# **Applicant Form and Findings of Fact**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD VARIANCE APPLICATION**

# Applicant Variance Request Letter

October 20, 2020

City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department 505 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78767

Re: Variance Request Letter - Fill

Concordia University Residence Hall - Site Plan Application SP-2020-0038C

11400 Concordia University Drive

Austin, Texas 78726

To Whom It May Concern:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Please accept this letter as a request for a variance to the Lake Austin Ordinance #840301-F, Sections 9-10-409(A) and 9-10-409(B) for a max fill of +/- 8.75 ft for the above referenced project.

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Concordia University Texas campus is an existing campus located at 11400 Concordia University Drive in northwest Austin, Texas and Travis County. The existing property is approximately 383 acres including approximately 250 acres of preserve land. The campus has existing improvements including buildings, athletic facilities, private drives, underground utilities storm drains, stormwater ponds, and auxiliary improvements.

The proposed campus improvements include a 4-story residence hall building, associated parking lot, outdoor amphitheater area, pedestrian improvements, two water quality and detention ponds, and associated site improvements. This project is located within the Bull Creek Watershed, classified as a Water Supply Suburban Watershed. The site is located within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone according to the City of Austin GIS. Critical water quality zones, water quality transition zones, and critical environmental features are located on the southern and eastern portion of the site. No development will occur in these locations. The terrain is heavily wooded and has some grass cover.

No requests for a variance to CEF buffers, WQTZ or CWQZ areas are being requested. If you have any questions or comments regarding this request, please contact me at 512-271-6314.

Sincerely,

Brandon Hammann, P.E., LEED AP

Project Manager

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION Applicant Contact Information

Name of Applicant	Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. – Brandon Hammann, P.E., LEED AP
Street Address	10814 Jollyville Road, Building IV, Suite 200
City State ZIP Code	Austin, Texas 78759
Work Phone	512-271-6314
E-Mail Address	Brandon.Hammann@kimley-horn.com

V	ariance Case Inforr	ation
Ca	ase Name	Concordia University Residence Hall
Ca	se Number	SP-2020-0038C
Ac	ldress or Location	11400 Concordia University Texas
Er	nvironmental Reviewer N	me Kristy Nguyen
Αŗ	oplicable Ordinance	Lake Austin Ordinance #840301-F, Sections 9-10-409(A) and 9-10-409(B)
W	atershed Name	Bull Creek
W	atershed Classification	☐ Urban ☐ Suburban X Water Supply Suburban ☐ Water Supply Rural ☐ Barton Springs Zone
	lwards Aquifer Recharge one	<ul> <li>□ Barton Springs Segment</li> <li>X Northern Edwards Segment</li> <li>□ Not in Edwards Aquifer Zones</li> </ul>
	lwards Aquifer Contribu	ng □ Yes X No
	stance to Nearest Classi aterway	The Water Quality and Detention Facility is located approximately 250' away from the centerline of a classified waterway. All paving, residence hall, parking lot, and other site infrastructure is located significantly further from the waterway.
	ater and Waste Water rvice to be provided by	Austin Water Utility
Re	equest	The variance request is as follows: The Variance Request is for a variance to the Lake Austin Ordinance #840301-F, Sections 9-10-409(A) and 9-10-409(B) for a max fill of $\pm$ 8.75 ft.
	Impervious cover	Existing Proposed
	square footage:	1,304,4721,376,771

acreage:	29.95	31.61
percentage:	8.3%	8.8%
Provide general description of the property (slope range, elevation range, summary of vegetation / trees, summary of the geology, CWQZ, WQTZ, CEFs, floodplain, heritage trees, any other notable or outstanding characteristics of the property)	The Concordia University Texas campus is Concordia University Drive in northwest A existing property is approximately 383 acres of preserve land. The campus has existing athletic facilities, private drives, undergroup ponds, and auxiliary improvements.  The proposed campus improvements incoutdoor pavilion/amphitheater area, improvements, and associated site improvements the Bull Creek Watershed, classified as a The site is located within the Edwards Aquicity of Austin GIS. Critical water quality and critical environmental features are located portion of the site. No development will on heavily wooded and has some grass cover.	clude a residence hall building, an private parking lot, pedestrian ements. This project is located within Water Supply Suburban Watershed. Lifer Recharge Zone according to the ones, water quality transition zones, ecated on the southern and eastern

Clearly indicate in what way the proposed project does not comply with current Code (include maps and exhibits)

The proposed cut and fill does not comply with the applicable code for the project. Cut and fill is restricted to 4' max per the Lake Austin Ordinance #840301-F, Sections 9-10-409(A) and 9-10-409(B). The proposed project proposes a max fill of  $\pm$ 8.75 ft in order to construct a water quality and detention facility, a 4-story residence hall, and the associated parking for the  $\pm$ 7-68,618 gsf residence hall.

## **FINDINGS**

A. Land Use Commission variance determinations from Sections 9-10-409(a) and 9-10-409(b) of the Lake Austin Ordinance:

According to Section 9-10-377 (a) of the Lake Austin Ordinance, Variances from the terms of this division may be granted by the Planning Commission only if it is found that:

- 1. Are there special circumstances applicable to the property involved where strict application deprives such property owner of privileges or safety enjoyed by other similarly situated property with similarly timed development? Yes, a variance to Lake Austin Ordinance #840301-F, Sections 9-10-409(a) and 9-10-409(b) was granted in 2008 for a max cut of +/-5.8' and a max fill of +/- 17.5' to construct a parking area, baseball field, and fieldhouse for Concordia University Texas under City of Austin Case #SP-2007-0231C. Additionally, a cut/fill variance was granted in 2014 for a max cut of +/-9.25' and a max fill of +/- 14.85' to construct a water quality and detention facility, a water quality channel, a softball field, and associated parking for Concordia University Texas under City of Austin Case #SP-2013-0476C.
- 2. Does the project demonstrate minimum departures from the terms of the ordinance necessary to avoid such deprivation of privileges enjoyed by such other property and to facilitate a reasonable use, and which will not create significant probabilities of harmful environmental consequences? Yes, the variance is the minimum departure necessary to avoid the deprivation of privileges enjoyed by such other property and to allow for the University to construct a residence hall in accordance with the allowable land use.

Concordia University resides on a tract of land in west Austin that has significant topographic relief. Constructing buildings or surface parking generally requires substantial cut and/or fill as is the case with the proposed residence hall and surface parking lot for this project. Regarding the surface parking lot, a driveway is proposed off Killian Road (private drive) which is the only point of vehicular access to this site. Proposed grades within the parking lot allow for a navigable transition to/from Killian Road while maintaining adequate slopes to alleviate "heavy doors" which occurs when steep slopes make it difficult to open/close vehicular doors safely. As a result, the proposed slopes within the parking lot require cut in excess of four feet.

The proposed residence hall is located along the Killian Road frontage, between Studtmann Court and Harms Cove (both private drives). Aside from the University's programmatic criteria, locating the building here meets the intent of Subchapter E by providing building façade in close proximity to the private drives. In addition, the location avoids intrusion into the natural buffer along the bluff above the nearby tributary. The existing topography in this area slopes to the east whereas the proposed building is oriented in a north-south direction. The orientation of the building minimizes the amount of fill needed in the area given the long side is positioned parallel to existing grades. A portion of the building is oriented in an east-

west direction, but the finished floor elevation is set six feet below the main floor which reduces the amount of fill under that portion of the building.

The proposed courtyard area allows for an outdoor learning environment and gathering space. Grades in the area allow for ADA accessibility from the main pedestrian pathway to the upper and lower levels, while avoiding the need for switchbacks and additional site retaining walls. An internal ramp within the upper level provides an eight-inch drop at the access point to the courtyard area, which further helps to reduce the fill.

All known environmental features on the campus have been considered as part of the land planning efforts. Proposed improvements associated with this project, including the earthwork, remain outside of the established buffers for the environmental features. Onsite water quality and detention controls are proposed to mitigate the impact of additional stormwater runoff as result of the project. Furthermore, tree wells are proposed to preserve multiple existing trees.

3. The proposal does not provide special privileges not enjoyed by other similarly situated properties with similarly timed development and is not based on a special or unique condition which was created as a result of the method by which a person voluntarily subdivided land after October 20, 1983. Yes, the proposal does not provide special privileges not enjoyed by other similarly situated properties with similarly timed development and it is not based on a special or unique condition which was created as a result of the method by which a person voluntarily subdivided land after October 20, 1983. The Concordia University property is currently subdivided into two large lots and in no way has been subdivided in a way that would limit development in regard to cut and fill. The proposed improvements are on Lot 2 of the Amended Plat of Lots 2, 3, and 4 Schlumberger Subdivision which amended Lots 2, 3 and 4 into one +/-383-acre lot. This amendment to the plat has no effect on cut and fill.

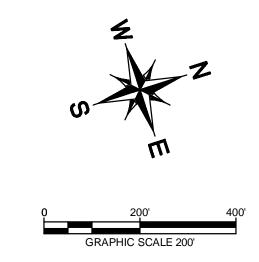
<sup>\*\*</sup>Variance approval requires all above affirmative findings.

# **Exhibits for Board Backup and/or Presentation**

#### Please attach and paginate.

- Aerial photos of the site (backup and presentation)
- Site photos (backup and presentation)
- Aerial photos of the vicinity (backup and presentation)
- Context Map—A map illustrating the subject property in relation to developments in the vicinity to include nearby major streets and waterways (backup and presentation)
- Topographic Map A topographic map is recommended if a significant grade change on the subject site exists or if there is a significant difference in grade in relation to adjacent properties. (backup and presentation)
- For cut/fill variances, a plan sheet showing areas and depth of cut/fill with topographic elevations. (backup and presentation)
- Site plan showing existing conditions if development exists currently on the property (presentation only)
- Proposed Site Plan- full size electronic or at least legible 11x17 showing proposed development, include tree survey if required as part of site or subdivision plan (backup and presentation)
- Environmental Map A map that shows pertinent features including Floodplain, CWQZ,
   WQTZ, CEFs, Setbacks, Recharge Zone, etc. (backup and presentation)
- An Environmental Assessment pursuant to ECM 1.3.0 (if required by 25-8-121) (backup only)
- Applicant's variance request letter (backup only)





PROPERTY LINE

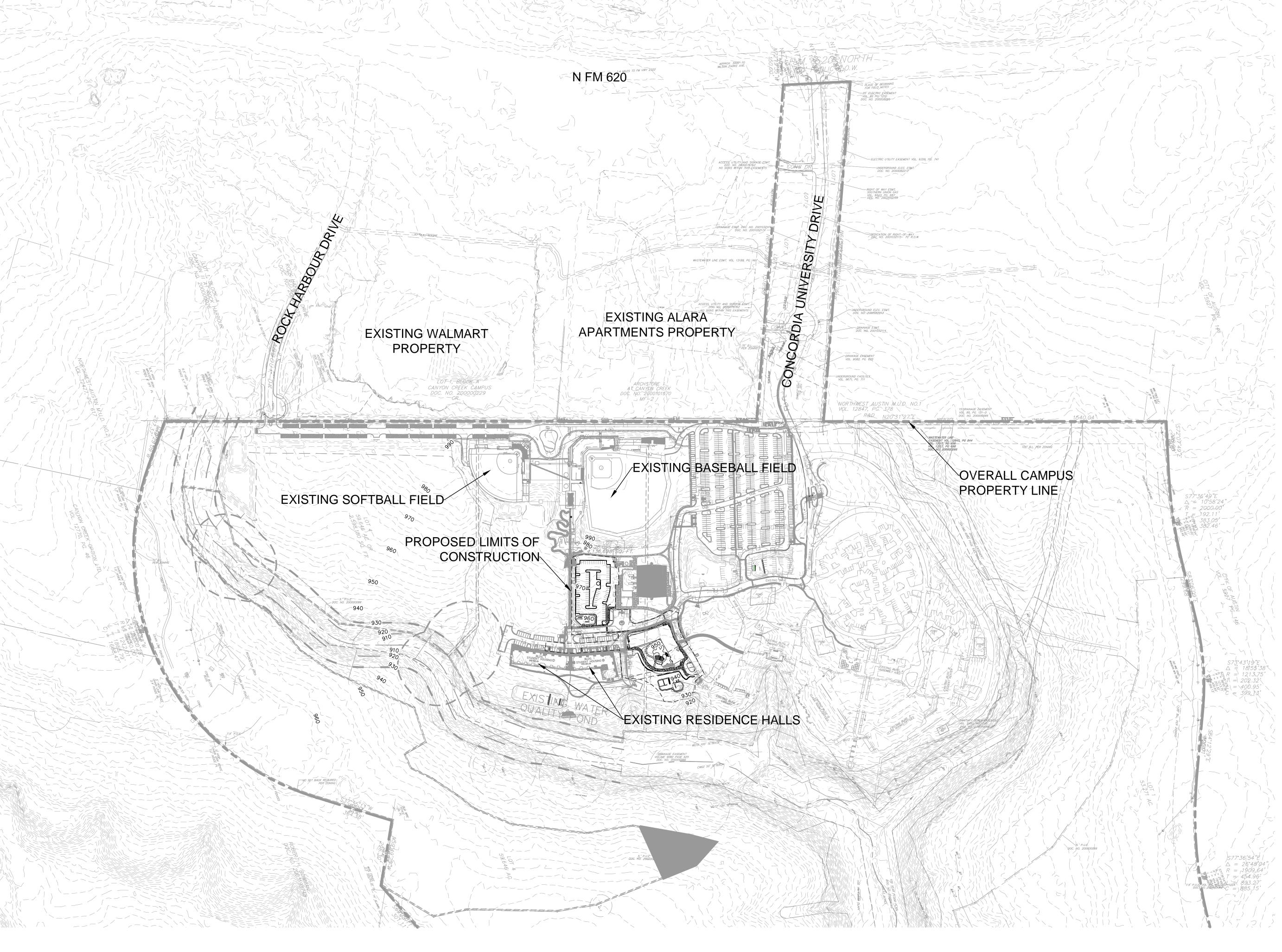
LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION

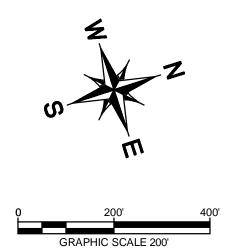
AERIAL VICINITY MAP

Concordia Unviersity Residence Hall

uly 2020







TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

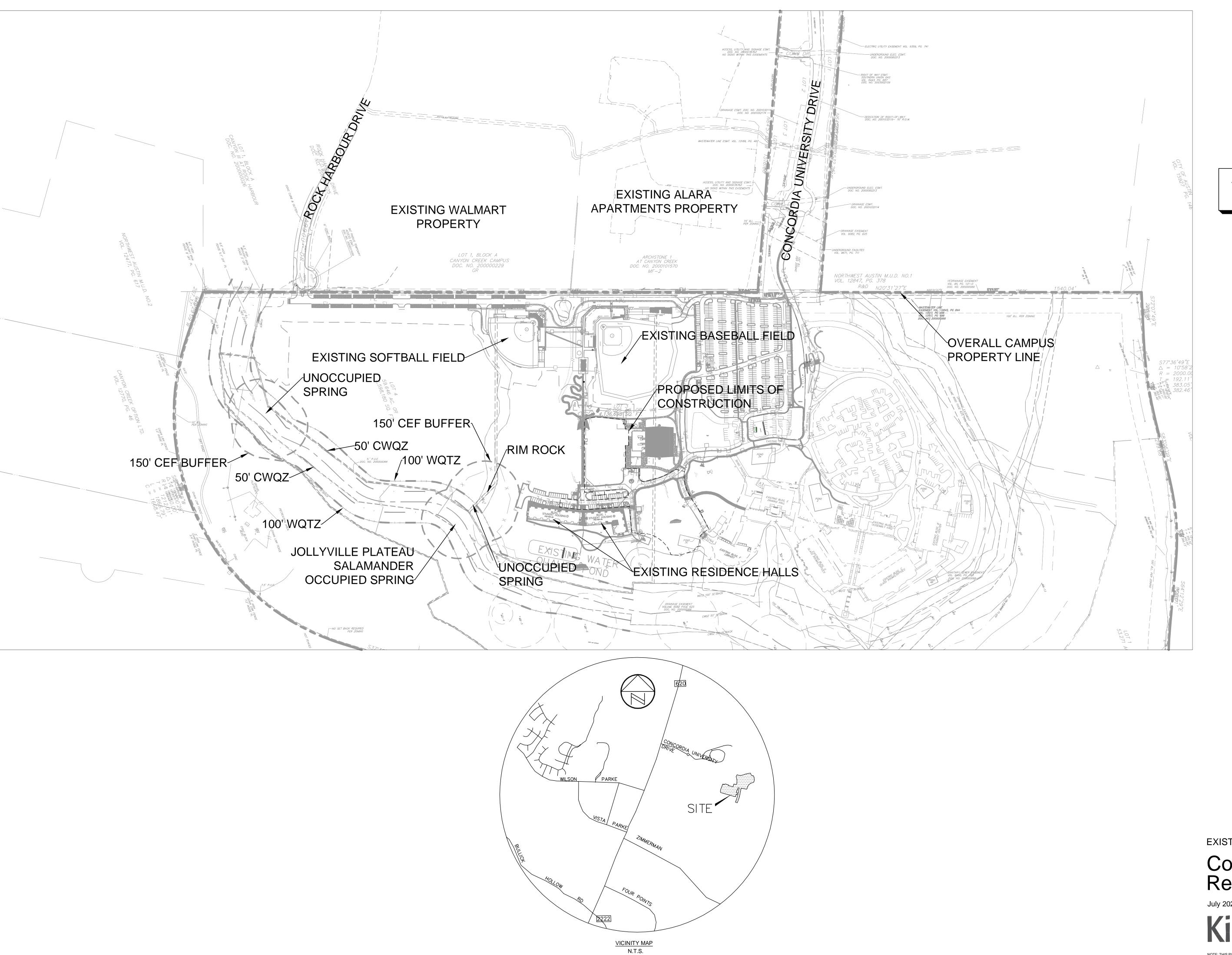
Concordia Unviersity Residence Hall

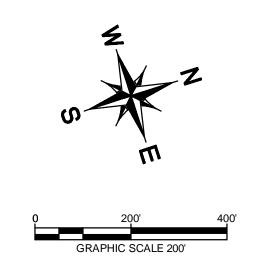
July 2020





SP-2020-0038C



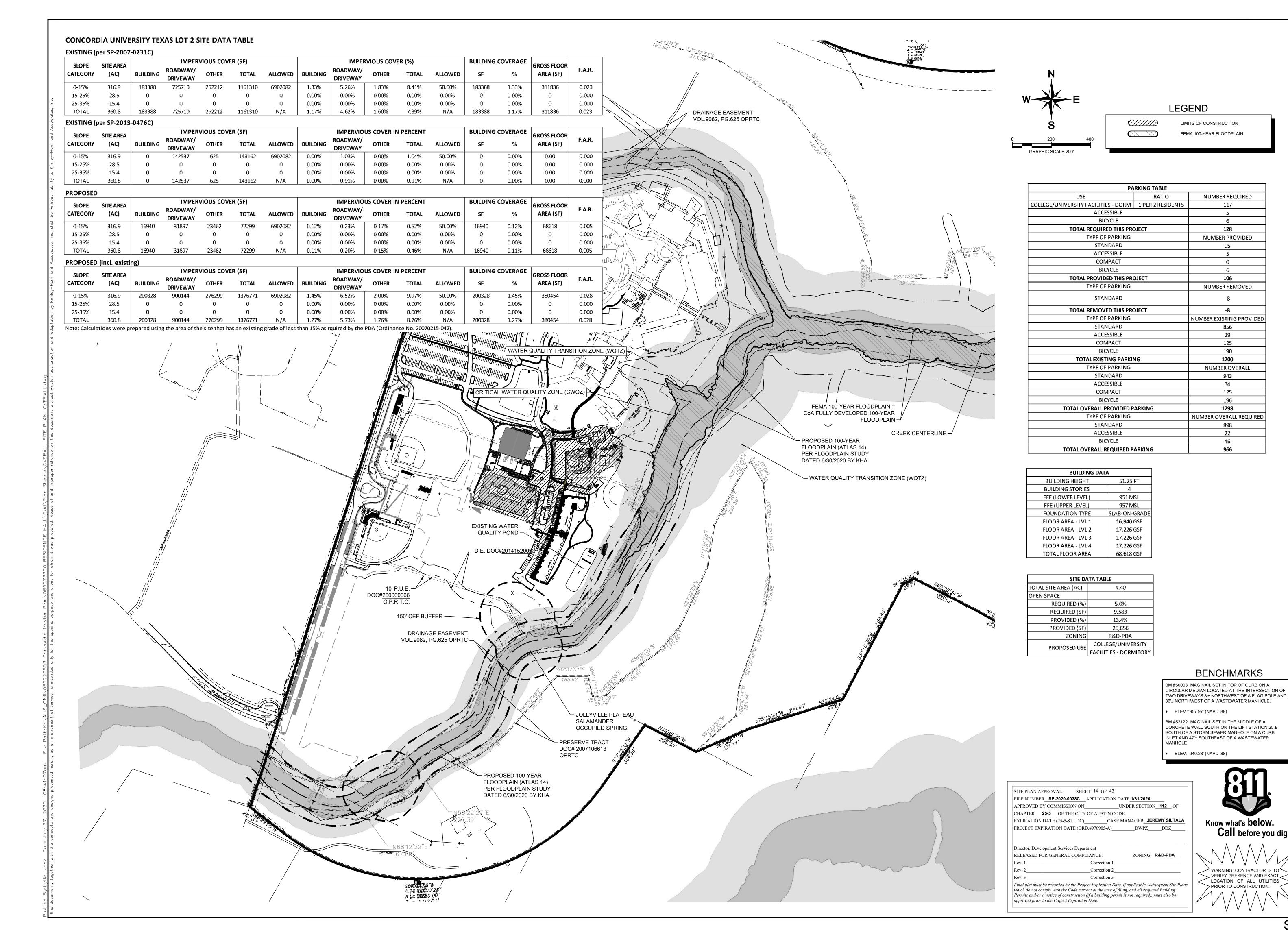


PROPERTY LINE \_\_\_\_\_ LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION

EXISTING SITE PLAN

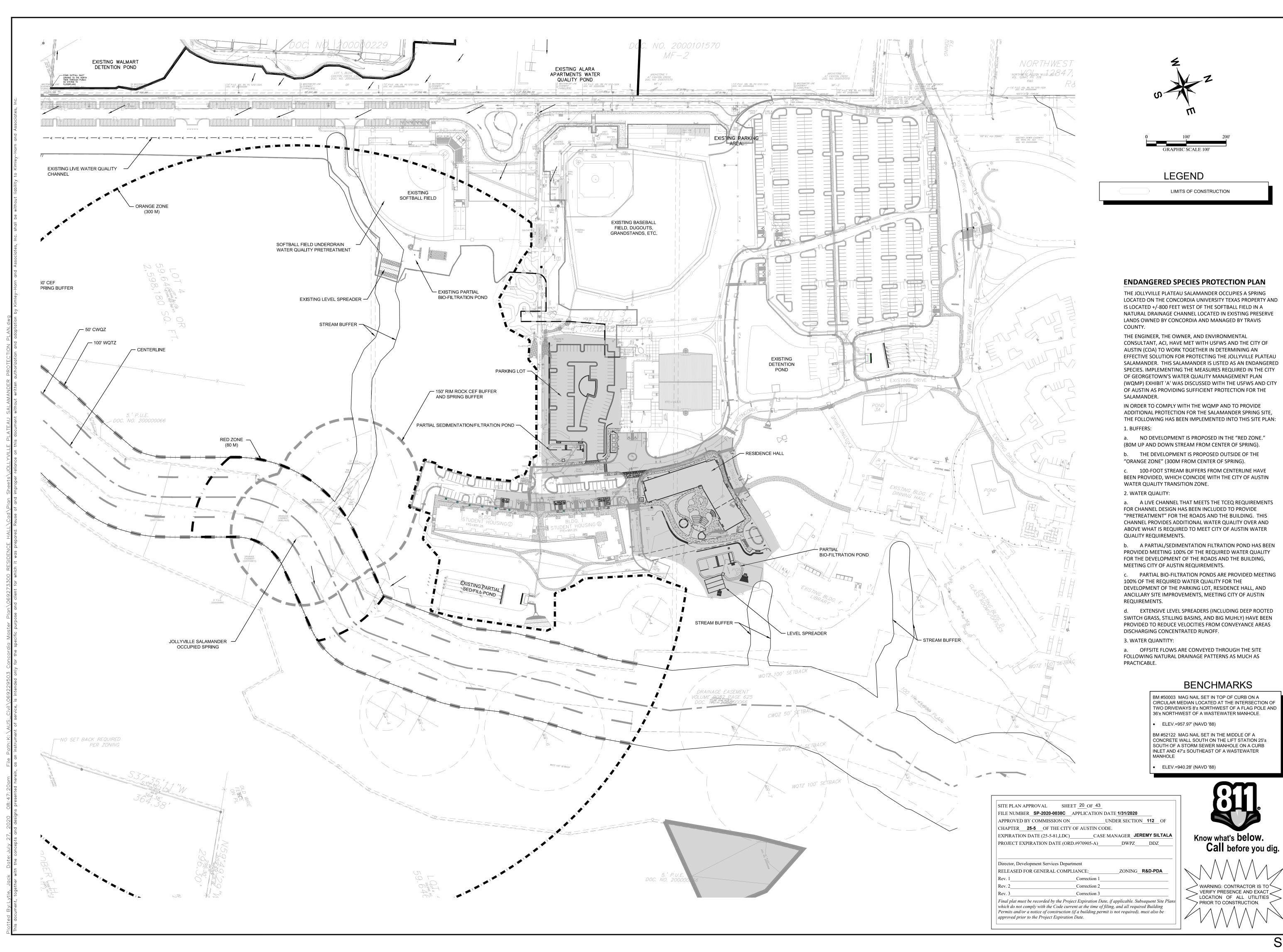
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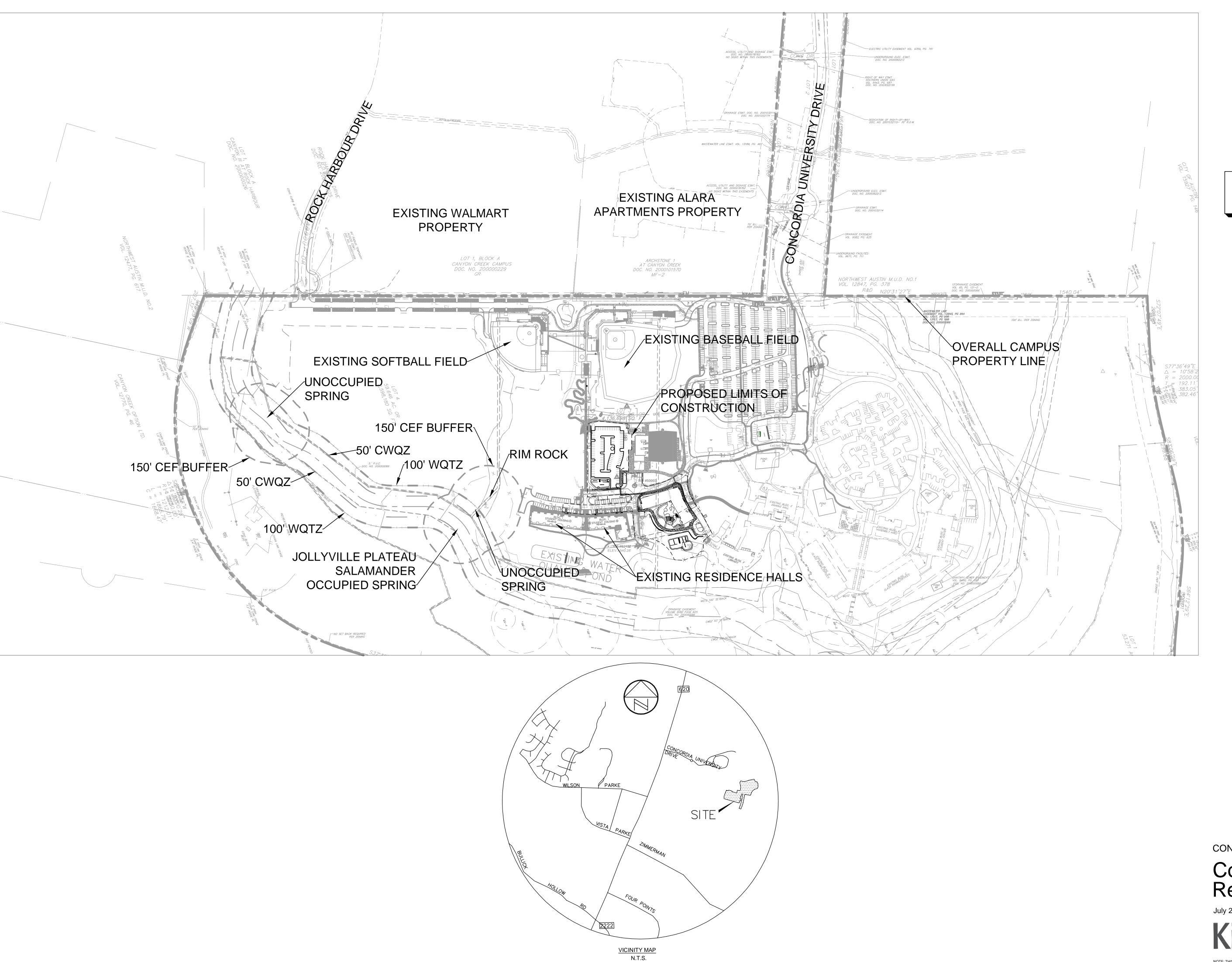


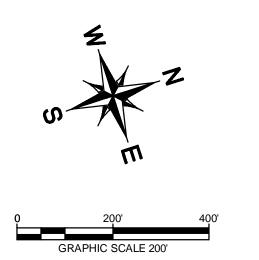
SHEET NUMBER

14 OF 43



SHEET NUMBER





PROPERTY LINE

LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION

CONTEXT MAP

Concordia Unviersity Residence Hall

uly 2020





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City of Austin Planning and Development Review Department 505 Barton Springs Road Austin, TX 78767

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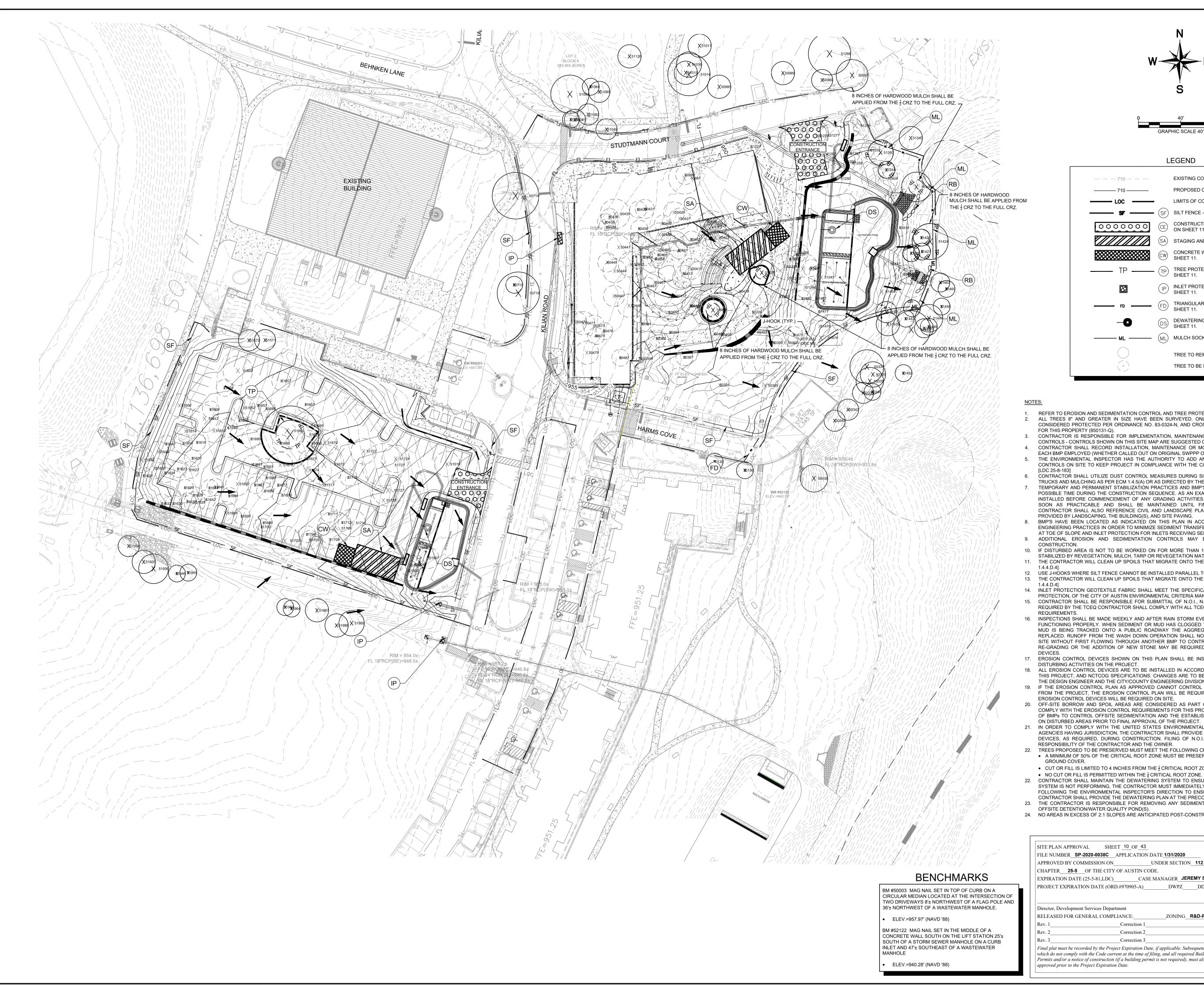


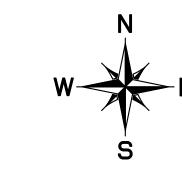
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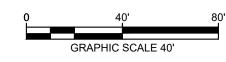
Sincerely,

Brandon Hammann, P.E., LEED AP

**Project Manager** 





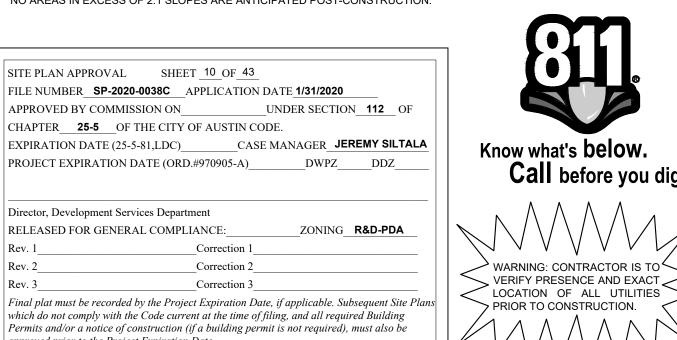


LEGEND **EXISTING CONTOUR** PROPOSED CONTOUR LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION (SF) SILT FENCE - SEE DETAIL ON SHEET 11. CONSTRUCTION ENTRANCE - SEE DETAIL 000000 ON SHEET 11. SA) STAGING AND SPOILS AREA. CONCRETE WASHOUT PIT - SEE DETAIL ON TREE PROTECTION - SEE DETAIL ON INLET PROTECTION - SEE DETAIL ON TRIANGULAR FILTER DIKE - SEE DETAIL ON DEWATERING SKIMMER - SEE DETAIL ON (ML) MULCH SOCK - SEE DETAIL ON SHEET 11 TREE TO REMAIN

REFER TO EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL AND TREE PROTECTION DETAILS, SHEET 11. ALL TREES 8" AND GREATER IN SIZE HAVE BEEN SURVEYED. ONLY THOSE TREES 19" AND LARGER ARE CONSIDERED PROTECTED PER ORDINANCE NO. 83-0324-N, AND CROSS-REFERENCED IN THE PDA ORDINANCE FOR THIS PROPERTY (850131-Q).

TREE TO BE REMOVED

- CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION, MAINTENANCE, AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ALL SWPPP CONTROLS - CONTROLS SHOWN ON THIS SITE MAP ARE SUGGESTED CONTROLS ONLY.
- CONTRACTOR SHALL RECORD INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE OR MODIFICATION, AND REMOVAL DATES FOR EACH BMP EMPLOYED (WHETHER CALLED OUT ON ORIGINAL SWPPP OR NOT) DIRECTLY ON THE SITE MAP. THE ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR HAS THE AUTHORITY TO ADD AND/OR MODIFY EROSION/SEDIMENTATION
- CONTROLS ON SITE TO KEEP PROJECT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CITY OF AUSTIN RULES AND REGULATIONS CONTRACTOR SHALL UTILIZE DUST CONTROL MEASURES DURING SITE CONSTRUCTION SUCH AS IRRIGATION
- TRUCKS AND MULCHING AS PER ECM 1.4.5(A) OR AS DIRECTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR. SSIBLE TIME DURING THE CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCE. AS AN EXAMPLE, PERIMETER SILT FENCE SHALL BE INSTALLED BEFORE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY GRADING ACTIVITIES. OTHER BMP'S SHALL BE INSTALLED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE AND SHALL BE MAINTAINED UNTIL FINAL SITE STABILIZATION IS ATTAINED. CONTRACTOR SHALL ALSO REFERENCE CIVIL AND LANDSCAPE PLANS SINCE PERMANENT STABILIZATION IS PROVIDED BY LANDSCAPING. THE BUILDING(S), AND SITE PAVING.
- BMP'S HAVE BEEN LOCATED AS INDICATED ON THIS PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERALLY ACCEPTED ENGINEERING PRACTICES IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE SEDIMENT TRANSFER. FOR EXAMPLE: SILT FENCES LOCATED AT TOE OF SLOPE AND INLET PROTECTION FOR INLETS RECEIVING SEDIMENT FROM SITE RUN-OFF. ADDITIONAL EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROLS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE CITY DURING
- 10. IF DISTURBED AREA IS NOT TO BE WORKED ON FOR MORE THAN 14 DAYS, DISTURBED AREA NEEDS TO BE STABILIZED BY REVEGETATION, MULCH, TARP OR REVEGETATION MATTING [ECM 1.4.4.B.3, SECTION 5, I.]. 11. THE CONTRACTOR WILL CLEAN UP SPOILS THAT MIGRATE ONTO THE ROADS A MINIMUM OF ONCE DAILY [ECM
- 12. USE J-HOOKS WHERE SILT FENCE CANNOT BE INSTALLED PARALLEL TO THE EXISTING CONTOURS. 13. THE CONTRACTOR WILL CLEAN UP SPOILS THAT MIGRATE ONTO THE ROADS A MINIMUM OF ONCE DAILY. [ECM
- 14. INLET PROTECTION GEOTEXTILE FABRIC SHALL MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS LISTED IN SECTION 1.4.5.9, INLET
- PROTECTION, OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA MANUAL. 15. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTAL OF N.O.I., N.O.T. AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE TCEQ CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL TCEQ STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION
- 16. INSPECTIONS SHALL BE MADE WEEKLY AND AFTER RAIN STORM EVENTS TO INSURE THAT THE DEVICES ARE FUNCTIONING PROPERLY. WHEN SEDIMENT OR MUD HAS CLOGGED THE VOID SPACES BETWEEN STONES OR MUD IS BEING TRACKED ONTO A PUBLIC ROADWAY THE AGGREGATE PAD MUST BE WASHED DOWN OR REPLACED. RUNOFF FROM THE WASH DOWN OPERATION SHALL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DRAIN DIRECTLY OFF SITE WITHOUT FIRST FLOWING THROUGH ANOTHER BMP TO CONTROL OFF SITE SEDIMENTATION. PERIODIC RE-GRADING OR THE ADDITION OF NEW STONE MAY BE REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN THE EFFICIENCY OF THE
- 17. EROSION CONTROL DEVICES SHOWN ON THIS PLAN SHALL BE INSTALLED PRIOR TO THE START OF LAND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES ON THE PROJECT.
- 18. ALL EROSION CONTROL DEVICES ARE TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS FOR THIS PROJECT, AND NCTCOG SPECIFICATIONS. CHANGES ARE TO BE APPROVED BEFORE CONSTRUCTION BY THE DESIGN ENGINEER AND THE CITY/COUNTY ENGINEERING DIVISION.
- 19. IF THE EROSION CONTROL PLAN AS APPROVED CANNOT CONTROL EROSION AND OFF-SITE SEDIMENTATION FROM THE PROJECT, THE EROSION CONTROL PLAN WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE REVISED AND/OR ADDITIONAL EROSION CONTROL DEVICES WILL BE REQUIRED ON SITE. 20. OFF-SITE BORROW AND SPOIL AREAS ARE CONSIDERED AS PART OF THE PROJECT SITE, AND MUST ALSO COMPLY WITH THE EROSION CONTROL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT. THIS INCLUDES THE INSTALLATION
- OF BMPs TO CONTROL OFFSITE SEDIMENTATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT GROUND COVER ON DISTURBED AREAS PRIOR TO FINAL APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT. 21. IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND ALL OTHER AGENCIES HAVING JURISDICTION, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE ANY ADDITIONAL EROSION OR POLLUTION
- DEVICES, AS REQUIRED, DURING CONSTRUCTION. FILING OF N.O.I. (PER TCEQ REQUIREMENTS) SHALL BE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR AND THE OWNER. 22. TREES PROPOSED TO BE PRESERVED MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: • A MINIMUM OF 50% OF THE CRITICAL ROOT ZONE MUST BE PRESERVED AT NATURAL GRADE, WITH NATURAL
- CUT OR FILL IS LIMITED TO 4 INCHES FROM THE ½ CRITICAL ROOT ZONE TO THE ¼ CRITICAL ROOT ZONE; AND
- 22. CONTRACTOR SHALL MAINTAIN THE DEWATERING SYSTEM TO ENSURE PERFORMANCE. IF THE DEWATERING SYSTEM IS NOT PERFORMING, THE CONTRACTOR MUST IMMEDIATELY MAKE THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS, FOLLOWING THE ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTOR'S DIRECTION TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SYSTEM PERFORMANCE.
- CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE THE DEWATERING PLAN AT THE PRECONSTRUCTION MEETING. 23. THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REMOVING ANY SEDIMENT TRANSPORTED FROM THE LOC TO THE
- OFFSITE DETENTION/WATER QUALITY POND(S). 24. NO AREAS IN EXCESS OF 2:1 SLOPES ARE ANTICIPATED POST-CONSTRUCTION.





SIT

SHEET NUMBER 10 OF 43