



staff report

Report No. 1

To: Laura Fischer, General Manager
Board of Directors

From: Justina G. Arce, The Holt Group, Inc.

Date: August 12, 2016

Project: California State Department of Parks and Recreation Grant Application under
The Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program

Summary

Subject of Report: HPUD Ball Field Grant Opportunity

Project Location: APN 054-540-057

Pending Action: Public Hearing:

Review and Approval of the following actions:

- Provide Directive Regarding Type of Ball Fields
- Authorize Expenditures for Conditional Use Permit

Environmental: CEQA-County would be Lead Agency

Introduction & Background

The District has been actively seeking grant funding opportunities for recreational activities and facilities to serve the Heber Community. The Heber Public Utility District is developing a proposal to be submitted to the California State Department of Parks and Recreation under the Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program to construct a ball field. The intent of the Youth Soccer Program is to award grants on a competitive basis for "fostering the development of new youth soccer, baseball, softball, and basketball recreation opportunities...(in) heavily populated, low-income urban areas with a high youth crime and unemployment rate" to Local Agencies and Community-Based Organizations. As approved by the Legislature, this program will have an emphasis on creating NEW OPPORTUNITIES along with WATER CONSERVATION measures. Specifically, under consideration is an artificial turf baseball or soccer field, or both to be located at the vacant lot east of Correll Estates owned by the District. The subject parcel is zoned M-1 Light Manufacturing and the proposed use is not allowed by right but subject to a Conditional Use Permit. The subject matter of this report is to present options to the Board of Directors on type of ball field and also to request authorization for submission of a Conditional Use Permit Application through the County of Imperial Planning and Development Services.

Issues for Discussion

Project Scope – The project's scope of work in general is for the development of an artificial turf ball field to keep in line with the water conservation objectives of the Program. New opportunities could be tied to a soccer field since no soccer opportunities are currently available to the community or could include a combination of a baseball field and soccer field. These options could be accommodated under the current grant maximum request of \$1 million. For future consideration may be restroom facilities and/or a snack bar. Please see Exhibit A, Exhibit B, and Exhibit C and potential site concepts.

Application Process – The application requirements are not extensive but will need to be in support of the program objectives. The submission requirements include the following:

1. Application Form
2. Authorizing Resolution
3. Grant Scope/ Cost Estimate
4. Match Certification Form
5. CEQA Compliance Certification Form
6. Land Tenure
7. Site Plan
8. Photos of the Project Site
9. Project Summary
10. FACT FINDER Report (statistics)
11. Project Selection Criteria

Funding & Fiscal Impacts– The project does not require a match, however, if a match is provided up to 5 points can be awarded (application maximum points 100-including match points). The aforementioned ball field would be able to be constructed using local funds or solely grant for non-construction costs (design, permitting, and bidding) and grant funds for construction costs (contractor and construction manager). Final costs will be presented to the Board at a future date with an authorizing resolution.

Permitting- As previously noted a Conditional Use Permit will be required in order to operate an outdoor sports complex at the subject area. Imperial County is the lead agency for this process which requires a deposit of \$12,000. Please note, however, that actual CUP costs are not expected to exceed **\$10,000** for both Imperial County staff time and Planning Consultant staff time to prepare and process the CUP Application and corresponding CEQA documentation required for application compliance. If Imperial County requests a biological report, we may be closer to the \$12,000 cost estimate.

Success Feasibility- Project scoring is based on the following areas as denoted in the table below. It is our assessment that all communities (except those in metropolitan areas) will rank low under demographics since population is worth 20 points out of the 40 points with median household income and unemployment rate being worth a maximum of 10 points each. We expect Heber to score high in all other areas.

CRITERIA		POINT VALUE
1	Demographics	40
2	Community Challenges and Project Benefits	20
3	Community Involvement	10
4	Availability	10
5	Organizational Capacity	10
6	Water Conservation Measures	5
7	Matching Funds	5
Maximum Score		100

The crime index is based on calculating an average of crimes per 1,000 inhabitants. The Heber Crime index is around 117 while the crime index in California is only 74 (Source: clrsearch.com)¹. This figure represents a crime level that is 58% higher than California and 17% higher than the United States. This tells us how on average there are more crimes happening in Heber than in California and in the US. Additionally, the unemployment rate within the subject site radius is over 17% and the median household income is \$37,379.00 or 60% of the State's Median Household Income.

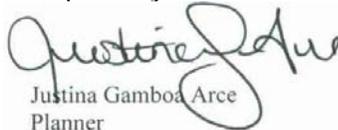
Recommendation

In order to complete drafting the grant application and submit a CUP application to Imperial County, directive is required by the Board. It is recommended that the District's Board of Directors open the Public Hearing for comment from the public and consider the following:

1. Recommend Exhibit A –Two Soccer Fields and authorize expenditures for the Conditional Use Permit Process; or
2. Recommend Exhibit B –Two Baseball Fields and authorize expenditures for the Conditional Use Permit Process; or
3. Recommend Exhibit C –A Soccer Field and a Baseball Field and authorize expenditures for the Conditional Use Permit Process; or
4. Provide Alternative Directive to Staff.

Should you have any questions and/or concerns regarding the information in this report, please feel free to contact me at (760) 337-3883. Your comments are encouraged, written or verbal, and can also be forwarded to jarce@theholtgroup.net.

Respectfully Submitted,

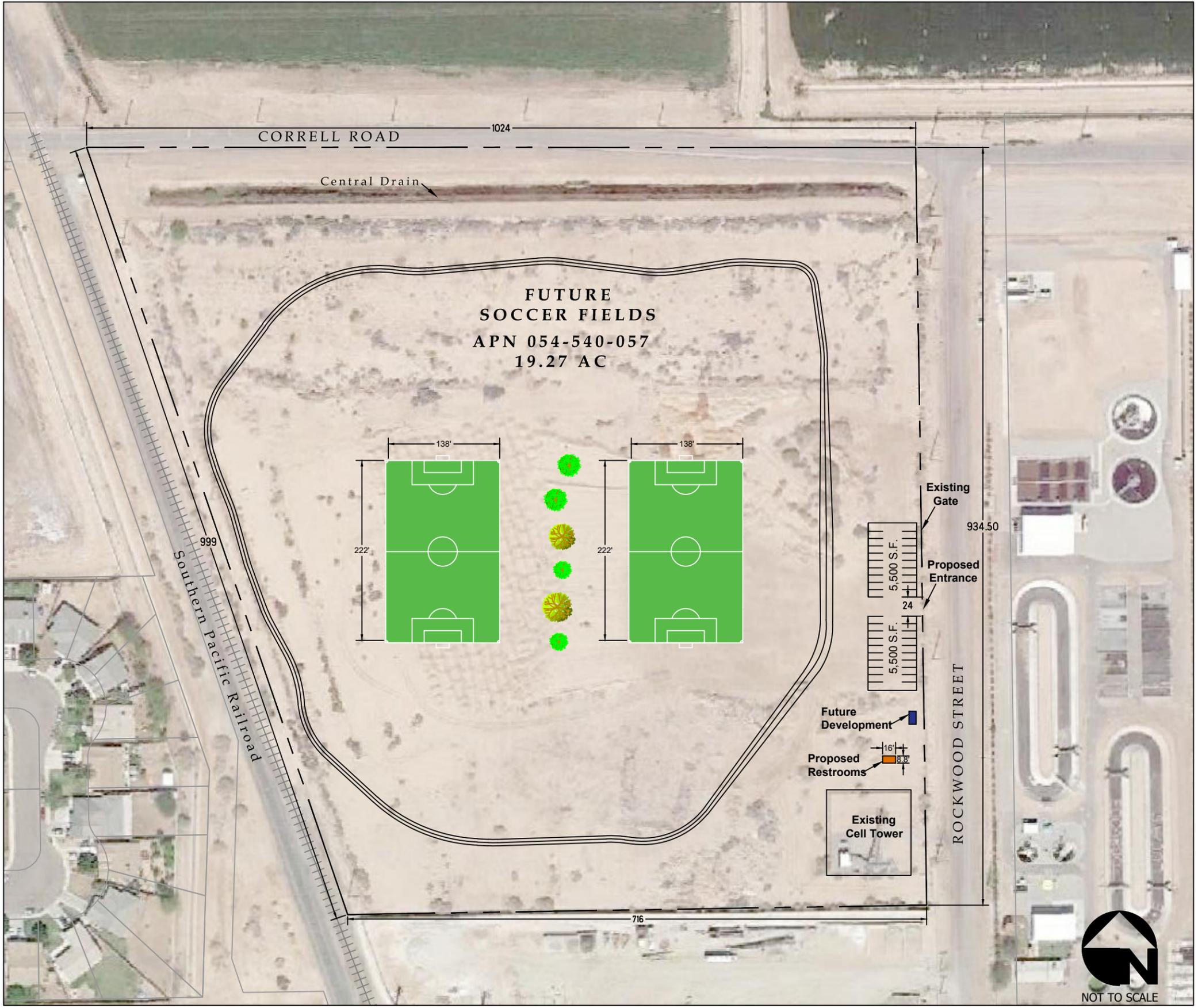


Justina Gamboa Arce
Planner

The Holt Group, Inc.

cc: Steve Walker, General Counsel
Jack Holt, District Engineer

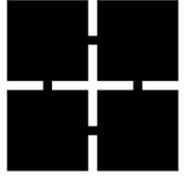
HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT
 Youth Soccer & Recreation Program
 Grant Application



LEGEND:

- Property Line
- Future Walking Trail
- Future Trees
- 2 Future Parking Lot (20 Spaces each)
- Proposed Restrooms
- Future Development (Snack Bar)

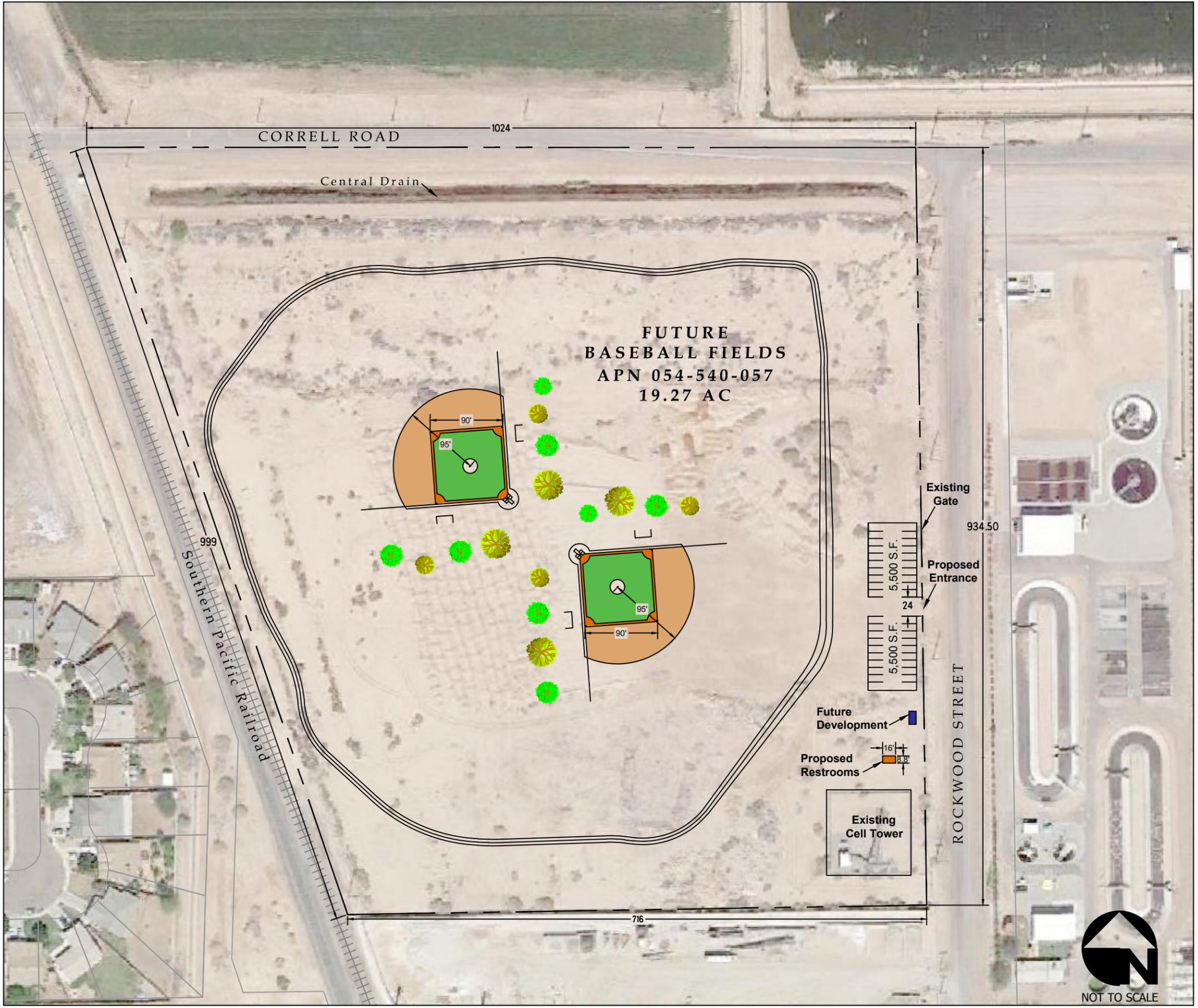
EXHIBIT A - SOCCER FIELDS



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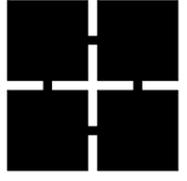


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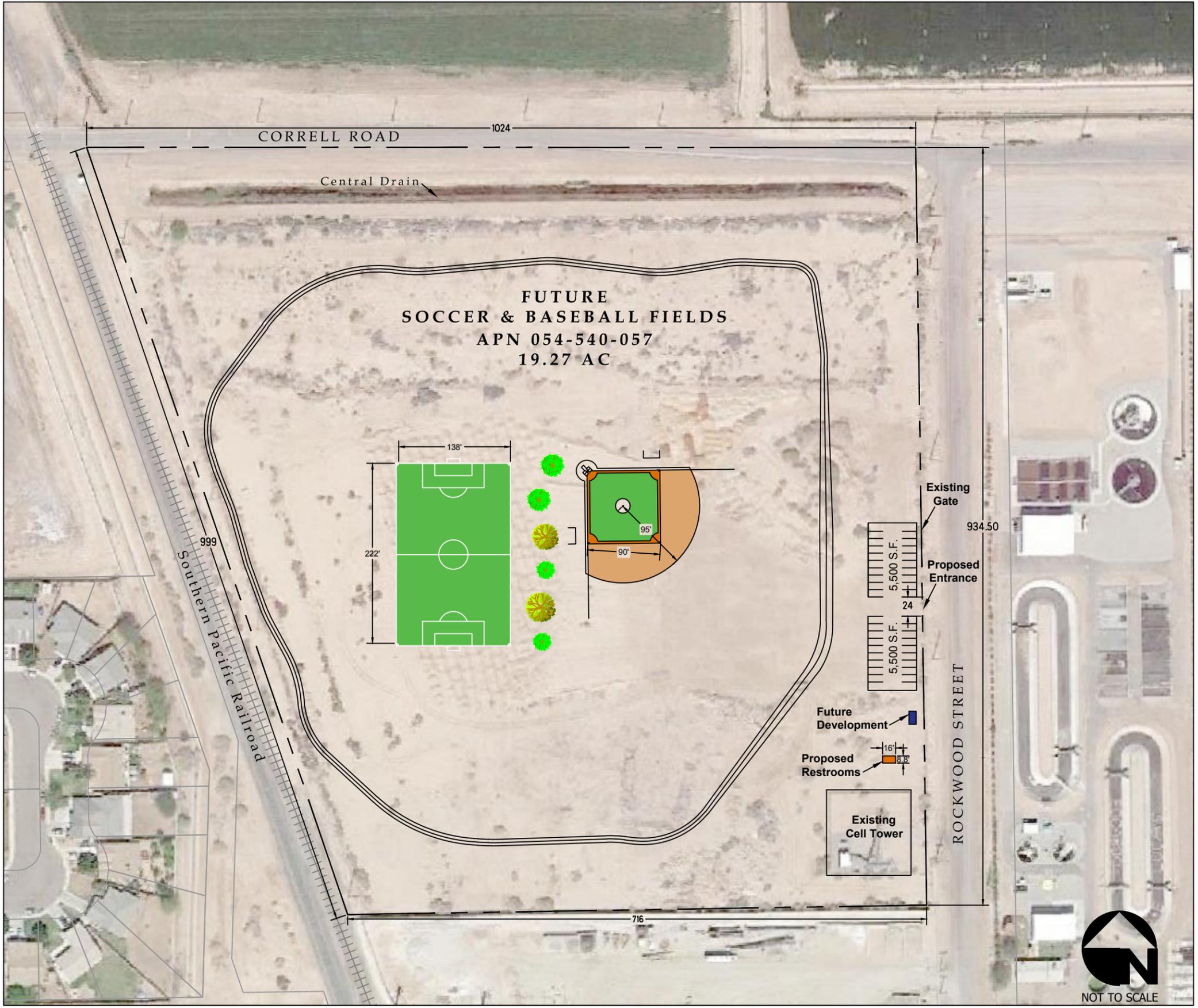
EXHIBIT B - BASEBALL FIELDS



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LEGEND:

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EXHIBIT C - SOCCER & BASEBALL FIELDS

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