

Alamo and Castle Hill Community Meeting #2: Draft Community Profile

San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church 902 Danville Boulevard, Alamo, CA 94507 Wednesday, November 13th, 2019

The second community meeting for Alamo and Castle Hill residents as part of Envision Contra Costa 2040 took place on Wednesday, November 13, 2019, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at San Ramon Valley United Methodist Church. The purpose of this workshop was to collect feedback on the draft community profile for Alamo and Castle Hill, as well as potential changes to the General Plan land use map. The first two pages of the draft profile provide context about the community, including its character, demographic information, and exposure to natural hazard risks. The following pages include an overview of planned land uses, guiding principles, policies, and actions that will provide guidance to the County when making decisions affecting the community related to growth and development over the next twenty years.

After a short presentation about the Envision Contra Costa 2040 process, 37 community members, together with County staff and consultants worked in six small groups to review and discuss the draft community profile and potential map changes. Input and ideas are summarized below, and detailed notes from the small group discussions are attached to this summary.

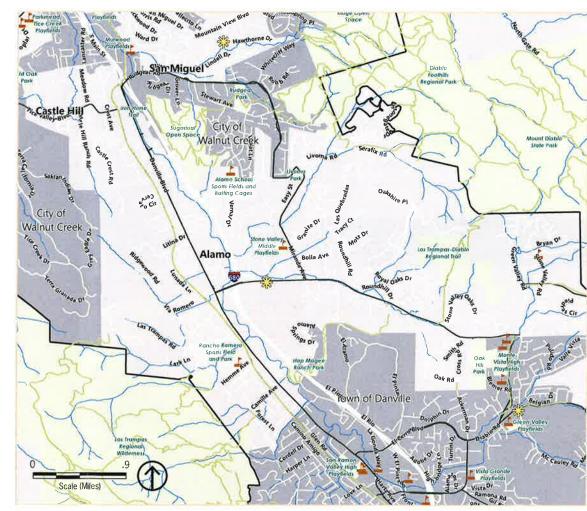
- Update the context to clarify that multi-family housing is only south of Stone Valley Road.
- Revise the overview map to better display existing bikeways.
- Do not change land use designations from agriculture to rural residential if scenic ridgelines aren't preserved.
- Consider expanding the park designation near Hilldale Avenue to add parking for Iron Horse Trail
 users
- Allow mixed use and additional commercial development within the existing commercial core but do not expand.
- The land use designation applied to existing churches should not prevent future potential housing projects if a church would like to be able to add housing to their site in the future.
- Add policies and actions to encourage PG&E to underground utilities, especially in hazardous areas.
- Support infrastructure and roadway improvements to Stone Valley Road, including potential turn lanes, but do not substantially widen.
- Protect ridgelines from development.
- Increase traffic enforcement and congestion management, especially near schools and along local streets that are used for cut-through traffic.
- A mix of housing types and densities is appropriate so that current residents have options if they choose to downsize. However, the scale, mass, and height of multi-family housing development should be regulated.
- Delete Policy #3 altogether or clarify the meaning of "subtle density increases" to be location-based and use-specific in order to avoid loopholes for developers.

- Policy #7 prohibiting new traffic signals is too arbitrary; make more flexible to allow for analysis and case-by-case decision-making.
- Policy #8 should reference improving bicyclist safety through street design, dedicated bike lanes, and rider education.
- Address cell phone tower aesthetics and safety.
- Emphasize the importance of hazard preparedness and emergency response in Action #1 by proactively addressing hazards, including by removing dead trees and trimming trees, while preserving creeks and natural resources and encouraging planting of native trees.
- Widen road shoulders to protect pedestrians and bicyclists in Action #2.
- Action #3 could specifically reference improved transit connections to Walnut Creek.
- Consider an action to prepare design guidelines for new development to be consistent with the community's semi-rural character and historic landmarks and encourage clean energy sources for landscaping and maintenance.
- Add an action to consider siting a new library and adding warm-colored LED street lighting on major arterial streets.

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | CONTEXT

Alamo and Castle Hill are located between Walnut Creek and Danville and renowned for their comfortable residential neighborhoods, wooded hillsides, excellent schools, well-maintained parks, and strong sense of community. A portion of Castle Hill is within the Sphere of Influence of the City of Walnut Creek. Alamo and Castle Hill are mostly comprised of single-family ranch-style homes on relatively large lots. However, Alamo also includes multi-family housing along Danville Boulevard and estates on large rural tracts.

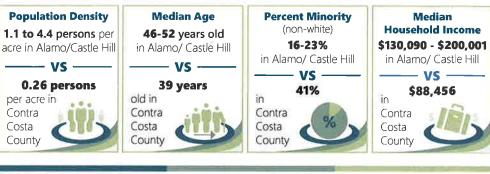
Alamo and Castle Hill originated as communities of ranches and orchards in the late 19th century. The area remained rural until after World War II, when new freeways made it more accessible. Developments like the Round Hill Country Club (1960) helped establish the community's image as a desirable place to live. Major thoroughfares in the area are Danville Boulevard, which runs north-south along the west side of Interstate 680, and Stone Valley Road, which runs east from Danville Boulevard toward Diablo. Alamo's major commercial center is located around the intersection of these two streets and includes several shopping centers, office buildings, civic uses, and housing. Local planning priorities continue to be preserving Alamo's and Castle Hill's character, maintaining the scale of the housing stock, preserving mature trees, and managing traffic and safety on local roadways.



WHO LIVES IN ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL?

Urban Limit Line

Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019.



Unincorporated Areas





ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES pop-trees long Danille Blod.

- 1. Prioritize preservation of irreplaceable natural features (e.g., mature stands of oak trees and riparian corridors) and wildlife habitat.
- 2. Support development of varied housing types, including attached single-family residences, townhouses, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), to diversify the housing stock and better serve residents of all ages. (3-116)
- 3. Consider subtle density increases that do not alter the physical character of the area. A downfown
- 4. Encourage commercial uses to be neighborhood-scale and serve the needs of the community. Discourage large-scale commercial uses catering to a more regional customer base because they would be inconsistent with the community's character. (3-117, 3-123)
- 5. Commercial land use designations are generally restricted to the existing business district along Danville Boulevard. Consider proposals to redesignate land outside of this area for commercial uses only if they demonstrate a clear community benefit. (3-118)
- 6. Maintain Danville Boulevard and Stone Valley Road as two-lane roadways outside of Alamo's business district.
- 7. Prohibit new traffic signals east of Interstate 680 unless necessary to ensure public safety.
- 8. Encourage community-wide pedestrian and bicycle mobility and use of public transportation in Alamo and Castle Hill.

ACTIONS

- 1. Coordinate with public safety and health agencies to create a comprehensive emergency response plan, including evacuation routes and emergency shelter locations, for Alamo and Castle Hill residents.
- 2. Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility through infrastructure enhancements. Specifically, close sidewalk and bike lanes gaps, install lighted crosswalks where appropriate, and improve connections to local and regional trails like the Iron Horse Trail.
- 3. Work with local transit agencies to improve the frequency and quality of public transportation in Alamo and Castle Hill.

Aundergrounding wires simprovements to store valley Road

but could there be turn lanest on Store Valley is. of Wranda

- support

may be apprinceded a schools along Stone Valley of Diver Valley

+ traffic enforcement

support but interpretation

concerned-

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL I GUIDANCE

PLANNED LAND USE

Land use designations for Alamo and Castle Hill are shown on the land use map. This area is largely surrounded by land designated for open space and agricultural use. Alamo and Castle Hill are almost entirely developed with single-family homes situated on lots approximately ½ acre or larger. Some of the larger lots located toward the edge of the developed areas, at the transition to rural lands, are used for agriculture.

Alamo contains one small area designated for commercial uses located along Danville Boulevard at Stone Valley Road. This well-established commercial center serves many of the residents' daily needs. The only multi-family development in the area is located east of the commercial center, adjacent to Interstate 680. A number of public and semi-public uses, such as schools and religious institutions, also exist in the area.









GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Alamo and Castle Hill residents value their semi-rural lifestyle and community. (consolidating police services increase the safe, quiet, and bucolic small-town characteristics should be maintained.

 2. Residents identified the same and community. (consolidating police services increase increase increase).
- 2. Residents identify their undeveloped surroundings as one of most valuable assets of this area. Preservation of the natural setting and wildlife habitat should be prioritized.
- 3. The community's predominantly single-family character should be preserved.
- 4. New development should be consistent with the community's semi-rural character in terms of architectural style, massing, scale, and colors. (3-124)
- 5. Because Alamo and Castle Hill are proximate to large swaths of wooded hills, grasslands, and pipelines carrying volatile materials, they are at risk of exposure to hazardous materials and potentially severe fires. The communities should be protected from these hazards through proper planning and emergency response.

More chrification of design guidelines

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL I GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES

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Clarify whether the Support development of varied housing types, including attached single-family residences, townhouses, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), to along Danville Stone billediversify the housing stock and better serve residents of all ages. (3-116)

West side & Alama Plaza wi 3 Consider subtle density increases that the

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 - 7.) Prohibit new traffic signals east of Interstate 680 unless necessary to ensure public
 - 8. Encourage community-wide pedestrian and bicycle mobility and use of public transportation in Alamo and Castle Hill.

9. Underground (promote) utilities in high-risk are prioritize
areas. (Small-cell antenness being added are potentially
hazardous by increasing pole height/leverage on poles)

ACTIONS

- 1. Coordinate with public safety and health agencies to create a comprehensive emergency response plan, including evacuation routes and emergency shelter locations, for Alamo and Castle Hill residents. (bridges)
- 2. Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility through infrastructure enhancements. Specifically, close sidewalk and bike lanes gaps, install lighted crosswalks where appropriate, and improve connections to local and regional trails like the Iron Horse Trail. Street lighting on major arteries
- 3. Work with local transit agencies to improve the frequency and quality of public transportation in Alamo and Castle Hill.

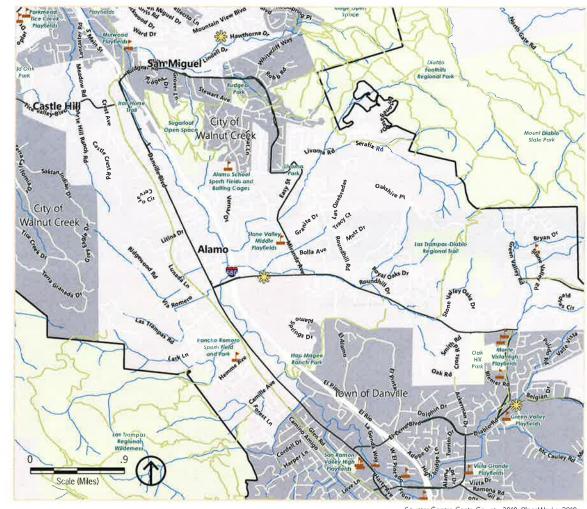
4. Library - encourage siting one 5. Maintenance of creek, roads, natural resources

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | CONTEXT

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Urban Limit Line



Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019.

- Rodgeline preservation var/ protected through policy (including previously entitled but undereliped areas) -Limit scale, massing, -Cansily of multi-family -projects

Incorrect, only 5. of-Stone Valley

- Consider fine salety in bocating New Development Population Density Then-res dev. Shall not be permitted adjucent to residental along

D'ville Ralvol." From exist. Cap

WHO LIVES IN ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL?

acre in Alamo/Castle Hill 0.26 persons

Median Age 46-52 years old in Alamo/ Castle Hill 39 years

old in Contra

Percent Minority (non-white) 16-23% in Alamo/ Castle Hill – VS

41% in Contra Costa County

Median **Household Income** \$130,090 - \$200,001 in Alamo/ Castle Hill - VS -\$88,456







General comment: write policies es so boostes burden is on applicant to demonstrate policy coupliance. - esp. w/ GRAS & density increases

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES

1. Prioritize preservation of irreplaceable natural features (e.g., mature stands of oak trees and riparian corridors) and wildlife habitat.

Support development of varied housing types, including attached single-family residences, townhouses, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), to diversify the housing stock and better serve residents of all ages (3-116)

Consider subtle density increases that do not alter the physical character of the area.

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- Store Valley Mobile e (Mienda Ave Could be universal poly) improve circulation tractic - Evou around area; reduce Congestion

-Work w/ data companies like "Wayz" to analyze their traffic data and see how if effects local circulation

Make prop. GPA a Super majority rote of the BOS.

Inconsistent w/ guiding

daw; no vorances

100 vague

County will comply whate

principles

-Mand policies to doccorage)
reduce ability for Divile
Blud. as Early bypass

- Criculation Elemi design Reads so they discourage

try bypass traffic; Encurage speed enforcement through design or more when CAP enforcement

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES

- area. TOBUSTE OF ADDRESS ELSOWHERE Trails like the Iron Horse Trail.
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DAOB FEES - COUNTY SHOULD PEEDEN IN TIMELY MANNER TO
PROPOSED / FUNDED (WERDSTRUCTE PROTECTS.

@ PRECERVE HISTORIAL LANDMARKS TO CUT (CHOP REPAIR / POST OFFICE)

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5. Commercial:

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A JUINTY POLICIES SHOUD TRUMP BERTOPMENT STANDARDS. DUPLEXES, MUTI-

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

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along Stone Valley Road

AV shuttle parallel to Iron Horse Trail?

of Alamo's business district.

7. Prohibit new traffic signals east of Interstate 680 unless necessary to ensure public safety.

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Shore Valley Road needs meets and signal controls especially around the schools

Plunnel roundabout may be too close to existing traffic signal

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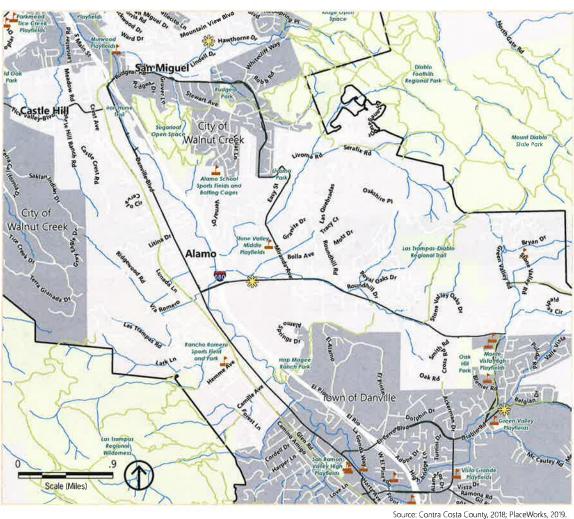
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ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | CONTEXT

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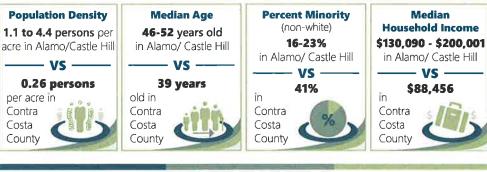




WHO LIVES IN ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL?

Median

VS -











ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | CONTEXT (CONTINUED)

Natural Hazards Drought Extreme Heat Flooding Human Health Hazards Landslides and Debris Flows Seismic Hazards Severe Storms (Marine) Wildfire

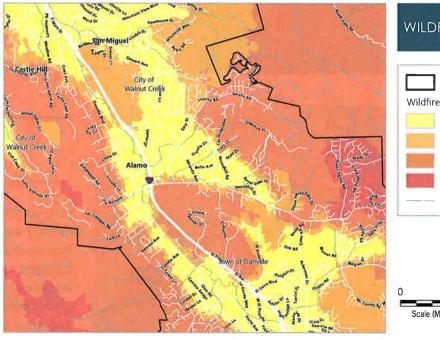
Major Vulnerabilities

Seniors, especially seniors living alone, and cost-burdened households are vulnerable to air quality, extreme heat, flooding, landslides, seismic hazards, and wildfire.

Persons without access to lifelines and persons living on single access roads are vulnerable to wildfire, landslides, and flooding.

Energy delivery solid waste removal, and water and wastewater services are vulnerable to landslides, flooding, seismic hazards, and

Woodland and riparian woodland areas are vulnerable to agricultural pests and diseases, drought, and wildfire.



WILDFIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES







FLOOD ZONES







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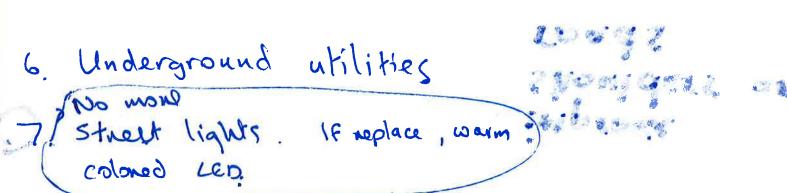




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limit cell towers aesthetic improvement



ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL I GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

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- **3.** Work with local transit agencies to improve the frequency and quality of public transportation in Alamo and Castle Hill.

improve shoulders roads



- Si Roundabout
 make beautiful, add plants
- 6. New infrastructure showd have improved aesthetic.
- 7. Plant more native trees (oaks)

like Lafayette



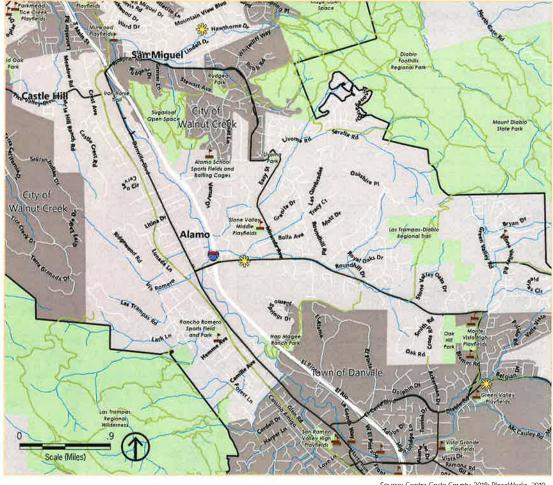
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Existing Bikeways

Urban Limit Line



WHO LIVES IN ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL?

Fire Stations

Schools



in Alamo/ Castle Hill

acre in Alamo/Castle Hill 0.26 persons per acre in Contra Costa

County

39 years old in Contra Costa County

Percent Minority (non-white) 16-23% in Alamo/ Castle Hill

Waterbodies Incorporated City Unincorporated Areas

Parks, Protected Lands and Watersheds

41% Contra Costa County

Median **Household Income** \$130,090 - \$200,001 in Alamo/ Castle Hill VS -\$88,456 Contra County







Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | CONTEXT (CONTINUED)

Natural Hazards

Urought

Extreme Heat

Flooding

Human Health Hazards

Landslides and Debris Flows

Seismic Hazards

Severe Storms

Wildfire

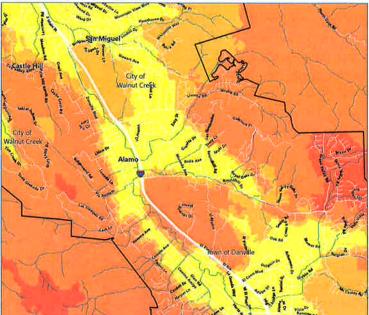
Major Vulnerabilities

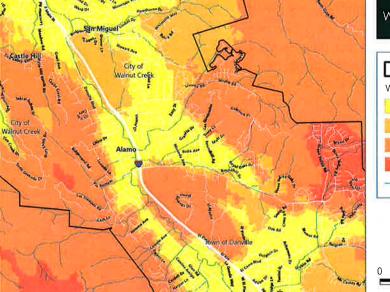
Seniors, especially seniors living alone, and cost-burdened households are vulnerable to air quality, extreme heat, flooding, landslides, seismic hazards, and wildfire.

Persons without access to lifelines and persons living on single access roads are vulnerable to wildfire, landslides, and flooding.

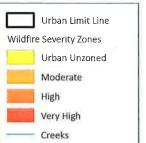
Energy delivery, solid waste removal, and water and wastewater services are vulnerable to landslides, flooding, seismic hazards, and wildfire.

Woodland and riparian woodland areas are vulnerable to agricultural pests and diseases, drought, and wildfire.





WILDFIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES







FLOOD ZONES







ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | GUIDANCE

PLANNED LAND USE

Land use designations for Alamo and Castle Hill are shown on the land use map. This area is largely surrounded by land designated for open space and agricultural use. Alamo and Castle Hill are almost entirely developed with single-family homes situated on lots approximately ½ acre or larger. Some of the larger lots located toward the edge of the developed areas, at the transition to rural lands, are used for agriculture.

Alamo contains one small area designated for commercial uses located along Danville Boulevard at Stone Valley Road. This well-established commercial center serves many of the residents' daily needs. The only multi-family development in the area is located east of the commercial center, adjacent to Interstate 680. A number of public and semi-public uses, such as schools and religious institutions, also exist in the area.









GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 1. Alamo and Castle Hill residents value their semi-rural lifestyle and community. The safe, quiet, and bucolic small-town characteristics should be maintained.
- Residents identify their undeveloped surroundings as one of most valuable assets of this area. Preservation of the natural setting and wildlife habitat should be prioritized.
- 3. The community's predominantly single-family character should be preserved. (3-116)
- 4. New development should be consistent with the community's semi-rural character in terms of architectural style, massing, scale, and colors. (3-124)
- 5. Because Alamo and Castle Hill are proximate to large swaths of wooded hills, grasslands, and pipelines carrying volatile materials, they are at risk of exposure to hazardous materials and potentially severe fires. The communities should be protected from these hazards through proper planning and emergency response.

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Commercial modes
Office nodes

Office nodes

ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL | GUIDANCE (CONTINUED)

POLICIES

- 1. Prioritize preservation of irreplaceable natural features (e.g., mature stands of oak trees and riparian corridors) and wildlife habitat.
- Support development of varied housing types, including attached single-family residences, townhouses, duplexes, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs), to diversify the housing stock and better serve residents of all ages. (3-116)
- 3. Consider subtle density increases that do not alter the physical character of the area.
- 4. Encourage commercial uses to be neighborhood-scale and serve the needs of the community. Discourage large-scale commercial uses catering to a more regional customer base because they would be inconsistent with the community's character. (3-117, 3-123)
- Commercial land use designations are generally restricted to the existing business district along Danville Boulevard. Consider proposals to redesignate land outside of this area for compregial uses only if they demonstrate a clear community benefit (3-148).
- **6.** Maintain Danville Boulevard and Stone Valley Road as two-lane roadways outside of Alamo's business district.
- 7. Prohibit new traffic signals east of Interstate 680 unless necessary to ensure public safety.
- 8. Encourage community-wide pedestrian and bicycle mobility and use of public transportation in Alamo and Castle Hill.

ACTIONS

- 1. Coordinate with public safety and health agencies to create a comprehensive emergency response plan, including evacuation routes and emergency shelter locations, for Alamo and Castle Hill residents.
- 2. Improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and mobility through infrastructure enhancements. Specifically, close sidewalk and bike lanes gaps, install lighted crosswalks where appropriate, and improve connections to local and regional trails like the Iron Horse Trail.
- Work with local transit agencies to improve the frequency and quality of public transportation in Alamo and Castle Hill.

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NOTES

- Protect our ridgelines esp near Las Frampost Mt Nialle Expecially large area suggested for change from agricultural to rural residential on west side - Improve maintenance of county-maintained areas such as creeks, open spaces, roads

- punetice around schools, blud of Free Dancelle

Bluck

- Lelecommunicationic planning If sufety of tall houses

- Policy on all towers



NOTES

- DON'T CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF EXISTING NEIGHBORHOODS;

ie. . DON'T BUILD 15,000 SQ FT/3570RY HOUSE IN A NEIGHBORHOOD OF

POLICIES CONTRADICT GUIDING PRINCIPLES GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 3) SHALL BE PRESERVED
- 4) NOT DOING THAT NOW!

POLICIES

- 2) CONTRAPICTS PRINCIPLES NO TOWN HOUSES/DUPLEXES/AGARTHENDS
 IN SINGLE FAMILY NEIGHBORHOODS
- 3) DELETE
- 5) DELETE SECOND SENTENCE
- 9) PRESERVE SHOE STORE

1) CONSIDER IRON HORSE TRAIL FOR EVACUATION ACTIONS



NOTES

Concerns about Rum! Rosidential and borderey Rosemoor

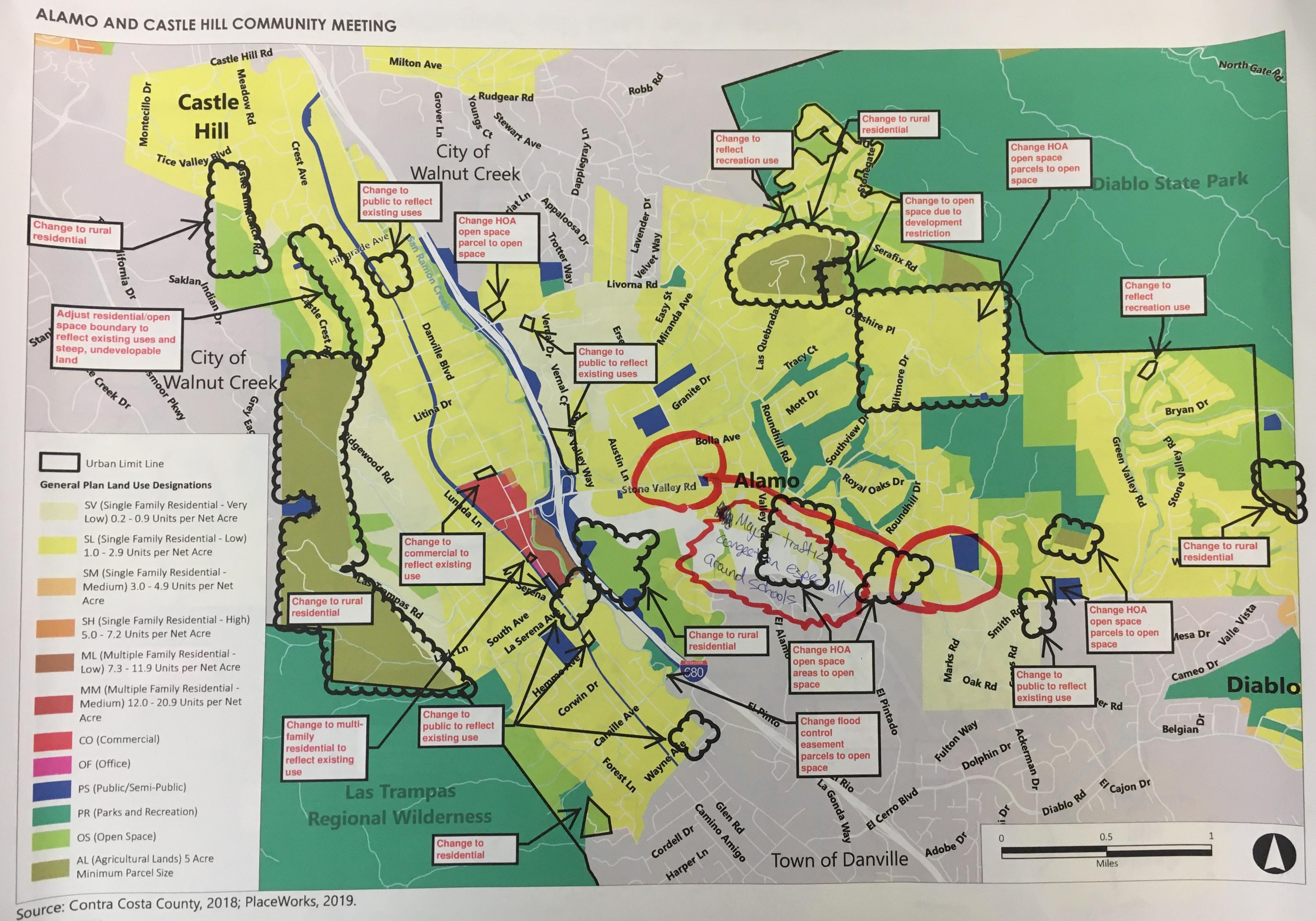
No apportment fmiltifamily

Road repair - Stone Valley Road from Miranda to the freeway - abuntament significant need to fire slathon

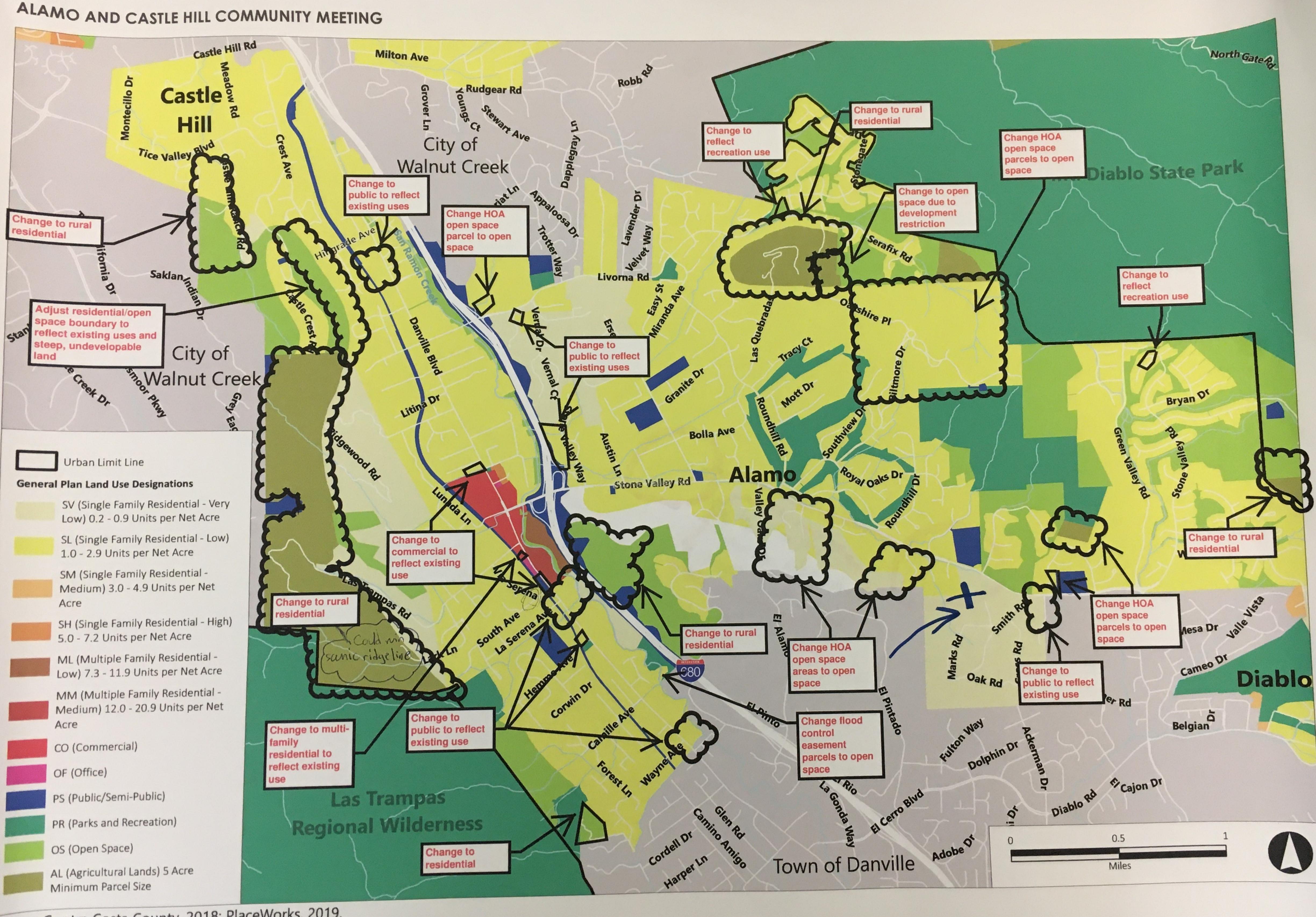
Truffix control and roundboots on Denville Blud-stop it Geine used as an alternale vorte for 680

More dedicated steriffs for Alamo - only have one now Need for more truffix control in particular



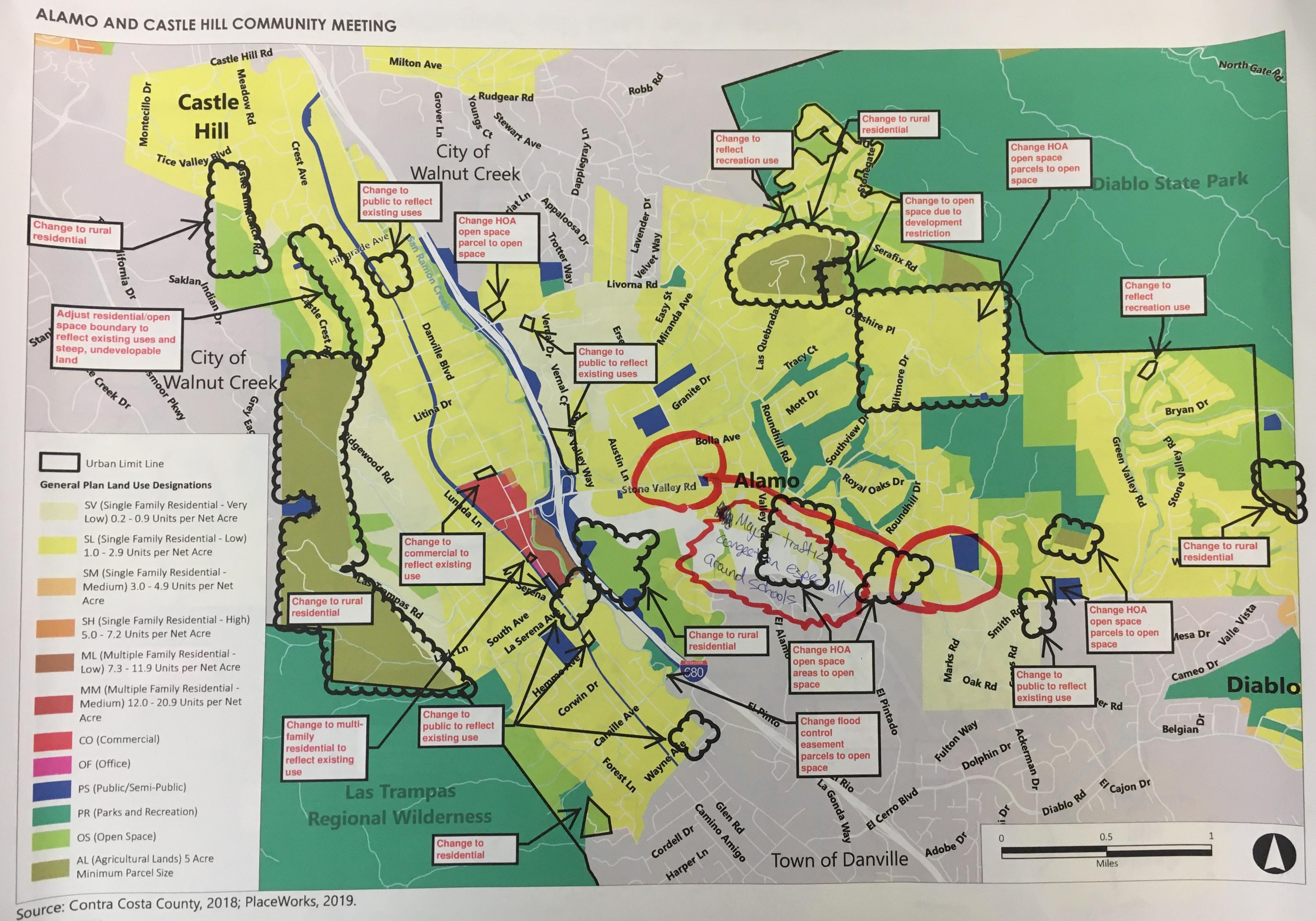






Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019.







ALAMO AND CASTLE HILL COMMUNITY MEETING Castle Hill Rd Milton Ave Robb ∠ Rudgear Rd Castle § Hill City of Change HOA tra; open space Walnut Creek parcels to open Change to public to reflect Change to open Change HOA Change to rural Saklan Livorna Rd Change to Adjust residential/open recreation use space boundary to reflect existing uses and steep, undevelopable City of public to reflect existing uses **%Walnut Creek** تعييقي Bryan O' Bolla Ave Irban Limit Line Alamo General Plan Land Use Designations SV (Single Family Residential - Very Low) 0.2 - 0.9 Units per Net Acre SL (Single Family Residential - Low) 900 1.0 - 2.9 Units per Net Acre Change to rural SM (Single Family Residential -Medium) 3.0 - 4.9 Units per Net no tree t Change HOA SH (Single Family Residential - High) open space 5.0 - 7.2 Units per Net Acre parcels to open Mesa Dr Valle Change to rural 3 Change HOA ML (Multiple Family Residential -Low) 7.3 - 11.9 Units per Net Acre open space areas to open Change to Oak Rd Diablo MM (Multiple Family Residential -Medium) 12.0 - 20.9 Units per Net existing use Change to Acre Change to multipublic to reflect Belgian CO (Commercial) existing use residential to reflect existing parcels to open OF (Office) Diablo Rd Cajon Dr PS (Public/Semi-Public) la Rio PR (Parks and Recreation) Regional Wilderness OS (Open Space) Change to AL (Agricultural Lands) 5 Acre Town of Danville Minimum Parcel Size Source: Contra Costa County, 2018; PlaceWorks, 2019. Freeway entrance add rosidoutial General Plan Land Use Designations for Alamo and Castle Hill above commercial CONTRA COSTA 2040 add mixed use.

