SRCS Fault Trench Investigation

September 24th, 2025

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Agencies & Codes

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Division of the State Architect (DSA)

- California school construction is governed by DSA.
- In 1933, the 6.4 Magnitude Long Beach Earthquake severely damaged or destroyed most schools in the area.
- The Field Act was passed in response to ensure that schools were built to a higher standard and are more resistant to earthquakes.
- Lead to the creation of DSA and higher enforcement of seismic standards.
- Since the passage of the Field Act, no school has collapsed as a result of a seismic event.

DSA Requirements for School Construction

- Geohazard reports need to be created by a Licensed Engineering Geologist for all new public school structures and critical facilities.
- Needs to be submitted to the California Geological Survey (CGS) for their review and approval.
- Report looks at any geologic condition that is a potential damage to life or property. Geohazards include, but are not limited to, ground shaking, surface rupture, liquefaction, tsunami and landslide.

California
Department of Conservation
California Geological Survey

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Alquist - Priolo Act

- The Alquist-Priolo Act was created after the 1971 San Fernando earthquake, which caused extensive surface fault ruptures. The goal of the Act is to reduce the damage and loss of life from future earthquakes
- Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones (APEFZ) are regulatory zones surrounding the surface traces of known active faults in California. (A trace is a line on the earth's surface defining a fault.) Per the Field Act, school structures are not permitted within 50 feet of an active fault (with few exceptions for non-habitable buildings).
- Specific Fault Rupture Hazard studies (aka Fault Trench Investigations) are required in APEFZs to confirm the existence of mapped faults, determine whether they are active, and recommend appropriate setbacks conforming to the Field Act.

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Alquist Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones

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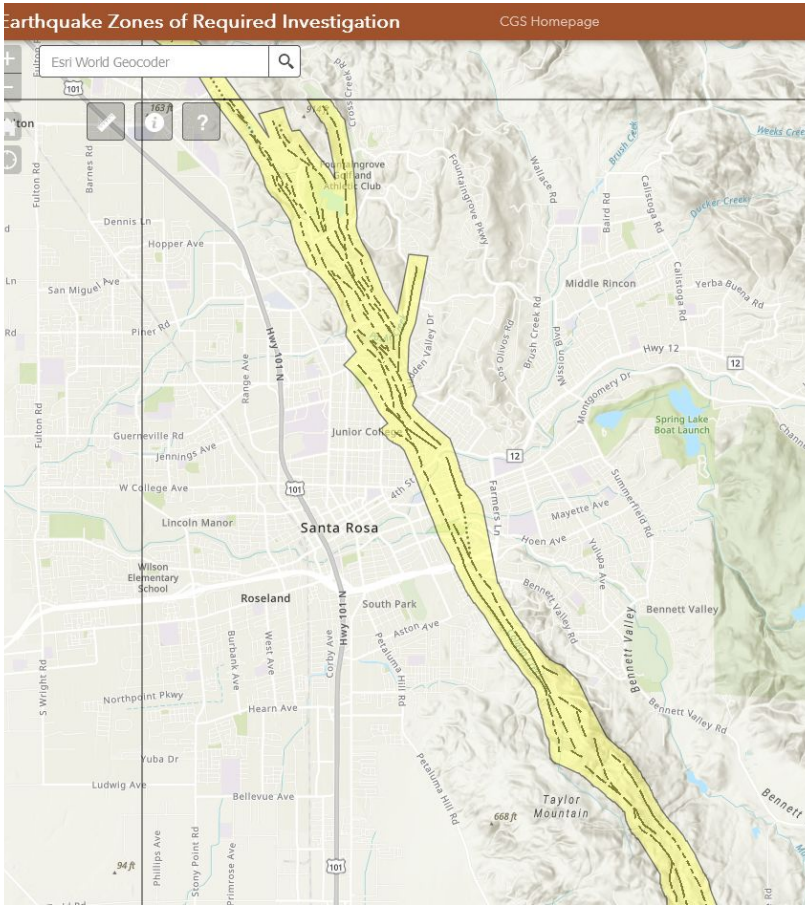
Earthquake Fault Maps

- CGS prepares and periodically updates the APEFZ maps defining where fault rupture studies are required. CGS maintains a web-based tool that identifies specific parcels that are within the APEFZ and subject to special fault studies.
- The map covering Santa Rosa (dating to 1983) was updated in February of 2024, and expanded the APEFZ to include several fault traces identified during the course of more recent academic research by USGS and CGS, and during site-specific studies around the City.
- Parcels identified in the map are either partially or fully in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone.
- SR French American Charter, Hidden Valley ES, Proctor Terrace ES and Brook Hill ES are now within the AP Zone.



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SRCS Map

2024 ALQUIST PRIOLO ZONE MAP (ORANGE)

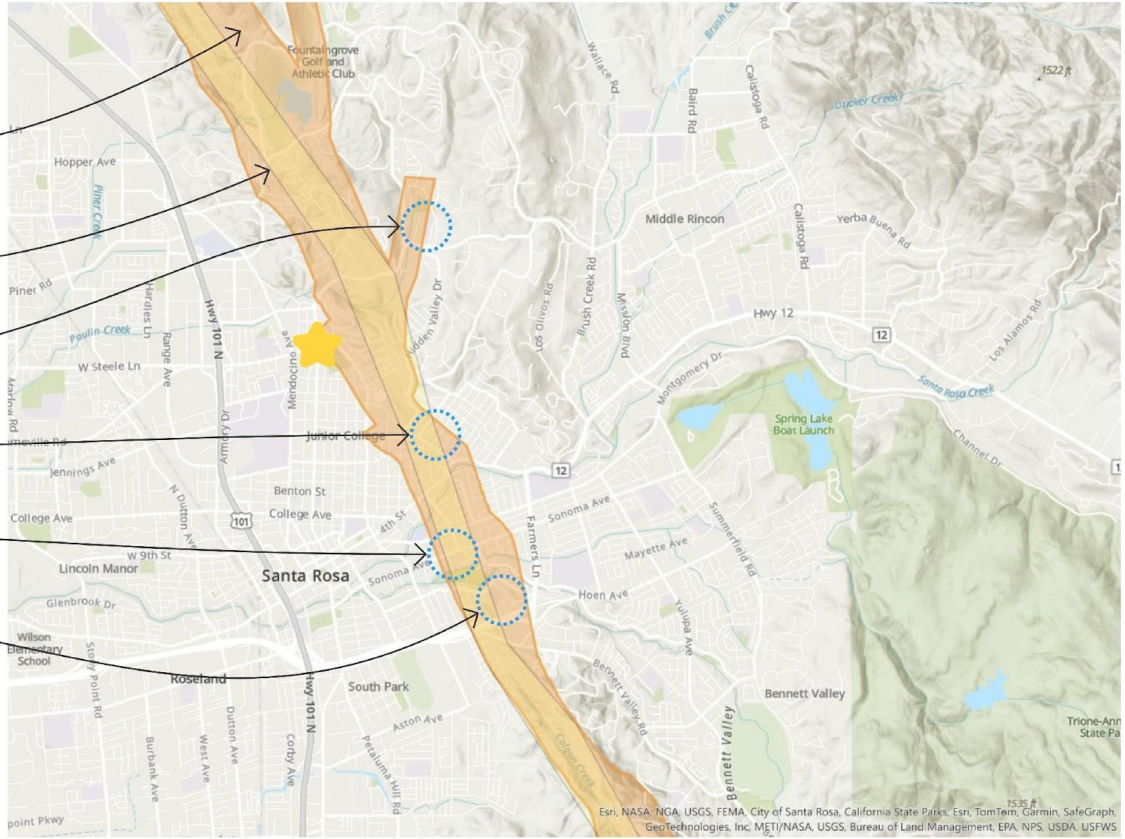
2022 ALQUIST PRIOLO ZONE MAP (YELLOW)

HIDDEN VALLEY ES

PROCTOR TERRACE ES

SRFACS

BROOK HILL ES



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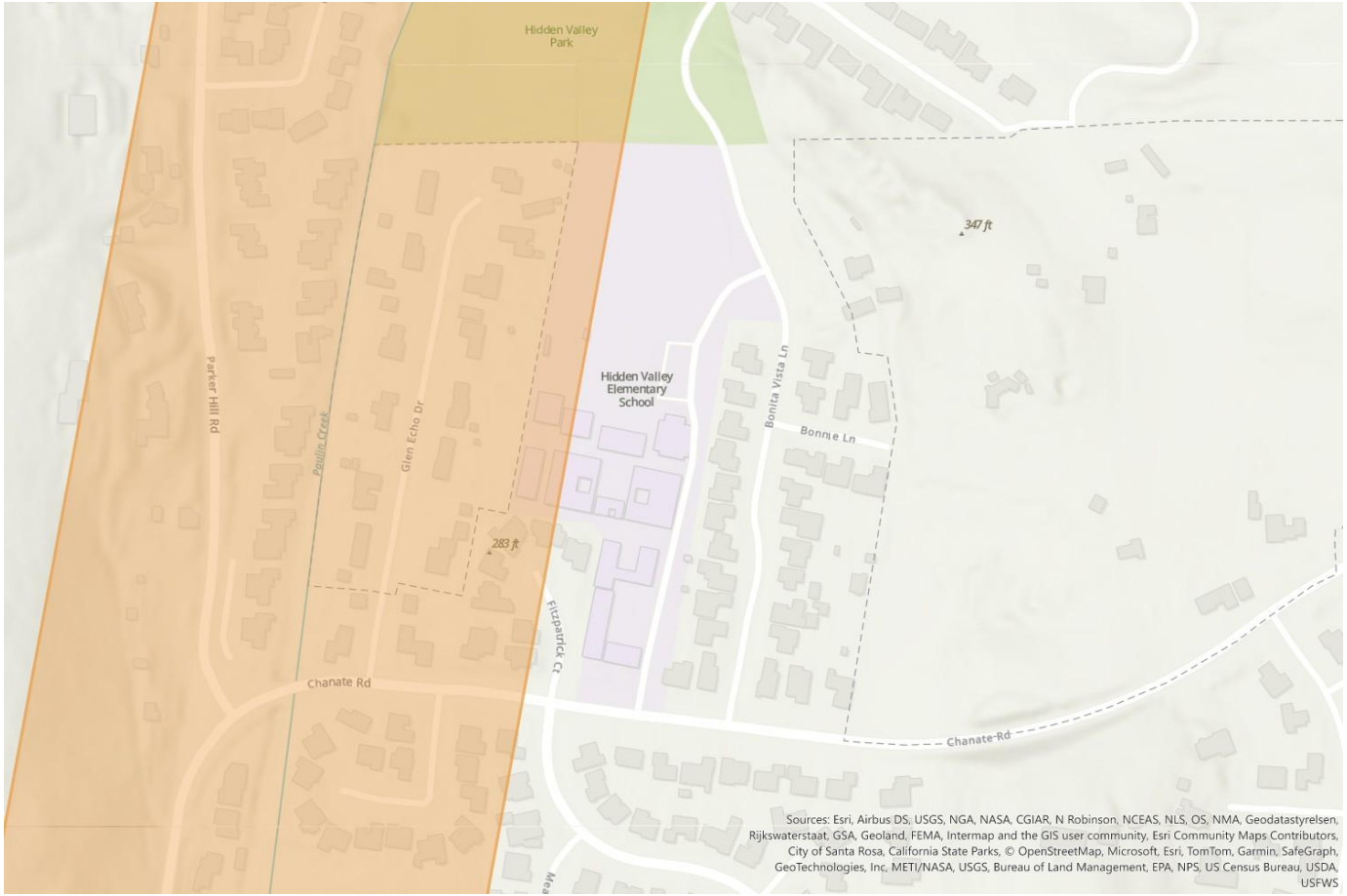
Hidden Valley ES



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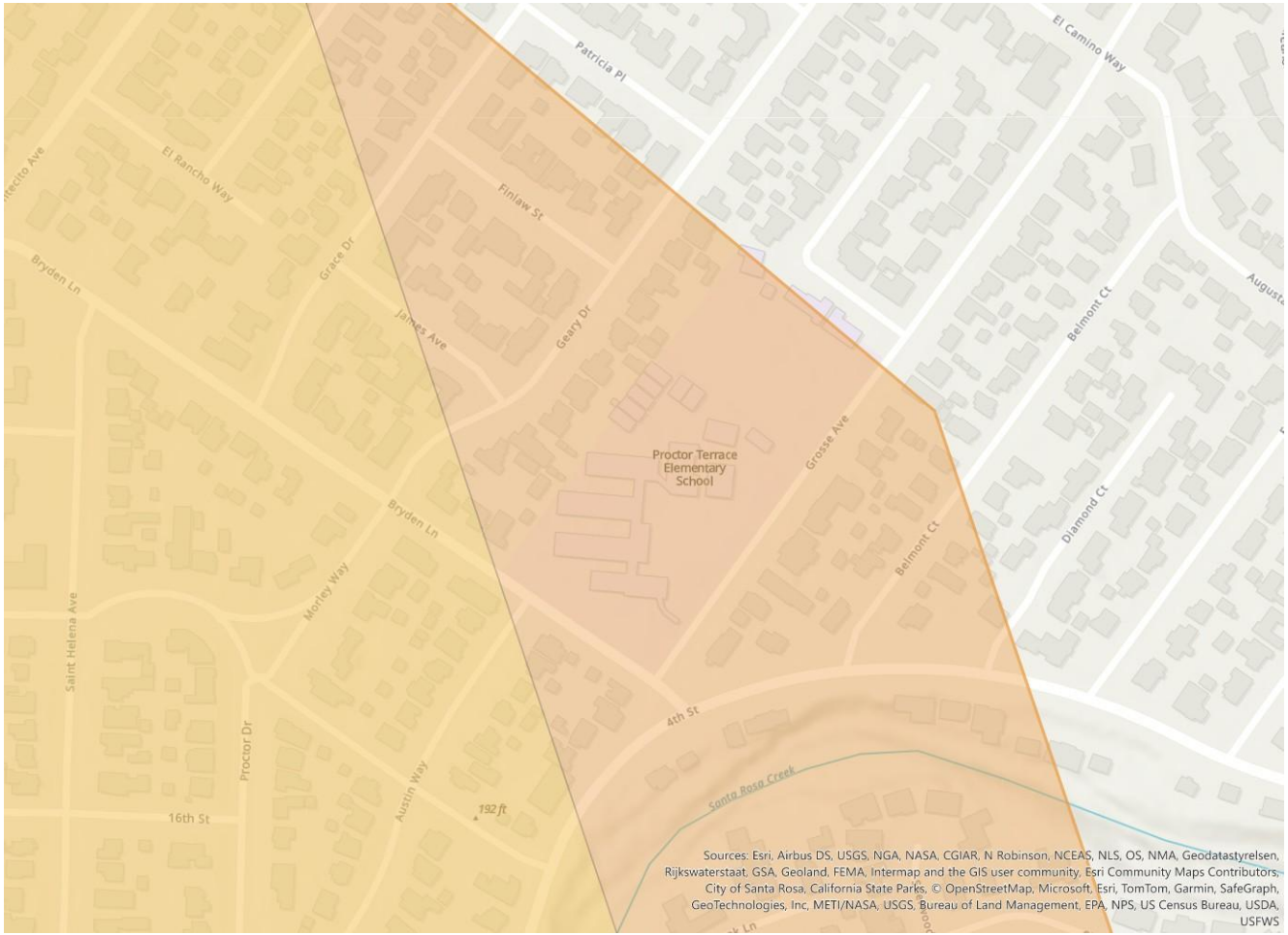
Proctor Terrace ES



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Building in an Alquist-Priolo Zone

- CA Admin Code 4-317(e): "No school building shall be constructed, rehabilitated, reconstructed or relocated within 50 feet of the trace of an active fault that has experienced surface displacement within Holocene time (approximately 11,000 years)."
- Per CGS Special Publication 42 - "faults within an APEFZ are presumed to be active until adequate evidence shows otherwise."
- *Absence of evidence* shall not count as *evidence of absence*.
- It is the District's responsibility to prove that there are no fault traces within 50 feet of planned buildings before construction projects will be allowed by CGS and DSA.

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Fault Trench Investigation Findings

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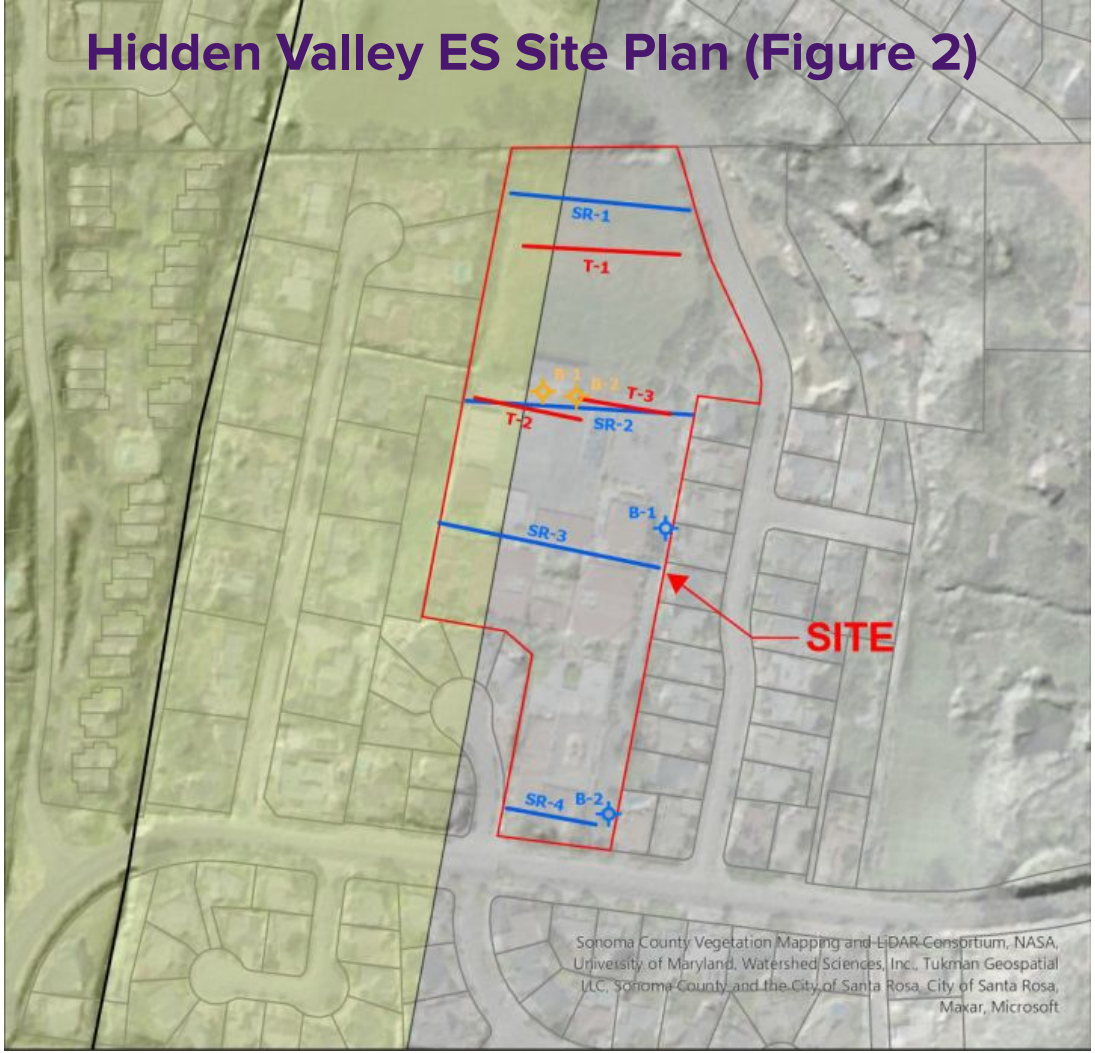
Hidden Valley ES Site Plan (Figure 2)



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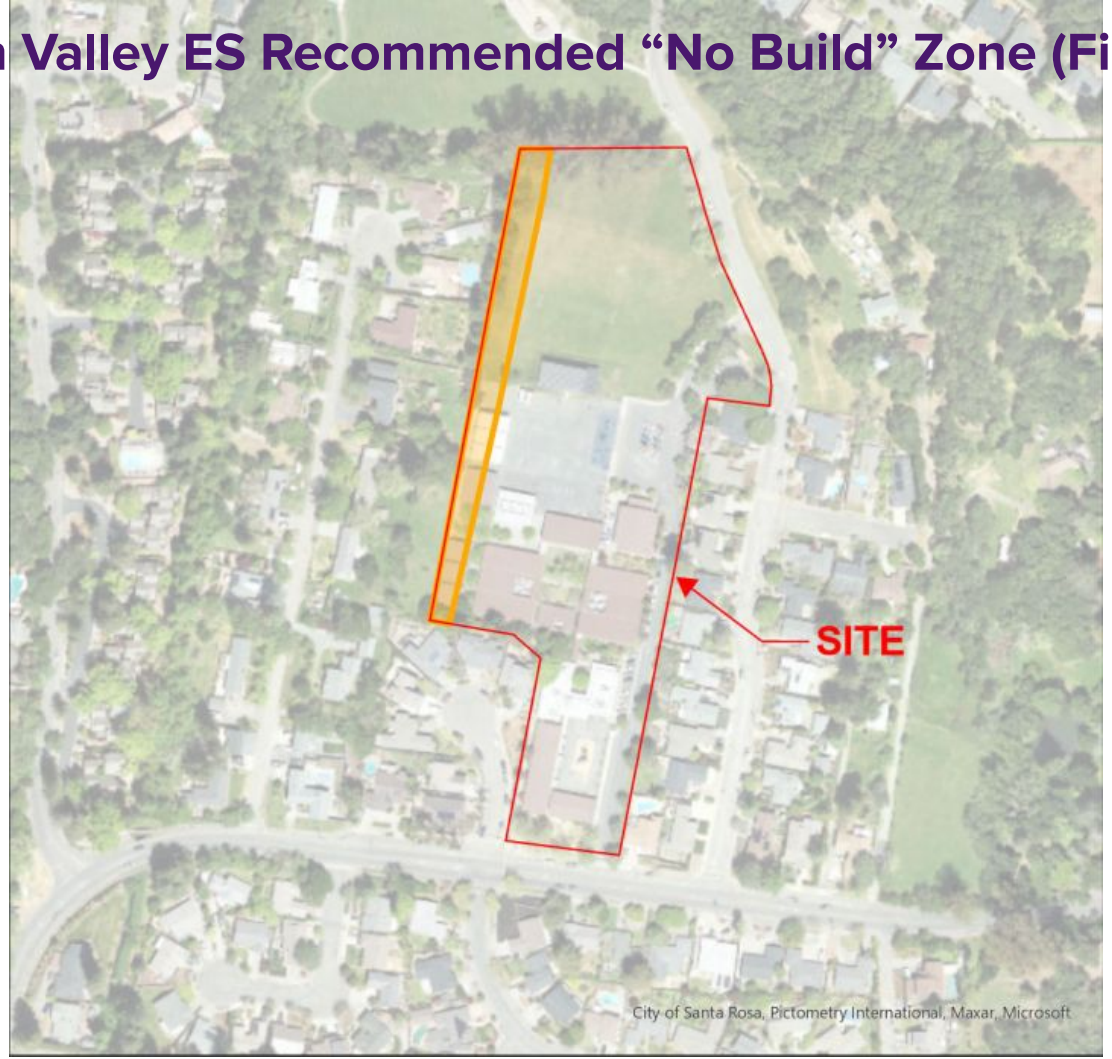
Hidden Valley ES Recommended “No Build” Zone (Figure 7)



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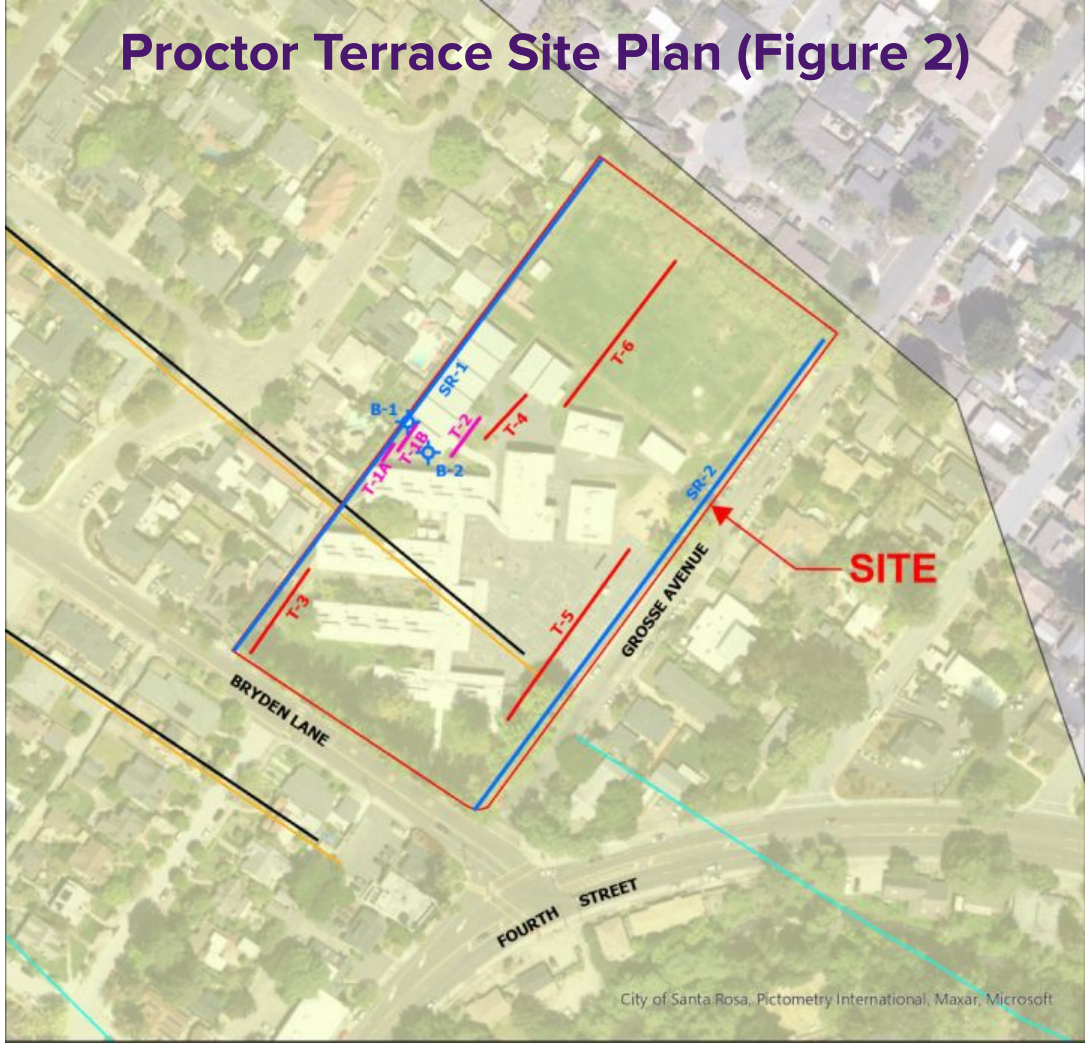
Proctor Terrace Site Plan (Figure 2)



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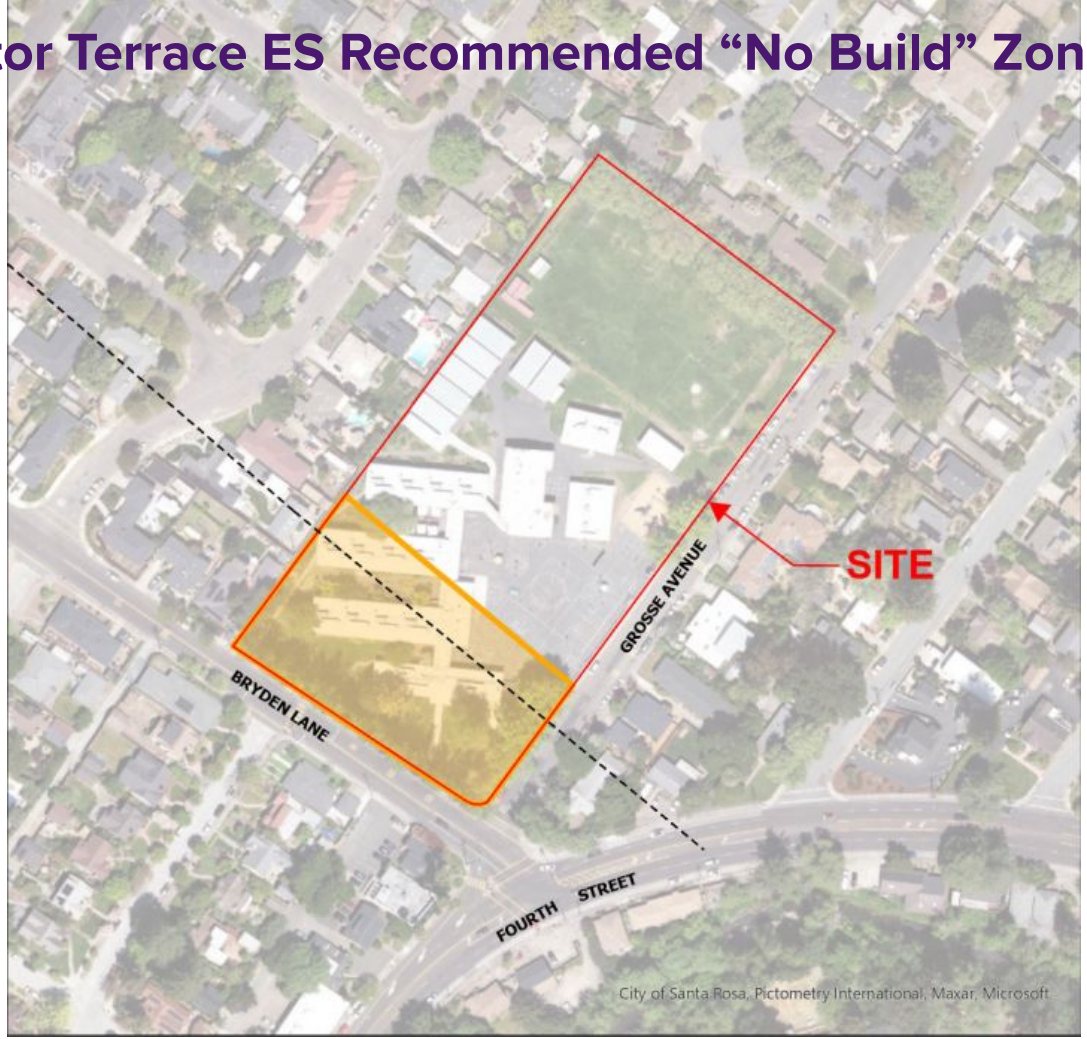
Proctor Terrace ES Recommended “No Build” Zone (Figure 7)



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Existing Buildings at Proctor Terrace

- There is no immediate danger to the occupants of these buildings. School buildings are designed to higher standards than almost all other types of buildings.
- This campus has been in operation for many years and gone through previous earthquakes with no damage.
- The goal of these regulations is to reduce the potential for damage and loss of life from future earthquakes by regulating construction, so additional investigation is required before construction can happen on school campuses located entirely or partially within the AP zone.
- These requirements apply to the construction of new buildings and renovation of existing buildings. They have no impact on the ongoing use of existing school sites or buildings.

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Questions?

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