Project Description

SWEETWATER PLACE

(County Assessor Parcel Number 505-231-36)
General Plan Amendment GPA-14-003; Rezone REZ-14-003;
Tentative Map Condominium TM-5588 RPL-1; and Site Plan STP-14-015 RPL-1
Environmental Log No. ER-14-19-005

Location/Existing Conditions

The Project site is located in the community of Spring Valley within the unincorporated area of southwestern San Diego County. To the northwest/north is the City of La Mesa; to the north/northeast is the community of Valle de Oro (within San Diego County); to the southeast is the community of Jamul (within the County); to the southeast/south is the community of Sweetwater (within the County); to the southwest/west is the City of San Diego; and, to the west is the City of Lemon Grove.

The approximately 20-acre (gross)/17.1-acre (net) Project site is located at the northwestern corner of Sweetwater Springs Boulevard and Jamacha Boulevard. The site address is 2657 Sweetwater Springs Boulevard. The County Assessor Parcel Number (APN) is 505-231-36; refer to Figure 1, Regional/Local Vicinity Map.

The site was originally designated as future right-of-way for extension of State Highway 54 (SR 54). The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has since abandoned the SR 54 extension and sold the property at auction as excess right-of-way. The new (current) owner of the Project site is SAM Sweetwater, LLC.

The Project site was previously utilized as a retail nursery (Evergreen Nursery). Evergreen Nursery has since ceased operation and vacated the site. The site is currently 100% disturbed due to the previous use. Onsite vegetation communities include disturbed habitat (19.69 acres) and disturbed wetlands (0.64 acre); offsite vegetation within the Project survey area includes disturbed Encelia scrub (1.04 acres) and disturbed wetlands (0.03 acre).

The property slopes upward from Sweetwater Springs Boulevard along its easterly boundary, with the majority of the site leveling off and being generally flat. Onsite elevations range from approximately 492 feet above mean sea level (amsl) near the northeast corner of the property to approximately 441 feet amsl near the southwest corner of the property. No steep slopes or areas subject to landslides are present onsite.

Existing land uses surrounding the Project site include undeveloped land to the west/southwest across Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, which is planned for a residential development known as "The Pointe;" however, a number of homes associated with this development have been constructed to date. Other land uses include a commercial strip mall anchored by a gas station adjacent to the southeast corner of the site; a vegetated County detention basin further to the southeast, adjacent to Sweetwater Springs Boulevard (south side of Jamacha Boulevard); a self-storage facility, Mardi Gras Café and Market building, and Sweetwater Lodge mobile-home park to the south across Jamacha Boulevard; another self-storage facility adjacent to the southwest; a vacant lot adjacent to northwest; and, a business park adjacent to the

northern property boundary. Single-family residential uses are also present further to the north, adjacent to Austin Drive and to the northeast/east across Calavo Drive. Refer to Figure 2, Surrounding Land Uses.

General Plan Land Use and Zoning

The existing County of San Diego General Plan land use designation is Public/Semi-Public with an underlying land use designation of RL-80 (Rural Lands). A General Plan Amendment (GPA) is required to change the current General Plan designator from RL-80 to a Village Residential (VR-7.3) designator. The Regional Category of Village applies to the property; no change to the Regional Category is proposed with the Project.

The Project site is identified in the Spring Valley Community Plan as a "Special Study Area (SSA) – Sweetwater Springs Boulevard and Jamacha Boulevard." The SSA totals approximately 34 acres, extending northward of the Project site across Calavo Drive (two non-contiguous sites); however, the proposed Project site represents approximately 20.35 acres of the overall SSA. The remaining land within the SSA is not part of the proposed Project. The remaining land will not be affected by Project implementation and will remain unchanged in its present state. The SSA designation requires that additional analysis be prepared to determine an appropriate land use for the affected properties. Additionally, the County provides specific goals and policies intended to guide future development of properties designated as SSA.

The Project site is currently zoned as S-90 (Holding Zone). A Rezone is requested to change the current Use Regulation for the site from S-90 to a RV-Variable Family Use Regulation to allow for the proposed condominium units. The Rezone will allow for a "K" designator for building type to allow for condominium style of development; a "G" height designator to allow for 2-story structures (maximum 35 feet); a "V" designator to allow for varied setbacks; a "J" designator for open space; deletion of the "S" neighborhood/animal regulations designator; and, a "B" designator for Special Area Regulations. Refer to Tables 1 and 2 below which show the existing and proposed zoning for the subject property.

Table 1. Existing Zoning		
APN:	505-231-36	
Use Regulations	S90 – Holding Zone	
Neighborhood/Animal	S	
Regulations		
	Density	
	Lot Size	6,000
	Building Type	W
Development Regulations	Maximum	
	Floor Area	
	Floor Area	
	Ratio	
	Height	G
	Lot Coverage	
	Setback	E
	Open Space	
Special Area Regulations		В
Table 2. Proposed Zoning		

APN:	505-231-36	
Use Regulations	RV - Variable Family	
Neighborhood/Animal		
Regulations		
	Density	
	Lot Size	6,000
	Building Type	K
Development Regulations	Maximum	
	Floor Area	
	Floor Area	
	Ratio	
	Height	G
	Lot Coverage	
	Setback	V
	Open Space	J
Special Area Regulations		В

Proposed Project

The Project proposes a 122-unit residential condominium development with exclusive backyards, attached two-car garages, a 2.08-acre public park, private and group useable open space, a riding and hiking trail, pedestrian pathways, and a series of greenbelt open areas. The units will be accessed by a series of 24-foot wide access drives within the interior of the property. Conceptual architectural design for the Project has been prepared, offering various housing styles and sizes. Additionally, landscaping is proposed for the main entryway, common areas, and a public park in order to enhance the visual appearance of the development and blend it into the existing setting within the community. Refer to Figure 3A, Site Plan; and, Figures 3B and 3C, Site Plan – Architectural Details.

<u>Open Space</u>: Integrated into the development will be private useable open space areas [minimum 350 square feet (s.f.) per unit] adjoining each unit, along with group useable open space located within the public park (minimum of 150 s.f. per unit). Each residential unit will also have a fenced exclusive use backyard area.

Parking: Parking for the condominium units (attached two-car garage), guest parking (on private access drives), and parking for recreational open space (public park) will be provided at ratios consistent with or exceeding County parking requirements for each use type. Each condo unit will have a driveway 19 feet in length (minimum) to accommodate parked vehicles. Portions of several onsite private access drives will be constructed to accommodate limited on-street parking stalls. All onsite access drives proposed will be designed to maintain a 24-foot width at all times, including those roadways where on-street parking will be accommodated. The CC&R's to be adopted for the Project shall specify that the Homeowners Association (HOA) will have the authority to tow any cars that are parked in areas where on-street parking is not allowed. Additionally, all onsite roadways/access drives (public and private) shall be posted with signage indicating that cars parked in areas where on-street parking is prohibited shall be towed at the owner's expense without notice.

All onsite roadways/access drives (public and private) shall be posted with signage indicating that cars parked in areas where on-street parking is prohibited shall be towed at the owner's expense without notice. Additionally, all street curbs shall be painted with a red line eight inches tall with "NO PARKING FIRE LANE" stenciled in white letters six inches tall. The stencil shall be placed every 50 feet.

<u>Internal Drives</u>: Private internal drives will be improved to 24 feet in width to support internal circulation and fire protection services. The maximum length of the dead-end drives will be 150 feet. No cul-de-sacs at these locations are proposed. The internal dead-end drives will be constructed of permeable pavement. A five-foot wide sidewalk will be provided along one side of the main interior roadway, ultimately providing internal pedestrian linkage between Jamacha Boulevard and Sweetwater Springs Boulevard.

Parks and Trails: The Project proposes to dedicate, improve, and maintain a 2.08-acre public community park for use by both Sweetwater place residents and the general public; refer to Figure 3D, Conceptual Landscape Plan, and Figure 4, Proposed Public Community Park - Visual Simulations. The public park will be a major focal area for community gathering and recreation. The park will include a small-scale amphitheater to enable public events such as plays or concerts. To ensure that potential noise generated by public use of the park and/or amphitheater is minimized, no amplified sound (i.e. use of sound systems) will be permitted. Access to the public park/amphitheater and 29 parking spaces will be provided via a proposed public road extending easterly from Sweetwater Springs Boulevard. The public park will satisfy County Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) requirements, as well as the requirement for the provision of group useable open space per the County Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, private useable open space will be provided within the exclusive back yard areas of the residential units.

Consistent with the County Trails Network (and Spring Valley Community Plan), the Project proposes provision of an 8-foot wide public riding and hiking trail (within a 12-foot wide graded easement) along the northern side of Jamacha Boulevard to enhance the existing public pedestrian network. A series of pedestrian pathways are proposed within the Project boundaries to enhance connectivity and circulation throughout the site and provide linkage to the public park. Access from the Jamacha Road public trail to the residential portion of the Project and public park has been provided. Additionally, a 10-foot wide (cleared) trail easement is located along the eastern Project boundary (for future construction of a public trail by others); no physical trail improvements are proposed with the Project along this easement.

<u>Water Quality Basins</u>: A series of shallow water quality basins are proposed within the development footprint in the southern portion of the site. Additionally, the internal (dead-end) drives will be constructed of permeable pavement to combine with the basins to form an onsite water quality treatment network.

<u>Sound Walls</u>: To minimize potential roadway noise, sound walls (6 feet in height as measured from ground surface) will be constructed along a portion of the boundary of the proposed residential development area; refer to Figure 3A, Site Plan. The sound walls will allow for noise levels to be reduced to a level consistent with that required by the County of San Diego General Plan Noise Element.

<u>Fire, Water, Sewer, Storm Drain</u>: The site will be served by the San Miguel Fire Protection District for fire service. The Otay Water District will provide public water service, and the San Diego County (Spring Valley) Sanitation District will provide public sewer service.

The Project proposes improvements to convey storm water flows from offsite properties that currently flow aboveground across the site within a proposed underground 54-inch pipe for outflow to an existing storm drain at the southwest corner of the site near Jamacha Boulevard. Additionally, onsite storm water flows will be captured and treated via proposed onsite bioretention basins. Onsite stormwater flows will discharge from the Project site in two locations. The majority of the site will discharge to the existing storm drain system within Jamacha Boulevard, consistent with pre-development conditions. The westerly portion of the site will discharge to Sweetwater Springs Boulevard, and flows will continue southwesterly via curb and gutter, consistent with pre-development conditions.

<u>Street Improvements</u>: Main access to the site will occur from Jamacha Boulevard at the intersection of Folex Way. The intersection will be signalized to ensure adequate public safety and circulation. The entrance drive will be constructed to extend into the site from the intersection with Jamacha Boulevard. An exclusive eastbound left-turn lane is proposed on Jamacha Boulevard, and the existing exclusive northbound left-turn lane will be restriped to a shared thru/left-turn lane.

Secondary access is proposed off of Sweetwater Springs Boulevard via extension of an onsite public roadway terminating in a cul-de-sac. This road will also provide access to the proposed public park and associated surface parking area (29 spaces total). The Project proposes right in and right out (northbound) movements along Sweetwater Springs Boulevard. Additionally, an exclusive southbound left-turn pocket will be constructed on Sweetwater Springs Boulevard. Outbound left-turn movements exiting the driveway from the site will be prohibited by construction of a median on Sweetwater Springs Boulevard. The intersection will be unsignalized and will be controlled by a stop sign.

The County of San Diego General Plan Mobility Element classifies Jamacha Boulevard and Sweetwater Springs Boulevard as Major Roads with a bike lane. The Project proposes to improve Jamacha Boulevard and Sweetwater Springs Boulevard to a 55-foot half-width with curb, gutter, and sidewalks and a bike lane.

<u>Landscaping</u>: Ornamental landscaping will be provided within the onsite common areas, along Project roadways, and at the Project entryways to visually enhance the proposed development and blend the site into the existing surrounding setting. A Conceptual Landscape Plan has been prepared to illustrate the anticipated planting arrangements and types of plants that will be used. The Conceptual Landscape Plan will be subject to review for consistency with the Spring Valley Design Review Guidelines. Maintenance of landscaping within the private common areas will be the responsibility of the HOA (back yard private open space for each unit is excluded). *Entitlements*

The proposed Project will require County approval of a General Plan Amendment, Rezone, Tentative Map/Condominium, Site Plan, and Grading Plan filed concurrently to implement the proposed development plans.

<u>General Plan Amendment</u>: The existing County of San Diego General Plan land use designation is Public/Semi-Public with an underlying land use designation of RL-80 (Rural Lands). The site was originally designated on the County's General Plan as Public/Semi-Public to mirror the original intended use of the property as Caltrans right-of-way. A General Plan Amendment (GPA) is required to change the current General Plan designator from RL-80 to a Village Residential (RV-7.3) designator. The Regional Category of Village applies to the property; no change to the Regional Category is proposed with the Project.

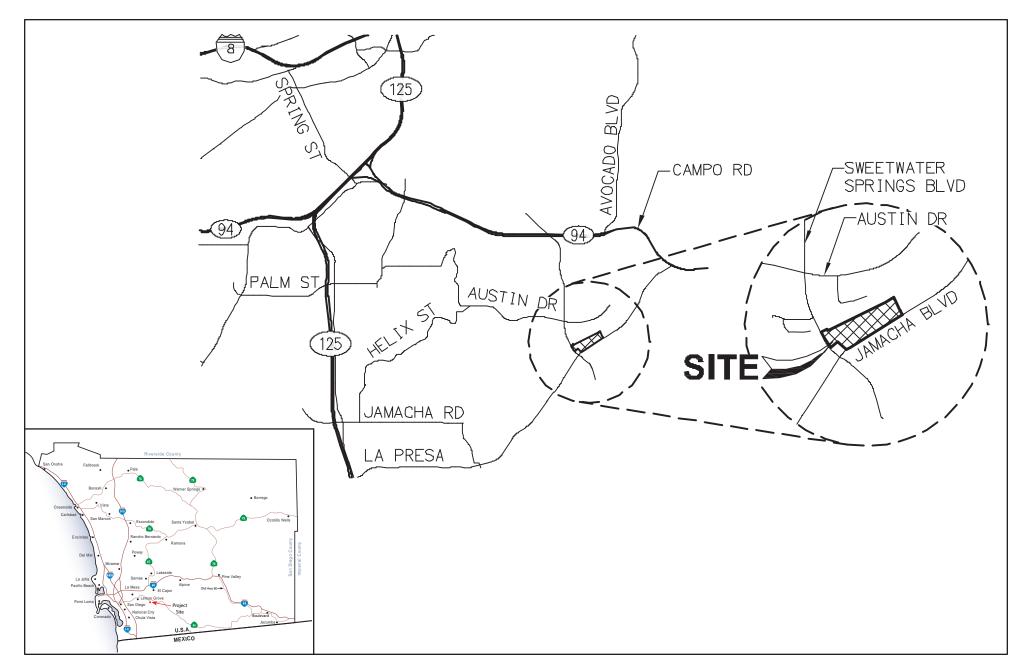
<u>Rezone</u>: A Rezone is required to change the site's current Use Regulation from S-90 (Holding Zone) to a RV - Variable Family Use Regulation to allow for the proposed condominium units. The Rezone will allow for a "K" Building Type designator to allow for condominium-style development; a "G" height designator to allow for 2-story structures; a "V" designator to allow for varied setbacks; a "J" designator for open space; deletion of the "S" neighborhood/animal regulations designator; and, a "B" designator for Special Area Regulations to ensure consistency with the Spring Valley Design Review Guidelines.

<u>Tentative Map/Condominium</u>: A Tentative Map/Condominium is required to subdivide the site into 122 condominium units. The development will include private drives, exclusive use areas for each unit, passive recreational area, and a series of open greenbelt areas. The common areas, including the private drives, private open space areas, onsite water quality basins, noise walls, and site entries will be maintained by the HOA. The property will be subdivided into two separate legal lots. One lot will support the proposed onsite public park and associated surface parking area. The lot will be dedicated to the County for long-term maintenance. The other lot will support the residential development, private drives, exclusive use areas for each unit, common areas, water quality basins, noise walls, and site entries (does not include public road right-of-way for entry drive off of Sweetwater Springs Boulevard).

<u>Site Plan</u>: A Site Plan is required to implement the site's architectural component, as well as a mechanism to comply with the Spring Valley Town Center Special Study Area requirements. The Site Plan is required to implement the proposed "V" designator for setbacks and the "B" designator (Special Area Regulations) to ensure consistency with the Spring Valley Design Review Guidelines.

<u>Grading Plan</u>: A Grading Plan is required to illustrate existing site topography and proposed grading required in order to accommodate the proposed development. As designed, the Grading Plan for the Project indicates minor grading (50,000 c.y.) of balanced cut and fill will be required.

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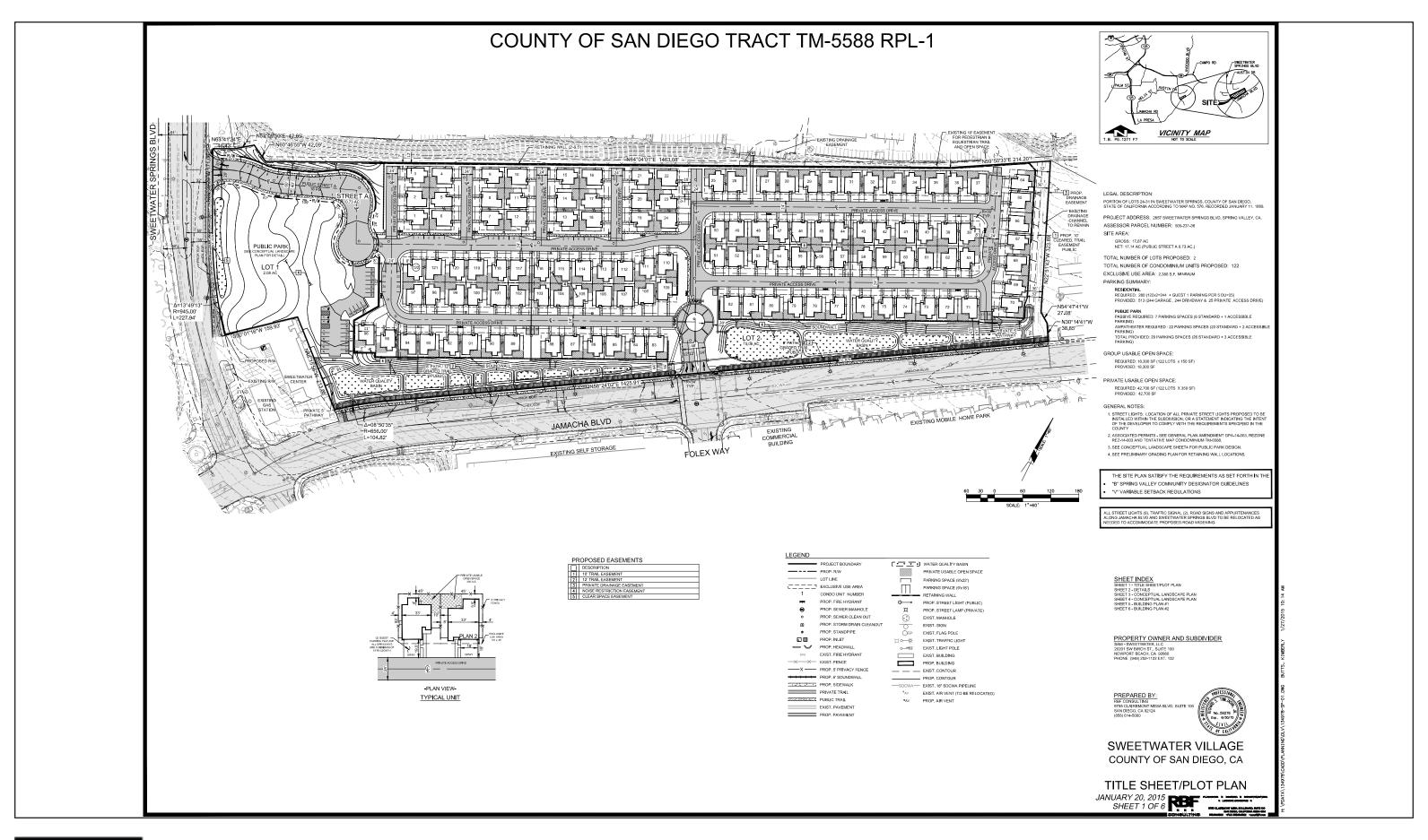




REGIONAL/LOCAL VICINITY MAP



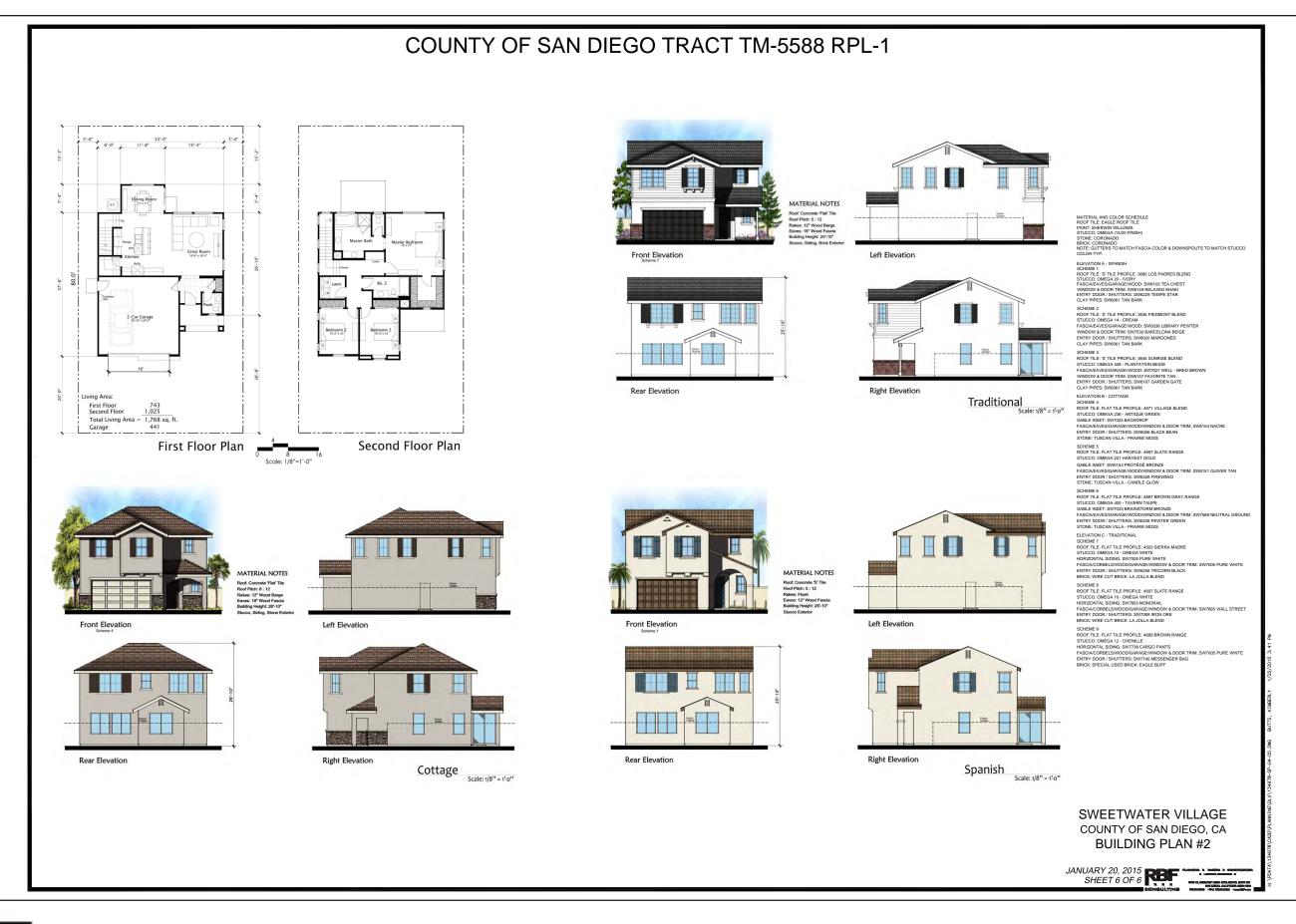














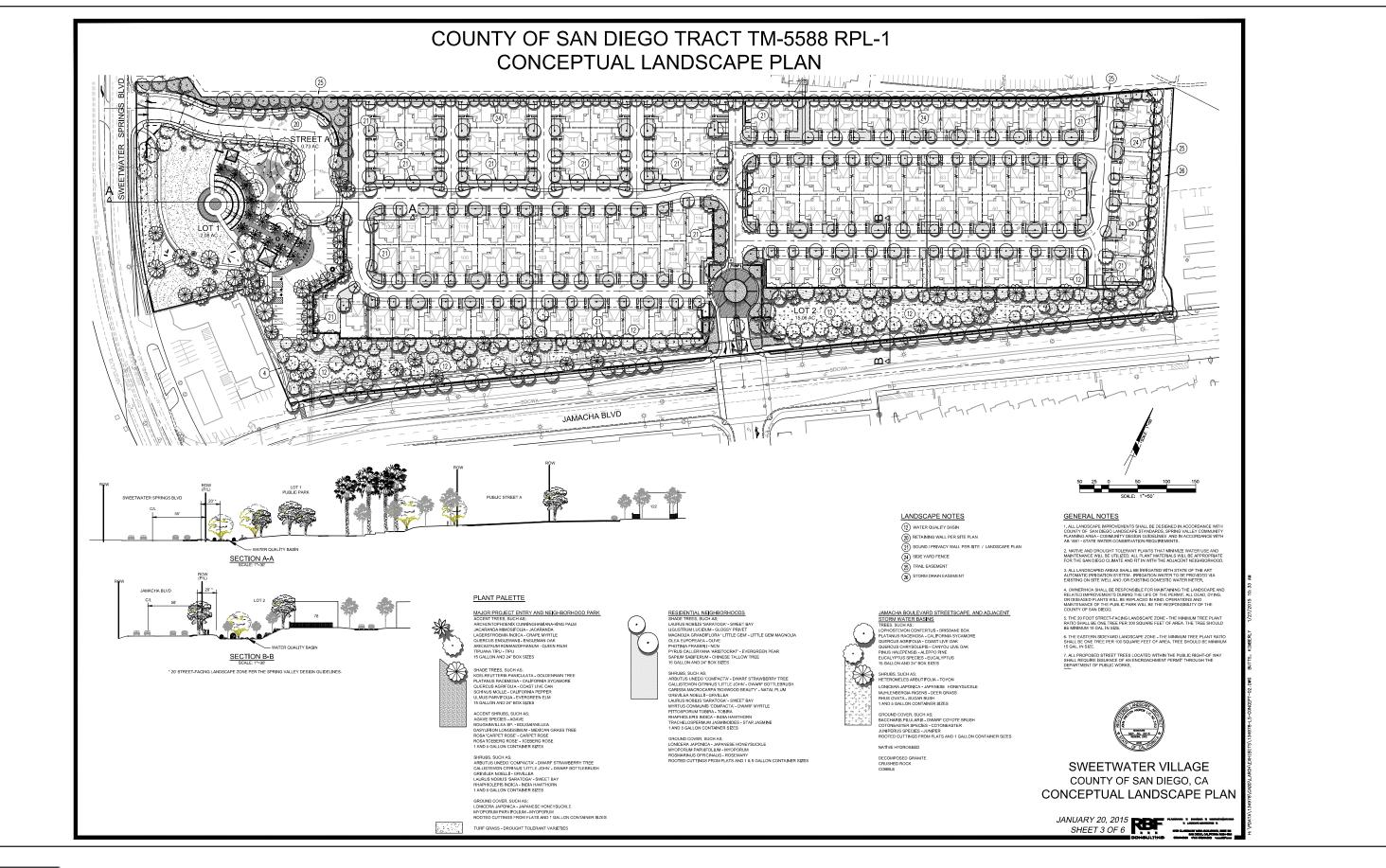






Photo 1: View looking north to proposed amphitheater within public community park.



Photo 2: View looking northwest from proposed parking area to public community park.

