

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Solano

675 Texas Street, Suite 6500, 6th Floor

Fairfield, CA 94533

From: (Public Agency): City of Rio Vista
One Main Street
Rio Vista, CA 94571

(Address)

FILED

JUL 09 2020

Project Title: Phresh Concepts

Birgitta E. Corsello, Clerk of

Project Applicant: Phresh Concepts

the Board of Supervisors of

the County of Solano, State of California

Project Location - Specific:

Deputy: *Melinda Smith*

George 7280 LLC building, 1000 St. Francis Way, Rio Vista, CA 94571

Project Location - City: Rio Vista

Project Location - County: Solano

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Phresh Concepts is applying for a Type 4 cannabis license from the California Department and Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The project proposes to operate an approximate 4,113 square foot (sf) facility in an existing 17,000 sf metal building on concrete slab. The proposed project would include use as a nursery and utilize a third part for distribution. The proposed project would result in minor alterations to the interior of the building, would install mechanical equipment, and does not propose any exterior modifications, nor would it result in or require any off-site improvements.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Rio Vista

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Rob Hickey

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Class 1 - Existing Facilities, and Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project would be within an existing metal industrial structure with concrete floor. The project would not result in any ground disturbance. The proposed project is consistent with State CEQA Exemptions Class 1 - Existing Facilities, and Class 3 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures in accordance with Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15300 et seq. (See attachment A)

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Rob Hickey

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 374-6451

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Signature: *Rob Hickey* Date: 07/09/20 Title: City Manager

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Document Posted From
7-9-20 to _____

Deputy Clerk of the Board

Revised 2011

Attachment A

Phresh Concepts Exemption Information Form

City of Rio Vista

Project Location -

The Phresh Concepts project (proposed project) would be located in an existing structure within the George 7280 LLC building at 1000 St. Francis Way in the City of Rio Vista and County of Solano. The proposed project would occupy approximately 4,113 square feet (sf) of an existing 17,000 sf structure at the listed address. The project site is located within (APN# 178-023-002), and would occupy approximately 0.05 percent (%) of the approximate 2.0-acre parcel.

Project Site Access

Primary access to the project site is via the existing driveway on the northwest side of St. Francis Way. St. Francis Way intersects with Airport Road, approximately 425 feet to the northeast. Airport Road provides access to State Route (SR-84) approximately 0.25 miles to the east. St. Francis Way also provides access to Highway 12 approximately 1.0 miles to the west. Highway 12 provides a bridge crossing over the Sacramento River.

Land Uses

The proposed project is located in the City of Rio Vista Business Park and has a General Plan (GP) designation of Industrial/Employment Limited (I/E L) with a zoning designation of Business Park (B-P). The Business Park occupies an area previously used as an airport but that is now undergoing redevelopment and improvement efforts. The proposed project is consistent with the land use designations and zoning ordinance and City intent. The work that would occur as part of the proposed project is an allowable use. *Figure 1 – Project Vicinity Map* shows the project location within the City, and *Figure 2- Aerial Location Map*, show the project site and surrounding land uses as of June 2019. (Please note: This aerial image does not show the project site with the two currently existing metal structures). In addition, *Figure 3 – Historic Aerial Map – 2011*, and *Figure 4 – Historic Aerial Map 1993*, provide a visual view of the project site illustrating the overall development of the area and past disturbances. The existing industrial building is shown on *Figure 5 – Views of Project Site from Public Roadways*.

Permitting

The proposed project will be permitted through the City with the permits listed below:

- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) from the City of Rio Vista;
- Development Agreement with the City of Rio Vista;
- Project Approval by City of Rio Vista Planning Commission;

Surrounding Land Uses

The proposed project is primarily surrounded by previously vacant land and other industrial uses within the Business Park. The proposed project site is within land previously used as an airport. The proposed project site is at the northeast terminus of the previous main runway. Based on aerial images, the runway was largely intact until 2019 and the project site has a history of heavy disturbance.

Existing land uses to the east consist of vacant land that is designated and zoned for industrial uses. The Sacramento River is approximately 0.25 miles in that direction. To the northeast land uses are consistent with the industrial designations and consist of vacant and industrial uses, a landfill, and an area designated as a preserve. The preserve is separated from the Business Park by Airport Road. To the northwest land uses consist of vacant and industrial uses and also are planned to be redeveloped with industrial uses. There is a residential development with single family uses approximately 0.40 miles to the northwest north of Sullivan Street and at the northwest terminus of the previously main runway. To the west land uses consist of vacant and industrial designated and zoned properties. There is a residential development approximately 0.43 miles away adjacent to Rolling Green Drive.

Land uses immediately abutting the project site include existing roadways, Industrial Circle to the northwest, and St. Francis Way to the southeast. Existing land uses adjacent to the proposed project site include industrial development, areas undergoing redevelopment, and heavily disturbed undeveloped land designated for industrial uses.

Project Description

The proposed project includes minor interior modifications to the existing 17,000 sf structure. The proposed project does not include any exterior modifications, and would not result in any ground disturbance. Interior modification would include installation of walls to separate the interior into useable spaces. The largest room would be approximately 60' x 60' (3,600 sf) and would be used for cultivation of mother plants with a two-tier racking system and multi-tiered rack system for smaller plants. Another room would be approximately 10' x 54' (540 sf) and would have racks installed and used for propagation of clone plants. Four smaller rooms including an approximate 12'x10' (120 sf) break room, a 21'x10' (210 sf) room for shipping and receiving, and a 17'x10' (170 sf) room for testing are proposed. The proposed project also includes an approximate 9'x10' (90 sf) room for fertigation that would connect to the existing on-site City water source. Lockable storage cabinets for pesticides and other hazardous materials (fertilizers, cleaning supplies, etc.) would be placed against on the wall adjacent to the existing restroom in the southeast corner of the structure. A separate storage cabinet on the southerly wall also is proposed. New lighting would be installed and used to encourage plant growth.

The project site is on flat ground, no alteration to any topographic features would occur, and only interior improvements are proposed. Mechanical equipment including heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), an engineered odor control system, and lighting would be installed. Existing parking is provided, and vehicle trips would not exceed the 110 trip per day threshold presented by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) technical advisory for evaluating transportation impacts in CEQA. The proposed project would include a hazardous materials business plan, and a security plan, both verified by the City. The proposed project would use the existing on-site water lines with service by the City of Rio Vista. Electricity and natural gas would be provided from Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), and solid waste needs would be serviced by Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR). All utility services would be provided using existing utility lines and through existing or planned sources.

The proposed project would have approximately 7 employees at least 21 years of age. Operating hours of the project site would be from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The proposed project does not include

retail sales but would distribute clone cannabis plants to customers. Transportation of cannabis goods will only be conducted by the owner or employees. Only products listed on the sales invoice(s) would be transported. The proposed project is anticipated to receive deliveries 1-2 times per week and ship products up to five times per week. All transportation will occur using a licensed driver and registered motor vehicle or trailer in conformance with all vehicle code requirements.

Solid Waste

The proposed project would result in the generation of solid waste defined in PRC §40191 including, non-putrescible waste produced during renovation of the interior of the space. The proposed project would generate garbage, trash, refuse, paper, and rubbish during operations. The proposed project would be serviced by Mt. Diablo Resource Recover (MDRR). Solid waste would be transported by MDRR to the Keller Canyon Landfill (KCLF) near Pittsburg. The KCLF is currently permitted to receive 3,500 tons per day (tpd) but is proposing to increase capacity to 4,900 tpd. The landfill has a permitted capacity of 75,018,280 cubic yard, and remaining capacity of 63,408,410 cubic yards. Both MDRR and KCLF have adequate capacity to serve the proposed project. The proposed project would recycle all green waste through MDRR. Green waste stored on-site will be in a green waste bin or in compostable bags if bags are used. The green waste would be collected by MDRR and transported to Contra Costa Waste Service to be sorted before being transported to the Recology Recycling and compost facility in Vacaville.

Water and Wastewater

Water and wastewater /sewer services would be supplied to the proposed project by the City of Rio Vista. Water in the city is supplied via 7 groundwater wells in the Solano Sub-basin and three treatment locations. The proposed project would use water for the restroom facilities and handwashing, irrigation, foliar spraying, and sanitizing and cleaning needs. The proposed project would use approximately 500-1,000 gallons per day depending on production. The City has adequate water supply to serve the proposed project. In 2017 the City produced approximately 689,842,000 gallons of water from its eight wells. The proposed project would use approximately 0.05% of this total.

Wastewater generated by the proposed project would be collected by the existing sewer systems would flow to the City of Rio Vista Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) located near the westerly terminus of Beach Drive. The average winter dry weather flow to the Beach WWTP is 0.51 million gallons per day (mg/day) and peak hourly flow of 1.68 (mg/day). The proposed project would generate between 50-100 gallons of wastewater per day. The Beach WWTP has adequate capacity to serve the project. No wastewater discharge permit is required. The proposed project will be eligible for an exemption from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Energy

The proposed project would require the use of energy for interior lighting, heating and air conditional and heating (HVAC), and small appliances such as a refrigerator. The proposed would be served by Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E). The proposed project would occur in an existing facility and occupy a total of 4,113 sf. Energy use would be partly depending on fluctuations in weather conditions. The proposed project is estimated to require approximately 600kWh until full production is reached which would require approximately 1,200 kWh to 1,600 Kwh per day

Transportation

The proposed project would not conflict with any existing program, plan, ordinance, or policy related to non-motorized or public transit, and the proposed project would not have an effect on public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. There are no designated bus routes adjacent to the project site and there are no pedestrian facility or designated bike lane within St. Francis Drive that would be affected. The proposed

project does not include any roadway improvements, nor would it change any roadway alignment. The proposed project would not conflict with the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) technical advisory on evaluating transportation impacts in CEQA or exceed the 110 trip per day threshold which generally indicates a finding of less than significant impact.

Hazards

The proposed project is not located on a site or in proximity to any hazardous materials site as shown on the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker tool or the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor Database. The proposed project would not use, store, dispose, or generate any acutely hazardous materials. The proposed project would use some fertilizers and cleaning products, but these materials would be used and stored in compliance with all manufacturer's specifications. No materials would be stored and/or used within the building in exceedance of quantities listed in most current version of the California Building Code and Fire Code. Should materials requiring approval be used, approval from the Community Development Director/Building Official and Fire Chief will be required.

Health and Safety Code Section (§) 25260 refers to §25281 and § 25316. §25281 relates to hazardous materials and underground storage tanks. There are no existing underground storage tanks on the site and the proposed project would not use any underground storage tanks. The proposed project would tie into the existing sewer system and would not discharge any materials via underground vaults, chambers, manholes, or gutters into the storm water drainage system. No discharge of hazardous chemicals or products to the City's Sanitary Sewer System would occur without first obtaining a Pre-Treatment Discharge Permit by the Public Works Department.

The applicant will not be permitted to introduce any chemical waste or solvents into the local waste stream. Any product containing any trace of THC will require the proper disposal of said product using a hazardous waste hauler. All hazardous waste and/or chemicals shall be documented and disposed of in accordance with state and regional laws. No wastewater discharge permit is required. The applicant stated he will obtain a letter of exemption from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Class 1) and Section 15304 (Class 4).

- Section 15301, Class 1, is a categorical exemption which consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15303.)

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15301, Class 1. The key consideration for a Class 1 CE is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. The proposed project would be permitted by the City of Rio Vista for operations of a cannabis related business. Issuance of the permit would be consistent with all applicable land use policy and guidance documents. The proposed project would not require any ground disturbance within the building or outside the building, the site is flat and paved. The proposed project would occur entirely within an existing 17,000 sf privately owned industrial building within a business park zoned for industrial uses. The proposed project would use approximately 4,113 sf within the existing building with concrete floor. The existing building is serviced by adequate parking.

Mechanical equipment including heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), an engineered odor control system, and lighting would be installed

- Section 15303, Class 3, is a categorical exemption that consists of construction and location of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made in the exterior of the structure. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15303.)

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15303, Class 3. The key consideration for a Class 3 CE is whether the project involves installation of small new equipment or conversions of uses. The proposed project would occur within a small portion, approximately 4,113 sf of the existing structure and convert the use from vacant to a cannabis related activity. This would require installation of new equipment including growth mediums and growing racks to enable the proposed uses. The proposed project also would install a new (HVAC) systems, an engineered odor control system, and lighting system.

Exceptions to Exemptions

The project does not meet any of the exceptions listed in CEQA Section 15300.2 per the following:

- (a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may be in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

The project does not occur within a hazardous waste site and the proposed project would not use, handle, store, or dispose of any acutely hazardous materials. Review of the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker tool or the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor Database revealed no evidence of hazardous materials site on or near the project site.

- (b) **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

As stated above, the project would not have an impact on surrounding areas, adjoining the site, or result in a cumulative impact over time. The proposed project is consistent with the existing planning and intent of the City for redevelopment of the site and industrial uses. The proposed project includes design features such as engineered systems to control odor, and would be adequately served by existing services. All other projects, as they are proposed, in the Business Park area also would undergo the CEQA environmental review process. The proposed project would not result in any impacts to the environment and would not make a cumulative contribution to an environmental impact.

- (c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

The project would not have a significant effect on the environment as it would occur in an existing building and there is habitat for federal or state listed species. The project includes no ground disturbance and would not affect any historic, cultural, or tribal cultural resources.

(d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The proposed project would occur within an existing building, and there are no scenic resources on site, in proximity to the site, and it would not affect a scenic highway.

(e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

See response to (a) above.

(f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed project occurs in a recently constructed metal building on concrete slab. The proposed project would not result in any ground disturbance or excavation that could disturb an unknown buried resource. The proposed project would not alter any historic structure. The proposed project would not affect any historic, cultural, or tribal cultural resources.

Conclusion

The proposed project is consistent with State CEQA Exemptions Class 1 - Existing Facilities, and Class 3 - New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures in accordance with Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15300 et seq. No exceptions to either Exemption detailed in §15300.2 would be applicable.

The proposed project is not located in an area with sensitive resources; cumulative impacts would not occur; significant impacts would not occur; there are no scenic resources or scenic highway in proximity; the project is not on a hazardous waste site; and the project would not affect a historical resource.

The proposed project would not affect any agricultural land or forested land, biological, cultural or tribal cultural resources, alter any existing hydrology, exacerbate any geologic hazard, generate substantial noise, reduce access to mineral resources, or substantially increase demand for recreational resources. The proposed project would not result in changes to any existing views or scenic resources, result in substantial population growth or divide any area, or be inconsistent with land use and planning documents. The proposed project would be served by existing utilities and public services and no off-site improvements would be needed. The proposed project would not generate substantial vehicle trips, or be located in an area susceptible to wildfires. The proposed project would not handle, store, or generate substantial amounts of hazardous materials or be located on a hazardous materials site, and would conform to all applicable environmental regulations, laws, and standards related to the cultivation of cannabis and operation of a business.



Source: ESRI, 2020

FIGURE 1: Project Location Map
Phresh Concepts Project
City of Rio Vista



Not to scale



Source: Google Earth, 2020

FIGURE 2: Aerial Location Map
Phresh Concepts Project
City of Rio Vista



Not to scale

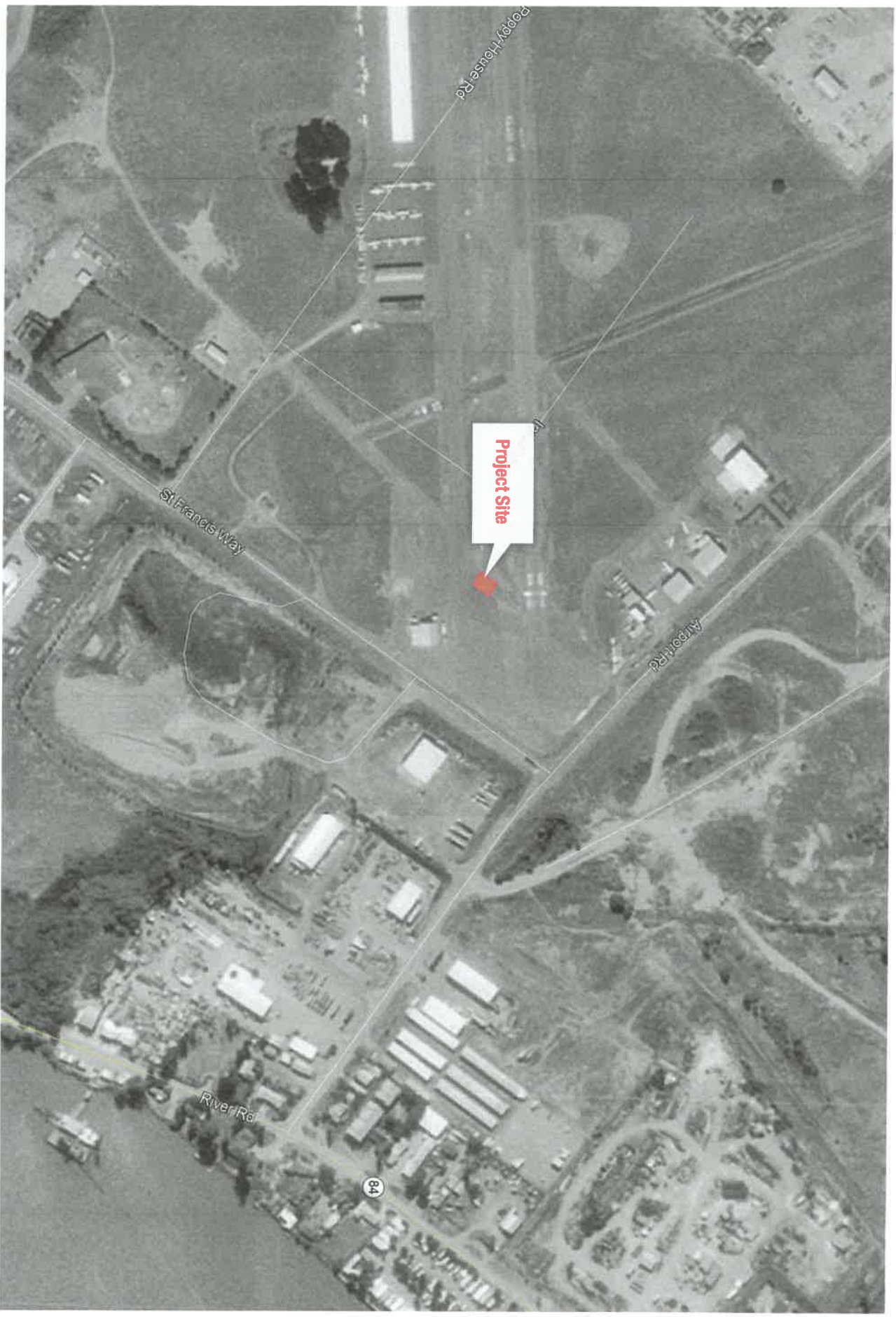


Source: Google Earth, 2020

FIGURE 3: Historic Aerial Map 2011
Phresh Concepts Project
City of Rio Vista



Not to scale



Source: Google Earth, 2020

FIGURE 4: Historic Aerial Map 1993
Phresh Concepts Project
City of Rio Vista



Not to scale



FIGURE 5: Views of Project Site from Public Roadways
Phresh Concepts Project
City of Rio Vista



Not to scale