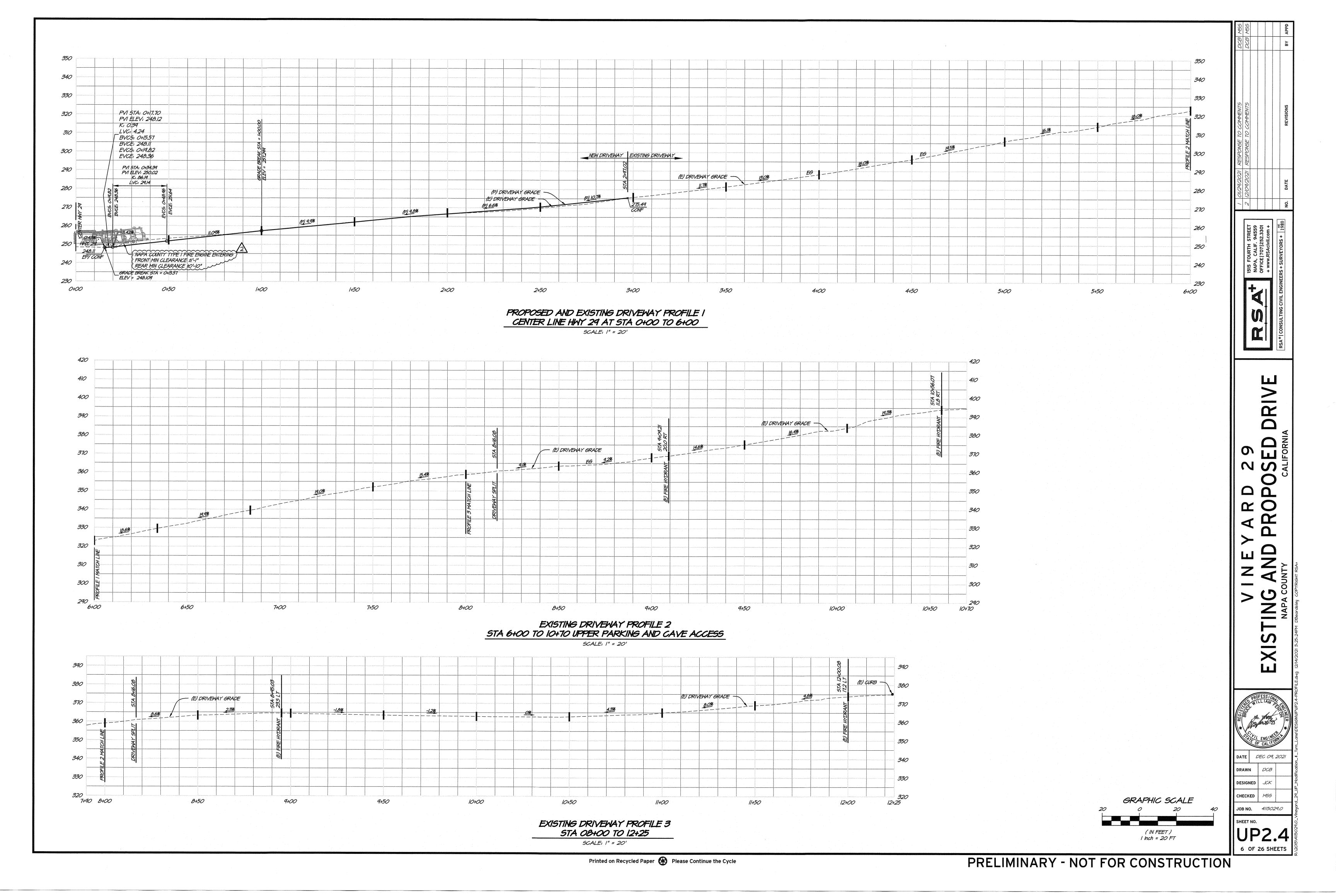


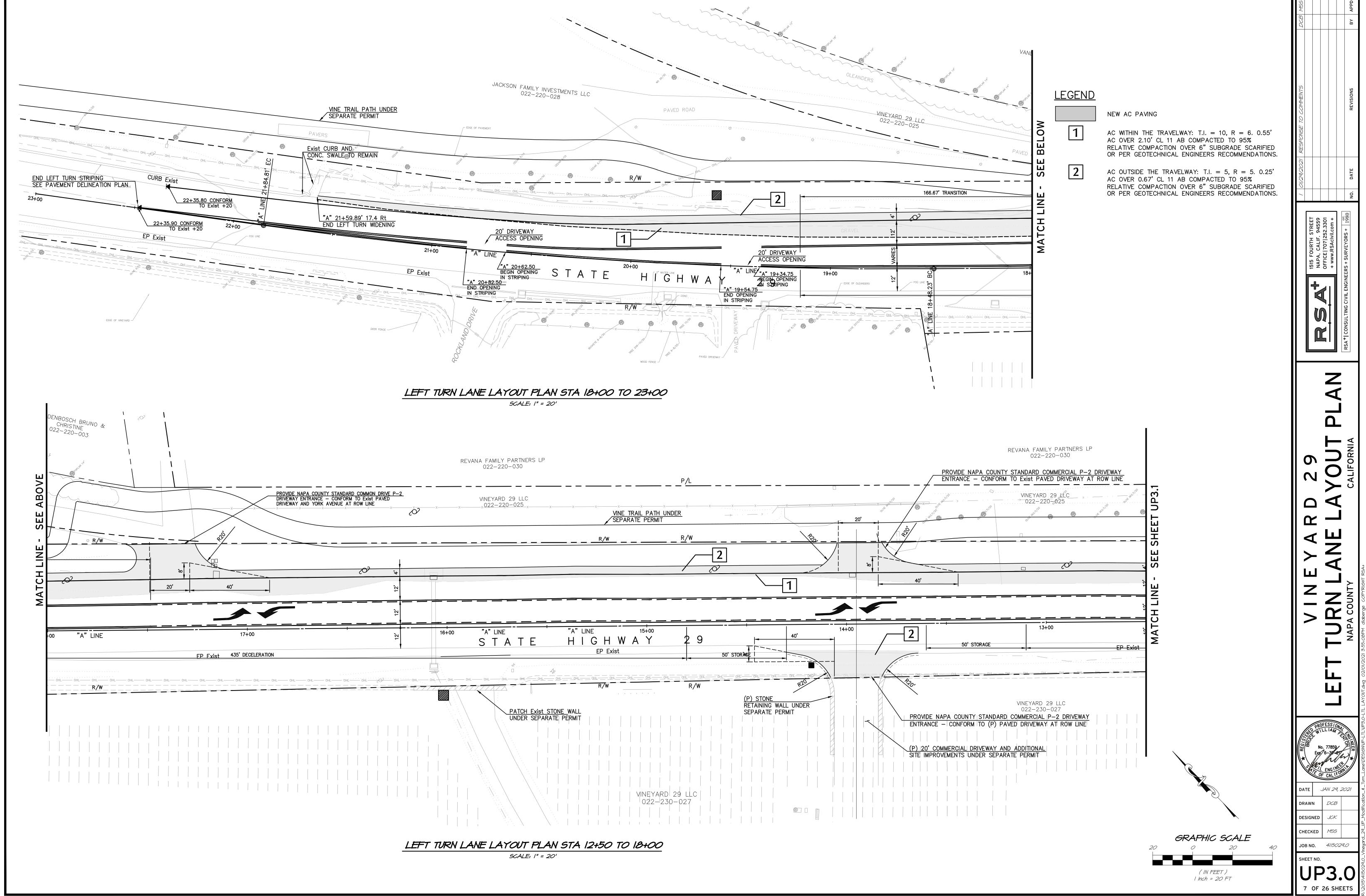


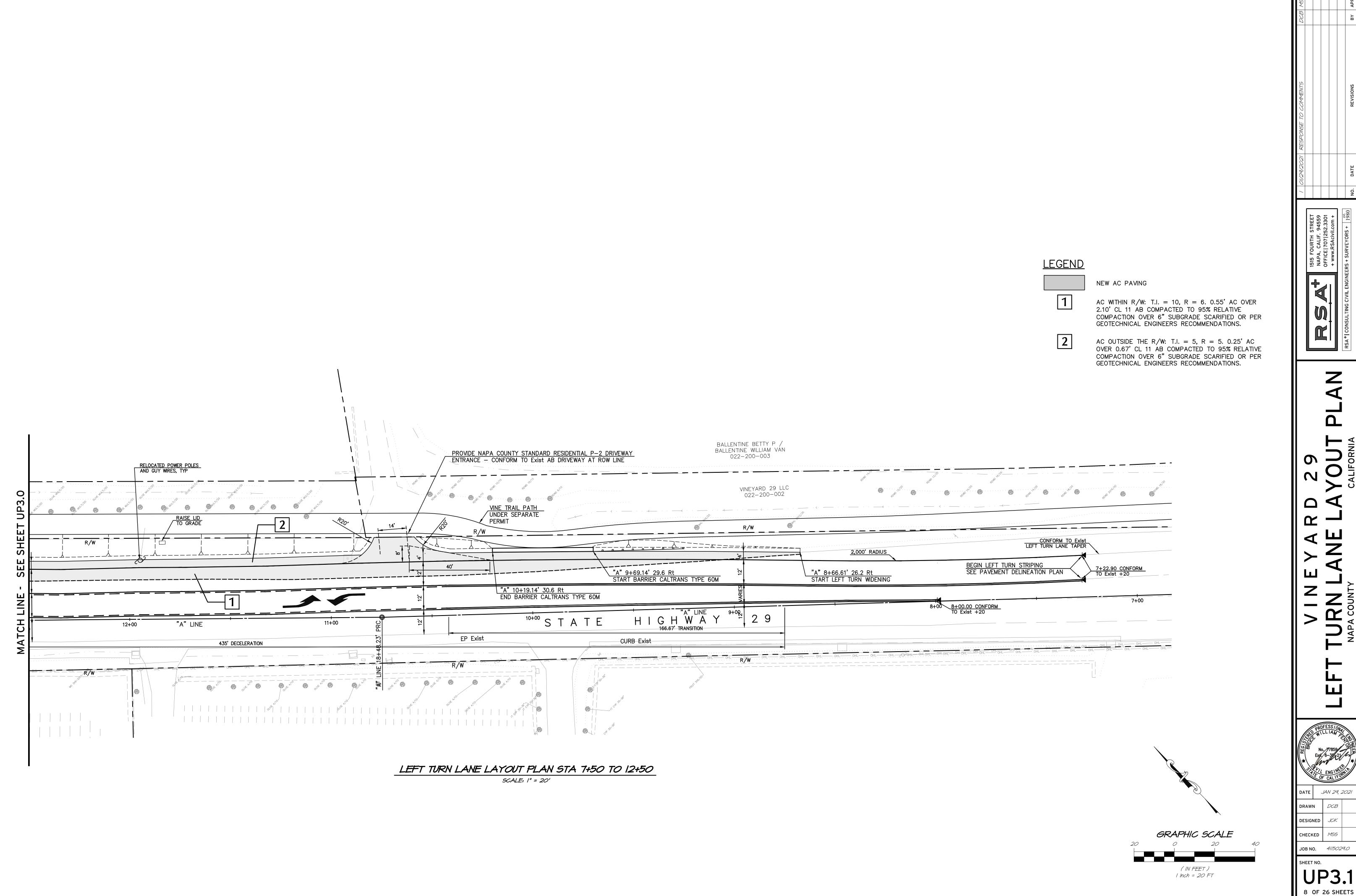


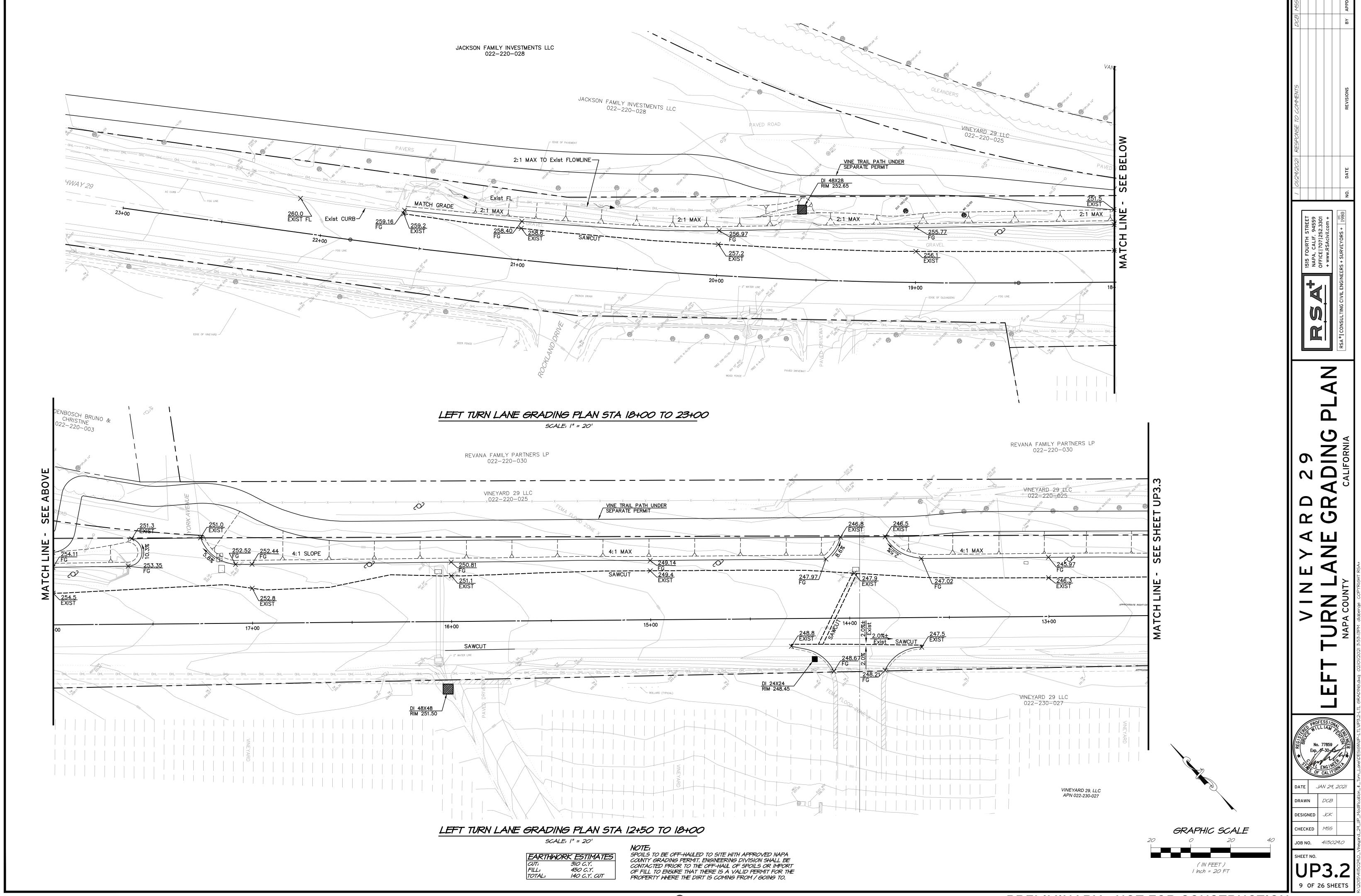


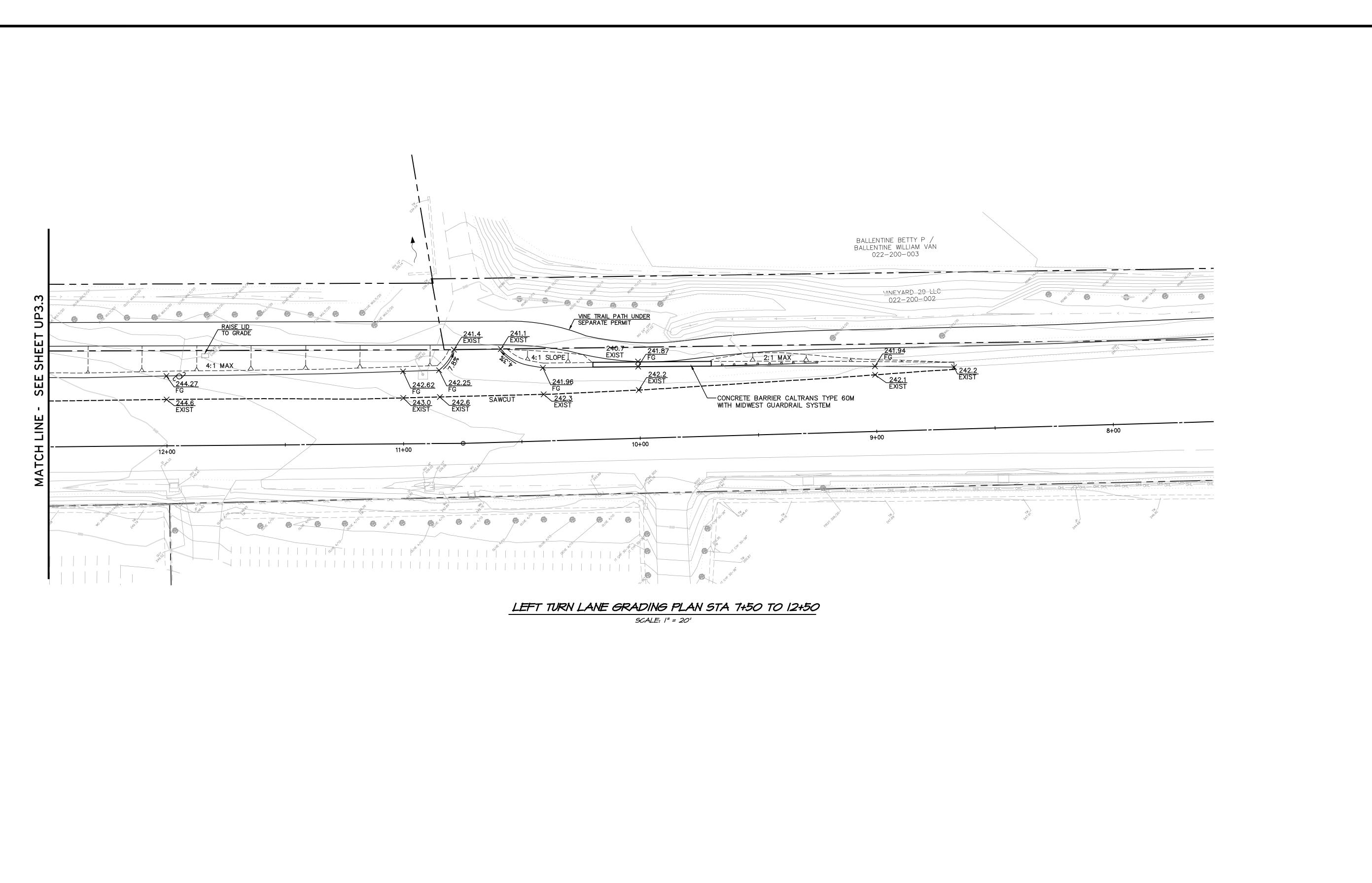


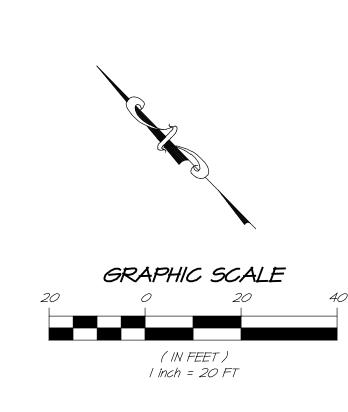








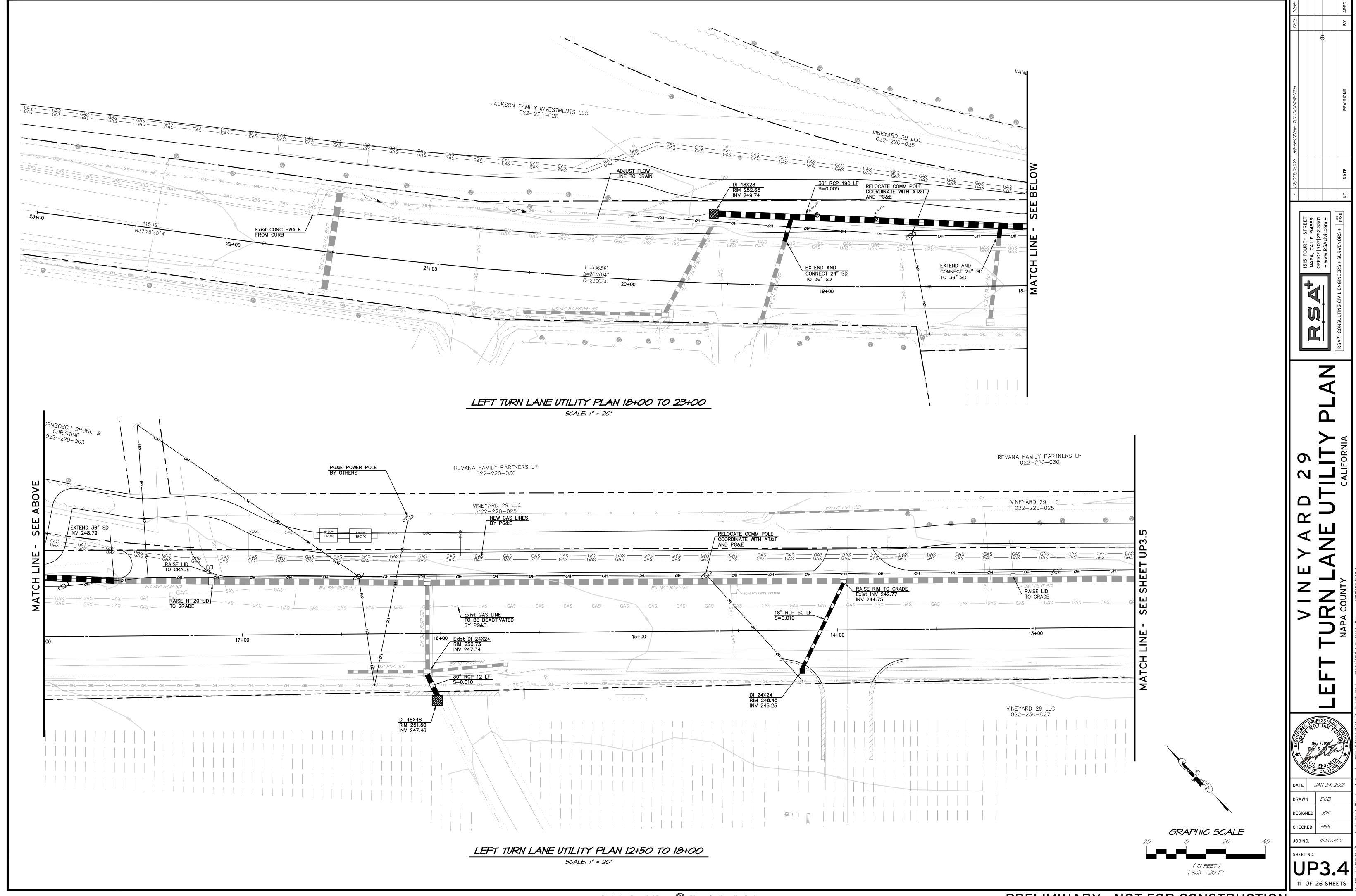


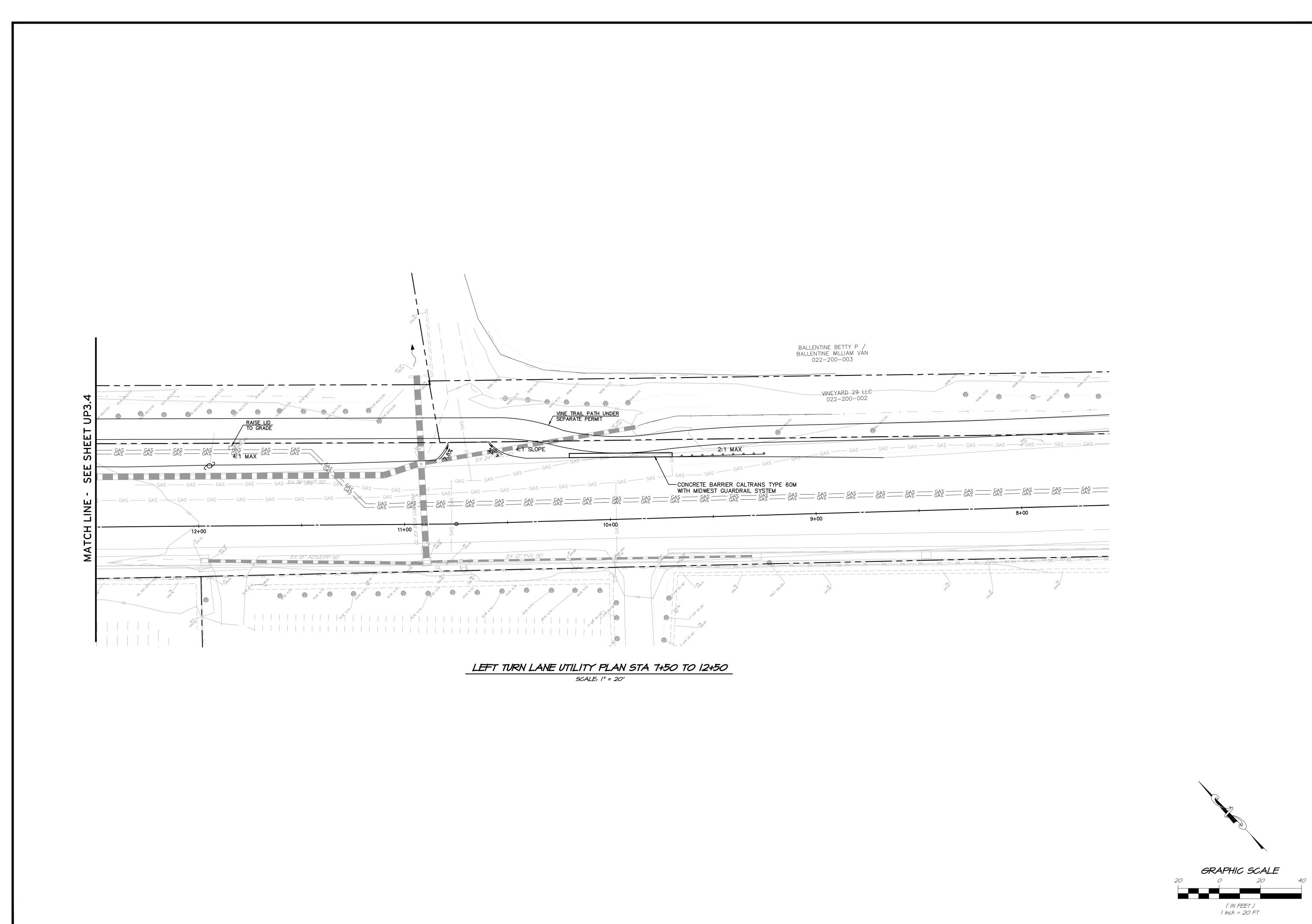


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DATE JAN 29, 2021

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