

8.



BTAC AGENDA ITEM SUBMISSION FORM

Please use the template below to submit agenda items for BTAC deliberation. The objective is to assure that deliberations are guided by an understanding of the action sought of BTAC, the pertinence of the proposal to BTAC's mission and objectives, and ultimately the expectations and obligations to which BTAC is agreeing when it takes action on an agenda item.

1. TITLE OR BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE AGENDA ITEM:

Acequia Trail from Rufina to San Felipe and application of to the EPA Greening America's Communities Technical Assistance Program

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC: A brief statement regarding origin of the agenda item and its relevance to the current activity of BTAC.

The Acequia Trail Extension (Rufina Street to San Felipe) was prioritized by the 2012 Bicycle Master Plan as a trail that would improve the overall urban trail system's connectivity and give area residents access to the Acequia Trail and other routes. The project has a 30% completed preliminary concept design accomplished with 2012 GO Bond funds. During an ENN meeting held in November 2016 additional concerns arose such as creating more shade in the area to reduce rising temperatures, problems with the existing drainage, and concerns around potential flooding. In recent past, Public Works- River, Watershed and Trails section as well as the MPO have sought federal funding sources for this trail project. The EPA recently recommended that the city identify potential sites that may qualify for technical assistance through the Greening America Communities program. City staff has identified this project as one that fits the EPA's technical assistance criteria.

3. BTAC ACTION BEING SOUGHT: Most BTAC deliberation is intended to achieve one of three outcomes. If appropriate be prepared to suggest a formal motion to the meeting floor for debate, discussion and vote.

***To inform:** The purpose is to inform board members of the actions/thoughts of the presenting group and to provide an opportunity for discussion and questions. (E.g., an update from a standing or ad-hoc subcommittee) **No action from BTAC is sought.**

***To discuss:** BTAC agrees that a preliminary proposal is worthy of further discussion. **A possible motion to direct** an individual to review the issue and return at a specified time with a formal proposal for action is sought.

***Ta act:** BTAC supports a plan that requires outlining actions and obligations for Board members and/or Staff. **A motion clarifying objectives, expectations and obligations of Board and/or Staff is sought.**

River Watershed and Trails section requests BTAC's conceptual support for a letter of interest that will be submitted by staff for the EPA's Greening America's Community Technical Assistance Program.

01/25/2017

4. ESTIMATION OF COST AND/ TIME: Who would be responsible for costs and/or BTAC or staff time? Has affected BTAC member or staff been apprised of the proposal and do they understand the obligations?

Melissa McDonald, City of Santa Fe's River & Watershed Coordinator within the River Watershed and Trails section would lead the effort should we be selected for the EPA's technical assistance. There are no additional costs associated with acceptance of the technical assistance. The goals of the program are to assist with and complement efforts currently underway within the community.

Acequia Trail Extension (Historic Agua Fria Traditional Community)

1. Project Contact:

Melissa McDonald, River & Watershed Coordinator, Public Works Department-River, Watershed & Trails Section, City of Santa Fe, P. O. Box 909, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0909 Phone: Office 505-955-6840, mamcdonald@santafenm.gov

2. Description of the Design Challenge and Project Area:

The proposed **Acequia Trail Extension** (*Rufina Street to San Felipe*) project located within the Agua Fria Traditional Historic Community would help transform an overburdened, underserved, and economically challenged, neighborhood including a mobile-home park, several tract-home subdivisions, and a population that is 25% below the poverty line¹. Recently annexed by the City of Santa Fe, streets are dusty and windswept in the spring, hot and dry in the summer, and mostly free of fallen leaves in autumn. There are few leaves because there are few trees compared to other parts of Santa Fe. Throughout the year the local landscape is relatively desolate and highly erosive. With approximately 300 days per year of unabated sunshine, less than 12" of annual rain, and limited native existing vegetation, the trail extension--especially with a strong commitment to green-infrastructure--would reduce the current heat-island effect in the neighborhood. With convenient access to a user-friendly, ecologically-important, and biodiverse corridor, trail improvements would not only increase connectivity to Santa Fe's existing trail infrastructure, but it would also address significant drainage problems in the area.

The design challenge will be to create a schematic design that will build on a completed preliminary 30% trail design plan and address the important design parameters listed below:

- Identified in the 2012 Bicycle Master Plan, this trail would improve the overall urban trail system's connectivity and gives area residents access to the Acequia Trail and other routes.
- The entire proposed 1-mile long urban trail will eventually provide an off-road, non-motorized, 10' wide paved trail extension of the existing Acequia Trail and connect to the existing El Camino Real Trail north off Agua Fria Road.
- Creating connections to local parks, especially the neighboring park (Prior to annexation, Santa Fe County developed a master plan for the undeveloped open space at the far northern point of the proposed corridor/trail at the intersection of Morning Drive)

¹ 2012 - 2016 American Community Survey 5 year Estimates, 2016 Census Data

- During an Early Neighborhood Notification (ENN) meeting held November 3, 2016 on this connection corridor, concerns arose around creating climate modifications by introducing shade to reduce local heat-island effects and looking more closely at existing drainage conditions to reduce flooding in the area. Additionally, residents discussed the need to create a sense of place and a naturalized corridor that all residents-- kids, young people, parents, elders, and the physically challenged could enjoy.

Important Design Goals are to create:

- a shady corridor that can reduce temperatures in the neighborhood
- a safe and attractive place for pedestrians and bicycles
- an aesthetically pleasing, environmentally sound, user-friendly design that is culturally inclusive to the history of the area
- increased connectivity to the city's existing trail system with easy access to nearby schools, shopping, recreational areas, downtown
- access to connections for existing bus stops
- a design that turns drainage from a problem into a solution and seeks to offset potable water using green infrastructure/low-impact development strategies while creating a biodiverse, vegetative corridor that offsets ever-increasing temperatures

There are over 2000 residents within a 1-mile radius of the proposed trail. With children under 18 years old making up 42% of the population. The median age of the surrounding residents is 31 years of age and the population over 65 years of age is 7%. The city's median age is 43 years old.² Eighty percent of residents are Hispanic or Latino. Twenty-five percent of this neighborhood population lives below the poverty line. Transportation costs consume up to 1/3 these of working families' income.³ By increasing trail connectivity and safety, we are offering less-expensive and healthier transportation options.

The topic of Southside trails connections and associated equity issues have been raised in the past, and it continues to be a topic of discussion in the community today. The consensus is that more resources should be allocated for neighborhoods in this area.

3. Two Locations:

The City is mindful that any implementation must include public involvement, buy-in, and transparency, but two obvious locations for green infrastructure are apparent.

First, the long stretch of asphalt road (located between Morning Drive and Camino Tierra Real) that separates the mobile-home park and the proposed trail extension would be an excellent place to install a rain garden. Not only would the community see how trees and native plant material reduce the heat-island effect while they create

² 2000 & 2010 Census Data, www.census.gov

³ Equitable Development and Risk of Displacement by Human Impact Partners and Chainbreaker Collective 2017, www.chainbreaker.org

privacy, beauty, and wind protection, but people would also be drawn toward using the trail given an inviting, new, and intentional access point that could easily be created there.

Second, the large, bulbous patch of dirt at the end of Morning Drive that gets flooded during every significant rain event would also provide an excellent community showcase when it comes to designing and building a site for green infrastructure for the purpose of reducing the heat-island effect in the neighborhood. Regular flooding indicates the presence of stormwater that could be harvested passively on site for appropriate shade trees and drought-tolerant shrubs. There are existing detention ponds that service the area that at a minimum should be cleaned but have potential for greater improvements that increase infiltration and biodiversity. This location's proximity to a large tract of open space that has already been designed to become a community park makes it an even better choice.

Both locations could actually use the cooler temperatures that will be draining down the old acequia (agricultural ditch) route during the evening. If properly placed, trees could theoretically divert some of these cooler temperatures toward houses in the neighborhood while they also generate their own cooler temperatures with the shade they provide.

4. Leverage of Other Federal Investments

The Santa Fe City Council allocated a project budget for design and construction (approx. \$113,000) and is applying for TAP funds to finance its remaining design and construction needs. The City of Santa Fe owns most of the rights of way along this stretch. There is currently no timeline for trail construction.

The City has received an EPA technical-assistance for the long-term stormwater planning and welcomes this opportunity to submit a request for technical assistance for the **Acequia Trail Extension** at Agua Fria Historic Traditional Community. The City is delighted to provide the design team logistics support, outreach and communications. We will be very attentive to other needs that may arise.

The City has been very successful obtaining; private, state and federal grant funding for many of its capital improvement projects. Recently, the Acequia Trail Underpass Connections at St Francis and Cerrillos received CMAQ funds for its recent completions. Also, Re-Leaf grants have been received through New Mexico Forest ReLeaf and the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department of the New Mexico State Forestry allowed the City to purchase and plant (46) trees in City Parks and in the Santa Fe River Corridor. With such a valuable schematic, plan in hand, that this project will produce the City could seek additional funding offered by private, state and federal grantors.

The schematic plan will be a core component in the City's application process in its efforts to secure additional funding for this very worthwhile capital improvement project. The momentum from this process will galvanize the community and elected officials to

take special note of this over-burdened neighborhood so that State Legislative funding may be secured. The City is highly optimistic that the return on investment for the schematic plan will be significant. Initial documentation & outreach already conducted will provide project members with a true baseline from which success can be measured.

5. Project Support

The City's governing body in Resolution 1999-46 identified this project as a needed trail extension. Additionally, Resolution 2016-84 sought further funding for the trail design and construction by authorizing and supporting a submittal request for grant funding for the project.

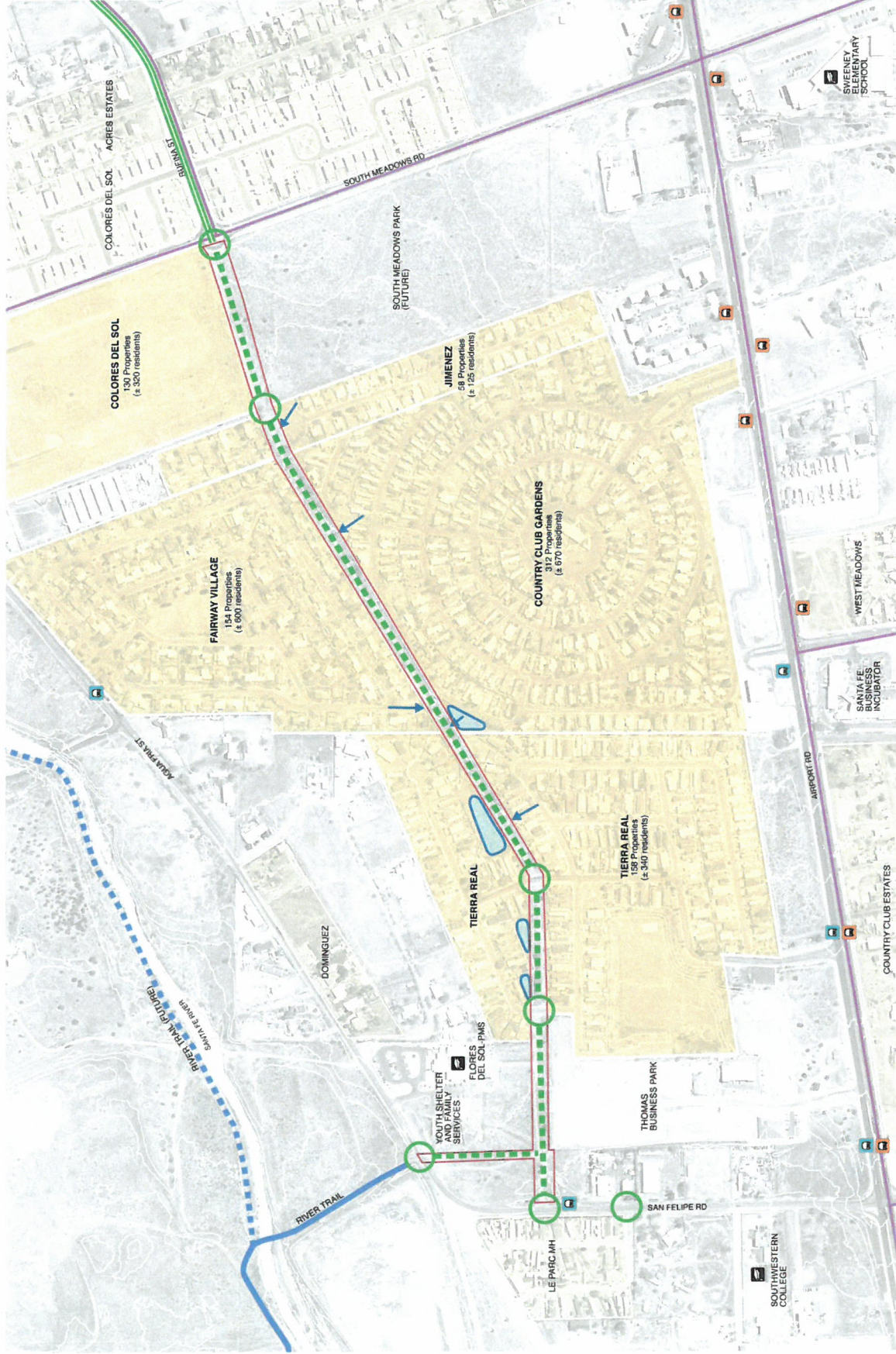
This project currently enjoys the support of....

****Currently being developed****

6. Summary

The enhancement of this important corridor by improving its safety, reducing the heat-island effects by implementing low-impact development strategies to use the drainage flows to create a shady, oasis for kids and making it pedestrian and bicycle with access to the transit system are goal everyone can support. By making this project a priority area, we are showing our commitment to achieving an increased quality of life and substantially better connectivity on the southside.

A location map of the area and conceptual plans at 30% are provided as an attachment. We greatly appreciate your consideration. Thank you for the opportunity.



ACEQUIA TRAIL EXTENSION - SITE CONTEXT MAP **DRAFT**

Produced for the City of Santa Fe by design office · Radion Engineering

RUFINA ST / SOUTH MEADOWS RD TO SAN FELIPE RD / AGUA FRIA ST

LEGEND

- SUBDIVISION
- ACEQUIA TRAIL PROPOSED
- ACEQUIA TRAIL EXISTING (ON ROAD)
- RIVER TRAIL EXISTING
- BIKE ROUTE LANE / SHOULDER

ROAD / TRAIL CROSSING

DRAINAGE BASIN

BUS STOP ROUTE #1

BUS STOP ROUTE #24

SCHOOL

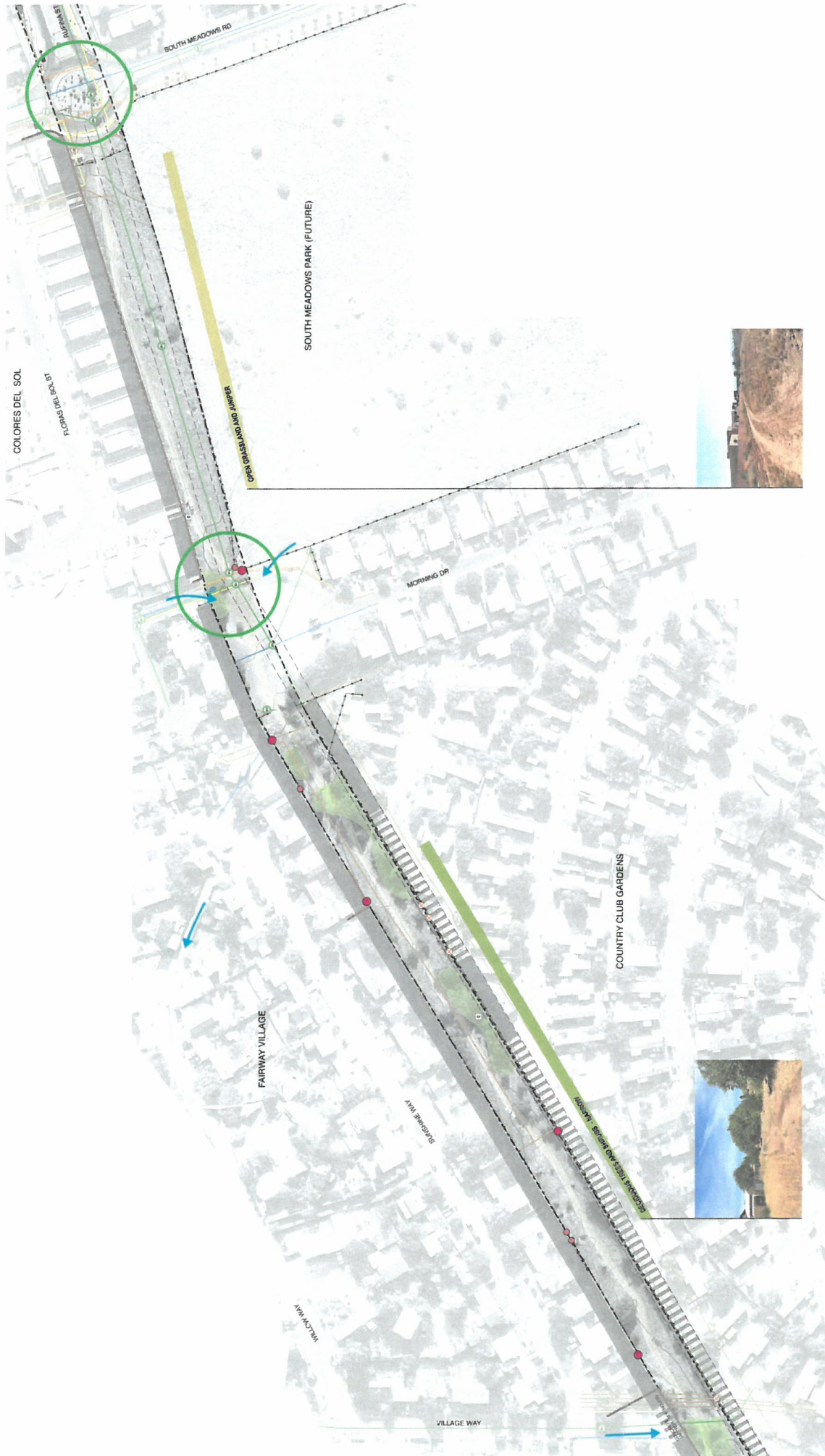
SCALE 1" = 150'

0' 15' 30'

0 15 30'

0 15 30'

NOTE: POPULATIONS DERIVED FROM PER HOUSEHOLDS



ACEQUIA TRAIL EXTENSION - SITE ANALYSIS (EAST) **DRAFT**

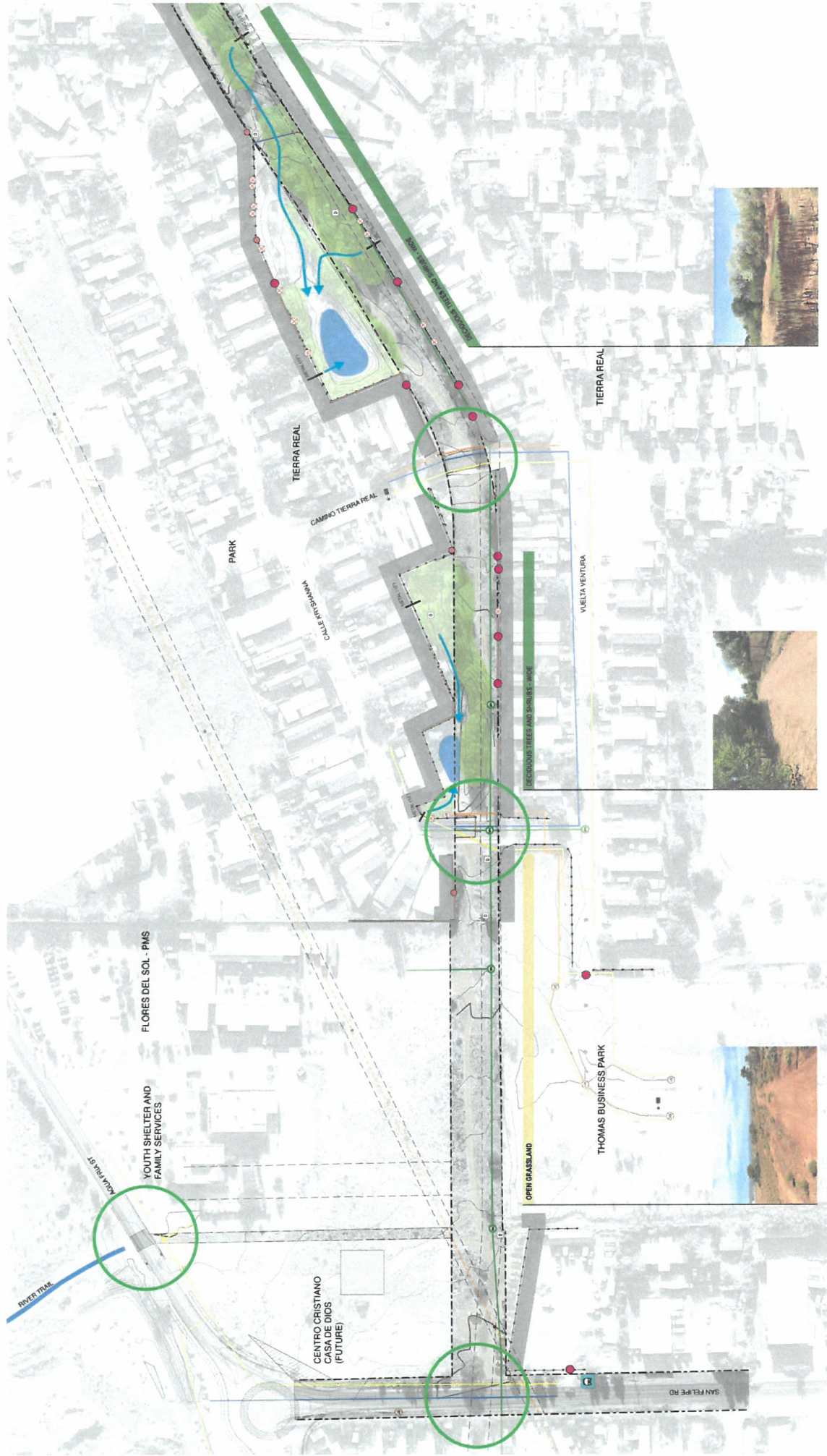
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RUFINA ST / SOUTH MEADOWS RD TO SAN FELIPE RD / AGUA FRIA ST

LEGEND

- Right of Way
- Topography Major SW
- Topography Minor SW
- Topography Major NE
- Topography Minor NE
- Face
- Equipment
- Utility Sewer Line
- Utility Underground Electric
- Utility Overhead Electric
- Utility Gas Line
- Utility Telephone
- Utility Markers
- Gate, Vehicular
- Gate, Pedestrian
- Access, Vehicular
- Access, Pedestrian
- Fence Gap
- Bus Stop
- Vegetation, Shading
- Surface Drainage
- Access, Closed
- Access, Open
- Road Intersection





ACEQUIA TRAIL EXTENSION - SITE ANALYSIS (WEST) **DRAFT**

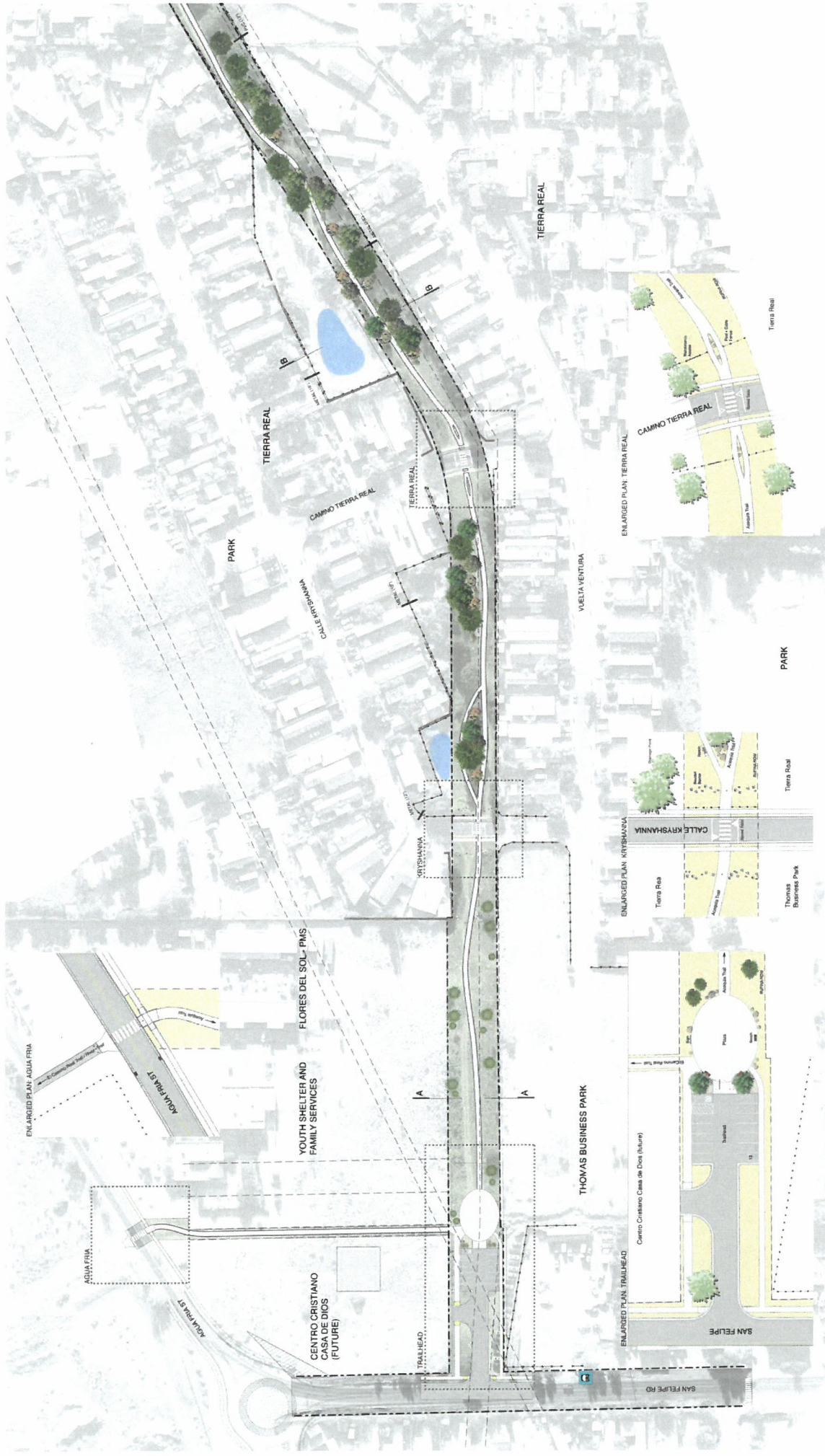
Produced for the City of Santa Fe by design office · Radion Engineering

RUFINA ST / SOUTH MEADOWS RD TO SAN FELIPE RD / AGUA FRIA ST

- LEGEND**
- Right of Way
 - Topography Map 50'
 - Topography Minor 10'
 - Water
 - Fence
 - Equipment
 - Utility: Recent Line
 - Utility: Underground Electric
 - Utility: Overhead Electric
 - Utility: Overhead Gas
 - Utility: Gas Line
 - Utility: Telephone
 - Utility: Manhole
 - Gate: Vehicular
 - Gate: Pedestrian
 - Gate: Equestrian
 - Fence: Open
 - Fence: Closed
 - Access: Open
 - Access: Closed
 - Vegetation: Shrub
 - Surface: Drainage
 - Road Intersection







ACEQUIA TRAIL EXTENSION - SITE PLAN (WEST) **DRAFT**

RUFINA ST / SOUTH MEADOWS RD TO SAN FELIPE RD / AGUA FRIA ST

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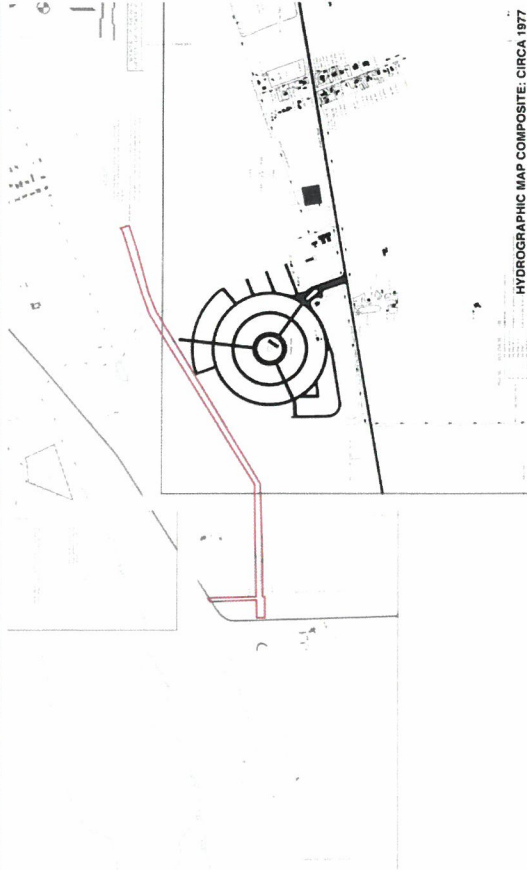
AERIAL A: CIRCA 1953



AERIAL B: CIRCA 1953



AERIAL C: CIRCA 1953



HYDROGRAPHIC MAP COMPOSITE: CIRCA 1977

ACEQUIA TRAIL EXTENSION - HISTORIC IMAGES **DRAFT**

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RUFINA ST / SOUTH MEADOWS RD TO SAN FELIPE RD / AGUA FRIA ST



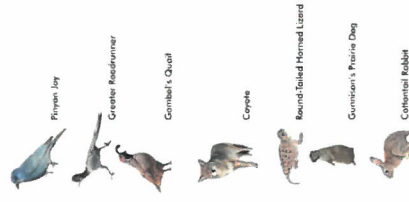


ACEQUIA TRAIL EXTENSION - TRAIL SECTIONS **DRAFT**

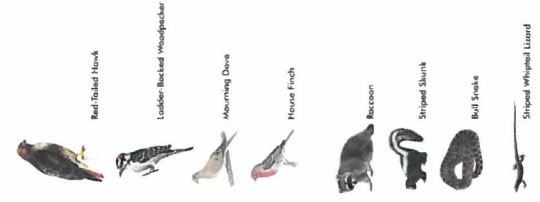
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BLOK ALY



SECTION D: PINON-JUNIPER GRASSLAND PRAIRIE



SECTION C: WOODLAND GRASSLAND

ACEQUIA TRAIL EXTENSION - TRAIL SECTIONS **DRAFT**

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RUFINA ST / SOUTH MEADOWS RD TO SAN FELIPE RD / AGUA FRIA ST



NOV 2014